



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SHIOCTON

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July 31, 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

This week has certainly been a good example of the rapidly changing, fluid situation we are in as a result of the continued pandemic concerns. On Monday, the SDS Board of Education approved a plan for returning to in-person instruction this fall that included language that strongly recommended the wearing of face covering. Just four short days later, on Thursday, July 30, the Governor issued a public health emergency with the resulting [Emergency Order #1](#) that now mandates the wearing of face coverings for everyone five years of age or older while indoors or within enclosed spaces. While there are a few exceptions, the Order does apply to schools effective August 1, 2020.

Mandated Face Coverings: Given that the Order takes effect on August 1, 2020 and is not set to expire until September 28, 2020, all persons, ages 5 and up, entering and being within the school buildings will be required to wear face coverings. This does impact Summer School, as well as our plans for returning to school this fall.

Reopening Plan: The Board of Education approved the plan to return to school this fall. The plan has been reformatted so that parents, students, teacher, and all others can clearly see the expectations held for them in each environment or situation; please read through the [Reopening Plan](#) for this fall. Watch for updates as the fluid nature of the virus and related concerns require such.

Points of Interest: As the [Reopening Plan](#) for this fall contains a great many details, I'll take time each week to articulate a few points of interest much as I did regarding visitors and volunteers last week. This week: bus transportation.

Due to the need for seating charts on buses and so as to reduce the chance of exposure:

- Students will be afforded transportation *only on those routes* that are (a) the one that they live on and/or (b) the one that their caregiver lives on
 - NO student will be afforded transportation to go home with a friend (EX: for a sleepover, get-together, party, or other) ~ Parents are responsible to transport students in these situations
 - In-town bus stops at Lake Park and near the post office on Park Ave will be suspended at least through 9/30/2020 ~ Stops at the duplex on Park Avenue (no sidewalk) and at the East/West stops on Hwy 76 (near railroad tracks) will continue to operate

Fall Sports: Given the new Order, we are working with WIAA and our CWC colleagues to clearly ascertain the impact on fall sports. For now, we are moving forward with the delayed start to practices of September 7 for football and volleyball. No decision has been made yet regarding middle school athletics.

New Athletic Director - please give a warm Shiocton welcome to Mr. Dominic (Dom) Gunderson who joins us as Athletic Director. Read more about Mr. Gunderson and fall sports on the [Shiocton Athletics](#) webpage.

These are challenging times to say the least. Your continued trust and confidence in the school district and willingness to assist us in meeting the educational needs of our youth while complying with all of the legal requirements we are subject to is greatly appreciated.

Yours in Education,
Mrs. Schweitzer



"Where Excellence is Expected"

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