

Kinnikinnick Families,

I want to start by acknowledging that this has been a very difficult week for everyone in our community and the educational environment has been impacted at every grade level.

Governance of our schools and change of a Board adopted policy is a process the Board takes very seriously. We value parent, community and staff input and have utilized the last week to gather and consider them all. Thank you for providing the grace and time to plan for how to support our students, staff and families through this transitional period.

This decision is very nuanced with endless considerations that impact all stakeholders in very different ways. Our priority remains to provide an in person education. As stated in our Fall 2021-2022 Opening Plan approved on August 10, 2021, the CDC recommends masking and physical distancing as key prevention strategies. However, if school administrators decide to remove any of the prevention strategies, they should remove them one at a time and monitor closely. ***With that said, the Board has determined that the Kinnikinnick School District will strongly recommend the wearing of masks for students and staff beginning February 15, 2022.***

Our 2021-2022 Opening Plan has been updated to reflect this change. This plan outlines the educational plans and protocols in place until which time a change is necessary. It is attached to this email and highlights indicate updates to the plan.

Below are some important changes for you to be aware of immediately.

- The Board of Education and school administration ask that students, staff and families respect the choice each person makes when deciding to wear or not wear a mask. We will reinforce that masking is an

individual choice that should be respected. Any harassment or bullying toward or by a student or staff member based on their individual or family choice will not be tolerated.

- The District will encourage students to follow the choice their family has discussed with their student. District employees will not monitor that choice.
- Parents and students must respect our staff and the mitigations they feel are necessary to keep them safe.
- Masks are required for all students on school buses.

At home it is important to,

- Discuss with your child the masking choice that your family is making at this time.
- Reinforce that all individual choices should be respected. Please report any disrespectful behavior to the school principal immediately.
- Some students have only known school with masks, please remind your child that this is only one part of our school strategies to keep them safe.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Keli Freedlund  
Superintendent