



December 15, 2021

Good Afternoon Panther Families,

We cannot begin to thank you enough for your support during what has been one of the most challenging semesters on record. While other surrounding districts have been inundated with a number of different issues, your support has allowed us to do our best to focus on our students' academic, physical, social, and emotional well-being! We are so proud of your students and their responses to facing and overcoming the many challenges that have been put in front of them.

We wanted to update you on our policies as it relates to local, state, and federal health orders and mask requirements moving forward. From the beginning of this pandemic, we have followed the guidance and mandates placed in front of us and we plan to continue to do so. After reviewing the guidance that has been communicated to us, our own local data, as well as, current mandates, **AS OF THIS MOMENT**, we will be:

1. Strongly encouraging all students and staff to wear masks while on school grounds, as is outlined in current guidance in line with the Kent County Health Department recommendation, as of January 3, 2022. We encourage parents to assess their personal and family factors in making the decision whether or not to have their children wear masks while on school grounds.
2. Requiring all students to wear masks on school provided transportation in line with current federal mandates requiring us to do so.

We caution that you continue to monitor local and school communication as we have learned that things can change quickly. Additionally, we may make decisions based on the pandemic's impact on individual classrooms, buildings, programs, and the district as a whole as we navigate through the second semester.

We understand the impact this decision has on you and your family and ask for your grace and understanding as we continue to do our best to focus on kids and their education. While it is clear we cannot always agree on every decision, you have shown that, at the very least, we can come together as a community and continue to celebrate our school and our Panthers.