



Dear Parents,

Thank you for your support and patience through these unprecedented times. As much as living through a pandemic changes things, we also would like to recognize and celebrate the “normal” things that we have grown accustomed to over the years. We welcome our new faculty, staff, and families into our school community, and we are excited to begin this new school year. As you all know, this year once again begins with some challenges, but we feel we can overcome them by working together as a community in a spirit of love and unity.

The administrative team, COVID Task force, and Board Members have taken the responsibility of leading our school through the pandemic with much thoughtfulness and guidance. We have found that patience and discernment have been required so that we could thoroughly vet ideas and policies presented by our task force, administration, faculty, and local schools. As stewards of the safety and well-being of our community, we have been meeting to consider, adjust, and update protocols. We understand that these are difficult times, and we recognize the divisiveness and climate of the decisions related to wearing masks. Recognizing the unprecedented nature of our current circumstance, all decisions made in our policy are to ensure the safety of those on campus and to ensure that we will remain open and able to provide in-person and on-campus instruction.

In light of the recommendations of the American Academy for Pediatrics, the United States Center for Disease Control, and local doctors and in reviewing the policy updates of local schools, the Archdiocese of Miami, and the Palm Beach County School Board, Rosarian Academy has outlined the following policies which are effective immediately and **will be reviewed September 8, 2021.**

The following is Rosarian Academy’s 2021-2022 COVID Policy to begin the school year:

Face Coverings Required: All students (grades PK 3 - 8), faculty, staff, visitors, and guests are required to wear face coverings that cover the nose and mouth while indoors. When outdoors, face coverings are not required. Cloth or surgical face masks without a valve or vent are the required facial coverings. All masks should be school appropriate.

Request for Medical Exemption/Accommodation Related to COVID-19 and Rosarian Academy's Facial Covering Policy:

Rosarian Academy ("Rosarian") is committed to providing equal educational opportunities without regard to any protected status and a school environment that is free of unlawful harassment, discrimination, and retaliation. As such, Rosarian is committed to complying with all laws protecting individuals with disabilities or medical conditions. When requested, Rosarian will provide an exemption/reasonable accommodation for any known medical condition or disability of a qualified individual which prevents the student from otherwise complying with Rosarian's facial covering policy, provided the requested accommodation is reasonable and does not create an undue hardship for Rosarian and/or pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others in the school and/or to the requesting student.

To request an Exemption/Accommodation related to Rosarian's COVID-19 facial covering policy, please contact the Head of School. This information will be used by the Head of School and the COVID-19 task force to engage in an interactive process to determine whether a student is eligible for such exemption/accommodation and if so, to determine the reasonable accommodations which can be provided that would enable the student to perform the essential functions of his or her position without posing a threat of harm to self or others. If a student refuses to provide such information, the student's refusal may impact Rosarian's ability to adequately understand the student's request or to effectively engage in the interactive process to identify possible accommodations.

Medical exemptions/accommodations for Rosarian's COVID-19 facial covering policy will be considered if the student provides a written certification by a licensed, treating medical provider [a physician (MD or DO), nurse practitioner (NP), or physician's assistant (PA)] that the physical condition of the person or medical circumstances relating to the person are such that compliance with Rosarian's facial covering policy is not considered safe, indicating the specific nature and probable duration of the medical condition or circumstances.

Physical Distancing: To the greatest extent possible, students and workspaces will be kept at least 3 feet apart. Students will be encouraged to maintain physical distancing throughout the day.

Sanitizing/Cleaning: Hand sanitizing stations will remain on our campuses, and healthy hand washing protocols will be encouraged. Our professional team will continue to clean and disinfect our campuses each day.

Buses: Students riding the bus will be required to wear a facial covering at all times while inside the bus. Whenever possible, buses will be large enough to allow for an open seat next to each student riding the bus.

Visitors and Guests: Our campuses are open to visitors; masks are required while indoors.

Sports, Physical Education and Outdoor activities: Students will NOT be required to wear masks outside, nor while actively participating in sports. However, while indoors and not actively participating in athletics, such as while sitting on the sidelines during a volleyball game, masks will be required.

Uniform: On P.E. Days only, Middle School students will be allowed to wear their P.E. shirts and sneakers to school. There will be no changing clothes in the locker room prior to or after P.E. until further notice. Students are still encouraged to bring personal hygiene items such as deodorant. Middle School students will be allowed to wear sneakers with their Daily Uniform until further notice. Refer to the Dress Code Policy for acceptable sneakers.

Attendance: Regular in-person attendance is required. School hours are 7:50 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Risks: Attendance at school and participation in school activities pose some risks including the transmission of COVID-19. Although the school has taken various measures to reduce the risks of transmission, the possibility of infection from COVID-19 or other communicable diseases is nonetheless present. Parents expressly assume such risks by allowing their children to attend school and to participate in school activities and/or by coming onto the school campus and attending school activities themselves. Parents further agree to abide by all school policies related to COVID-19, any associated safety measures, and any isolation or quarantine requirements the school determines to be applicable to students, visitors, or parents on campus or attending a school-related activity.

Monitoring and Reporting Potential COVID-19 Symptoms: [All students and faculty/staff must adhere to the management policy for suspected cases of COVID-19, known exposure to COVID-19, and confirmed cases of COVID-19.](#) We will continue to have morning and afternoon Telehealth hours with Nurse Lynn Black from 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. to assist with any compliance questions you might have. The phone number to reach her is (561) 408-5428. You can also email Nurse Black if you have any questions or concerns at Lynn.Black@rosarian.org.

Updates and amendments to this plan will be communicated regularly. Ultimately, our goal is to return to normalcy, but in order to do so, we must carefully consider the current health conditions in our community. We appreciate that wearing masks can be an inconvenience, and after over a year of living through the coronavirus pandemic, we are sensitive to the emotional fatigue that wears on many in our community. With this in mind, students will continue to participate in P.E., recess, and outdoor mask breaks whenever possible. We will be vigilant in monitoring COVID-19 activity in our school and the surrounding community and will review our policy on masks regularly. Our follow-up meeting to review these policies will be September 8. As soon as the activity level decreases and it is deemed safe to do so, we will begin removing layers of protection, such as the requirement to wear masks.

For the time being, adhering to these best practices to safeguard the health and well-being of all in our community will allow us to move forward with many activities that were cancelled or forced to be virtual last year. Among the activities that are currently scheduled to proceed in person while adhering to our COVID-19 guidelines are:

- The Open House and Used Uniform Sale
- 5th Grade Coffee for parents
- In-Person RAFA meetings
- The New Family Welcome Social
- The Spaghetti Dinner
- The 42nd Annual Auction & Ball
- Parents Visiting Campus
- Interscholastic Athletics, beginning with flag football and volleyball
- RITA programs, including Challenge Island, karate, dance, and Breakers golf and tennis.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and for your cooperation. With faith in our Lord, we remain vigilant in prayer for the protection of our school community and the end of the coronavirus pandemic. As we await the Lord's timing, we will continue to follow the best practices to protect and care for each other, especially the most vulnerable among us. May we face these challenges that lie ahead, as burdensome as they may be, as opportunities to grow in faith, charity, love, and community.

Sincerely,

Linda M. Trethewey
Head of School

Shaun McGruder
Board Chair