



Clare Public Schools

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Clare, MI 48617

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October 6, 2020

Pioneers,

Late yesterday afternoon Robert Gordon, Director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, issued an order effective immediately mandating masks K-12 in our schools. There were other requirements of the order as well, but those were already within the management of the district looking forward. The order is pursuant to MCL 333.2253 and MCL 333.2221, parts of Michigan Compiled Laws. We understand the order to be valid, and in effect through October 30, 2020.

For students in grades 5-12, there is no change. Masks are required as they have been since the start of school. Your kids and our staff have all handled this time period and the mask requirement very well, and we appreciate all the support you give.

For students in grades K-4, we must now include mask wearing in classrooms. I've spoken with superintendents across the state and am confident that our kids will handle this well along with our staff. We are using this week to phase in the masks. For those of you who do not have older kids, our staff is adept at gracefully teaching, re-teaching, and providing breaks for students throughout each day. We will continue to follow the spirit of the rules while being good human beings toward each other...our plans have worked thus far and we believe they will continue to serve us well.

While some may disagree with masks, there are virtually no disagreements about the importance of keeping school in session for students (and frankly, our staff). We place the highest priority on providing students with the best education in the region. Together, we're off to an excellent start in all regards. I am grateful for the grace you extend to our staff, as they work to keep school as normal as they possibly can for your kids.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Walter II".

Jim Walter, II
Superintendent