

August 3, 2021

Dear Aseltine Parent/Guardian:

I am so excited to see that students and staff will be at it again full-time, starting on Monday, August 30th. I know the past year and a half has been tough on all of us. Thankfully, we continue to reach new milestones in combating COVID-19. A full return to school is the greatest sign yet of a return to normalcy. Safely returning to in-person instruction in the new school year is a priority to local, state and federal officials alike. Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic, and San Diego County continues to be a leader in the state in regards to vaccination rates. **The Aseltine community strongly encourages vaccination for all students and staff who are eligible**--it is our greatest defense in maintaining a safe and healthy school environment for all.

In addition, please know that our school has gone to great measures to keep students and staff safe. We have upgraded ventilation systems and/or added purifiers to each classroom; received hand sanitizer and other safety supplies, and adapted to continuously evolving safety guidance. We are confident that our school is the best and safest place for students to learn and succeed.

Procedures continue to evolve. Recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its guidance to stress the full reopening of schools and recommended masks only be worn by the unvaccinated. As of this writing, **masks are still required when indoors in K-12 schools**, according to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). While students are present in the room, masking indoors is required for everyone—including for vaccinated individuals. When students are not present, fully vaccinated people are not required to mask indoors, according to CDPH.

Students will be able to remove their masks outdoors. We will also continue our efforts to keep students in stable groups and **practice physical distancing as much as possible.** Additionally, our school will **practice and emphasize hand hygiene before and after eating.**

You may have additional questions about school procedures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 when we resume classes at the end of the month. More information will be emailed and posted on our website soon. When it is accessible, please review the [Safe Return to School Parent Playbook](#) carefully. As a reminder, CDC's guidance is not binding for California schools, which must abide by requirements from state and county public health.

Again, we look forward to welcoming students and their families back to school on August 30.

Sincerely,
May Padilla
Executive Director