



Coffee County Board of Education

KELLY COBB
Superintendent

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August 19, 2021

Parents, Students, and Stakeholders:

Beginning on Monday, August 23, 2021, all faculty, staff, students, and visitors on each school campus will be required to wear a face mask/ facial covering while indoors. The masking requirement will run through Friday, September 17, 2021. Based on school, local, and county data, we will reevaluate the positivity rates and either cancel the requirement or extend it. The only exceptions to the mask requirement are while eating and drinking or exercising in an athletic or extracurricular activity where physical distancing can be maintained. The Coffee County School System does not see this as a permanent change but as a strategy to keep our students in school for face-to-face learning with their teachers and peers. The district's goal continues to be to create learning opportunities by educating students to become well-rounded and productive citizens.

The number of positive COVID-19 cases has reached a total at Kinston School of 15, New Brockton Elementary School of 42, New Brockton High School of 20, and Zion Chapel School of 78. The number of quarantines at Kinston is 64, New Brockton Elementary School is 85, New Brockton High School is 72, and Zion Chapel School is 230. These totals are calculated from August 2, 2021, to today, August 19, 2021, and include faculty, staff, and students. Additionally, some of these have already returned to school. It is without a doubt that students learn better in a face-to-face learning environment from their classroom teachers. It is a top priority for Coffee County Schools to provide this type of learning for every child in the district. Each school and community has made it known that they see the value in children being in school with their peers and teachers. We know there is nothing that can replace the relationship that occurs between teachers, students, and high-quality instruction. In order to continue this style of learning and experience, we have to accomplish this in a safe manner with as many children at school as possible. The good news is that everyone wearing masks will not be sent home as a close contact. Only students, faculty, and staff that test positive or show symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent home. Additionally, currently quarantined, symptom-free students may return to school on Monday, August 23, 2021.

I want to encourage you to support our decision. Please help us all by encouraging your child to comply with this mask order through Friday, September 17, 2021. Thank you for your continued support, patience, and understanding as we make a diligent effort to keep schools safely opened and students learning and engaged. Remember that "We Are Better Together" during these challenging times.

Respectfully,

Kelly Cobb

Superintendent

Coffee County Schools

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