

GRASS LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

899 S. Union St. • Grass Lake, MI 49240
517.867.5540 • 517.522.8195 (Fax)
www.grasslakeschools.com

October 5, 2020

Dear Warrior Parents, Guardians, Students and Staff:

I hope this message finds you and your families healthy and safe. As you know, educational plans around the state of Michigan remain very fluid due to COVID-19 pandemic. Changes continue to occur as we respond to new directives from the Governor's Office, the Michigan Department of Education and the various Health Departments.

Late Friday afternoon, October 2, the Michigan Supreme Court issued a decision that Governor Whitmer did not possess authority under the Emergency Management Act to declare a state of emergency based on the COVID-19 pandemic after April 30, 2020. As a result, the Court concluded that "the executive orders issued by the Governor in response to the COVID-19 pandemic lack any basis under Michigan law." Soon after the decision was announced, Governor Whitmer issued a statement noting "that this ruling does not take effect for at least 21 days, and until then, my emergency declaration and orders retain the force of law."

So, what does this mean to Grass Lake Community Schools? On July 20, 2020, the Board of Education adopted the "Return to Learn" plan for the schools. This plan designated protocols that the district was to follow for students to return to school. While the Michigan Supreme Court overrode many of Governor Whitmer's orders, the plan adopted by the school board still holds as the guidance for the district. Until there is more guidance on which the board can act upon from the Michigan Department of Education, the Michigan Legislature and/or our legal counsel, the district will continue to follow the plan adopted on July 20th. The facial coverings protocols are as follows:

1. All passengers and drivers on Grass Lake Community School buses will be wearing masks for the duration of their time on the bus.
2. All staff and students will be required to wear facial coverings in all common areas and in hallways.
3. All staff will be required to wear facial coverings at all times in the buildings and the classroom with the exception of during lunch time when they are eating or whenever they feel the need for a drink.
4. All students in grades **6 - 12** will be required to wear facial coverings when they are in classrooms, hallways, and common areas.
5. Students in grades **K - 5** will not be required to wear facial coverings in their classrooms but will be required to wear them using the same protocols that were enforced prior to October 5, 2020.

With regard to other issues:

1. Attendance at athletic contests will continue to follow the guidelines of the MHSAA.

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2. Facial coverings of participants in extracurricular events will continue to follow the guidelines of the MHSAA.

In the coming days and weeks, we will continue to gain information regarding how Governor Whitmer's Return to School Roadmap is impacted by the court's decision. Meanwhile, we want to convey that all protocols remain in place until further notice.

Thank you for your continued patience as we work our way through this pandemic together. I know that this is frustrating and confusing. We are all attempting to respond to best meet the needs of our students and the staff.

Dr. Ryle E. Kiser
Superintendent