



# Gaston Public Schools

District 511JT – 300 Park St. Gaston, OR 97119

[www.gastonk12.org](http://www.gastonk12.org)

March 2, 2022

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Gaston Staff and Community:

On Monday, Governor Kate Brown announced the statewide indoor mask mandate would be lifted effective March 11, 2022 at 11:59 pm. For schools, this means the masking decision will return to local control. Last night, the Gaston School Board and district administrators determined that as of March 12, 2022, masks will no longer be required in Gaston Public Schools.

In making this decision, district leaders considered the steep decline in COVID-19 cases in our schools, changes in [CDC guidance](#), and stakeholder feedback. We realize to some, optional masking will be a long-awaited relief, while for others it will be met with apprehension. We understand decisions will be based on individual family circumstances and beliefs, and the district is committed to supporting those who wish to continue wearing a mask.

Today the Oregon Department of Education updated the Ready Schools Safe Learners (RSSL) Resiliency Framework with expectations for schools regarding other COVID-19 mitigation measures. Over the coming days, Gaston School District will be sharing specific information regarding changes in isolation, quarantine, COVID-19 testing options, and continued schoolwide safety measures. For individuals who have personal questions or concerns regarding optional masking, please contact a district administrator or email [info@gastonk12.org](mailto:info@gastonk12.org).

In the meantime, it is important to continue implementation of indoor face coverings through March 11th. As a school district we are required to uphold the masking regulations until they are lifted. As we move into this new stage, the school board and administration would like to thank everyone for their efforts in keeping our focus on in-person learning.

Sincerely,

Summer Catino  
Superintendent  
Gaston School District