

from the Desk of the Principal

To: RMES Parents & Guardians

Date: October 1, 2021

RE: Pertinent COVID-19 Updates

Dear RMES Family,

Happy Friday! By the grace of God and your committed partnership, we made it safely through another week. We are grateful for the shared learning and relational experiences by which all were blessed. While we are still in this pandemic situation and continue to face many uncertainties, your dependable support makes a huge difference.

Working in partnership with parents, Berrien County Health Department, and Andrews University we continue our mitigation efforts against COVID-19. Some effective methods in helping maintain a safe learning environment relating to COVID-19 are:

- Encouraging students to practice sanitizing
- Maintaining physical distance when possible
- Voluntary vaccination of faculty, staff, and students (where possible)
- Daily Jupiter screening
- Face-covering for all indoor activities

Recently, the Berrien County Health Department was forced to rescind the public health order requiring masks in educational settings or face defunding. Even though the county mandate was rescinded, the Berrien County Health Department and the CDC continue to strongly recommend face covering. Ruth Murdoch Elementary School in partnership with Andrews University will continue to require face mask for all indoor activities. The University face covering requirement continues until October 31, 2021. This policy also remains in place at RMES. We will reevaluate this requirement at the appropriate time.

Universal masking allows for modify quarantine process. Please review the Quarantine policy as it relates to this modify process. When students wear face coverings for indoor activities even if they are exposed to someone with COVID-19, we may have a more favorable possibility of not quarantining the entire school because of exposure. Please review the quarantine document for clarification.

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/MI_Safer_Schools_Guidance_for_Managing_Students_Exposed_to_COVID-19_734750_7.pdf.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and prayers. Let us Take a Stand on the One who NEVER changes.

"Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand." Ephesians 6:13

Have a Happy Sabbath!

In His service,