

September 6, 2021

Dear Elementary Parents/Guardians:

It was wonderful to welcome our students back on campus last week. Having the opportunity to have the first day of school on campus was needed and it was outstanding to get back to a sense of normalcy.

As we started last week, it was wonderful to be able to provide the choice that our families desired with masking. We want to provide our families that choice and option when conditions are appropriate to do so. Our primary measure for making masking decisions is what we see occurring within our buildings. Throughout last week and into this weekend the number of positive cases of COVID along with students and staff needing to quarantine has increased. In order to meet our primary goal of keeping our students in school for face-to-face instruction, we are going to transition and use our full extent mitigation measures and **require masking when indoors for all students, staff, and visitors at West Salem Elementary School beginning immediately on Tuesday, September 7th and lasting until at least Friday, September 24th.**

Please remember, if your child is sick or has symptoms of COVID-19, keep your child home. If they have symptoms of COVID-19 seek out testing. Your child must stay home until test results are confirmed by a **PCR test** ([Please see quarantine guideline and definitions here](#)). This is by far the best mitigation measure that we all can agree upon.

All other mitigation measures continue as articulated in the 2021-22 Return to School Plan including maintaining social distancing to the greatest extent possible, increased daily cleaning, increased fresh air supply in the HVAC systems, increased handwashing and respiratory hygiene.

The district will continue to monitor local conditions, particularly those within our buildings and our community, and adjust as necessary. The district dashboard will continue to be used as a means to inform families, staff, and the community of cases within the schools. Individuals identified as close contacts will be notified by a district staff member.

Thank you for your understanding, and we hope to return to optional masking as soon as possible.

Ryan G. Rieber
Superintendent

Dr. Nicole Hennessy
District Doctor

Mrs. Kate Brohmer
District Nurse