



MERRILLVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

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Ass't Superintendent
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Academic Programming

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Personnel

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Executive Director
Student Support Services

Marnita Taylor, Ed.S.
Executive Director
Curriculum & Instruction
Pre-K - 12

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Co-Athletic Director
Director Wellness Services

Brad Best
Director Security

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Director Media Services

Jennifer Jimenez
Director Transportation

Angelica Claiborne
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Food Services

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Building and Grounds

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July 7, 2021

Dear Parents,

The Merrillville Community School Corporation has been monitoring updates from the Governor's office, CDC, and State Department of Health on requirements for the 2021-22 school year. The mask mandates for schools ended on June 30, 2021. These changes have been reflected in some updates to the original Return to Learn plan from last year.

The following recommendations regarding COVID-19 protocols and masks/face coverings were approved by the School Board on June 29, 2021. ***We will continue to monitor CDC and State/Local Health Department Guidelines and update these recommendations as appropriate.***

1. Although the State mask mandate for schools ended on June 30, 2021, we will continue with the current mask requirement protocols for buildings housing 2021 Summer School.
2. Beginning July 1, 2021, masks will be **recommended**, but not required for staff in buildings without summer programming.
3. Beginning the 2021-22 school year, it will be **recommended for guests, staff and students** to wear masks, but not required. It is highly recommended for staff and students that are not fully vaccinated to wear masks.
4. Students will be **required** to wear masks in certain circumstances. For example:
 - a. All students while on school transportation.
 - b. Elementary students walking in the hallway as a class group.
 - c. Elementary restroom breaks as a class group.
 - d. When deemed necessary in small rooms that may not provide reasonable space for social distancing.
 - e. While in small areas of the buildings where people may congregate.
Example: In an entrance area while waiting to be let in/out of the building.
5. Lunches will continue to be staggered to allow for better social distancing.
6. Desk dividers may be used by students, but are only required to be used when the students work in small groups in close proximity under the guidance of the teacher.
7. Students in elementary levels will stay in cohort groups as much as possible.
8. Athletic and other program events will follow any reduced seating guidance from the state or CDC. Masks will be encouraged, but not required for events.

9. Limited field trips will be allowed if they meet protocol guidelines.
10. School facility use by outside groups directly associated with MCSC (example PTO) will be allowed on a limited basis.
11. Guests will be asked to make appointments as much as possible.
12. Guests will be temperature checked prior to entrance into the main building.
13. Outside speakers will be limited.
14. Parents will be asked to do a health screening each morning before sending their child to school or a school sponsored event.
15. MCSC will continue to reduce the number of students in large group settings (assemblies, presentations in the gym, etc.).
16. Unvaccinated staff and students will have to follow CDC guidelines for quarantining due to exposure situations.
17. Staff and students that are fully vaccinated will not be required to quarantine due to exposure situations unless they become symptomatic.

We hope these new guidelines will be welcomed changes for our families. Thank you for your attention and patience as we continue to navigate this pandemic.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas G. Brown", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Nicholas G. Brown, Ed.S.
Superintendent