



Ainsworth Community Schools

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Dale Hafer
SUPERINTENDENT

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September 24, 2020

TO: ACS Parents, Students, and Community

FROM: Dale Hafer, Superintendent

SUBJECT: Keeping Kids in School

As I write this, ACS has had a few cases of COVID affecting students or staff at school. My purpose with this letter is to ask your help to further encourage the wearing of masks with the sole intent to keep kids in school and avoid high numbers of kids or staff in quarantine.

Though the school has had few cases, each case affects several that are required to quarantine due to close contact. This is determined by the health department. In each case, distancing and masking are key elements that would likely prevent quarantines.

Our School Board passed a resolution, before school started, where masks “will not be required, but are encouraged, unless otherwise directed by the health department”. The goal has been to allow parents the choice on whether their child wears a mask or not. There is no doubt the “mask issue” is a difficult issue with opinions across the board. Putting all political and personal opinions aside, the bottom line is the health department is less likely to quarantine kids/staff from school if they are wearing a mask. Wearing a mask will help us keep kids in school and learning in person.

With the number of cases increasing in Brown County, it is possible we are headed for a situation where we may have to quarantine a significant number of students or move to a hybrid model of in-person and remote learning. We have a choice. If we all work together and wear masks at school, we can keep the numbers who quarantine to a minimum.

I have yet to talk to a parent who wants a mask requirement. However, if we see a substantial increase in cases and quarantines, a requirement is what it will take to stay in the in-person model. The ACS Community is very supportive and demonstrates its teamwork in numerous ways. Please help us stay in school by having your child wear a mask. We are happy to provide any student with a mask should they need one.

Sincerely,



Dale Hafer