



John D. Ploof, Superintendent
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January 14, 2022

Dear Atherton Parents,

Since we have returned from our winter break, COVID is having a significantly greater impact on our ability to educate your children. As of December 13, 2021, the seven day average for positivity was 19.6%. The same measure rose to 27.3% on January 22, 2022. During my weekly meeting with the Genesee County Health Department, the number rose to 38.4% on January 10, 2022. The number of students and staff testing positive or needing to quarantine has also increased. These increases amongst our staff members are having a significant impact on our ability to continue with face-to-face learning.

In order to help mitigate this situation and remain open, **it is necessary to return to a universal mask mandate for all students beginning Tuesday, January 18, 2022.** All of our employees have already returned to universal masking as of Monday, January 10th. The mask mandate will apply to all visitors in our buildings including extracurricular events. Moving forward, we will evaluate the data prior to our midwinter break in February and decide then if we need to continue or return to parent choice.

As I eluded to earlier, our main goal is to remain open and provide the best educational opportunity for your children. Returning to universal masking will reduce the number of students needing to be quarantined or tested. I am hopeful we can utilize this strategy, along with social distancing and other cleaning measures, to reduce the spread of the virus.

Sincerely,

John Ploof
Superintendent