



Principal Message August 5, 2021

Dear Academie da Vinci Families,

Thank you for entrusting us with your children this upcoming school year and sharing your concerns regarding the Pinellas County Schools mask guidelines. We too are very concerned about the health and wellness of our students, Academie da Vinci is working closely with Pinellas County Schools, the Department of Health-Pinellas to stay up to date on COVID-19 conditions in our community. We are aware of the current recommendations from the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics and take them very seriously.

However, per a recent state order, all Florida public schools were directed to provide parents a choice regarding the wearing of masks/face coverings. While we cannot mandate the use of masks, **Academie da Vinci will strongly recommend that all students and staff wear masks and have masks available on campus for anyone in need.** As always, administrators and teachers will work to foster a culture of civility and tolerance and all choices will be respected.

Given the restrictions, Academie da Vinci continues to practice other layered mitigation strategies recommended by Pinellas County Schools and the Department of Health-Pinellas including:

- social distancing to the greatest extent possible
- upgraded ventilation/air filtering
- enhanced facility cleaning and sanitation practices
- masks and hand sanitizer available and recommended
- reminders regarding handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- specific and consistent protocols for anyone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 (see parent letter)
- regular reminders to stay home if not feeling well
- Frequent communication between Academie da Vinci's COVID Team and the Department of Health-Pinellas regarding contact tracing and quarantine recommendations

Additionally, we urge anyone eligible, to talk to their healthcare provider about COVID-19 vaccines.

We recognize and understand your concerns. We are working hard to ensure all students and staff have a safe, healthy and productive school year.

Thank you.

Ms. Cindy Dick

Principal

Academie Da Vinci