

June 7, 2021

Dear BVP Board Members,

As we look to finish the school year, I recently surveyed all staff and in-person families regarding our outdoor mask policy. I want to share with you on the family results (staff results align very closely), as I know that this topic is incredibly important (and polarizing) to so many in our community.

COUNTA of Student Classes	If you were forced to choose between the following two policies, which should BVP adopt?		
	Adopt a policy that allows everyone to be fully mask optional outside at all times (this would include playground use).	Continue the current policy of requiring the wearing of masks outside for the final three-and-a-half weeks of school that remain.	Grand Total
Student School			
Blackstone Valley Prep - Elementary School 1	36%	64%	100%
Blackstone Valley Prep - Elementary School 2	40%	60%	100%
Blackstone Valley Prep - Elementary School 3	42%	58%	100%
Blackstone Valley Prep - High School	46%	54%	100%
Blackstone Valley Prep - Junior High	43%	57%	100%
Blackstone Valley Prep - Upper Elementary School	45%	55%	100%
Grand Total	41%	59%	100%

59% of families recommend we finish the year with our current outdoor mask policy, 41% suggest we lift it. There are definitely lots of implementation factors that come in to play (e.g. where do the masks go when the kids are on the playground? How do we ensure they don't get mixed together?)

Our current practices include:

- 1) we are eating outside (maskless and with distance),
- 2) we are taking some mask breaks outside (maintaining distance), and
- 3) we require masks when it is obvious that people cannot maintain distance (e.g. on the playground).

And I am telling my team to continue on our current path for the time being.

I anticipate that we may have some public comment on this topic, and I will confer with Mayor Mutter as potential agenda item for our upcoming board meeting. Along with many, I am ready for June 25th to get here really quickly and to put the 2020-2021 school year behind us!

My best,

Jeremy