



August 9, 2021

Dear Comstock Park Families,

We are excited to welcome students back into our buildings in just over two weeks! If we have learned anything since March of 2020, it is that we will need to be flexible. We again, will lean on our community for your understanding and support as we navigate through this school year. This summer, we have been monitoring local data, reviewing our 2020-2021 school year data, meeting with the Kent County Health Department, and discussing our current reality with Kent County Superintendents. At this time, we have decided to **strongly recommend** the guidance from the Centers of Disease Control (CDC) and Kent County Health Department (KCHD) while still giving parents and students a choice. **Please note that Health Department orders may impact this decision in the near future.**

As of today, we will follow the information below in regards COVID-19 mitigation:

- **MASKS FOR BUS RIDERS:**
 - The CDC has an [order](#) in place that masks **must** be worn on buses at this time. We will communicate with you if this changes.
- **MASKS FOR SCHOOL DAYS:**
 - Family Choice: As of today, we are strongly recommending all students and staff wear masks. However, it will be your decision to have your students wear masks unless Health Department requirements change.
- **COVID TESTING:**
 - We will not be testing students at this time. The Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) and other organizations have not mandated testing of athletes as of this communication.
- **QUARANTINING AND CONTACT TRACING:**
 - A recent Kent County Health Department Order issued Friday, August 6, 2021, appears to require schools to again follow contact tracing requirements and quarantine guidelines unless; all parties were wearing masks, a student has been vaccinated, or a student has tested positive within the past 90 days. More information to come.
- **VIRTUAL LEARNING:**
 - Please see the [registration form here](#).

To be transparent, regardless of what our initial decision is regarding masks in schools, it appears there may be a time where we may face having to implement some of the strategies we were forced to implement during the 2020-2021 school year. This may include requiring masks, hybrid schedules, and/or fully virtual schedules. I believe it is important for you to be aware of these possible scenarios as this may impact your decision to attend in person or virtually. In the event you choose to attend virtually, we ask that you please fill out our registration form as soon as possible. The deadline for virtual registration is Friday, August 13, 2021 and you must commit for one semester.

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As the leader of the district, my job is to prepare us all to meet these challenges head on and overcome them. Our number one goal must be to do our best to make in person learning options, including athletics, arts, and after school programs available and as consistent as possible for our students and community.

At this time, I again ask us to come together as a community and ask for your patience, understanding, and support as we work to provide you with the best and most accurate information possible moving forward.

We will continue to closely monitor the situation throughout the coming days, weeks, and months and communicate any changes as they come our way. We are excited for this new school year and know that we will be able to overcome the challenges and changes as we continue to work together to support our kids.

Sincerely,

David Washburn
Superintendent

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