

Junction Elementary School District

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July 22, 2021

School District Plan to begin 2021-2022

Dear Junction School District Family,

One of the many things that have been learned concerning COVID-19 since March of 2020 is that policy, procedure, and protocol change frequently and rapidly. As it stands currently, there is alignment between California Department of Public Health, (CDPH), Center for Disease Control, (CDC), Occupational Safety and Health, (OSHA), and Local Public Health, (PH) regarding these protocols concerning schools. The current mandates will be reviewed in October by CDPH and may be amended in November based on the review of data.

I have been attending meetings with PH, county superintendents and Shasta County Office of Education, have been in contact with legal counsel and am making attempts to communicate with Board members regarding the requirements.

As of now, and things may change, all schools in California are mandated to require masking of all individuals while indoors or on busses regardless of vaccination status unless they are exempted from doing so. Masks are optional outside and in eating spaces. I know that there are strong opinions on either side of this issue, but I want to point out some changes that also come with the masking mandate:

- 1) With the mask mandate, there will be no cohorting
- 2) Distance Learning is no longer an option and Hybrid schedules are off the table unless mandated by Public Health
- 3) Independent Study is required to be offered by Districts.
- 4) Quarantine is no longer a threat as long as the student who was a close contact remains asymptomatic and gets tested 2 x/week.
- 5) Drinking fountains can be used
- 6) Students are allowed to share supplies
- 7) Disinfection is only required after a positive case although daily cleaning is still required
- 8) 3' of distancing indoors is eliminated unless eating

It is clear to me that we all want all of our students in class every day for face to face instruction. All of us want our children to be safe, I realize that some think that means masks and others do not. Currently, that is not a choice for Junction Elementary School District, nor any other school in the state of California. Some Districts have passed Resolutions and some have written letters to CDPH, CDC, California Department of Education asking for Local Control; I am not aware of any that have received a response nor approval as of yet. I will be in discussion with the Certificated and Classified Unions as well as the school Board to possibly pursue this or other options. I have drafted Resolutions and Formal letters that I plan to share with these groups, but until further notice, this is what is known at this moment.

I will be in contact the very soonest anything changes. Should you be interested in Independent Study, which also has changed somewhat significantly, please let me know at your earliest convenience so we can prepare to meet the needs of your children.

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