

South Fork School District 14

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Home of the Ponies

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February 7, 2022

South Fork Families,

First off, we thank you for your patience and support of the district over the last few days. The recent judgment had many moving parts and affected different populations of the school environment. The district values the input from all stakeholders. We wanted to hear what our people had to say before making any snap decision.

Now that we have had time to review the recent judgment, we at South Fork will be reverting to our original Full Return to In-Person Learning Plan that was board-approved on August 18, 2021.

The district plan outlines a mask use approach that is phased-based. We will start in phase I, where mask use is recommended indoors for students, staff, and visitors regardless of vaccination. The Full In-Person Learning Plan can be found on the district webpage.

From the beginning, the district favored offering the optional mask approach. State mandates did not allow for the district to follow this path.

The district plan will continue to be utilized until the state gives further guidance and the appellate court overturns the most recent judgment.

Also, remember the plan does call for a phased approach. So, if transmission rates increase, the district will move through the phases, and more mitigations will be implemented. The district will also continue to utilize prescreening as a safety measure as people enter the school or a school bus.

Lastly, this judgment does not change the mask mandate on Passengers and drivers on school transportation. Therefore, all students riding the bus will be required to wear a mask.

In closing, we appreciate your patience as we managed our way through these rough waters. It is hard to figure out what is the right thing to do in these times. So many people have so many different opinions. Learning to respect others' beliefs, represent your beliefs, and be kind are values all can take away from this experience. We at South Fork are here to help all members of our family find success in whatever path they may choose.

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