



THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

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December 30, 2021

Dear Families,

I hope that you and your families had a blessed Christmas and that you are enjoying the break.

Unfortunately, the rapid and sudden increase in Covid cases related to the omicron variant has made it necessary for the Catholic high schools in Franklin County – Bishop Hartley, Bishop Ready, Bishop Watterson, St. Francis DeSales, and St. Charles – to require the wearing of face masks when indoors for all individuals in the school beginning on Monday, January 3. This temporary addition to our Covid protocols will be re-evaluated weekly based on a number of factors, including data published by the Ohio Department of Health.

We know the strength of opinion related to masking. We have heard from many of you and respect and understand your feelings. We ask you please to understand that this decision is temporary and rooted in a concern for the safety of our children and a sincere desire to keep our students, teachers, and staff present in the classroom every day. Ultimately, we want to leave this decision to parents, but we have an obligation to respond to the current spike in numbers.

Thank you for your continued support and perseverance with our Covid guidelines.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Adam J. Dufault, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
Diocese of Columbus