



January 25, 2022

Dear Parents / Guardians of Kindergarten Students:

I hope this finds you and your family as well as can be at this challenging time.

As you are likely aware through various media reports, the Omicron variant continues to have serious effects on the health of our communities. It is for this reason that **I am writing to encourage you to have your kindergarten child(ren) wear a mask to, from, and at school.** Wearing masks consistently and properly, particularly medical and/or three-ply cloth masks, is a widely accepted strategy in reducing the transmissibility of COVID-19.

Both the Ministry of Education and our three public health units continue to **recommend** masking for students in kindergarten; they have mandated masking for students in Grades 1 – 12. Provincial guidance also requires anyone with common COVID-19 symptoms or anyone living in a household with an individual with common COVID-19 symptoms to isolate for a minimum of five days. This is a long time for anyone to miss school, especially our youngest learners.

Please rest assured that the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board is doing its utmost to ensure classrooms and schools remain safe and open for in-person learning. In turn, I sincerely thank you for all you have been doing at home to contribute to this common goal. If you have not yet encouraged your kindergarten-aged child(ren) to wear a mask to, from, and at school, I urge you to begin doing so now. Should you desire or require free access to a high-quality, three-ply mask for your child(ren), please contact your local school.

Inviting you to rebuild, restore, and renew together,

Rose Burton Spohn
Director of Education