



## NORTH EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dr. Michele Spurgeon Hartzell, Superintendent

Mr. Jeffrey Fox, Business Manager

Mrs. Shelley Allen, Administrative Assistant

December 12, 2021

Dear North East Family,

Although the Pennsylvania Supreme Court vacated the Secretary of Health and Governor's masking mandate, the Erie County Department of Health's masking continues to be in effect for all Erie County schools. Additionally, our district Health and Safety Plan requires masks when Erie County COVID transmission rates are in substantial and high; therefore, masking continues to be required in all North East schools by all students, employees, and visitors.

Furthermore, the Court's decision does not impact the Federal masking requirement for public transportation. Students are required to wear masks on school buses and any school vehicle for all transportation activities and events.

We are hopeful that COVID -19 transmission rates in Erie County will decline, and we will continue to evaluate our school transmission rates. We are confident that our current mitigation efforts are working as only 2.9% of the positive cases from our students and staff can be traced back to our schools.

Our number one goal is to keep our students and staff safe and second, to keep our buildings open. We sincerely appreciate your ongoing support as we navigate through this pandemic, and we will continue to monitor and will re-evaluate our Health & Safety plan after the New Year.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your building administration or my office.

Respectfully,

Dr. Michele S. Hartzell, Superintendent