



Kris Arduino <kris.arduino@harlem122.org>

Fwd: Requiring Masks in School

1 message

Terrell Yarbrough <terrell.yarbrough@harlem122.org>
To: HLC <hlc@harlem122.org>

Mon, Aug 9, 2021 at 9:53 PM

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **JoAnna Patterson** <joannampatterson@me.com>
Date: Mon, Aug 9, 2021 at 9:32 PM
Subject: Requiring Masks in School
To: <terrell.yarbrough@harlem122.org>

Good evening Mr. Yarbrough,

I am a local pastor and parent of an incoming 1st grader. I am immune compromised. My dad is battling cancer. We are their only family in the area. We help them take care of their home and get them to their doctor appointments at UW Madison and the cancer center here in Rockford. I serve a congregation with a significant proportion of older members. I take precautions to limit my exposure to airborne viruses to protect those I love and serve. It is my responsibility to care for my neighbors, and especially my family.

I have seen many battle with the covid19 virus. I have seen some loose that battle. I have members and friends that are dealing with "long term covid" and will for the rest of their lives. I know the delta variant is much more contagious. I have heard the call from our health care workers to be vigilant in our efforts to slow the spread of this debilitating disease. I have heard the pleading of our leaders, asking us to take this seriously.

I also know that there is a very vocal minority that are clamoring for children to be allowed to attend school without the benefit of a mask. This is very, very concerning to me. I know that they are planning to protest this new statewide mandate by sending their young children to schools without a mask. They are teaching their children to refuse to wear one in protest.

I understand their feelings. I understand their desire to protest. I can not sit idly by and not request the school district to protect my child, my family, as well as the other children and their families. I am begging you to stand in this gap. I am already highly concerned not being able to get my child vaccinated before school starts. I expect this educational institution to respect the health authorities put in place by our community, and stand for truth, science, and justice.

As a pastor I ask my congregation to put the needs of those who have less ahead of their own, to use their voice on behalf of those who can not always speak for themselves.

I ask you to do the same. To make decisions based on what is best for all of the students, their families, your staff, administrators and teachers. To work for the good of all, not the angry cry of a few.

I thank you for your willingness to serve as school superintendent at such a crucial time. Please let me know how I can support and pray for you.

Peace,
Pastor JoAnna Patterson
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