

PANHANDLE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. TWO

Offices of Board of Education and Superintendent

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August 5, 2021

Dear Panhandle families:

I wanted to provide you with an update regarding school. Yesterday, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker announced masks will be **required** for all pre-kindergarten-12th grade students, teachers, staff, and all visitors which enter school buildings within the state regardless of vaccination status. The new measure is a mandate from the state and is part of the state's ongoing effort to combat a new surge as the Delta variant rapidly spreads. As a result, masks will be required within our buildings within the school district.

As for extracurricular activities within the school district, masks are required to be worn for all indoor IHSA athletic events regardless of an individual's vaccination status. This mask directive for indoor athletic events applies to student-athletes, coaches, officials, game personnel, and fans. This masking mandate applies to all IHSA fall sport practices and contests that are conducted indoors. The masking directive also applies to any winter or spring IHSA sports that may be conducting open gyms, general conditioning, or weightlifting indoors. In line with CDC guidance, masks are not required for activities outdoors where transmission risks and rates are lower. There are no restrictions to scheduling or spectator limitations as a result of yesterday's announcement, nor are there any changes to the IHSA calendar for any sports at this time.

As a reminder, the district is asking families to complete health self-checks at home before sending their students to school each day. Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home from school. This remains a key aspect of our health and safety protocols within our buildings. We appreciate all you are doing to assist in helping our students and staff stay safe and healthy.

The district's plan for safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services will be updated to reflect the changes which were mandated by the state and the plan will be available on the district's webpage once the changes have been finalized.

In Other News:

The district will hold an **Open House** on Thursday, **August 12, 2021**, from **6:00-7:30pm** at each of school buildings within the school district. The open house will allow students to bring their school supplies to the school, find their classrooms, and meet staff at the school. As a result of the governor's announcement, anyone joining us for open house will be required to wear a mask during their visit.

Online registration will remain open through Monday, August 9, 2021. Please check out the district's website for additional registration information.

The school year will begin for K-12th grade students on **Monday, August 16, 2021**. The school day will be 8:00-3:00pm each school day in August.

Thank you for all you are doing and for assisting to make Panhandle a great place to learn.

In Education,

Aaron Hopper, Superintendent
Panhandle Community Unit School District