

August 22, 2021

Hello, this is Dave Hire with two important announcements for all parents and staff.

First, the Coshocton City Schools will not be enforcing the masking requirement for staff and students starting tomorrow morning, and will provide a two-week grace period through Labor Day. Masks will be strongly encouraged and parents who want their children to wear masks will have their request honored. We still believe that masking, social distancing, and vaccination offer the best defense against this COVID variant. However, we recognize that there are concerns and confusion resulting from the timing of the board action, forms provided at the Open House giving parents an option, as well as the difficulty of wearing masks indoors without air conditioning at the high school. Again, masks will be strongly recommended for both staff and students, but the requirement to wear masks will not be enforced for at least the first two weeks of school.

Masks will still be required on all buses as required by the CDC. Students will be provided a mask if they do not have one.

Second, there has been talk about a peaceful protest tomorrow morning. We do not anticipate this protest will interfere with students or staff entering our buildings. While we believe that everyone has a right to free speech, we also believe that our staff and students have the right to arrive at school feeling safe and secure. For that reason, we will have Sheriff deputies on site to ensure the feeling of safety for staff and students.

I appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate the uncertainty of this new variant as we try to keep our students in school and safe.

Thank you for your attention to this important message and have a good evening.