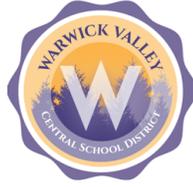


February 16, 2022



Dear Parent,

We have reviewed a form letter received from many parents which claims that New York's mask mandate for children is unconstitutional and illegal based upon a lower court ruling issued by a Nassau County judge. As you may know, the NYS Attorney General moved to appeal that decision to the Second Department Appellate Division of the NYS Supreme Court, and that court has granted a stay of the lower court order until that court rules again. This means that the statewide mask mandates for students attending New York's schools remain in place.

At a meeting on January 28, 2022, the Board of Education of the Warwick Valley Central School District decided that if the lower court decision on Long Island is upheld, Warwick students will be able to choose whether or not to wear masks in school.

The Board of Education approved its third letter of advocacy to state officials on February 3, 2022. This letter, which you can find on the District's website, asked that the District be permitted to make it optional for students and staff to wear masks.

On Thursday, February 17, 2022, the Board of Education will hold a special meeting and a work session. This particular meeting aims to change the Board of Education Meetings Schedule and the School Reopening Plan for 2021-22. Special meetings are called to address issues that cannot wait until the next regularly scheduled meeting. At special meetings, there are no public comments allowed. In regards to masks, the Board will vote on the following resolution at this meeting:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Warwick Valley Central School District hereby approves modifying the District's Reopening Plan by deleting the requirement of face coverings for students, employees, and visitors upon Governor Hochul lifting the mask mandate and directing the Superintendent of Schools to ensure that such modification is made and submitted to the New York State Education Department and the New York State Department of Health.

As of today, February 16, 2022, students are still required to wear masks in school buildings and on the bus, per New York State and Federal requirements. Masks are currently an essential part of the District's strategy to keep students in school and avoid quarantining large numbers of students who may be in close contact with infected individuals. If you do not provide a mask for your child to wear at school and on the school bus, he/she will be issued one and be required to wear it.

This District recognizes the importance of regularly reviewing and adjusting our COVID protocols to provide the right balance of risk mitigation and a normalized student experience. At the start of this school year, we committed to a return to in-person instruction and pre-pandemic activities as health metrics and authorities allowed. As the Omicron surge subsides, we remain optimistic that we will be able to continue to update our practices to be more closely aligned to pre-pandemic norms.

Sincerely,
Principal
Superintendent of Schools