



Gaston Public Schools

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97119

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Gaston School District Community:

Today, we learned that the Oregon Health Authority released new information indicating that the state-level K-12 mask mandates will move from *required to optional*, effective March 31, 2022. We understand that our community members, staff and students will have questions as to what this means for our schools. Over the next weeks, district leadership will be working closely with our county public health authority to evaluate the changes that will take place. As we work to understand these implications, we will continue to prioritize the safety of our students and staff so we can maintain face-to-face instruction to the greatest degree possible.

Additionally, we are aware that some groups are planning “maskless walk-ins” during upcoming instructional days. For those planning or supporting these events; we respect the right of students to protest, but please know that under no circumstances will students be allowed to attend classes maskless *at this time*.

Our continued goal is to keep in-person instruction available to all students. We all must understand that decisions around masking policies will carry a variety of implications, most notably, quarantine and isolation requirements.

As always, thank you for your partnership in supporting the safety and success of our students and the larger community.

Summer Catino, Superintendent
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