

MOUND CITY R-2 SCHOOL

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Parents/Guardians,

We have just completed 4 weeks of the Mask Mandate at Mound City R-2 and to be honest with you, it has been a rough ride (for some). The main reason for the mask mandate is to keep our students in school and not have to quarantine. If all students are wearing masks and a student tests positive for COVID-19, the close contacts of the positive student will be able to remain in school. The close contacts will still be designated as close contacts, but they can remain in our building to receive face-to-face instruction. However, if a student is not wearing a mask and that individual tests positive for COVID-19, the other students that are close contacts (regardless if they have a mask on or not) will still have to quarantine. For this reason, it is very important that students are wearing masks.

Teachers and administrators are being creative and finding ways to allow students time for mask breaks. It is difficult, but we are trying our best. Some classrooms can be social distanced in which masks can be taken down, but other classrooms cannot do so. If social distancing cannot take place, masks MUST be worn! The students that I thought would struggle the most with wearing masks would be the PK-4th grade, but I was wrong. These students are doing great and getting along great with masks. Good Job PK-4 Grade Students!!! Students from the High School and Middle School are providing the most push back for teachers and administrators. Each parent should know that their student will need a mask when they come into the building. I have heard numerous times from students, "I left it at home." We have cloth masks that have been provided for the students from the state, but when the same student "forgets" his/her mask 3 days in a row or it happens multiple times, we will run out of masks shortly. Our disposable masks are in short supply so we are no longer providing them to students that ask, only cloth masks. Since this is a Mask Mandate, if students refuse to wear masks, we will be sending students home for defiance. It's plain and simple; wear a mask. Again, the purpose of the mandate is to help keep students in school if they become a close contact from someone while at school. If you receive a call from the school administrator because your son/daughter has to go home because they refuse to keep their mask on when asked, have a talk with them about the importance of wearing it. And a reminder, all work that is to be done virtually is taken for a grade. All students have been told this from the beginning of school. If a student is in quarantine, it is not a free pass to not do any of the work required. If they are in quarantine and receiving virtual instruction, the same expectations will be held upon them as if they were in the building, especially High School students.

As a parent/guardian, you may not believe in the Mask Mandate at Mound City R-2, but please respect the decision that we have made to enforce it! We are not trying to force students/families to change their beliefs or thoughts regarding COVID-19. We just want our students to receive face-to-face instruction vs. virtual instruction because we believe it is much more beneficial. Help us out by reminding your

student to bring their masks to school with them each day. It's a good idea to keep an extra mask in their lockers or backpack in case they forget. If the parent/guardian does not want their student to attend school face-to-face because of the mask mandate, please communicate that with the appropriate building level administrator as soon as possible. We have virtual options that are offered through outside vendors with specific restrictions.

Parents/guardians, believe me when I say that I hope the pandemic comes to an end sooner than later, but for now we have to do what is best to keep students safe and in the building. Stay safe and healthy Panthers!!!

Sincerely,

Mr. Korey Miles
Mound City R-2 Superintendent