

# NORTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



2309 Locust Street S, Canal Fulton, OH 44614 P: (330) 854-2291 F: (330) 854-3591 [www.northwest.sparcc.org](http://www.northwest.sparcc.org)

September 28, 2021

To All in the Northwest Community:

As many of you know, we continue to strive to maintain a “normal” school year for our students. We have been thrilled with our start in seeing our teachers back in the classroom with our students.

Even with our excellent start to the school year, we have experienced constant obstacles that refuse to subside. Of course, this is regarding COVID. Over the course of the month of September, we have monitored our progress daily for diagnosed cases with students, faculty, and staff.

At this moment, we have continued to improve weekly through the entire month of September. I hope you know that our ultimate goal is to provide the best educational experience possible while doing our best to protect our students, faculty and staff. Because of our improved situation, we are adjusting our plans for masks as we head into October.

Here are the adjusted steps to implementing masks throughout the Northwest School District:

- All faculty and staff are required to continue to wear masks immediately beginning while in school, on school buses, or with any interaction with other people.
- Students from the Kindergarten through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade will be required to wear masks unless a parent signs off on an “Opt Out” form submitted to the Main Office of your child’s school building. This form for students at Stinson and the Primary must be signed and turned into the Main Office by the beginning of the school day on **Friday, October 1. Again, this pertains only to the students at Stinson and the Primary.**
- For those in Northwest High and Northwest Middle, if you already turned in your Opt Out paperwork, you are fine. You do not have to turn in anymore forms.
- For students who do not turn in the Opt Out form, they are required to wear masks. **Wearing masks reduces (does not totally eliminate) the risk of being quarantined for an extended period.**
- **If a student opts out and we conduct contact tracing, that student may risk quarantining if identified as a close contact person.**

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Along with the mask mandate, we will continue to follow the existing guidelines to maintain a safe school district for our children. This means that we will maintain the COVID protocols such as appropriate social distancing with a minimum of three feet whenever possible. We will also continue to sanitize classrooms, cafeterias, and other work areas. Teachers will also remind our children to wash their hands frequently.

Our situation remains ever-changing. We will evaluate our situation at the end of October. When/If changes occur, we will continue to do our best to notify the Northwest Community. These are strange and often frustrating times. We will not only survive, we will thrive! We will continue to have a successful school year!

Thank you for your support!

Shawn Braman Ed.D