

16 August 2021

Dear Preschool Families,

I hope you are enjoying these last few weeks of summer! We are looking forward to welcoming our preschoolers to Memorial Park Christian Preschool in September.

In our Back-to-School Plan that we sent out in July, we indicated that if COVID-19 cases in Allegheny County were to increase, MPCP may need to return to mandatory masking for all students. Unfortunately, Allegheny County is currently in the “**high level**” of spread; at the county level, the COVID positivity rate continues to increase even amongst preschool children ages 2-5. At this level, the CDC recommends universal masking while indoors and MPCP has decided that we will return to **mandatory masking for all staff, students, parent volunteers, and support staff as we begin the school year.**

We recognize that in-person instruction is the most beneficial learning model for preschoolers. Our desire for the 2021-2022 is to provide a safe atmosphere at MPCP where we can maximize in-person learning and minimize the number of learning interruptions due to COVID outbreaks.

As always, we are following guidance from the Allegheny County Health Department, Pennsylvania Governor’s Office, and CDC, which all recommend and support the careful monitoring of conditions in the county alongside universal masking protocols while indoors. You can read the CDC recommendations that summarize school guidance [here](#). You’ll also find the Allegheny County monitoring [here](#) and the CDC county spread-level monitoring [here](#).

Our hope is that when COVID cases in Allegheny County decrease, and we are no longer at the substantial/high transmission level, we can return to a mask optional policy for our preschool community.

We appreciate your understanding, support, and prayers as we continue to navigate these challenging times.

Debi Bordo  
Director