



August 20, 2021

Dear Caledonia Community Schools community,

I am excited to be welcoming back our students and families in just a few days to the 21-22 school year. I hope this summer provided time for your family to recharge and get ready for all the excitement and energy that starting a new school year brings.

While your building administrator has provided building specific information regarding the upcoming academic year for your child's school, I want to again share the [calendar dates and building schedule adjustments](#) as we prepare for 2021-2022.

There are clearly differing views on what should or should not be required as we start school, and each person brings a data point, research or social media based information to support their argument. As COVID-19 cases continue to rise in Kent County (and Allegan) I want to reiterate that we will follow the decision-making process we successfully implemented last year to provide the best opportunity to preserve a safe, in-person learning environment throughout the year.

On Wednesday, the Allegan County Health Department (ACHD) issued a [public health order](#) and today, the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) issued [another public health order](#) that applies to buildings within our district regarding facial coverings (masks) for students in preschool through sixth grade. Thus, we will be **requiring facial coverings (masks) in all buildings PK-6**, to comply with the new health department orders.

- Regardless of vaccination status, all staff and students will be required to wear a mask while inside an enclosed building or structure at the Duncan Lake Early Childhood Center, Caledonia Elementary, Dutton Elementary, Emmons Lake Elementary, Kettle Lake Elementary, Paris Ridge Elementary, and Kraft Meadows Intermediate School.
- At Duncan Lake Middle School and Caledonia High School, we strongly encourage students and staff to wear masks while indoors, regardless of age or vaccination status, even though it is not required at this time.
- Everyone over the age of 2 years old (regardless of vaccination status) is required to wear a mask while on a bus. Masks will be provided for those that forget one at home.
- **Students, Staff, and Families will be required to wear masks at all open houses in our PK-6 buildings.**
- Additional information, as well as answers to many frequently asked questions can be found on our [website](#).

We will continue to work with public health officials and make the necessary adjustments to our policy based on CDC, Michigan Department of Health and Humans Services (MDHHS), and local health department guidance or requirements to keep our students, staff, and families safe. We need to continue to be flexible and adapt to conditions as they evolve.

We look forward to seeing the students return and I personally look forward to working with our school community as we continue to chart a new course towards the continuance of success and excellence that Caledonia Schools are known for.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dedrick Martin
Superintendent
Caledonia Community Schools