



Raymond J. Kinder
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August 18, 2021

Tamaqua Area School District Families:

On behalf of the Tamaqua Area SD faculty & staff, I want to welcome you back for the start of what is sure to be a great school year. It is our commitment to providing you with the best year possible. Please always feel encouraged to communicate any questions or concerns you may have or to provide you with support.

Last school year we had an intricate health and safety plan in place to address the pandemic. With the availability of the vaccine, we have established plans for this year that provide more flexibility for families. However, with that flexibility comes a responsibility to be vigilant with our own health, as well as being supportive of our classmates and staff. The Tamaqua Area SD Health & Safety Plan is available in full on the District Page of our website. The following are the highlights of the plan:

- Families continue to be required to perform daily health screenings prior to sending students to school. If your child is sick, they must remain at home.
- The CDC highly recommends the use of facemasks while inside school buildings for all individuals. Our plan encourages the wearing of facemasks, but allows parents to make the decision for their child.
- The only time facemasks are required for all individuals is while on school district provided transportation. This includes both school and after school activities.
- Physical distancing will be less than last year, but will be done to the greatest extent possible.
- Personal hygiene & etiquette continue to be emphasized during the school day.
- Our school buildings will continue to be sanitized regularly with ventilation addressed to support the flow of fresh air.

- Parents should still report any positive cases of COVID-19 to their building administration. Contact tracing to determine close contacts will occur. Close contacts will be encouraged to quarantine and wear masks for designated periods of time, with the parents receiving options for the student's return.
- Currently all individuals age 12+ are highly encouraged to receive a vaccine. The school district can help to provide families with information regarding how to schedule a vaccine and will be seeking to hold vaccination clinics. If, as expected, vaccines are approved for those younger than 12 years of age, the school district will work with scheduling vaccines for students in that age group. As always, families should contact their family physician before making any health-related decisions.

In addition to the items listed and those in our plan, we ask for all students and parents to continue to be supportive of each other. Although difficult and interrupted at times, we believe that we had a successful 2020-21 school year because of the commitment of all parties to work together and respect each other's health, needs and perspectives. We will only have that same level of success if we diligently work to make it that way.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns. Have a great year.

Sincerely,



Raymond J. Kinder
Superintendent, TASD