

PHILIPSBURG-OSCEOLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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September 3, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Recently, the Department of Education, Governor's Office and the Pennsylvania Department of Health announced a mask mandate for all schools beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 7th. Masks are required by everyone entering the building, but are not required outdoors, during physical activity, or while playing a musical instrument.

Over the last few days, our inboxes have been full of emotional pleas from parents regarding concerns over masking and asking the District to fight the mandate. I believe that we will witness that battle being played out throughout the court system. Our school's insurance liability considerations preclude us from not following the recommendations of our legal counsel, and our district's legal representation currently recommends that we follow the mandate at this time. We realize that parents have choices and those choices affect how many staff the district can employ, the materials we can purchase for our remaining students, and so much more. The reality of it is that out-of-district cyber and charter expenses hurt everyone associated with the district. If you are adamant that your child can't go to school because of masking, please consider our cyber school. Brian Pelka (bpelka@pomounties.org) will help you enroll. We will give mask breaks, but any exemptions from masking will require a physician's note (legal recommendation).

Thank you,

Gregg Paladina
Superintendent

The Mission of the Philipsburg-Osceola Area School District is to provide opportunities, resources and support for student to become lifelong learners.