



August 18, 2021

Dear Galesburg-Augusta Families and Staff,

Today, the Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department communicated a new order to all county public, charter, parochial and private schools. The new order requires Kindergarten – 6<sup>th</sup> grade indoor mask wearing for all students and adults in those building and program locations. This mandate applies to all individuals regardless of vaccination status.

The Health Department is basing this new order on the lack of available vaccines for the students in this age range. This order will be in place until further notice and will be reviewed as COVID-19 transmission rates fall and the vaccines become available for the target population. All Districts within KRESA are required to comply with this mandate just as we are required to mask on public transportation per the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) Federal Mandate.

Grades 7-12 are *masks optional* and do not fall under the new mandate. Our district will continue to closely monitor these grade levels and is prepared to act swiftly and decisively should the situation warrant.

In light of this change, we will require mask wearing by all students and adults at the Open Houses next week.

We know that many of you will be very frustrated by this change and we continue to appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

Respectfully,

Wendy Maynard-Somers  
Superintendent  
Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools

It is the policy of the Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools that no discriminatory practices based on sex, race, religion, color, age, national origin, disability, height, weight, or any other status covered by federal, state or local law be allowed in providing instructional opportunities, programs, services, job placement assistance, employment or in policies governing student conduct and attendance.

Complaints or inquiries related to discrimination should be forwarded to:

Superintendent of Schools  
1076 N. 37<sup>th</sup> St.  
Galesburg, MI 49053

Wendy Maynard-Somers, Superintendent \* 1076 N. 37<sup>th</sup> St., Galesburg, MI 49053 \* (269) 484-2000 \* Fax (269) 484-2001