

August 26, 2021

Bluffview Montessori School  
1321 Gilmore Avenue  
Winona, MN 55987

Dear Bluffview School Board,

Thank you for taking the time to consider all of the thoughts and concerns of parents. I care about everyone's health and safety and don't want people getting sick. If people do get sick, I want them to receive treatments that actually work and treat the cytokine storm created by the spike protein in the COVID-19 virus instead of more of the same treatments that have very low success rates. I want people to have the choice, masks or no masks, and for everyone to be treated with kindness and respect, regardless of their decision.

Every child has the right to a free and appropriate public education, per the Minnesota Constitution. A mask mandate infringes on that in many ways, especially because wearing one is not developmentally appropriate and is quite detrimental to children's—and everyone's health. COVID-19 cases in Minnesota increased after the July 24, 2020 mask mandate issued by Governor Walz and they soared in winter. The masks didn't help anything. Basic hygiene practices such as washing hands thoroughly and common courtesy/common sense to stay home when you're sick are the most helpful for preventing the spread of any illness and are the reasons why more people didn't catch COVID-19 (and other illnesses).

Here are 50 studies about the efficacy of masks:

<https://www.dailyveracity.com/2021/07/26/over-50-scientific-studies-conclude-masks-do-nothing-to-prevent-the-spread-of-illness-so-why-do-people-keep-claiming-they-work/>

This link includes many research studies about masks:

<https://rationalground.com/masks-children-and-covid-19-published-studies>  
<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/47-studies-confirm-ineffectiveness-of-masks-f-or-covid-and-32-more-confirm-their-negative-health-effects/>

This one was published in the JAMA:

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2781743>

Parents have the right to determine their children's medical needs and care and to ensure their children are able to breathe. Parents have the right to choose whether or not their child will wear a face mask. Most masks have chemicals that are unhealthy to breathe and fibers that can cause lung issues. Even surgical masks warn that they do not provide the wearer with protection from COVID-19 or smaller airborne particles. COVID-19 has smaller particles than other diseases, so the masks are even more ineffective than with other airborne diseases. Leakage occurs around the edges of these masks when users inhale; this is more pronounced when the masks don't fit the unique face size and shape of the user. Mask wearing over extended periods has been scientifically proven to cause dental issues. Dentists are seeing increased cases of cavities and gum issues, even in patients who have never had problems before.

Many families will not be able to afford masks, especially when children need to wear a clean one each day. Some masks are obviously more expensive than others. Many children come to school with used masks or keep dirty ones on all day (surgical masks are supposed to be disposed after every “patient” encounter; that would be at least 30 times per day for a typical student). This creates socioeconomic disparity: “haves” vs. “have-nots” and puts low-income children at greater risk of becoming ill by wearing dirty masks. How can schools ensure that the masks are washed/new each day? If families don’t wash or replace them every day, it will increase the risk of spreading COVID-19 and other viruses.

Masks disrupt the learning environment; this is why they are banned in typical years. Children touch their faces more often while wearing them, staff frequently need to remind students to keep them on their noses, they are thrown on the ground, etc. A mask mandate negatively impacts children’s social, emotional, and physical development. Children rely on reading facial expressions for communication and socialization. Masks limit those opportunities, discourage some children from speaking while wearing them, affect children’s speech development (especially those with speech delays), impede their understanding of facial expressions and social cues, and hamper the development of close relationships with their peers, teachers, and staff.

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/masks-can-be-detrimental-to-babies-speech-and-language-development1/#>

I appreciate the time you have taken to take these things into consideration as you make a decision that will greatly impact the physical and mental health of our children for the 2021-2020 school year. I implore you to do the right thing and allow parents to decide whether or not their child will wear a mask at school.

Sincerely,

Luke and Jillian Coalwell