

PLAINS ISD

811 Cowboy Way • P.O. Box 479 • Plains, TX 79355
(806) 456 -7401 Fax (806) 456 – 4325
www.plainsisd.net



To Students, Parents, Staff and Community,

It has been a difficult school year with the adjustments that we have had to make for the pandemic, but there have been some good lessons learned from this experience as well. We have learned that we all need to be better about handwashing, sanitizer, cleaning procedures, sickness prevention and many other things. We have learned that we want to be around others, we want to get back to normal, but we have to do it safely because we do not want to make our friends and neighbors sick.

We are sure that most of you have heard about Governor Abbott's announcement about Texas opening up and the mask requirement. We have followed his edict about wearing masks and now we will follow his new edict as well. Starting next Wednesday, March 10th, we will ask that you **HAVE a mask with you**, but it is no longer mandatory that you wear it. In the two years that I have been here, I have always been impressed by our students courtesy and respect to each other, but especially to the staff. We will be calling on "**The Cowboy Way**" the rest of the year. There are staff members and students in our building that either have preexisting conditions or are still very concerned about COVID. We are asking that students put others concerns and well-being over our wants and desires. If a student walks in a classroom or a group setting where someone is wearing a mask, we would ask that you put on a mask when within six feet. We believe that our staff and student body who are concerned about the pandemic would consider it a very respectful and mature action for you to take. We continue to ask that you monitor your child's health and symptoms and do not send them to school with cold/flu/COVID symptoms. Anyone at school demonstrating **ANY** cold/flu/COVID symptoms, will be required to wear a mask to help prevent the spread of any illness and to help keep others from getting sick. We need your help in making our school a safer location for our staff and students.

We also need everyone to realize that the other criteria will not be phased out at this time and we are not back to the way it was before the pandemic. In fact, for many, we recommend the continuance of wearing masks if you have or are around someone at home with health conditions causing you or your loved ones to be high risk or if you feel more comfortable being in school with the mask.

Not wearing a mask may cause you to have to quarantine. If you were not wearing a mask and you are exposed to a person that tests positive for COVID, you may still have to quarantine for ten days and/or get tested after five days before returning to school. If you were wearing a mask in their presence, this quarantine would not be necessary.

If you or anyone you live with tests positive for COVID, you will still have to quarantine the ten days.

The school will continue disinfecting the building at a higher level than before. The touchless water fountains will continue to be the only fountains available for students so students will continue to use their own bottles. Pickup and drop off procedures will remain the same for the rest of this school year. During the school day visitors to our school from outside of our school community and county will be required to wear masks during their visit. This does not include activities that happen outside of the school day or outside.

We will be monitoring the case occurrences in our school and county. If the number of cases starts to increase again, the mask protocol will go back into place. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or concerns. Keeping everyone safe takes all of us preaching the same message.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert McLain". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'R' and 'M'.

Robert McLain