



Dover City Schools

228 West Sixth Street

Dover, Ohio 44622

DISTRICT STAFF

SUPERINTENDENT

Karie McCrate
330-364-1906

TREASURER

Kathryn Brugger
330-364-7106

ASSISTANT

SUPERINTENDENT

Seth Corder
330-364-1906

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

Gina Franks
330-364-7124

CURRICULUM

COORDINATOR

Tennille Williams

330-364-1906

DIRECTOR OF SAFETY & OPERATIONS

Chad Schie

330-364-7108

DIRECTOR OF

FOOD SERVICES

Angela Welch

330-364-7103

District Fax 330-343-7070

SCHOOLS

DOVER HIGH SCHOOL
520 North Walnut Street

PRINCIPAL

Brooke Grafe

330-364-7148

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Scott Ayers

330-364-7147

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Tim McCrate

330-364-7143

DOVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

2131 North Wooster Ave

PRINCIPAL

Jack Edwards

330-364-7121

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Eric Seibert

330-364-7121

DOVER AVENUE

ELEMENTARY

125 West 13th Street

PRINCIPAL

Katie Nicholson

330-364-7117

EAST ELEMENTARY

325 Betscher Avenue

PRINCIPAL

Zach Zesiger

330-364-7114

SOUTH ELEMENTARY

280 East Shafer Avenue

PRINCIPAL

Tracie Murphy

330-364-7111

September 20, 2021

Dear Dover Families:

The Dover City School District is committed to the health and safety of our students and staff. **Beginning on Tuesday, September 21, we will be implementing a temporary face mask requirement for all students, staff, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, in all indoor facilities and spaces of Dover City Schools.**

This was approved 5-0 at a Board of Education Meeting this morning and will be reflected in a revision to the Covid-19 Plans. This will include both during the school day and at indoor special events (ie concerts, parent nights, athletic events, etc.).

We have shared with you that we would monitor the numbers--both active cases and student quarantines--and adjust our plan as needed. Dover Schools has 31 active Covid-19 cases as of today. As of Friday, September 17, our total number of cases this school year is 54, and one week ago (Friday, September 10), the total number of cases was 24. As we know, with these cases comes a number of student quarantines. As of Friday, **we have already had 300 student quarantines** this school year.

Quarantines not only affect the students who are excluded; they are disruptive and have a negative impact on the learning environment. **We need students here.** While we are aware of the wide range of opinions on both sides of wearing a face mask, **the Ohio Dept of Health quarantine flow chart allows for asymptomatic students who were wearing a face mask to continue in-person instruction AND extracurricular school activities following a school exposure.** Dover City Schools did not make these rules, but regardless of how we feel about Ohio's quarantine policies, wearing masks can keep our students in school.

Please know: we do not view masks and face coverings as a long-term solution to building a strong, healthy environment for student learning and our school community. We will continue to monitor the numbers within our greater school community and re-evaluate our face covering policy as local cases decrease. The best place to stay aware of the current medically-diagnosed Covid-19 cases within Dover Schools is on our reporting dashboard available [HERE](#).

We know that some students have unique needs. Students with a documented medical reason for not wearing a face mask will need to have a waiver on file. The district will accept a medical waiver using the same general criteria as last year. Forms and information will be available on the district website on the Covid-19 information page and should be returned to your child's school principal. Please contact your child's principal or school nurse with any questions.

A Distinguished History and a Dynamic Future

Per state requirements, parents will still receive an email notification if someone from your child's class or team tests positive for Covid-19. However, from classroom exposure alone, there should now be no close contacts who need to quarantine. An unmasked, unvaccinated student who was exposed to a positive case while playing contact sports in close contact would still be quarantined. However, with schoolwide masks in place, the majority of these letters will be informational for parents.

We will keep you updated if and when the situation changes or if new information becomes available. Again, **this decision allows us to provide the most consistent, traditional educational experience for our students in the safest and healthiest environment -- in-person instruction.**

This is not what any of us were hoping or planning for this year. In the end, though, we all want the same thing: to provide our students with the best opportunity to have academic success and experience a well-rounded, robust school experience.

And we are all doing the best we can -- our children, our parents, our families, our teachers, our staff, our administrators. In advance, we appreciate your understanding, flexibility, and kindness as we work through this together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karie McCrate".

Karie McCrate
Superintendent