Tri County Area Schools
Tradition · Character · Achievement · Success

TRI COUNTY AREA SCHOOLS
Educational Service Center

ALLEN CUMINGS, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dear TC Families,

We understand that many of you have heard news reports about the latest decision of the Michigan Supreme Court stating, for a number of legal reasons, that the issuance by the Governor of executive orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic is no longer valid on a continuing basis. While the collaborative work to create the Michigan School Reopening Roadmap occurred under the auspices of the various executive orders whose validity the Michigan Supreme Court has called into question, there has thus far not been an order entered in any court invalidating the executive orders related to COVID-19. Also, the product of our collaboration was adopted by our Board of Education as policy for our school district. That policy survives any judicial action.

After discussion with legal counsel, Tri County Area Schools will continue the current practice as outlined in the Tri County MI-Safe School Reopening plan that students in 6-12 and all staff are to wear masks while in school. We based the decision from our collaborative work with the Tri County School Reopening Plan Committee, with guidance from the Mid-Michigan Health Department, as well as prioritizing the health and safety of our students and staff. The plan was approved by the Board of Education in August of 2020. Since the reopening plan did not include K-5 students wearing masks in classrooms, we are encouraging and promoting this, but are not able to make it a current practice as with 6-12.

We realize this is a fluid situation and we will continue to seek guidance from our legal counsel, Mid-Michigan Health Department or lawful authority. At this time we will be maintaining our way forward into the 2020-21 school year as articulated in our return to school plan adopted under the Safe Schools Roadmap. The SafeSchools Roadmap can be found on our website at www.tricountyschools.com and click on the Covid-19 icon on the homepage of the website.

If you have any questions as we work through the challenges presented by these extraordinary times, please feel free to contact me at 616-636-5454 ext. 6002 or email me at acumings@tricountyschools.com.

Sincerely,

Allen Cumings
Superintendent
Tri County Area School

(continued)

94 CHERRY STREET, PO BOX 79 • SAND LAKE, MI 49343
PHONE 616 636-5454 • FAX: 616 636-5677 • E-MAIL: ACUMINGS@TRICOUNTYSCHOOLS.COM