



*The Dominican*  
COMMUNITY *of* SCHOOLS

## St. Agnes Academy-St. Dominic School Mask Policy

The Shelby County Health Department Face Mask Ordinance defines a “Face Covering” as a cloth face covering, mask or other device to cover the nose and mouth of a person to impede the spread of saliva or other fluids during speaking, coughing, sneezing, or other action. Medical grade masks are not required; and coverings may be fashioned from scarves, bandanas, or other suitable fabrics and should not include any questionable graphics or text.

At St. Agnes Academy-St. Dominic School we view face coverings as an important way that we, as a community, can slow/stop the spread of the virus and protect each other. All students and faculty are required to bring a face covering to school every day.

- Masks must be worn at all times while on campus. Face shields are only permitted if accompanied by a mask.
- Masks should fit snugly over the individual’s nose and mouth.
- Store-bought or homemade cloth masks made with densely woven cotton fabrics are best.
- Single-use surgical masks, like those you can purchase at a pharmacy, are allowed. However, these masks should only be worn once and then discarded.
- Logos or wording must be school appropriate.
- A recent Duke University study has questioned the effectiveness of certain types of face coverings. While we continue to research and with an abundance of caution, the following face coverings are currently not permitted on campus:
  - Gaiters and/or any single layer thin stretchy fabric that is worn around the neck and then pulled up over the face.
  - Masks with valves. While these masks protect the individual wearer, they may be less effective for preventing the spread of respiratory droplets. Although some of these types of masks have additional protections including filters, because of difficulty in monitoring the valves, all masks with valves will not be permitted.
- Students may remove masks briefly to eat and drink when they are physically distanced, but must place them back on immediately afterward.
- Masks can be off during PE if outside or distanced more than 6 feet in a gymnasium.
- Time for mask breaks will be built into the schedule throughout the day.