

Good morning to you all.

Our teachers, building administrators, and our entire staff have worked incredibly hard and non-stop for nearly two years to keep teaching and learning at the forefront of everything we do. We acknowledge the ruling of the Nassau County State Supreme Court regarding the NYS Health Commissioner's Determination on Masking which we received Monday evening. We also acknowledge and share the overall desire to begin to lessen the restrictions that have come with running our district during the pandemic. However, as with any other changes to our COVID management rules that have been handed down to districts over the past two years and the past two months in particular, we must also acknowledge the subsequent direction from the NYS Education Department that the mask mandate is to remain in place for now and our attorney's advice to rely upon that language in determining our immediate next steps.

Our sincere hope is that everyone will be patient today as the many discussions and actions that will be taken in response to the court's decision unfold. We ask that you not put our faculty, staff, and building administration in a position of confrontation when they are following the directions that they have been given by the district and doing their respective jobs. Any disruption to that work due to an action taken less than 24 hours ago will simply not be helpful in keeping our children focused on learning.

Please know that we will work as quickly as possible today in hopes that this issue is resolved and that we can all continue our work together to keep our students and staff healthy and moving forward. We will keep you updated on any new information that we receive and decisions that we make.

Thank you very much for your patience and understanding.

Ken Slentz  
Superintendent of Schools

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