

## **St. Lawrence County Design-A-Mask Contest for Students**

**Canton, NY.** The St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau has launched a mask wearing initiative for county students which includes a Design-A-Mask contest. Recently, the youth members of the Youth Advisory Board met together and decided to help students gain access to masks.

“Our youth members wanted to do something fun with wearing masks so as to help reduce the stress and anxiety some students feel as they prepare to head back to school. Right now, school stress is heightened with COVID guidelines in the classroom which includes wearing masks throughout the day,” commented Alexa Backus, Youth Bureau Director.

Students K-12<sup>th</sup> grade can submit a design by September 22<sup>nd</sup>. A mask template and an entry/release form can be downloaded from Facebook at “St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau” or individuals can email [ABackus@stlawco.org](mailto:ABackus@stlawco.org) for them.

Student artists are encouraged to support the mask initiative, **“It’s Your Task to Wear a Mask.”** Youth committee member, Hailey Williamson, a freshman at Potsdam High, developed the slogan. “I felt this would appeal to younger kids. I believe wearing masks help protect those around you and it’s better to be safe than sorry. Plus, this slogan is quick to say and easy to remember,” when asked how she came up with the catch phrase.

One winning design will be chosen and printed on over 16,000 masks for students in St. Lawrence County.

For more information email [ABackus@stlawco.org](mailto:ABackus@stlawco.org) or call the Youth Bureau at 315.379.9464.