

Junction Elementary School District

Clay Ross, Superintendent

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Thank you for your patience as we work through the beginning of this year. We are excited to have everyone back on campus every day for face to face instruction. I know that some of you are frustrated by the adherence to the CDPH Guidelines and many of you wish we were doing more. We are daily getting more and more of our students to mask for longer and longer periods while indoors. I have been sending information to staff weekly regarding the guidance via email and Tuesday Updates on this topic and I appreciate their compliance.

One of our challenges is finding a balance for parents to continue to walk their children to class while not allowing them into the class without a mask. This places the staff in a very difficult position between appearing to not adhere to the protocols and confrontation. I am pleading with you to simply walk your child to class and not into class. I understand how much of a change last year was when we closed the campus to parents in the morning and afternoon and we are so thrilled to be able to let you back on campus this year. If our current parent behavior does not improve, I will be forced to return to the stance of last year where we did not let parents beyond the gates.

While state agencies have not directly responded to our letter or Resolution requesting Local Control on masking, CDPH did send out a new, updated message last week that clearly represents their stance on Universal Masking indoors. This afternoon, there is a meeting with the COVID Liaisons across Shasta County that was called late last week, and I anticipate that changes are coming for all of us regarding masking and I will be sure to update either this message or the staff as needed.

Enrollment is up for Junction currently and we have welcomed some new staff, programs and have even found a music teacher for part time instruction. Unfortunately, our efforts to work with Shasta Union High School District to offer a World Language class was unsuccessful, but we will continue to pursue that avenue in the future. Junction is looking for a new teacher for Independent Study and to assist with homework completion in our Raider Care program so if you know of anyone looking for a teaching position, please send them our way.

Thank you for your continued support of Junction Elementary,

Clay Ross Superintendent