

Junction Elementary School District

Clay Ross, Superintendent

Junction School

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August 2, 2021

Dear Junction Families,

All of our staff are making preparations for the start of the 2021-2022 school year on August 18, 2021. We have resealed and striped the middle school parking lot, are finishing a project to replace a portion of the bus lane, have relocated the After School program rooms, have plans to add bark fibers to the playground and thanks to Conrad Tona and Mrs. Moreno, the school garden is starting to take shape.

I have a meeting Friday, August 6, with Legal Counsel and all the local school superintendents and County Superintendent regarding masking. Should anything change, I will let you know. Here is where we currently stand:

As a result of increased vaccinations and the opportunities for students age 12+ and vaccinations opportunities for adults, The state has made some significant changes to the COVID protocols from last year. Additional guidance is forthcoming regarding music and extracurricular activities.

- 1) Social Distancing is no longer required
- 2) Cohorting or stable student groupings are no longer required.
- 3) Masks are no longer required outdoors or during PE outdoors
- 4) Quarantine restrictions have also been significantly modified for those identified as close contacts of a positive case.
- 5) Parents will be allowed on campus for pick up and drop off without masking while outdoors
- 6) Limited parent volunteers will be able to return to the classroom, masking required while students are present indoors.

In exchange, the current CDPH guidance for school reopening for 2021 masking is required indoors for all individuals 2+ years old while indoors or on the bus, unless exempted through diagnosed health conditions, or speech/hearing issues regardless of vaccination status.

It is important to note that these decisions are made at the state level and are not subject to the local school. Districts choosing to ignore these mandates would be negligent, subject to criminal sanctions, fines and penalties from Cal OSHA or Public Health, exposing themselves to potential increased

liability and subject to losing funding. These are required until modified and CDPH intends to look at the data in October related to infection rates for schools and possibly adjust in November.

While everyone is looking forward to the day that we can return to normal, Sacramento is not providing schools with that option now. If you are strongly opposed to masking, we would love to talk to you about our Independent Study Program and would encourage you to voice your opinions in Sacramento.

Sincerely,

Clay Ross- Superintendent