

## Crittenden County Schools

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Sept. 2, 2020

Good afternoon Rocket Nation,

After careful consideration of the new guidance shared by the Kentucky Department of Education yesterday with superintendents across the Commonwealth, stating that all students and staff should wear masks when in the building, except when actively eating or drinking or if medically waivered, I recommend that Crittenden County Schools continues the #HealthyAtSchool plan we spent all summer developing and that was successfully implemented last Tuesday, which states that students must mask when moving and when social distancing is not possible.

Along with our Board of Education, it is my belief that disrupting the efficient process we now have in place (and that students and staff resolutely follow daily) will create more distraction than benefits. Through personal observation, along with feedback from staff in all buildings, it is clear that our students and staff have embraced our current plan, and it is working.

We will continue enacting the guidelines of masking while moving and when social distancing is not possible, but students may choose to lower masks inside the classroom when they are socially distanced from peers and staff. Masks also may be lowered while eating and drinking and when socially distanced outside. Additionally, preschool and Kindergarten students, along with those with medical waivers, are not required to wear masks. Of course, any student may choose to mask all day if he or she chooses.

As with every decision we make at Crittenden County schools, we will continue to evaluate the Kentucky Department of Education and Department of Public Health's new guidance regarding masking in the midst of an ever-changing and fluid situation. While we continue to diligently implement our #HealthyAtSchool procedures in our buildings, we encourage our Rocket families to continue to practice #HealthyAtHome habits, including checking students' temperatures and monitoring for any symptoms each morning, practicing good handwashing and hygiene, and staying home if sick.

We thank our community for your continued support and confidence as we continue to educate, feed, and take care of our Rockets while they are with us.

Sincerely,

Superintendent Vince Clark