

# WARRENSBURG

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Jennifer Switzer**  
Business  
Manager

**Douglas Duell**  
Jr/Sr High  
School Principal

**Amy Langworthy**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Nanette Blanchard**  
Interim Elementary  
School Principal

**Stephanie Gibson**  
Director of  
Pupil Personnel Services

February 18, 2022

Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, New York 12224

Commissioner Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH  
New York State Department of Health  
Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza,  
Albany, New York 12203

Dear Governor Hochul and Commissioner Bassett,

As a duly-elected public official, I am writing to you on behalf of the Warrensburg Central School community and school district to request the specific date or exact metrics that will be used to guide the decision to end the mask mandate for schools.

The members of the Warrensburg Central School Board of Education are proud of the way in which our students and community have responded to the COVID pandemic. The efforts of our community to adhere to the frequently modified COVID guidelines have allowed our district to maintain daily in-person instruction. The flexibility and patience that our families and students have demonstrated has been impressive and should be commended.

However, conflicting guidance has created a great deal of confusion and frustration within our community. Explaining the merits of the mandate to our communities and the families we serve has become a significant and increasingly difficult challenge. Many are having a hard time rationalizing how a student can participate in a travel athletic programs (i.e. basketball), go to the movies, attend birthday parties or other social gatherings all unmasked, but have to wear a mask and be socially distanced from their peers when coming to school in the morning. From our perspective, it is now time to forge ahead and to remove the mask mandate within our schools, and to adjust the quarantine procedures accordingly.

We do appreciate the efforts from your offices on providing At-Home test kits and for implementing the “Test to Stay” program. Both of these programs have been important in maintaining daily instruction for our students. It is now time to take the next significant step forward.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Doug West  
Board of Education President  
on behalf of the Warrensburg CSD Board of Education