



Julie Billiard Schools

8/5/2020

Dear JB families,

Yesterday, August 4, 2020, Governor DeWine, in collaboration with Ohio Children's Hospital Association and American Academy of Pediatrics, [issued a mandate](#) that requires K-12 students returning to school to wear masks or face coverings.

With a mandate in place, we can work together to help kids gain comfort and confidence with wearing masks in the classroom. With the kind guidance and modeling from our teachers and the reinforcement and practice at home, we can make this short season of life much more bearable.

We understand and empathize with the variety of opinions on this matter. **However, this is a mandate from the State of Ohio.** After conversations with the Board of Health, Julie Billiard Schools were made to understand that because we are offering an in-person education at this time, there will be increased vigilance and potential audits to make sure we're following mandates and recommendations.

It is not an option for Julie Billiard Schools to disregard state or federal mandates. Doing so could jeopardize our ability to educate our kids long term.

If you are concerned about your child wearing a mask, please consider these recommendations for [kid-friendly, non-obtrusive face shields](#). [Check out this article](#) for tips and tricks on helping kids with sensory issues adjust to masks.

We promise to do our part to make mask-wearing as comfortable, accepted, and free of distraction as possible. Unless your child's doctor provides documentation of an exemption as outlined in the [mandate](#), we will provide a mask for all children who don't come to school with one.

We know that kids, especially the younger ones, may have issues adjusting. We will practice, as always, flexibility, patience, and understanding. As we approach the return to school on August 25, we ask for your help in preparing your child for mask wearing. Many of you have already been doing this and we appreciate it! Here are some steps and resources that can help.

1. Find a comfortable mask that fits your child and doesn't distract him or her. (We recommend trying a face shield for better breathability + we can see their smiling faces.)



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2. Practice mask wearing for various lengths of time.
3. Make sure your child is comfortable putting on and taking off his or her own mask.
4. Explain to your child that all of his or her friends and teachers will also be wearing masks when we return. (Review this [social story](#), or [this one](#).)

Like always, if this mandate changes, we will be in touch. Thank you for your tremendous patience and flexibility,

Lannie Davis-Frecker, Jodi Johnston, and Jason Wojnicz