

FREWSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

26 Institute Street - P.O. Box 690 - Frewsburg, New York 14738
(716) 569-7000

April 22, 2021

Dear Parents,

You have likely heard that the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) recently released guidance to align to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in an effort to get more students back to in-person learning. This guidance now permits schools to physically distance students at 3' with various stipulations. Although this change is now permissible, the Frewsburg Central School District will continue to space all students at 6' with the exception of physical education classes which will continue at 12' spacing. Band and choir will alternate between 6' and 12' distancing.

This guidance document also includes masking requirements that align with the current recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). As such, students and employees will be wearing their masks throughout the school day. As the document further indicates, the district will be "considering developmental appropriateness, feasibility, and ability to implement such policy in a safe, consistent manner".

With this change, "all masks must also have at least two layers of material (e.g. 2-ply)". According to the NYSDOH, "acceptable masks include but are not limited to cloth-based masks (e.g., homemade sewn, quick cut), and surgical masks that cover both the mouth and nose." This means that single layer masks are no longer allowed.

The District has received a legal opinion confirming that it is compelled to comply with the pandemic-related guidance issued by various agencies (e.g., NYSDOH, CCDOH, NYSED, and the Governor's office) regardless of the degree of success we have experienced during this school year.

Although this mandate contradicts the majority of the feedback that we received during the creation of our initial reopening plan, we are confident that you will understand that these changes are out of the District's control. We also hope that you will join us in celebrating the fact that we have been able to provide our students with an in-person option five days per week and are anticipating being able to do so until the end of this school year.

Thank you once again for partnering with us in order to be able to keep our students physically present. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 716-569-7041.

Sincerely,



Shelly O'Boyle
Superintendent