



# BENWAY SCHOOL

620 VALLEY ROAD, WAYNE, NJ 07470  
Tel (973) 633-3837 Fax (973) 633-3805  
Email: info@benwayschool.org



**James E. Perri**  
Executive Director

**Danielle Bourne**  
Director

**Patrick McAloon**  
Principal

**Christopher Mingoia**  
Supervisor

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Dear Benway School Community:

As we approach our Spring Break (April 11th through April 15th) we would like to update you on several items. Because of the promising community conditions of high immunity and low transmission, Benway is making the following change to our protocols:

**Masks will become optional for all students and staff in Benway beginning Monday, April 18, 2022. Here are important related items to this change:**

- ❖ Parents are responsible for discussing with their child the family's mask wearing preference; the child will need to fulfill that expectation.
- ❖ The decision for students and staff members to continue to wear masks is supported.
- ❖ Masks will be required when a student is symptomatic in the nurse's office and when returning to school on days 6-10 after being quarantined or testing positive for COVID. *Fully vaccinated students with close contact will have to mask indoors for 10 days.*
- ❖ Unvaccinated individuals are encouraged to continue to mask to reduce exposure/illness to COVID.
- ❖ All students must remain home while sick, and contact the school nurse, for next steps and clearance to return to school.
- ❖ Only students who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who are unvaccinated or not up to date and have a close contact will be eligible for remote learning.

Benway's goal is to normalize school experiences as much as possible as we navigate this next phase of the pandemic. It is essential for the academic, social, and emotional well-being of our students. We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of these health and safety practices and make adjustments accordingly. We have relied on guidance from the CDC and NJDOH which provides a whole child perspective to guide us as our community transitions back to "normal."

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. We wish you all a safe and restful Spring Break.

Sincerely,

Benway School Administration

*\*To be considered "up to date" the individual 12 and older must have received all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including any booster dose(s) when eligible. For those that are not eligible for a booster and under 12, they must be 2 weeks post the last dose of the COVID-19 vaccination series. Medical documentation must be on file or provided to the school nurse.*