



December 21, 2021

Dear MRH Parents and Families,

I want to begin by saying thank you for all you have done to help keep our schools healthy and safe as we've welcomed students back in person this school year. At the onset of the year I shared our theme: Live well, Learn well. I will be honest and share that it has not been easy to practice self-care navigating the pandemic amidst the attack on public education. For nearly two years, our students have experienced the unimaginable. However, surrounding them with caring educators in a safe and familiar environment has been vital to helping them through these challenging times. This is what MRH is all about.

I continue to be in awe of what our students, parents, and yes our staff have been able to accomplish during these times. We have shared music with our community through our school choirs and bands, watched plays, and offered extra-curricular activities. We continue to share our resources with others through Weekend on Wheels, food drives, and volunteerism. We have been able to celebrate each win with grace while recognizing we still have work to do. We persevere together in a community based on love, understanding, and yes growth.

As the holiday season approaches and new variants such as Delta and Omicron evolve, we must all be vigilant in doing our part to help keep ourselves and those around us safe. Here is what each of us can do, as members of the MRH community, to limit the spread of COVID-19 and support the continuation of in person learning in our schools:

- Get a flu shot and the COVID-19 vaccine or booster if you haven't yet done so. The vaccine is now available for everyone five and older. Visit [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov) or the [St. Louis County Department of Health](http://www.stlouisco.gov/health) to find a vaccine or booster location near you.
- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth when in indoor public places and outdoors where there is a high risk of COVID-19 transmission, such as crowded events or large gatherings.

Looking forward to 2022, we will no doubt face new challenges and uncertainties that will require all of us to be flexible. At this time, we will continue implementing our mitigation measures and follow the St. Louis County Department of Health's guidance on school operations. We are committed to keeping you informed of any changes.

From my family to yours, have a joyful and safe holiday and we look forward to welcoming your children back on Monday, January 3, 2022.

In partnership,

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Pronouns: she, her, hers