August 26, 2021

School District of Tomahawk Families,

The purpose of this communication is to inform you that all students and staff, PK-12, will be required to wear a face-covering regardless of vaccination status when indoors at all District school, buildings, and events beginning Monday, August 30. Face-covering requirements for October will be reviewed in late September and any changes will be communicated at that time. Specific requirements for students, staff, and those visiting district facilities or participating in district-sponsored events may be viewed in the attachment.

Next week, we will welcome approximately 1,150 students and 172 staff members back into our PK-12 facility. Our primary responsibility to our students, and this community, is to maintain and evaluate mitigation strategies that preserve face-to-face educational opportunities for students. At this time, face-coverings/masks are being recommended by the CDC, Wisconsin Department of Health and Human Services, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, and Lincoln County Health Department.

We believe that placing in this mitigation tactic as we return to school, provides the best chance of maintaining in-person learning, 5 days a week for the highest number of students. Face-coverings will not be required for outdoor activities including recess, outdoor classroom/learning, outdoor athletics, or when actively eating and drinking. If a medical provider has indicated that a student or staff member should not wear a face-covering, please contact the building principal to discuss possible accommodations.

Per CDC Order’ requirement for persons wearing masks while on conveyances and at transportations hubs issued on February 2020, all passengers and drivers on school buses are required to wear masks regardless of vaccination status.

Please know this decision has not been made lightly. We take seriously our responsibility to provide students and staff the safest learning environment to the extent possible in these continued difficult circumstances. With the high level of transmission now being reported by our local health departments, it is important we take the appropriate mitigation steps to protect our students, staff, and community members.

Sincerely,

Terry Reynolds
District Administrator
School District of Tomahawk