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Superintendent

Augusta County School Board
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Dear parents/guardians and Augusta County Public Schools' staff,

The Augusta County School Board made two changes to its reopening plan on August 13, 2020. The first change is a new start date for all blended learners and all distance learners. Augusta County Public Schools (ACPS) will now start on September 1, 2020, for all students. Additionally, the School Board approved a new face covering policy. The new face covering policy will require all students and staff to wear a face covering while at school.

Throughout the Return-To-School planning process, ACPS has been in constant communication with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and has been receiving information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Education. After recent guidance from VDH, ACPS will implement the following practice on Face Coverings:

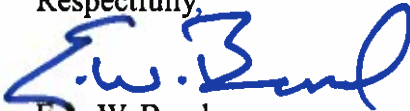
To protect personal health, and the health of others, cloth face coverings will be worn by all students (PK-12) and staff at all times. Each student and staff member will be provided a washable cloth mask by ACPS. Students and staff are able to use their own appropriate face coverings as well, as long as they meet the ACPS dress code guidelines. There will be instances where individuals are not able to use a face covering due to a pre-existing condition. In these instances, a face shield will be provided/allowed upon receipt of documentation of medical need. Additionally, face coverings will not be required when students are engaged in physical activities such as physical education and recess, as long as the required physical distancing can be maintained. More details regarding the face coverings will be forthcoming from your respective principal/supervisor.

In addition to wearing face coverings, all of ACPS will adhere to the following recommendations to help reduce the risk of COVID-19: maintain six (6) feet of social distancing as much as possible, wash your hands, and stay home when you are sick.

ACPS is committed to doing all we can to help reduce the risk and potential spread of COVID-19 while providing education for our students. We greatly appreciate your cooperation and partnership in protecting all of our students, staff, and school community. This will require patience, understanding, and an adjustment period. Additionally, as mentioned, there will be instances where some are not able to use a face covering or face shield. We will work with those individuals to safely and appropriately address any documented health conditions that warrant accommodations.

As mentioned, ACPS has a Blended Schedule (alternate day) option and a Distance Learning option available for our students and families starting September 1, 2020. While we would love to have your child participate in our Blended Schedule, should families choose not to have their child wear a face covering, please consider the Distance Learning option. We respect your choice, and will do all we can to work with all of you during this challenging time. If you desire to make a change in your child's learning model, contact your school by Wednesday, August 19th. This will allow us to make all changes associated with student and teacher schedules, number of students in a class requiring social distancing, school nutrition meal preparation, and bus routing.

Respectfully,



Eric W. Bond
Division Superintendent