



Nome Public Schools

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August 16, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians of NPS Students:

Welcome back to the 2021-2022 school year! While we had hoped the COVID-19 pandemic would be more under control at this point in time, we are committed to continuing to offer children the best education possible in a safe and healthy environment. We believe that in-person learning is the best mode for children for academic success, emotional wellbeing, and meeting social needs. As such, our COVID-19 Mitigation Plan has been focused on using a variety of tools to keep children in school and minimize the impact of the pandemic on teaching and learning.

Per consultation with our Health Advisory Team, we will implement universal masking at each school, until we meet the selected target of EIGHTY PERCENT of staff and students vaccinated against COVID-19 at each school. Universal masking means all staff, students, visitors and volunteers will wear masks that meet CDC guidelines in an appropriate manner while inside school buildings. NPS Employees districtwide are over 90% vaccinated.

At this time, vaccines are not available for children under the age of 12, meaning that Nome Elementary and Anvil City Science Academy will not be able to make progress towards their 80% target until the vaccine receives approval from the FDA for administration.

Nome-Beltz Middle/High School is currently at 61% staff and students vaccinated. We encourage parents/guardians of children who are not yet vaccinated to have a conversation with their caregiver regarding any questions or concerns they may have about the vaccine.

Masks will be required on school buses of ALL students until the Federal Transportation Mandate regarding masking on federal transportation is modified or rescinded.

Mitigation strategies for athletics are also addressed in the current Mitigation Plan, which can be found at our website at www.nomeschools.org/domain/221. Families will be notified whenever the Mitigation Plan is modified. Please direct any questions to the principal at your student's school.

We wish everyone a safe and happy school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie Burgess". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jamie Burgess, Superintendent