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January 25, 2022

Dear Cleveland Hill Community,

As I communicated earlier, a State Supreme Court Judge on Long Island issued a ruling regarding the New York State Health Commissioner's mask mandate in schools. Last evening, all school superintendents in New York State received notice that schools must continue to follow mask rules as the New York State Department of Health appeals the decision.

The New York State Appellate Court heard testimony this afternoon. I just received word that the stay was granted to keep the mask mandate in place pending further proceedings. If my understanding is correct, these proceedings are scheduled to begin as soon as possible. Once we receive any final decision and have a chance to process it, we will communicate those findings to you as well as any potential implications for masking here at school.

I know that many of us are looking forward to the time when we can send our children to school without a mask. While we fully support a parent's right to choose, and will uphold that as soon as we can, we are asking you for your patience as we wait to receive and process the pending court decision. I know that this has been a long and challenging period for us all, and I apologize for asking for this additional time. I just want to make certain that all district interests, especially the health and welfare of our students and staff, are protected.

I thank you in advance for your anticipated support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jon MacSwan  
Superintendent