MASKS IN SCHOOL
A Guide for Laurel Highlands Families

Laurel Highlands students are required to wear a face covering on the bus and in the schools unless they have a medical or mental health condition or disability, documented in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA, that precludes the wearing of a face covering in school. Accommodations for such students will be made in partnership with the student's health care provider, school nurse, and IEP/504 team. If you chose the in-class learning option for your child and you believe that your child has a medical or mental health condition or disability that may require accommodations, please reach out to your child's principal.

Choosing a Mask for Your Child

Our goal is safety for all. We understand that there are many face covering options for your family. Masks must cover the nose and mouth and be secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears. They may be made of a variety of synthetic or natural fabrics, including cotton, silk, or linen, and masks can include clear plastic that covers the mouth (see images below for approved examples). Face shields are only permitted as an accommodation (see above for more details).

Additional information on research related to the effectiveness of various types of face-masks is available here for parent review: https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/early/2020/08/07/sciadv.abd3083 and from the American Academy of Pediatrics here: https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus- covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/cloth-face-coverings/

Please also note that as you are selecting from the many colors and designs available, all school dress code rules apply. Clothing and/or accessories may not advertise or promote the use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products, and/or bear offensive words or illustrations.

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