



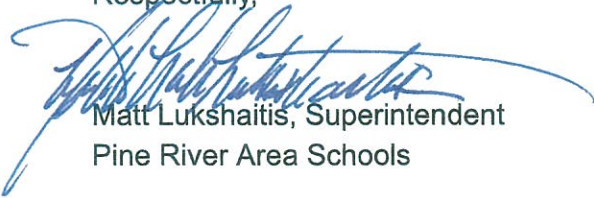
Dear PRAS Families,

You may have heard news reports about the Michigan Supreme Court decision finding Governor Whitmer's executive orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic no longer valid. We are seeking legal clarification surrounding the impact on schools. We have worked with educational leaders and stakeholders within local and state governments as well as experts in the health field to adopt policies for our school district that prioritizes the safety for all of our students and staff, as well as their families for the 2020-21 school year.

Based upon legal opinion and the opinion of our Health Department, until we receive additional guidance from lawful authority, we will be maintaining our current plan as written in our Return to Learn Plan. Students in grades 6-12 will continue to wear masks at all times except when eating; students in grades K-5 will not be required to wear masks in the classroom. In essence, we are backing up to follow our original plan, the plan as approved by the Board of Education, and as required by legislation in August, and not required under an executive order. We will continue to seek guidance from our legislature, Michigan Department of Education, and our local health department in the days and weeks to come. We ask that you respectfully continue partnering with us in finding the balance in providing a safe learning environment and education for all our students during this health crisis.

If you have any questions as we work through challenges during these extraordinary times, please feel free to contact me via email at [matt.lukshaitis@pineriver.org](mailto:matt.lukshaitis@pineriver.org) or by phone (231) 829-3141.

Respectfully,

  
Matt Lukshaitis, Superintendent  
Pine River Area Schools

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