



Emphasizing Christ-like love, peacemaking, and service.

August 18, 2020

As you all are aware, the COVID-19 virus provides us with a fluid situation. Each day, it seems, we learn more about the transmission and spread of this virus. Each day, our created reopening plan is looked at and evaluated. Yesterday, unfortunately, the PA Dept. of Health, along with the Dept. of Education, required the wearing of masks throughout the building.

*"Last week, the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#) released an update to their guidance strongly recommending children age two and older should wear face coverings **at all times** to help mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Prior guidance we released in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) stated students in schools could remove their face coverings as long as six feet of social distancing could be maintained. Given this recent change from the AAP, and consistent with the [Secretary of Health's Face Covering Order issued on July 1, 2020](#), DOH is requiring **students wear face coverings at all times while in school**, even when six feet of social distancing can be achieved. There are limited exceptions."*

*- Matthew Stem, Deputy Secretary
Department of Education*

This change of events for our plan was unsuspected and is quite disappointing. Classroom teachers will need to plan "mask breaks" provided that students are spread six feet apart from one another and no longer than 10 minutes at a time. I understand, and feel, your frustrations and your questions. I understand the difficulty that this may present to students, families, and our own faculty and staff. I understand the difficulty that this may cause in educating our students to our high standards. I understand all of this, however, QCS will follow this recommendation and work to protect our students and staff member each and every day so that they know they are loved, and that they are safe.

Peace be with you,

Steve Schrag
Head of School

[PA Dept of Ed FAQ Regarding Face Coverings](#)