

9/30/22

Connor Mazzearella
36 Oxbow Drive
Bradford, VT 05033

Dear OUUSD school board,

Hello, my name is Connor Mazzearella, and I am a student at Oxbow Highschool. I appreciate everything this board is doing for the school by acting in the students' interests. The issue I'm writing about is wearing masks.

At this school, we are mandated to wear masks, but my concern is why? I agree that masks can help prevent COVID-19 from spreading, but I don't think all students should have to wear them. Rather than enforcing this rule for all, it should be optional for students that are vaccinated. Masks aren't just another piece of clothing; they affect the way we breathe. They can be uncomfortable and tedious to maintain over the nose. During lunch, everyone has their masks off, which in some ways defeats the purpose. Why are students expected to wear masks during gym? How am I supposed to do my best in class when I need to maintain a slow exhale to not become light-headed? It would give students more incentive to get the vaccination if it meant they didn't need to wear a mask at school. I understand this is a short-term solution, but I would appreciate some updates on what's going on. Is there hope that masks won't become mandatory this school year?

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I hope that you understand my concerns and evaluate them. I know this is a bigger issue than this board and an even bigger issue than this state. But I believe the more questions we ask, the better.

Sincerely,

Connor Mazzearella

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