

**Summary of Public Comments to the Safe Learning Plan
and
Safe Summer and Fall Learning Plans**

Prior to and following a resolution approving the Seven Hills Preparatory Academy's Safe Schools Learning Plan as adopted by the School Board on August 6th, the school regularly communicated its plans to staff and families. The learning plans adhered to health and safety guidance from the MDE and MDH via the CDC and followed the requirements and recommendations of these public health experts. The learning plans and its updates solicited input from staff, families, and community members through surveys, staff and team meetings, school board meetings, parent information nights, and emails as well as phone calls.

A summary of public comments from our community concerning the Safe Learning Plans represented parents and guardians who sent comments to the school's administration and board as well as staff who sent the same and provided feedback during meetings. Comments ranged from parent and guardian requests to remain in or return to a less restrictive hybrid or in-person model and request from staff to remain in or return to more restrictive distance learning model. Comments for the Safe Summer Learning Plan were relatively few and consisted primarily of requests to remove a current face covering requirement for all, or at least all vaccinated, persons while indoors. The school reviews all public comments and uses them to make adjustments to the structure, schedule, and implementation of its learning models, the decisions for which are otherwise based on local, state, and federal health and safety guidance. The school's learning plans, along with other important and relevant

information, are updated weekly and as necessary on the schools COVID-19 webpage. The school began working on its Safe Return to In-Person Learning for the fall as it awaited the outcome of the legislative session and additional updates from the MDE or MDH via the CDC.

Following the school's summer program sessions and school board resolution to recommend face coverings, local conditions changed due to the Delta variant. Rising case and positivity rates, face covering policies adopted by area schools, and a staffing assessment that determined the inability to effectively manage contact tracing if face coverings were only recommended prompted the school board to approve a resolution requiring face coverings for all persons older than 2 years of age while inside school buildings at their September 2nd meeting.

Prior to the school board's decision, the school sent out a communication to families, held a public forum attended by approximately 15 parents and guardians in-person and approximately 35 who joined virtually, and welcomed approximately 15 parents and guardians to the school board meeting. The school also responded to approximately 25 communications from parents and guardians during this time. The communications ranged from support for a face covering requirement to resistance to such a requirement, with many impassioned and a few contentious arguments made by parents and guardians, but, overall, a generally respectful engagement of the topic. The school did its best to listen with a sincere and open-mind to those who disagreed with its decision, and endeavored to clarify and present the data that drove its decision, underscoring its trust in the validity and reliability of MDH and MDE as well as CDC guidance.