



August 10, 2021

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your continued trust in Arches Academy, Utah Valley's #1 ranked prestigious private school, for your child's education. We take the entire well-being of all our students and faculty members very seriously, and we are proud to release our Healthy, Happy Families Plan for the 2021-2022 school year that takes into consideration the academic, social, emotional and physical well-being of our students.

We acknowledge that the wearing of masks is a controversial topic, and that many parents are anxious to hear Arches Academy's guidelines for the year. Please know that we have carefully discussed and considered what our policy should be, given the various recommendations and state laws.

The [Utah State Board of Health](#) states, "COVID-19 can severely disrupt learning, school attendance, and involvement in extracurricular activities. Children can and do get COVID-19 and are at risk for severe illness from the virus. Even with mild illness, children can spread the virus to other people. This is why using layered prevention strategies in schools are so important." [The American Academy of Pediatrics](#) states, "All students older than 2 years and all school staff should wear face masks at school (unless medical or developmental conditions prohibit use)." [The CDC](#) recommends, "Universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status."

On the other hand, [Governor Cox and the Utah State Board of Health](#) have said, "Parents may always choose to have their child wear a mask at school if they want. In areas where there is no mask requirement, the decision to wear a mask at school remains optional."

With the above recommendations in mind, [Arches Academy](#) highly encourages all students and faculty to follow the CDC guidelines to wear masks. Please help us keep the school open and running in person by following this recommendation. Parents who do not want their students to wear masks may submit a "[Mask Wearing Exemption](#)" form. These forms will be used to inform faculty as to which students should be wearing a mask--per their parents' wishes--so we can support those wishes and remind those students to mask up.

We further encourage all parents and eligible students to start or complete the vaccination process for COVID-19. This is the number one way to prevent the spread of the virus in our communities, as emphasized by our Governor and state leaders: "This pandemic of the unvaccinated is tragic because it is preventable. It has never been easier to get a vaccine. While we are encouraged by the increases in vaccinations, we need more people to protect themselves and their families." (Governor Cox, [CacheValleyDaily](#)) Thank you for doing all you can to help slow the spread!

As part of our layered prevention strategy, Arches Academy will continue to take additional precautions to ensure safety and peace of mind for our students, their families, and the faculty. (Please see the chart below.) Our most important priority is YOU--our families and faculty! Thank you for your support.

We hope our plan brings you additional peace of mind as you look forward to returning to school this fall. As always, we are here to answer questions and work together with you. If you have questions or want additional information, please contact [Annette.Warnick@archesacademy.com](mailto:Annette.Warnick@archesacademy.com).

Thank you for entrusting Arches Academy with the education of your students and for investing in the future leaders of our connected world. We recognize that investing in private education is a choice, and we appreciate you continuing to choose Arches Academy.

Sincerely,

The Board of Arches Academy



## Arches Academy's Healthy, Happy Families Plan

To Keep Students and Teachers Healthy and Happy All Year Long We Will.....	
Encourage <b>Masks</b>	Students are strongly encouraged to wear masks during the school day to help protect each other and their teachers. We feel this is the best way for us to continue learning in person. (For parents: to enter the building we ask that unvaccinated parents wear a mask, and if you are vaccinated, a mask is still encouraged.)
Temperature <b>Screen</b>	Upon arrival all students will be temperature checked at the front door. Any student with a temperature over 100.4 F will not be allowed to enter the building. (For parents: to enter the building, we ask that unvaccinated parents wear a mask, and if you are vaccinated, a mask is encouraged.)
Use <b>Water Bottles</b>	Each student will bring a water bottle for personal use instead of drinking from the water fountains. Water fountains will be used only as refill stations this year.
<b>Separate</b> Materials	Each student will have their own set of materials, instead of sharing crayons, rulers, math counters, etc.
<b>Sanitize</b> Frequently	Work stations and materials will be sanitized after each use throughout the day. Sanitizing stations are available throughout the building. Books will also be sanitized before returning to circulation.
<b>Question</b> Families	A poster outside the building will remind/prompt parents to answer the following questions regarding ALL family members: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has anyone in your household had a fever in the last 4 days?</li> <li>2. Has anyone in your household experienced shortness of breath along with coughing/sneezing?</li> <li>3. Has anyone in your household traveled to a high risk area in the last 14 days?</li> </ol> <i>If the answer is 'yes' to ANY of these questions for anyone in the family, the parent must call the school before any family member enters the building. Do NOT come in to confer.</i>
<b>Send Sick Students Home</b>	Since the symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to symptoms of the common cold and other respiratory illnesses we see at this time of year, <b>students who have any signs and symptoms of illness should NOT attend school.</b> This includes: any temperature over 100.4 F, runny noses, coughs, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain lasting one hour or intermittent pain with any elevated temperature, mouth sores with drooling, rash with fever or behavioral changes. If students arrive at school with these symptoms or develop these symptoms during the course of the day, parents will be called to immediately retrieve their student within 30 minutes. These students will be quarantined with supervision until picked up.
<b>Adhere</b> to Rigorous Requirements for quarantine	We will abide by the other additional requirements for health and safety as laid out by the Utah Health Department for schools and Child Care Licensing. If an individual contracts Covid, we will call the local Health Department for instructions. Current requirements are: ( <a href="#">School Manual</a> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● If individual is fully vaccinated: No quarantine necessary, watch for symptoms</li> <li>● If not vaccinated, but wearing a mask: No quarantine necessary, watch for symptoms</li> <li>● If not vaccinated and not wearing a mask: Quarantine for 10 days if you choose not to get tested OR quarantine for 7 days and get tested for COVID-19. If the test is negative and no symptoms exist, the student can return to school.</li> </ul>

*Please note that this plan is subject to change as policies and procedures are updated and improved from multiple sources including the Child Care Licensing Department and the State and County Health Departments.*