

# SENTINEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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*Jason Goostree, Superintendent ~ Theron Graybill, High School Principal ~ Paula Combs, Elementary Principal*

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October 13, 2020

We have been in school for two months now and we are very excited that we have been able to offer in-person schooling for our students with very minimal disruptions. Thank you to all our community members, parents, staff and students for their efforts to help keep everyone safe and healthy during this time period. As basketball season gets underway in a few weeks, we wanted to take this opportunity to ask for your help as we try to navigate through a COVID-19 fall and winter. We want to continue to have all our extra-curricular activities for our students; as long as we can do it in a safe manner.

Indoor activities, especially with large groups, increase the chance for the spread of COVID-19. With basketball games falling into this category, we would like to recommend that everyone that attends Sentinel basketball games to please wear a mask. This includes elementary, junior high and high school games and scrimmages. This safety measure is not only for the person wearing the mask, but the people around them as well. We feel like everyone in the Sentinel Public Schools community has worked very hard to stay in school and limit the spread within the school and our community. We think that wearing a mask at games will help limit that spread also. We also feel that this safety measure will also greatly increase the likelihood of being able to continue to offer in-person classes as well as continuing to allow fans to attend extra-curricular activities.

We will be recommending the same thing of visiting teams and fans coming to our gym for games. We hope that if another school has the same recommendation, that our fans and community will honor and respect their wishes when they attend those away games. We understand that this is not an ideal situation, but we think this is a small sacrifice we can all make to continue to be able to watch our student-athletes compete throughout basketball season.

We would also like to encourage social distancing whenever possible inside the gym and gym lobby. There will be signage to help remind spectators on both sides of the gym about social distancing and mask recommendations. Finally, we will not have tables set up in the lobby for patrons to sit at to eat food. We want to try to limit the amount of close contact between people that might not normally be close to each other at these tables. All of these safety measures will be reevaluated throughout basketball season so that we can continue to try to make the best decisions possible for our students, staff and patrons.

As a school system that is trying to navigate daily through a COVID-19 world, we appreciate, in advance, your cooperation. We hope that everyone will consider and respect these safety measures so that our students can continue to attend school in-person as well as compete in extra-curricular activities. We are very grateful for all the things that the communities that make up Sentinel Public Schools do for our school system and our students. We hope everyone stays safe and healthy and we look forward to seeing you in the future.

Sincerely,

Sentinel Administration and Sentinel Board of Education