**Northland Preparatory Academy**

**Mandatory Face Covering (Mask/Shield) Policy**

**In Accordance with Executive Order 2020-51**

**All** persons over the age of two, including but not limited to NPA students, staff, parents/guardians, family members and members of the general public are required to wear face coverings (face masks or face shields) while on the property or inside the buildings of Northland Preparatory Academy.

Cotton or medical Face Masks as recommended by the CDC or Face Shields must always be properly worn and fitted completely covering the nose and mouth. Masks should fit snugly against the sides of the face. Bandanas, ski masks, neck gaiters, scarves or other types of face coverings are not acceptable.

Exceptions to the wearing of face coverings will be made when it is determined by school staff that students can socially distance or are outside in playground settings with appropriate distancing. Students will be allowed to take off their face covering in a safe environment and while eating lunch.

Cloth face coverings should not be worn by children under the age of two or anyone who is having trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

The policy will remain in effect until the Arizona Department of Health Services determines that face coverings are no longer necessary to contain the spread of the virus (COVID-19).

Physician certification is required for an exemption to this policy.