

ROME COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

District Number Two

Mr. Stephen L. Phillips, Superintendent

Mrs. Sarah Mellott, Principal

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Dear Rome Families,

We are so excited to begin the 2021-2022 school year. I know that there is a lot of noise around the COVID mandates, recommendations and mitigation measures. I also understand that there are many strong opinions on both sides of the issue. I have a request for everyone involved. My request is that we focus on having a tremendous start to the school year. This is the best thing that we can do for the mental health of our students. No matter what our personal beliefs are, they have to take a back seat to our students well-being. I see and understand all sides to the issues at hand, and I want to be receptive to each of them. But, my first priority is to make sure we look out for the health and safety of our students and staff.

We know that the governor has issued a mask mandate for the year. Obviously, not everyone will agree with this. As I stated above, there are many varying opinions, but as a school district we need to do what is in the best interest of our students. At this time, we are waiting on more guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education before finalizing our plan for the year. I understand that you as parents, want to know what we will be doing. My hope is, that we will get the guidance over the weekend and are able to finalize our plan at the beginning of the week.

We went through a year last year that wasn't ideal, but we were able to persevere and were in school every day. That is all because of our staff and you. The families in our district were wonderful last year at supporting us throughout the year. I am expecting the same kind of support this year. As we begin the school year, I encourage you do your part in helping make this school year even better than last year. Please continue to keep our staff in your thoughts and prayers as we look forward to beginning a new school year. Let's all come together for the mental health and well-being of our students and make the 2021-2022 school the best year yet. Again, we appreciate your support. #RomeStrong

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Phillips, Superintendent
Rome Grade School