

Grand Island Central School District

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3/1/22

Dear Grand Island Families:

The New York State Department of Health has determined that universal masking of students and staff in schools is no longer required as of March 2. As such, mask wearing will be optional in the Grand Island Central School District beginning Wednesday, March 2. This includes district transportation.

Here are some details that are important for everyone's awareness:

- Masks are still required on Tuesday (3/1) according to the State of New York.
- Mask wearing is very much encouraged for any staff member or student who feels as though they would be more comfortable wearing one.
- We have stationed a supply of N95 masks at each school, in addition to the procedural masks that we've been offering, for any student and staff member who wants one.
- We are in the process of securing more N95 masks in child sizes. We will have a full supply of child-sized masks very soon.

Our Grand Island Central District is home to 2,800 students, plus hundreds of staff and visitors who are in our schools every day. Each person who walks in our doors has their own opinions, styles, preferences and beliefs. Starting Wednesday, we'll add the choice of mask wearing, and do so with the unmistakable expectation that every student and staff member will be respected for the choice they make regarding whether or not to wear a mask.

It is expected that school districts across NYS will receive new guidance and requirements from the NYSDOH this week with specific information as it relates to risk mitigation. Once that information is received we will provide additional communication as needed.

The shift to a "mask optional" policy will feel to many like the end of a very difficult period of time in the world, and in our community. Please know how grateful the Board of Education and I are to our entire staff, students, and their families for all that has been accomplished during the pandemic.

Sincerely,



Brian Graham, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools