



August 20, 2021

Dear Grade 7-12 Mount Vernon Families,

During the first two weeks of the year, the School returned to Mount Vernon normal in so many ways. Prioritizing the social-emotional health of our community, enhancing the quality of teaching and learning for our teachers and students, and providing greater access to the full experience for our parents has already had a positive impact on both campuses, launching the 2021-2022 school year. Thank you for the renewed energy and excitement you have brought to the School.

While reestablishing many pre-COVID ways of MV life, the global pandemic sustains a presence and continues to advance. Yesterday's [press conference](#) by the major hospital administrators in Atlanta only reinforces the latest COVID surge driven by the highly contagious Delta variant. Monitoring its impact on both campuses, we continue to receive guidance from external public health officials and medical experts within our own community. As cases have risen dramatically in the counties surrounding Mount Vernon, COVID positive cases have also emerged at the School since the original announcement on July 30, including breakthrough infections. While this does not represent a significant increase for us, we remain agile to temporarily pivot as the current surge has yet to peak in our area according to local epidemiologists.

As a result, beginning Monday, August 23, the School will transition the face covering mitigation strategy from "strongly recommend" to "required" for all students and faculty/staff members regardless of vaccination status. Students in grades 7-12 will be required to wear face coverings while indoors only, entering buildings, walking through hallways, and during classroom settings. If faculty members are distanced while teaching, they will have the option not to wear a face covering during certain periods of time. Based on the moment in which we find ourselves, the temporary pivot in mitigation strategy is a preventative measure from sending a number of students home for extended periods of time.

While we have a strong vaccination rate among Upper Campus students, the School continues to encourage eligible members of our community to receive a FDA-authorized vaccine. Partnering with a local health provider, Mount Vernon will offer a vaccine clinic once a month through December on the Upper Campus.

Regardless of one's perspective on our approach, the School, under challenging circumstances, is stewarding the care for more than 1,200 students, 900 families, and 250 faculty/staff members. Thank you for your partnership in assisting us to protect your students, our staff, and the entire community.

Dr. Brett Jacobsen
CEO & Head of School

[2021-2022 COVID Protocols](#)

For all COVID questions or reporting a COVID positive case, use the following contact information:

COVID Contact Information Line: 678.515.4891

COVID Information Email: covidinfo@mountvernon.school.org