

**CHAMBERLAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT #7-1
PO BOX 119 • 1000 SORESEN DRIVE
CHAMBERLAIN SD 57325**

PHONE: 605-234-4478

FAX: 605-234-4479

Dear Parents & Guardians,

As you have no doubt heard, the Chamberlain School Board made the decision to mandate masking in 2nd-12th grade and encourage it, when feasible in Kindergarten and first grade. This decision was not made lightly, but we want to prioritize the education that we provide to students above all else.

With all of the information that is being presented about masking, why did we choose to mandate it? There are a couple of reasons for this. First, many of our local physicians and the South Dakota State Medical Association have made it clear that masks are the best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the school setting. In addition to this, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has told us that masks are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in a public setting. The K-12 education system is one of the largest consistent public gatherings we know.

Second, masks provide our district with the best chance for us to continue to have school with students and teachers physically present in the building. The research tells us that children experience much more mild symptoms, if any at all; however, they still have the potential to spread COVID-19 to other students and staff.

We have experienced a sharp uptick in staff cases at the elementary building and we are on the brink of eLearning. The best thing you can do as a parent is to encourage your child to diligently wear a mask while at school. The administration is working to provide opportunities for “mask breaks” for the students while also respecting the health and wellness of everyone in the building.

Are there any masks that won't fulfill the requirement? Most masks work just fine; however, certain masks won't prevent the transmission of the virus, according to health officials. Face Shields, mesh masks, including gators, and masks with 'one-way vents' won't meet the requirement.

Should you need a mask, please stop in the office and they can provide you with one to use for the day. We launder all used masks that are returned.

If you have any questions about this or any other COVID-related questions, please contact my office.

Regards,

Dr. Justin Zajic
Superintendent of Schools
Chamberlain School District

Dr. Justin Zajic
Superintendent
605-234-4477

Michelle Willrodt
Business Manager
605-234-4478

Jeff Steckelberg
Principal 9-12
605-234-4467

Jesse Johnson
Principal 6-8
605-234-4467

Rocky Almond
Principal K-5
605-234-4460

Calico Hunjah
SPED Director
605-234-4460

Bill Kurtz
Active Dir/PE
605-234-4467