

July 29, 2021

Dear Caregivers of incoming K-6 students,

Based on feedback from the Thought Exchange survey in July, due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases in Warren County, and because students under 12 are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, the district would like to determine whether or not it is possible to create designated classrooms at grades K-6 in which all students would wear masks for the 2021-2022 school year.

Masking is strongly recommended by the CDC and the Ohio Department of Health for all people in the school environment, but mask-wearing has not been mandated. All students and staff are strongly encouraged to wear masks at school.

These are key pieces of information to know:

1. Designated classrooms in which all students wear masks may or may not be possible at every grade level. We will analyze survey results early next week and make decisions.
2. It is possible that existing class placements will change based on survey results and resulting decisions.
 - a. If you are OK with your student wearing a mask for the year, marking OPTION B may help ensure that your student's class placement remains unchanged. Unfortunately, this cannot be guaranteed.
 - b. Original class placements were completed in June based on caregiver and teacher input. Choosing OPTION A (where all students in designated classrooms will wear masks) means that it may not be possible to accommodate factors that were considered in June including separation from peers and consideration of personality and mental health needs.
3. No student is able to be in a 100% mask "bubble" at school. Students share common areas like the cafeteria and playground. Sometimes students receive small-group intervention, like Title I reading club, with students from other classrooms.
4. As with all class placements, it is not possible to request a specific teacher.
5. If you want your child to be in a designated mask-only classroom and choose OPTION A, you are making a commitment for the full 2021-2022 school year. If we are able to create designated classrooms in which all students wear masks, those will remain intact for the full school year.

Please let us know your position for each of your K-6 students by completing a quick survey by Sunday, August 1 at 8:00 p.m.

OPTION A- "I want my student in a classroom where all students wear masks all year."
I want this student placed in a designated classroom where all students will wear masks

for the 2021-2022 school year. I understand this may change this student's current class placement.

OPTION B- "If it means my student's current class placement won't change, I am OK with my student being in a classroom where all students wear masks all year."

If wearing a mask in a designated classroom where all students will wear masks for the 2021-2022 school year preserves this student's current class placement, I am OK with this student wearing a mask. I understand that no current class placements can be guaranteed.

OPTION C- "I do not want my student in a classroom that requires masks to be worn."

I do not want this student placed in a designated classroom where all students will wear masks for the 2021-2022 school year. I understand no current class placements can be guaranteed.

The district is not committing to creating designated classrooms as described above. However, if results of this survey indicate that it is possible to create designated classrooms, the information you provide will be used to create them, and you will be notified about any resulting changes in class placement.

For incoming **Kindergarten students**, visit tinyurl.com/masksK

For incoming **first-sixth grade students**, visit tinyurl.com/masks1to6

- Lebanon Google credentials must be used to complete the form for first-sixth graders.
- Help with credentials is available at tinyurl.com/LebGHelp

Thank you!