



Masks



Based on the strong recommendation of our physician panel and recent guidance from the Arkansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, masks will be required for all faculty/staff and students grades K-12. They are also encouraged for students in our PK3's and PK4's. Masks are to be worn in class and throughout the day both indoors and out of doors, except under certain controlled, supervised circumstances (recess, PE, etc.). These measures are designed to protect our faculty and staff as well as our students.

Understanding the challenges posed by wearing masks, we will look for opportunities to build in supervised breaks during the day where students can safely remove them while maintaining proper distancing. Students are asked to provide their own masks. With the exception of masks purchased in The Den, face masks with words, slogans, messages, or symbols will not be allowed.

Extra face masks will be accessible in case of an emergency. Disposable masks should be thrown away after each use; cloth masks should be washed frequently. Masks should be carefully folded when removed so that the outer surface is held inward and against itself to reduce contact with the outer surface during storage. The folded mask can be stored between uses in a clean sealable paper bag or breathable container. Gaiters/buffs and bandanas are not allowed to be worn on campus. Additionally, any face covering which has an exhalation valve is prohibited. An exhalation valve defeats the primary purpose of the mask: protecting others from the wearer. Masks that incorporate a valve designed to facilitate easy exhaling, mesh masks, or masks with openings, holes, visible gaps in the design or material, or vents are not sufficient face coverings because they allow exhaled droplets to be released into the air. Click [here](#) to review recommended procedures.