



August 16, 2021

Dear EPS Parents/Guardians,

I hope you had a wonderful weekend and are looking forward to our first full week of school. I was in every building at least twice last week and the energy and excitement of being back to school were evident.

Since school started, there have been many questions about masks mandates. I felt it was important for every family to receive the same answers to these questions, therefore, I am sending this communication out to all parents.

As you know, Senate Bill 658 prohibits school boards from mandating masks. However, last Friday, Oklahoma City Public Schools (OKCPS) announced that their superintendent of schools, not the school board, would require students and staff to wear masks. What you may not be aware of is that OKCPS is allowing parents to opt-out of this requirement for health, religious or personal reasons by submitting an opt-out form. Basically, there is still choice even in this mandate.

EPS has stated that masks are encouraged. Essentially, the position taken by OKCPS is not much different from ours. Masks are beneficial; however, each employee and family can make a personal decision on mask wearing.

Science tells us that wearing a mask is one of the most important mitigation measures we can take to help stop the spread of COVID and protect our students and one another. Therefore, EPS will continue to encourage the use of masks.

While our Covid cases are currently very low, we can expect that they will rise. Please know that we are continuously monitoring the situation and following our [2021-2022 Learning Plan](#), which calls for additional action if positive cases reach a certain percentage at any given site. See page three of the Learning Plan.

The district will begin posting the percentage of student and staff positive cases at each site later this week at edmondschools.net. The information will be updated every Friday afternoon.

Despite the ongoing pandemic and the uncertainty and anxiety it can produce, Edmond Public Schools is committed to doing everything possible to provide the best education we can for students. We have always enjoyed a wonderful partnership with you, and moving forward we will be counting on your support more than ever.

Sincerely,
Dr. Angela Grunewald