



Bellwood-Antis School District

The BASD creates a learner-centered environment and engages students in meaningful interdisciplinary experiences that cultivate the development of future-ready citizens.

Superintendent of
Schools

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Business Manager

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ES Principal

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MS Principal

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HS Principal

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Fax: (814) 742-9817

Special Education

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School Psychologist

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Technology

Coordinator

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Instructional

Technology Director

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Food Service Director

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Athletics

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www.blwd.k12.pa.us

September 20, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community,

Since the start of the school year, the District has worked hard to implement a Safety Plan that was created by Bellwood employees that would preserve safety measures while providing parents a choice as to whether their children would wear a mask or not. The School Board and Administration respect the sentiments on both sides of the masking issue. The Board listened diligently on September 7th and 14th to parent concerns. As a result of those meetings the District has added a COVID tracker and we have made our local legislators, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Governor aware of the District's position on the masking mandate.

As Superintendent, I have attended several meetings concerning the legitimacy of the mask mandate and have heard from several different authorities such as Pennsylvania School Boards Association and Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators, as well as several attorneys. All confirm that there is legal authority for this mandate, and if ignored, would expose the School District and the School Board to significant liability. In addition, our insurance carrier has stated that they would drop insurance coverage for the School District leaving the District exposed to lawsuits and fines. There are several legal challenges which have been filed. However, the District cannot legally ignore the order from the Secretary of Health while these legal challenges are processed by the Courts.

It is important to note that the School Board members are unpaid and when they are elected to their positions, have sworn an oath to uphold all laws of the Commonwealth and the nation. This does not permit the School Board to pick and choose which laws they wish to enforce and which laws to ignore. The School Board has been clear that they do not agree with the mask mandate and wish to reinstate the local Safety Plan. However, they do not have the ability to do so without serious repercussions. Therefore, the School Board asks for your understanding, help and support by sending a



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respectful and professional correspondence to the Governor, acting Secretary of the Department of Health, Alison Beam, and our local legislators, expressing your concerns with the mask mandate.

The Board agrees that the mask mandate is not appropriate for the Bellwood-Antis School District and will seek a resolution through proper channels. Our hope is to return the focus on the importance of education in the classroom and we ask you to help us with this endeavor through your correspondence to the appropriate individuals at the state level.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. McInroy, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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