



Elkhart Lake – Glenbeulah School District

DISTRICT OFFICE / HIGH SCHOOL

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ELEMENTARY / MIDDLE SCHOOL

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January 18, 2022

Dear Parents of ELG Middle School Students (Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8),

We want to thank you for your support and understanding as we continue to navigate through the COVID Pandemic. Over the past two years, we have seen many twists and turns in protocols and procedures and have needed to respond to the information and data we receive. At times, this has resulted in the need to make adjustments to our mitigation strategies.

We closely monitor and track our COVID cases daily. **This letter is to inform you that while there have been positive cases reported during the month of January throughout the District, the increase of positive cases at the middle school level has been significant, especially over the past few days.** The number of positive cases has almost reached the level of the entire total of positive cases for middle school students from September through December, and those January numbers are only for half of the month. Also with the inability/difficulty in obtaining rapid testing, along with longer than usual PCR turnaround times, there has been a delay in identifying positive cases so our current number of positive cases may already be higher as we are awaiting additional test results from a number of students.

As indicated in our *Return to School Plan* shared this fall, our mitigation strategies remain fluid based on the current status and can change based on the trends and data we are seeing. In this plan, it stated that if we have a significant increase in positive cases here at school (multiple cases/significant spread in a classroom, school level, etc.), masks may be temporarily required for all students, staff and visitors (per Board action). At the middle school level, we have reached that point. **Per administration request, the Board approved a mask mandate for all middle school students and staff beginning Wednesday, January 19th through and including Friday, January 28, 2022. The mask mandate includes all middle school students and staff regardless of vaccination status. Students will be required to wear a mask when participating in all school-sanctioned events, athletics, and activities that are held before, during, or after school.** Keeping kids (and staff) healthy and in school is our primary goal. As we navigate through this Omicron peak at our middle school level, if all students/staff are masked, we will not need to quarantine students/classrooms, thus keeping more kids in school. Our hope is this two-week timeframe will slow and/or stop the spread of the virus within our middle school. You and your student's cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ann Buechel Haack
District Administrator

Dr. Jeanne Courneene
Elementary/Middle School Principal