



Mr. Thomas J. Colabufu  
Superintendent

February 27, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

At her 2 pm press conference this afternoon, Governor Hochul lifted the State mandate that requires individuals to wear masks in schools and on school buses, **effective Wednesday, March 2.**

Throughout the pandemic, the Central Square Central School District has not enforced any additional restrictions beyond those mandates and court orders that all New York State schools were required to follow, and that will not change. Effective Wednesday, March 2, as per the Governor's announcement this evening, mask wearing on school grounds, in school buildings, and on school buses will be optional for all students and staff. I am sure that many parents, guardians, staff members, and students will be delighted with this news, while others have already expressed their concern with the mask mandate going away. As a District, we have respected everyone's concerns throughout the pandemic, and this decision to provide parents/guardians with parental choice regarding masking once the State masking mandate was removed should come as no surprise, as we clearly stated at several Board of Education meetings and through numerous parent/guardian letters that as a District, we would not add any additional restrictions beyond those that we were legally required to follow.

Again, please be reminded that this change begins on Wednesday, March 2, as the State's masking mandate is still in effect on Monday and Tuesday. We have done everything that New York State has required us to do throughout the pandemic and we are so very thankful for the patience and support that our great parents, guardians, students, and staff members have provided the District. We are so thankful for our amazing staff members that had to adjust to the constantly changing rules and regulations each time the State modified existing regulations. We are also very thankful for our resilient students that had to experience school through a global pandemic, and we are delighted to turn another page in our two year wait for a return to normalcy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas J. Colabufu".

Thomas J. Colabufu  
Superintendent