

Dear Clearspring Families,

I am so very excited to be back with your children making music together again! Please review the important information below on the special masks we will all be wearing in music this year.

The MCPS Safety Office worked diligently to test, approve, and purchase one singer mask for every individual student in our entire county. These masks have been proven to successfully mitigate the spread of aerosols while singing in accordance with recommendations from the NFHS aerosol study. Additionally, these masks have extra space in front of the mouth area to create an easier singing experience for all.

Your child is welcome to wear their mask for an entire day, but it is not required (as it is recommended that these masks remain at school). Even though we do not sing in every single moment of music class, it will be easier to wear these masks throughout our entire class period versus switching masks back and forth with each new activity. Every child will be given one mask and one paper bag to store their mask in their homeroom. We have been informed that because music only takes place once a week, the masks will be okay to be stored in their paper bags until the next time they need to be used again. If you would like your child's mask to be brought home and cleaned every week you may absolutely choose to do so. However, please realize that every child will only receive **one mask** and that mask must be returned and worn in their next music lesson. I will send monthly reminders with a suggestion to bring masks home for a wash.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email at theresa_a_sharp@mcpsmd.org. More information about the singing masks being purchased can be [found here](#).

Thank you for your support!

Theresa Sharp

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