

**San Tan Charter School**  
**Fall 2020 Policy on Face Masks/Shields**

State, County and local ordinances have mandated that all persons six years and older be masked while in a public space where social distancing of six feet is not possible. Therefore, masks will be required on campus. This will be the policy while the health ordinances are in effect. This policy is subject to change if the local ordinances change or if an overriding state directive is issued.

We recognize that this mask requirement will create burdens for students. Where one can bear those burdens, we ask that students bear them. However, we understand that students, especially our youngest students, cannot be expected to wear a mask without breaks and under fear of punishment for 7 hours a day.

One thing must be made clear at the outset: Faculty and staff will help lovingly and patiently guide and support students in adherence to the policy's expectations. These expectations are a part of our layered approach to safety. Still, wearing a mask cannot be turned into a cure-all. We must protect against a culture of hypervigilance and overbearing scrutiny where any moment without a mask is rendered unforgivable. We must protect against a culture of fear. Adherence coupled with loving, trusting, and reasonable accommodations is the balance we must seek hourly in the classrooms, hallways, lunchrooms and the like.

We will lean on one another as we work to execute this policy with wisdom and common sense.

As always, thanks for your patience with us during this time. It is greatly appreciated.