

2021-2022 Health Policies

Will my child have to wear a mask?

Please know that the safety of our students and staff are our top priority. That being said, **please be aware that the health situation remains fluid and guidelines are subject to change.** After reviewing the current recommendations and guidelines, *masks for children ages 2 through 5 in a preschool/daycare setting are strongly recommended indoors, but not required.* Please continue to read this document for important information and explanations.

Daily Health Screen: We will ask parents to read and commit to our daily health screen again this year. Please become familiar with the questions and keep your child home and/or arrange for alternative transportation if you or your child(ren) cannot pass the health screening. The health screen can be found here: <https://sharethehope.org/preschool/> Children that do not feel well even if they are not showing symptoms yet, should also stay home as a measure of caution as children will not be masked.

Preschoolers and Masks. Masks will not be required for children ages 2 through 5 at this time. Although HCPS typically follows the GCSD in regards to school policies, for the purpose of masking children we are following the NYS Office of Child and Family services recommendations which speaks specially for children ages 2 to age 5,

“The current recommendations from NYS OCFS states that masks for children ages 2 through 5 in a preschool/daycare setting are strongly recommended indoors, but not required. Therefore, we currently recommend, but do not require, children wear masks indoors.”

Out of extreme caution, the one exception will be passing in the hallways, such as drop off and pick up, as well as any passing during the school day. Please inform your child's teacher if you would like your child to keep their mask on at all times.

Masks for Staff/Parents/Guardians and Service Providers: All adults entering the preschool **will be required to wear a mask** during school hours, regardless of vaccination status. This includes drop off and pick up of students. Please remember the safety of our unvaccinated student population is our top priority.

Drop off/Pick Up procedure: To limit the number of people in the hallway at one time, we will stagger the entrance times for each class. Your assigned times will be communicated to you with your teacher assignment in the coming days. Please arrive at your assigned time and wait in your car until you see your classroom's color flag placed out in front of the Hope Kids/Youth entrance of the building. Please do not enter until it

is your turn. If your child is struggling to say goodbye please walk back out with them by following the arrows to the exit. Then try again. Unfortunately, parents cannot wait at the door for your child to settle as we are only letting in one class at a time. Rest assured we have extra help on hand and can text you updates on how your child is doing if they are having a hard time at drop off. If your child does not settle quickly we will call you.

Hand Sanitizer: We ask that you use hand sanitizer as you enter the building.

Community groups: As an extra measure of precaution, classrooms will function as community groups and will not mix with each other for regular daily activities.

Snacks: Snacks will be provided by parents on an assigned rotating basis, (more information from your teacher to follow). Snacks must be store purchased and individually wrapped. Please, no cookies, cupcakes or other sweets please. Exception: birthday celebrations.

Farm field trip: It is our goal to have a fall farm field trip. We will keep you updated on that event as the school year begins.

Unless another change to policy comes to our attention, the above procedures will be in effect until further notice for HCPS.