



UNITED PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

CHRISTOPHER BACHMEIER, SUPERINTENDENT

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November 15th, 2020

Good Afternoon,

Friday night, Governor Doug Burgum announced new measures to control the spread of COVID-19. In his announcement, Governor Burgum issued a mask mandate that requires face coverings to be worn indoors in public settings as well as outdoor public settings when social distancing is not possible. This mandate went into effect on Saturday, November 14th.

As a public school, we will follow this mandate beginning Monday, November 16th, 2020. All staff and students in grades K-12 will be required to wear a mask when social distancing is not possible. I am sure this new change will bring concerns, criticisms, and questions. As a school district, our administration has discussed how we will implement this change while still educating our students effectively and efficiently. Students, staff, parents, and patrons have been gracious in extending patience to us as we move through this pandemic, and I am more grateful than I can say. Moving forward, I again ask for patience with this new mandate. We have masks available for our students who may need them. However, we ask that staff and students bring their own masks, if possible, as we anticipate a high demand for them in the coming weeks and months.

In Friday's press release Governor Burgum also suspended all winter sports and other extracurricular K-12 school activities until December 14th, 2020. The following information directly pertains to this change.

- JH GBB season is postponed until further notice.
- Wrestling will restart Monday, December 14th, 2020.
- Varsity Boys' and Varsity Girls' Basketball practice will begin on Monday, December 14th, 2020.
- There will be NO open gyms, open mats, or team activities until December 14th, 2020.

Our district staff and administration understand that these changes may be inconvenient and even upsetting. Please know that when I meet with state leaders, I advocate for students to participate as much as possible in the classroom and during extracurricular activities. I know these challenges present us with a situation that is not ideal. The good news is that despite these challenges, our students can still attend classes in person or virtually, depending on each family's preference. I will work within the new mandates so we can continue to provide face-to-face instruction.

Finally, I want to say how proud I am of our entire staff. They have pulled together and are working tirelessly to give all our students a quality education. While I know that not everything has been perfect, many do not see the amount of work our staff has done to make this year such a success. I believe that we take things for granted at times until something goes awry, and then we notice how well it was truly going.

Please take care and be safe,

Christopher Bachmeier
Superintendent of Schools