

Wildcat Community:

This afternoon, Governor Wolf, via the Secretary of Health, mandated the wearing of face coverings for all K-12 school districts in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania effective **Tuesday, September 7, 2021.** As a result of this order the Athens Area School District will be mandated to require all students and staff to wear face coverings while indoors on school property, regardless of vaccination status.

NOTE: Only students and staff who provide medical documentation from their family physician stating there are medical concerns when the individual wears a face covering will be exempt from this mandate. This mandate only includes the indoor school district property settings. Students will not be required to wear face coverings during any outdoor activities or during indoor or outdoor athletics. Students will continue to be required to wear face coverings while they are riding on school district transportation.

I want to thank all the faculty, students and families in advance for your compliance with this current mandate that begins on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. As an individual, whether you agree or disagree with this mandate, please keep in mind that we are a government entity and as such are required to follow issued mandates.

One of the most incredible strengths of this Wildcat community is its ability to come together for a common cause during challenging times, despite our individual differences and perspectives. This is especially true when it comes to the idea that giving our students the best opportunity to succeed is in-person within our buildings. I know this news can be challenging and difficult for some families. In-person learning is our commitment. I think we can all agree that learning in-person is the most successful way for our children to learn and succeed academically, socially, and emotionally.

We ask that we please work together in a productive manner so we can move forward in a way that continues to keep our students and staff safe and healthy. I continue to be humbled and honored to serve such an outstanding school district and community.

Craig

Craig Stage
Superintendent
Athens Area School District