



# ASCENT CLASSICAL ACADEMY OF DOUGLAS COUNTY

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Ascent Families, Dear Ascent Classical Guardian Families,

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school on September 7th.

The Tri-County Health Department (TCHD), which includes Douglas County, recently imposed a mask mandate on all children aged 3-11 while in schools or childcare settings. We understand there is uncertainty and concern within our community based on this last-minute mask mandate, as it is contrary to our school's plan to offer in-person learning this year.

At a special meeting held today, the Douglas County Commissioners voted to “opt-out” of the TCHD public health order. Due to this action, Ascent Classical Academy of Douglas County is **not** required to mandate face coverings.

Therefore, we are reaffirming our position in a statement that was sent to all families on August 9, 2021. We have included that statement below:

The bottom line upfront, **Ascent Classical Academy campuses will be allowing parents to make the best decision for their children in terms of face coverings at school and vaccinations against Covid.** While this topic is a charged one with people holding strong opinions, we respect the rights of parents to weigh the needs of their children, while we take additional steps to provide a safe learning environment.

Recent new guidelines for schools from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) are recommending layered Covid-19

prevention strategies, that now include face coverings for all teachers, staff, visitors, and students, regardless of age or vaccination status.

Ascent Classical Academies will not waiver from our commitment to provide full-time, in-person learning in a safe environment, while meeting all public health requirements. Our intent is to provide the greatest sense of normalcy for our students and staff, while implementing additional practices to keep our communities healthy. In this vein, Ascent Classical Academies will not be hosting a continuous, remote option this academic year.

We believe it is important to balance risks from Covid-19, with concerns for the mental health of our students, and providing the best environment to provide high-quality instruction within our schools. The current CDC and CDPHE guidance on face coverings are recommendations and we will be required to reconsider our approach in the event public health orders are issued making face coverings mandatory.

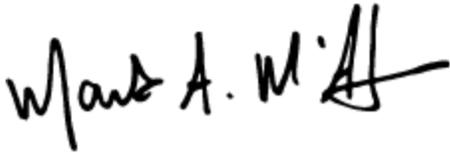
We expect parents and guardians to consider the most appropriate way to protect their children while balancing their own tolerance for normalcy. Last year, our schools were fortunate to have been able to offer in-person learning and we will continue asking you to be vigilant and keep your children home from school if they exhibit symptoms of Covid-19 which include:

- Fever
- Dry cough
- Tiredness
- Sore throat
- Runny nose

Our Douglas County Campus team is monitoring local health requirements and conditions at individual schools and may issue additional guidance throughout the year. Please contact school administration for additional information on measures being taken at our campus.

We appreciate your support this upcoming school year and our continued partnership with your family to provide your children an American Classical Education.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark A. McAfee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a stylized "A".

Mark McAfee - Headmaster

