

# **Fall Preview: Back, Better Than Ever—Opening Schools with Innovative Calendar**

Montgomery County Board of Education  
July 27, 2021

# **Happy New Year!**

## **First Day of School at Arcola and Roscoe R. Nix Elementary Schools**

# Discussion

# Fall Face Coverings Expectations

- The nation and county are experiencing a rise in COVID-19 cases, and a vaccination still is not available for students younger than age 12.
- In light of this context and in alignment with the American Academy of Pediatrics' recommendations, **all students, staff, and visitors across all levels (elementary, middle, and high) will be required to wear face coverings in school buildings, regardless of vaccination status.**
  - This expectation represents a continuation of current practice.
- Face coverings are not required outdoors, but strongly are recommended for unvaccinated individuals.
- On school busses, all students will be required to wear face coverings.

*NOTE: Subject to change based on county, CDC, and/or state guidance*

# Rationale Aligns with American Academy of Pediatrics' Recommendations

- “A significant portion of the student population is not eligible for vaccination
- Masks protect unvaccinated students from COVID-19 and reduce transmission, [and there is a] lack of a system to monitor vaccine status among students, teachers and staff
- [There is] potential difficulty in monitoring or enforcing mask policies for those who are not vaccinated; in the absence of schools being able to conduct this monitoring, universal masking is the best and most effective strategy to create consistent messages, expectations, enforcement, and compliance without the added burden of needing to monitor vaccination status
- [There are] continued concerns for variants that are more easily spread among children, adolescents, and adults”

# Discussion