August 13, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

On Monday, August 9th, during its' regular monthly meeting, the Bendle Board of Education discussed wearing masks in schools for the upcoming school year. Following discussion, a superintendent recommendation for parental/student choice absent an official vote was supported.

On Thursday, August 12th, pursuant to the Michigan Public Health Code, MCL 333.2451 and 333.2453, as well as R. 325.175(4) the Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) issued a mandate for masks to be worn in Kindergarten through 6th grades. And, that masks be properly and consistently worn inside any enclosed building or structure of the institution. Masks for 7th through 12th graders remain optional.

The order “remains in effect until two months past the date COVID-19 vaccine is approved and available to persons aged five years through age eleven, and community transmission is categorized as “low” or “moderate” by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or until further notice from the Medical Health Officer.”

This GCHD order supersedes any guidelines previously announced by the school district. I realize opinions vary as to whether or not masks should be mandated, however, the decision is no longer one district officials have control over. Moving forward, our focus continues to be keeping students and staff in schools. Obviously, we must operate within the laws, rules, and guidelines of our federal and state agencies.

Given this latest mandate requiring masks be worn by our K-6 students, I ask for your continued support by prioritizing a successful return to the classroom.

Last year, the district successfully operated throughout the year with children and staff wearing masks. With various precautions taken, we experienced few outbreaks within our schools. There is no reason to believe this will not be the case this year. I know I can speak for everyone in saying, we are all tired of this pandemic and adjustments made in our daily lives. My hope is that by working together to minimize COVID spread, we’ll once and for all be able to leave the masks behind.

In closing, please understand, the district is legally required to follow any mandates set forth through the GCHD. It is just as important to remember. The situation remains fluid. Changes may occur at any time with little, if any notice.

Sincerely

John Krolewski, Superintendent
Bendle Public Schools