



# Bellwood-Antis School District

empowers students to attain their personal best academically, socially, physically, & emotionally.

May 18, 2021

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Dear Parents and Guardians

Throughout this year, the Bellwood-Antis School District has made every effort to keep our schools open and to minimize the quarantines of staff and students to the greatest extent possible. As we enter the final days of the school year, we will continue these efforts. You may be hearing news of the loosening of COVID-related restrictions, particularly for vaccinated individuals. However, **we have seen an increase in the number of students that have been diagnosed with COVID 19 and/or have had to be quarantined.** Our hope is to keep the case counts as low as possible to preserve the activities planned for the remainder of the school year, such as prom, graduation, fieldtrips and so on. For now, schools are being advised by the PA Department of Education to continue our current protocols. Therefore, **face coverings continue to be required for all individuals**, and we will continue our other mitigation efforts such as physical distancing.

We have been working closely, throughout the pandemic, with the Blair County Emergency Management Agency's COVID Task Force. Through that connection, all Blair County School Districts have been made aware that the Pfizer vaccine, which is now approved for students of age 12 and above, is widely available in our area. **Parents may now schedule a pediatric vaccination appointment free of charge at the Station Medical Center in Altoona through the following website: <https://vaccine.upmc.com>.** Adults may also register for the vaccine at this site.

**Individuals who are fully vaccinated and are later deemed to be close contacts of a COVID positive or probable individual do not need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms. Other restrictions, such as mask wearing and social distancing, are beginning to be reduced for vaccinated individuals in certain settings. We are hopeful that school settings will see reduced restrictions, including fewer closures and quarantines, in the future as more eligible individuals are vaccinated. However, for now we are continuing our mask-wearing regulations.**

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support throughout this school year. We will continue to make every effort to keep our students and staff safe, healthy, and in school as we close out our school year.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. McInroy, Ed D