



# SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

230 South Elm Street Harrison, Ohio 45030 (513) 367-4139 Fax (513) 367-2287

---

John C. Hamstra  
Superintendent

Thomas J. Lowe  
Treasurer

Corinne M. Hayes  
Assistant Superintendent

Adam D. Lohbeck  
Director of Operations

October 19, 2021

Greetings, Wildcat parents / guardians;

**Starting Wednesday, October 20, 2021, the first day of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, we will shift both the Junior School and High School back to “strongly recommending” masking.** We will continue in this mode as long as COVID-related absences stay low, and spread is not occurring within our walls. As we have said all year, the goal is to keep our kids in school, learning face to face.

We were informed again by the Hamilton County Department of Health late last week, that the current quarantine guidance is still that non-vaccinated students or staff that are in close contact with a positive case must quarantine for 7 – 10 days. Quarantined staff / students can return after 7 days with a negative COVID test. They can return after 10 days without a test. The good news is – the early results from the **“Test and Stay”** pilot in Warrant County are yielding what we would expect – that a large majority of close contacts remain healthy. However, until Hamilton County / the Ohio Department of Health change their position, we will continue to follow the aforementioned guidance that has been in place since last winter. We do anticipate / hope for a change in quarantine guidance in the very near future.

Again, masking will be strongly recommended to start 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter (beginning October 20, 2021) in all of our schools. Current quarantine guidance is still in place. To avoid missing school or extra-curriculars, it is wise for students to remain masked up in school. The **“Test and Stay”** program **MAY** be approved state-wide in the very near future. When that happens, non-vaccinated close contacts will be allowed to stay in school, as long as they mask up and test negative after day 3 and day 5 or 7. If we see a large jump in COVID-related absences and / or spread within our walls, we will shift back to universal masking.

Lastly, please be sure to keep your child(ren) home if they are ill. We have had to send far too many kids home early in the day, due to coming to school sick. It’s not worth the risk to their peers and our staff. Please do your part to help us stay in school and learning!

Kind regards,

John C. Hamstra  
Superintendent  
Southwest Local Schools

**Mission:** “Academic and Social growth for all students, EVERY DAY!”

**Motto:** “Excellence through Relationships!”

**Core Values:** Trust, Respect, Ownership, and Leadership