Masks Optional at BSD Schools as of March 12

Monday, March 7, 2022

Dear BSD Families:

Beginning March 12, mask wearing as one of the COVID-19 mitigation measures will be optional at BSD schools. This means that mask wearing in both indoor and outdoor settings will be an individual choice for staff and families with students of all grades, with the expectation that others’ choices will be respected. The Bellevue School District strongly commits to our students and families that our culture is one of acceptance, especially in one’s individual choice, while we work together to ensure a safe learning environment for all.

Also, we strongly encourage families to talk with their students and ask adults to model positive behavior, as assumptions cannot be made about one’s beliefs or health status, nor should they comment on them. The timeline below details the phases and specific plans.

Over the past two years, students, educators, school employees and their families have remained flexible and adapted to changing health and safety guidance as public health experts learned more about COVID-19. As we move toward an endemic, we acknowledge the impact on our school community and reassure all that the district will continue to follow health and safety guidance from the Washington State Department of Health and Public Health — Seattle & King County. We anticipate that we will receive updated guidance from these agencies on the mitigating measures for COVID-19 in the upcoming days, which we will share with you as we implement them in our schools.

As we continue to navigate the pandemic and make strides in a positive direction, we ask that families please use their best judgement and stay home when sick, while continuing to practice mitigation measures when not at school. The district will also continue to provide related COVID-19 supplies for students, staff and visitors in our facilities. Other resources the Bellevue School District will continue to provide include:

- COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing in Schools
- Drive-Thru Diagnostic Testing
- Vaccination Clinics – to be scheduled on an as-needed basis with community vaccine partners
- Information on How to Access At-Home COVID-19 Tests
- Masks will be available for those who need a replacement or request one

We thank you for coming together to support our students. I am encouraged by our students and their resilience and the dedication of our staff in helping them succeed during this time of recovery. We achieve our goals when we all work together. On behalf of the district, I thank you for your support, Bellevue!

Respectfully,
Dr. Art Jarvis, Interim Superintendent
Bellevue School District 405

BSD Timeline

March 7

- Elementary: Outdoor school activities including recess; mask wearing is optional
- All Schools:
  - Mask supplies will be available without charge to students and staff
  - HIB policies shall be amended to prohibit harassment against any individual who elects to use facial coverings/masks

March 12

- All Schools: Indoor mask wearing is optional