Commitment to Excellence

Dear JuabSD Community,

I am overwhelmed by the amount of work that has been invested this summer by our Juab School District teachers, staff, and administrators in making preparations to improve digital learning, prepare for increased health and safety measures, and engage families. Our teachers have been nimble as they have prepared for both in-person, and remote learning. The 2020 school year is unprecedented, unpredictable, and unimaginable! I am extra appreciative of the social and emotional support that is being given to our students, families, and teachers.

I fully recognize that one of the additional burdens is the changing nature of guidance and, most recently, the change in the public health order around masks. The Utah Dept. of Health, in speaking with Governor Herbert, indicated that the Governor's intent of the law has always been that students, teachers, staff, and faculty wear masks. Face shields worn without a mask were intended to be used in rare situations involving those with impaired hearing or those involved in speech therapy. The public health order was revised to provide this clarity. Going forward, the Governor has indicated that this order may change again as new scientific information becomes available.

In the district's efforts to stay current with the practices and protocols set forth surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, Juab School District continues to consult with state and local education leaders, the Central Utah Public Health Department, and the Utah Department of Health in order to provide the safest environment possible for our students and staff. With that, we are providing the following update concerning the latest guidelines on face masks and face coverings.

For the upcoming school year, the following will apply in regard to COVID-19 and the wearing of face masks:

• (Aug. 14, 2020) - The Utah Department of Health has issued a public health order clarifying the standards for face coverings in schools.
  - The order stipulates that every individual on school property, or on a school bus, must wear a face mask which covers the nose and mouth without openings that can be seen through, secures under the chin, and fits snugly against the sides of the nose and the face. Face masks must be worn, even when an individual is able to physical distance, except in very limited circumstances.
  - Face shields may only be worn without a face mask when the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication, including for an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing or while participating in speech therapy.

I encourage parents, students, and staff to do their part in slowing the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and local communities. We encourage you to follow the state order from the Governor and the Utah Department of Health to wear masks in schools, in addition to washing hands, social distancing and staying home when symptomatic. These efforts will assist in providing a safer learning environment for both our students and staff.

I appreciate your support in these unprecedented times as we make every effort to provide a safe and productive learning environment.

Respectfully,

Dr. Kodey S, Hughes
Superintendent of Schools
Juab School District