

This is a message for students and parents of the Mount Carmel Area School District.

As announced at our November School Board meeting - MCA will reassess our masking requirement as per our District Health and Safety Plan in January. Our hope is that local case counts trend in a direction that would support the move to optional/recommended masking. But leading into our Christmas holiday break and upon return in the new year - our district is still requiring masks of all students and staff. The CDC order requiring the wearing of masks on school buses remains in effect as well.

We would also like to highlight some other important information:

- Wednesday, December 22nd will be an Act 80 early dismissal for all students.
- Our district will be closed for Christmas vacation from Thursday, December 23rd to Sunday, January 2nd.
- We will return to school on Monday, January 3rd.
- Tornado Buddy Bags will be available for pick up over the holiday break on Thursday, December 30th from 10am to 12:30pm at the JH-SH main office. Please contact the main office prior to Christmas break if this time is not convenient for those that receive Buddy Bags.
- Reminder of the change to our 2021-2022 school calendar. **There will be school for all students on Monday, February 7th. Monday, February 14th will now be a Teacher In-Service day with no school for students.**

Continued COVID-19 reminders:

- Please continue daily morning screenings of all children before sending them to school each day.
- **Please keep your child home if they are exhibiting any COVID symptoms, or if any household member is being tested, is positive, or has unexplained symptoms.**
- Information regarding vaccines for students ages 5 and above is found on our school district main website under the "News and Events" section.
- Our district will continue to update the COVID-19 tracker, found on our main website, with the most up to date information regarding positive cases in our buildings.
- Our district will continue to contact any student and family if we believe they would be considered a close contact of a positive case.
- We continue to value the importance of in person learning especially after what we faced last school year as a learning community. Our families are asked to have plans related to child care as we navigate through the winter months in the event a single building or our district would need to move to virtual instruction for a short period of time due a rise in positive cases in our school district.

Please continue to be safe and we hope you enjoy your upcoming Christmas and New Year!

Pete Cheddar