



# School District of the City of Iron Mountain

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Good Afternoon Mountaineer Families,

The weather has certainly been great this summer. Iron Mountain has been buzzing, and I hope that you have been enjoying summer break. Believe it or not, the Fall return to school is not too far away, and I wanted to give families an update as to what our plan is for students at IMPS. As you can imagine, questions abound as to what school will look like this Fall in regards to the Coronavirus and the various precautions we took this past school year.

IMPS will be open for in-person face-to-face instruction beginning this Fall. My hope is that things will return to as much of a “normal” as possible and school will look and feel like a traditional school year. We are doing everything we can to this end. The State of Michigan has lifted COVID restrictions, but guidelines for schools are always being considered and reevaluated. With this in mind, I usually get a few recurring questions from parents regarding masks, vaccines, and virtual learning.

**Based on the current Michigan back to school guidelines and as of today**, the current IMPS plan is to not require students or staff to wear masks this Fall. At the same time, those who choose to take extra precautions will certainly be allowed and respected for doing so. My desire is to allow families to make their own choices in regards to masks as well as the vaccine. Note, there is no plan to require proof of the COVID vaccination or regular COVID testing in order to attend IMPS.

IMPS will continue to do our best in offering a safe environment for all students. We will continue with our increased cleaning protocols and keeping common areas disinfected. We will continue to ask parents to monitor their student’s health and to not send students to school when they are showing signs of illness. When students fall ill at school, we will continue to request that the child be sent home as these practices help in reducing the spread of any type of illness.


We will continue to handle positive cases, quarantines, parental notification, and reports as we are directed to do so by local health officials. Some of these types of topics we will be able to make clearer as we get closer to the start of school. However, good, clear, and transparent communication with our community and parents is our primary goal.

I would also like to stress the importance of face-to-face instruction. IMPS feels very strongly that in-person instruction is the very best mode of instruction, especially in light of the missed instructional time this past year and all of the interruptions to learning. With that being said, we are limiting our virtual options this Fall and virtual learning will only be considered in very specific cases after several factors have been considered including the student’s success and progress in previous virtual learning classes. If you pulled your student out of the building last year, please plan on a return back to face-to-face instruction. If you have not notified your building principal that your child is returning, please do so by calling your school’s front office as soon as you are able so we can have time to plan accordingly. If you would like the school to consider allowing your student to continue with virtual learning please call the office of your child’s school and schedule a meeting with the principal.

It is important that everyone understands that State and Federal rules could change that would obligate the school district to follow mandates. The School Board of Education will continue to work with our local health department and make those decisions if we are placed in that situation. While we strive to get school back on track and back to more of a “normal” state, we must keep the safety of all our students and staff at the forefront of our minds regardless of personal opinions and where we stand on issues as individuals.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. I know the last 16 months have been very difficult on multiple levels for you and your families. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to work with you and for entrusting us to do the very best we can for you and your student. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call, and we will do our best to assist you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Sardina". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jerry Sardina  
Superintendent