To stay safe we need to practice the 3 W's:

- WASH your hands
- WEAR your mask
- WATCH your distance

To help your child with mask-wearing, we recommend the following:

- Allow children to select their own mask pattern or design.
- Beloved stuffed animals, dolls or action figures can also practice mask-wearing. [How to put on & take off a Mask](#)
- Parents can model mask-wearing behaviors in the home and community.
- Practice wearing a mask in a safe space before your child leaves home.
- You can gradually increase the amount of time your child is expected to wear a mask, emphasizing wearing it during times when social distancing is most difficult.
- You can provide positive rewards each time your child practices mask-wearing.
- Your family can read this social story about mask-wearing: [Wearing A Mask Social Story](#)

Click here for a downloadable resource from the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia about wearing a face mask, that could be beneficial to help children learn to wear their face coverings correctly. This is also a great resource for the special needs population.

The CDC recommendations for How to Wear a Face Covering:

**Wear a Mask to Protect Others**

- Wear a face covering that covers your nose and mouth to help protect others in case you’re infected with COVID-19 but don’t have symptoms
- Wear a face covering in public settings when around people who don’t live in your household, especially when it may be difficult for you to stay six feet apart
- Wear a face covering correctly for maximum protection
- Don’t put the face covering around your neck or up on your forehead
- Don’t touch the face covering, and, if you do, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer to disinfect

Great information is available from the Center for Disease Control regarding how to make your own face covering, how to wash your face covering and how to wear your face covering properly. Click here to visit their website for more information.
January 4, 2021

Dear Cape Families,

We would like to take the opportunity to thank the students and their families for supporting our schools by following the guidelines for facial coverings. The vast majority of our students are doing a fantastic job and we need to remain focused! Proper mask wearing and following the CDC guidelines minimizes quarantines and keeps our kids in school.

There have been some instances where students have been challenged to wear their masks appropriately (covering their nose and mouth) at all times. Strategies have been put into place for those students who have been challenged. Our efforts addressing these situations continue and we are being diligent in making sure every student wears their facial coverings appropriately at all times (except when eating) while in school and on the buses. The staff will continue to support your child in these efforts as they have during the first marking period. It’s important to note that if a student is unable or unwilling to wear their facial covering appropriately for the duration of the school day, corrective measures will be taken moving forward.

If your child is struggling to wear their mask appropriately for the duration of the school day, or on the school bus, school staff members will notify you of supportive measures being implemented to assist your child. Please understand that if your child continues to have difficulty wearing a mask appropriately, they may be removed from their face-to-face school environment, and be required to continue their instruction remotely. This is for their safety as well as for the safety of all others in their environment. In the event a student is transitioned to remote instruction due to mask compliance safety issues, staff members will continue to work with the family and student to foster proper mask-wearing practices in the home and the community. Our goal is to then be able to return the student to face-to-face instruction in the future.

We ask that you continue to encourage appropriate mask-wearing when your child is not in school. This is so that your child will be better prepared for face-to-face instruction in 2021.

**Remember:**
Two proactive measures that directly impact our ability to safely remain in school with as many students and staff as possible are:

1. Daily review of the Health Assessment Self-Screening Form before the start of each day and,
2. Proper face covering and proper face-cover wearing

Thank you!