



# *Elk County Catholic School System*

## **An Update on ECCSS Masking Policies**

To all ECCSS Parents,

Thank you for your patience as we continue working through how to administer the statewide school masking mandate. We are contacting you with some important updates which stem from a full meeting of our local Board of Directors, which occurred this past Wednesday evening.

At that meeting the Board of Directors determined that any parents seeking exemptions from the order must submit documented medical conditions from a licensed medical professional. Once such documentation has been submitted, parents will need to work directly with school administrators to explore what accommodations can and cannot be made in their school for this purpose.

While the order itself does not mandate submission of medical documentation, the related state guidance states that, “it is recommended that any exception be in accordance with eligibility under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA for such medical or mental health condition or disability.”

The Diocese of Erie and the Catholic Schools Office have directed schools in the Diocese to follow this recommendation for various reasons, including prioritization of in-person learning and for the safety of our students and staff.

We know that this will be an inconvenience for many of you who have already submitted waiver forms. We apologize, and ask for your patience as we work through this difficult situation.

Our board has determined that parents will have until next Friday to submit exemption forms and discuss possible accommodations. We are working with the Catholic Schools Office to offer the required paperwork as soon as possible, and to explain what information will be required.

In the meantime, we ask you to speak with your children and request that they adhere to the spirit of the order as faithfully as possible. In cases where children cannot wear masks, we will work with you to accommodate their needs.

Thank you,

The Elk County Catholic School System Board of Directors