



Hulbert Public Schools

316 S Rider Lane, Hulbert, OK 74464

918-772-2501

Jolyn Choate, Superintendent

Chad Botts, HS/MS Principal

Taf Morphis, Elementary Principal



August 19, 2021

Dear Hulbert school family:

Last night, based on recommendations from the CDC, the Hulbert Board of Education voted to require masks for students and staff at school, effective August 19, 2021. The safety of our school family is our greatest priority and increasing cases of COVID-19 in our district made this difficult decision necessary.

Since we started school on August 12, seven individuals have tested positive, resulting in more than 154 people being placed in quarantine. The number of quarantined students required us to temporarily move all middle school and high school students to distance learning. The current situation creates not only a risk to students' health, but also results in a significant loss of in-person instructional time. **By wearing masks in the classroom, we can better protect the health of our students and significantly reduce the number of students who need to quarantine when there is a positive case.**

The cases we experienced in the last week exceeded the numbers we had at any time last school year – when masks were required and before the more aggressive Delta variant of COVID-19 existed. Cases in Cherokee County continue to grow, and – based on the size of our enrollment – our school numbers are increasing at an even faster rate.

Parents, health officials, education officials and state leaders all agree that in-person learning is the best model for students. The tools and resources exist to make this happen, and we cannot allow our district to be hindered in its mission to provide in-person learning. Masking, which is recommended in schools by Cherokee Nation Public Health Guidance for Schools, is a key component for a safe, successful and in-person school year.

Our Return to Learn Plan includes options for students who are unable to wear a mask due to medical exception. The plan can be reviewed at hulbertriders.net. Additionally, the district is providing a virtual learning option for all students who wish to opt-out of the mask requirement or would like to learn virtually for any other reason. If you would like to know more about medical exceptions or our virtual learning program, please contact me at 918-772-2501.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve you and your family, especially as we face this challenging situation together. Thank you for your support of Hulbert Public Schools.

Sincerely,
Jolyn Choate
Superintendent

Pride in the RIDE