



Hartington-Newcastle Public Schools

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Superintendent

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Mission Statement: To develop students of character while empowering them to achieve personal success

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

As COVID cases continue to rise in the county and the risk dial has moved further into the orange for the health department, we will now be requiring all students in grades 7-12 and all staff to wear masks at all times during the school day, with scheduled mask breaks for all involved. This will be required until further notice. Part of this decision is being made to lessen the chance that large numbers of students will need to be quarantined. Since the high school students often cross grade levels for many classes, the requirement is just for grades 7-12, while elementary classes are kept within their class groups all day and a far fewer number of kids would need to be quarantined. Under current quarantine rules, if one student who tests positive was not wearing a mask, anyone with close contact with them will be forced to quarantine for 14 days, whether they wear a mask or not. It is possible that one student who tests positive could quarantine a large number of students, including yours. This will help prevent that. If the health department determines your child must quarantine due to exposure to a positive case, they must be out for 14 calendar days, even if they continue to test negative for COVID-19.

Because of this change, all indoor activities will require masks from when you enter the building until you exit. If you are having something from the concession stand, you may take your mask off to eat or drink, but must put it back on when you're done.

We know this will be a challenge for all of our students, staff, parents, and fans. We appreciate your cooperation with this. It is our hope that this requirement will help us stay in school and keep our kids able to participate in activities.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A.J. Johnson", is written over a horizontal line.

A. J. Johnson
Superintendent