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August 4, 2021

Greetings School Community Members,

We hope you are enjoying your summer and that you and loved ones are safe and healthy.

The Schools Board's primary goal for the 2021 - 2022 school year is to provide five-day-a-week in-person instruction to every student in each of our schools, and to do so predictably and in a sustainable way. Last night, at the August 3 Special Meeting, the School Board for the Whitefish Bay School District discussed the face mask/covering policy in preparation for the opening of schools this fall. Masks are one of our mitigation strategies for COVID-19, and our mask policy is a critical component of our strategy to meet our goal.

Despite our community's high vaccination rate, the Delta variant of COVID-19 has driven an increase in our community spread and in our local case burden. Because of contact tracing and quarantine guidelines, increased transmission could disrupt in-person education, particularly for unvaccinated students. In the interest of meeting our pledge of providing consistent, five-day-week in-person education, and because of the impact of the Delta variant, the School Board voted to require masks for all people while inside school district facilities.

When outside, eating or drinking inside, or in some other exceptions as set out in the District's mask policy, masks are not required. For the full policy, please see the revised Board Policy 453.3 - [LINK](#).

Please know the School Board will continue to monitor agency recommendations and local data, and is committed to revising this policy if new guidance is provided, and/or when vaccinations become available to those aged 12 and under and/or community spread declines. We have included the Opening of In-Person Learning for 2021-2022 Assumptions and the School Board Guiding Principles and Beliefs below that guided this policy revision.

Opening of In-Person Learning for 2021-2022 Assumptions

1. The District will return to 5 day a week of in-person learning for the 2021-2022 School Year.
2. The District will return to the traditional school year calendar - [LINK](#)
3. The District will continue appropriate mitigation practices for the 2021-2022 school year consistent with federal (CDC) and state (DHS) guidance.

4. Minimize Dual Modality for Teachers - Due to the significant amount of work involved for teachers engaging in two modalities, and the less than ideal learning conditions two modalities present for students, we are structuring our staffing model so that teachers will only be engaged in one modality whenever possible.

School Board Guiding Principles and Beliefs

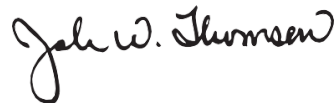
1. Predictable, sustainable, in-person learning is ideal.
2. Appropriate mitigating safety risk of staff and students is essential in all school settings.
3. The social and emotional needs of students, staff, and families will be an important consideration in overall programming.
4. District and Federal resources will be allocated and/or reallocated to fund the necessary equipment, services, and personnel in order to support students returning to in-person learning.
5. Technology (a device) and hotspot access will be provided for those in need.
6. The District will seek ongoing guidance from local, state and federal agencies.

Link to 2021-22 Opening of School Plan - [HERE](#).

Thank you for your continued support of Whitefish Bay students and our schools.



Anne Berleman Kearney
School Board President



Dr. John W. Thomsen
Superintendent of Schools