



2021-22 COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Effective August 23 – September 24, 2021

General Guidance

Our new protocols are being adopted to keep children in school by ensuring that we maintain the 3 ft. distancing recommended by DHEC and when we cannot, that we put on a mask in order to protect ourselves and others. **If we maintain the 3 ft. distance, or make sure that all parties are masked when the 3 ft. distance in the classrooms cannot be maintained, we hope to reduce the number of students who will need to be quarantined, protect our teachers, and keep everyone in school this year.** *Adhering to these distancing protocols also removes the need to distinguish between vaccinated or unvaccinated students, teachers, and parents.*

All students and faculty members are asked to carry a mask at all times on their person, and keep an extra mask in their backpacks, lockers, or desks. Masks should be worn correctly at all times (snug fit, covering mouth & nose) and be either disposable or 2-ply, cotton masks. If 2-ply masks, they should be washed after each daily use. Please ensure that your children follow these guidelines. DHEC continues to recommend frequent handwashing, keeping sick children home, screening for symptoms, testing, and vaccination as mitigation strategies to stop the spread of COVID-19.

These protocols will be reevaluated after 30 days. We reserve the right to make changes to the protocols before 30 days due to an increase in COVID-positive cases within the PCA community or as deemed necessary by the PCA Board in response to changes in medical conditions or information.

K-12 Grade Classrooms

- **Desks and Chairs** - The classroom settings have been changed to ensure that there is 3 ft. of distance between students (not necessarily desks) and the student are facing in the same direction. **Exception: Kinder classroom tables are not able to be changed at this time. The rest of this section still applies.**
- **K-12 Faculty** – Faculty members do not have to wear masks while teaching in front of the class or at the board, as long as they are more than 3 ft. from the students. If a teacher works one-on-one with a student or works with a group of students and is within 3 ft. of them, the teacher will have to wear a mask for the duration of the time within 3 ft.
- **K-12 Students** – Students will not have to wear masks while sitting at their desks (including Kindergarten). If the students are to be working in a group and they will be within 3 ft. of others during the activity, ALL students in the group must wear a mask.

K-12 Hallways

- **K-12 Faculty** – Faculty members must wear a mask when walking in the hallways during class changes. Masks do not have to be worn in the hallway if classes aren't changing and the 3 ft. distancing can be maintained.
- **K-12 Students** – All students must wear a mask during class changes. Masks do not have to be worn in the hallway if classes aren't changing and the 3 ft. distancing can be maintained. For the lower school, masks should be worn during class bathroom breaks when 3 ft. of distancing is not manageable.

K-12 Chapels

- **Seating** – Students should be seated in chapel in such a way that ensures 6 ft. of distance between them. The 6 ft. rule (vs. 3 ft. in the classroom) has been confirmed with DHEC and is due to the singing and exertion that does not happen while sitting at a desk. If maintaining 6 ft. of distance is not possible, masks must be worn by all students and faculty members.
- **Parents** – Parents will be allowed to attend chapel and can sit in the designated parent area with their child(ren) but must be wearing masks, and should be separated from another family by 6 ft.

K-5 Music Classes

- **Faculty** – The lower school music teacher does not have to wear a mask as long as a 6 ft. distance from the students is maintained. If the 6 ft. distance cannot be maintained, a mask must be worn.
- **Students** – Students do not have to wear masks as long as they can maintain a distance of 6 ft. from other students. If the 6 ft. distance cannot be maintained, students must wear masks.

6-12 Band, Choir & Drama

- **Faculty**- The upper school band, choir, and drama teachers do not have to wear a mask as long as a 6 ft. distance from the students is maintained. If the 6 ft. distance cannot be maintained, a mask must be worn.
- **Students** – The upper school band, choir, and drama students do not have to wear masks as long as they can maintain a distance of 6 ft. between students.

K-12 Athletics

- Athletes will not have to wear a mask during athletic practices or games, whether played indoors or outdoors.
- Masks should be worn during time on the bench if a distance 3 ft. cannot be maintained between players.

K-12 Field Trips

- **Parents** – Parents, must wear a mask during the duration of the field trips unless an activity is held outside.
- **Students** – Students must wear a mask when inside of a facility where maintaining a 3 ft. distance between them cannot be maintained. Students do not have to wear a mask when they go outside as part of the field trip.

Bus or Other Transportation Method

- All faculty, staff, parents, and students must wear a mask while on a school bus, charter bus, van, or other mode of transportation (including a personal vehicle) when other than household members are in the vehicle.
- This applies to transportation of students to and from all school activities.

Parents & Visitors

- **Parents** - ALL parents, are asked to wear a mask when they visit our campus, regardless of what area they will be visiting, including preschool.
- **Other Visitors** - ALL other visitors, including grandparents, other family members, alumni, or vendors are asked to wear a mask when they visit campus or what area they will be visiting, including preschool.

Lunch Room

- **Seating** – The lunch room is separated by a partition, with lower school seated on one side of the partition and the upper school on the other. Additional tables have been added to ensure a 3 ft. distance between chairs.
- **Students** – Students must wear their masks until after they sit at the table to eat. They do not have to put their masks back on until they leave the table to go back to class. They do not have to wear their masks if they go outside to play.
- **Lunch Room Personnel** - ALL cafeteria personnel must wear a mask while serving the students, faculty and staff.
- **Parents** - ALL parents are asked to wear a mask when they visit the lunch room. Parents should not stay longer than 10 minutes unless they are volunteering.
- **Volunteers** – ALL volunteers, who are helping in the lunch room are asked to wear masks for the duration of their stay.

Preschool

- **PK Faculty** - Preschool teachers and staff members are not required to wear a mask when in the preschool area. Preschool teachers and staff will be asked to wear a mask when in the other parts of campus if they will be in high-traffic areas (within 3 ft. of others).
- **PK Students** – Preschool students, ages 18 months to 4 years old, will not have to wear a mask during the school day, regardless of activity.