

Wow, where did the summer go? Schools starts next week, and we are so excited to have everyone back in the halls. I wanted to send another email with more updates to help us prepare for the new year.

First Night is Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 7 PM. We are asking families to come in and get everything done, and then head out of the building. We are trying to control the crowd size by keeping everyone moving in and out as quickly as possible. There is a vaccine clinic available in the middle school library for anyone who is 12 or older who wishes to be vaccinated.

Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup> is the first day for students.

**IMPORTANT:** Last year towards the end of the year, students became very lax with the dress code. We have a dress code in each of our students' handbooks, and our intent is to enforce this policy this year. Please make sure your child comes to school properly dressed. We need to make sure that the shorts a student wears fully covers them. Secondly, we need to make sure the shirt covers the lower and the upper chest area. Students need to make sure that their clothing does not have inappropriate items on them. I would suggest that families read the policy and make sure the outfits your child wears fit our guidelines as I cannot address it all here. If a student is in violation they either must put on a t-shirt to cover themselves, or the parents need to bring in properly fitting clothes. Please work with the school district on this so that we have a smooth start to the school year. The enforcement is fully backed from all levels of our district including the Elmwood Board of Education.

Finally, as stated many times, masks are optional at school, but masks are *required* on the bus. The CDC and the Wood County Health Department highly encourages their use also, but in the end, the parents will need to make the decision for their family. Another issue to consider when you make the decision on wearing masks is the quarantine rules. If a student is fully vaccinated, they will not have to quarantine if exposed to a positive case. Next if your child is not vaccinated, and they wear their masks at school religiously, they do not have to quarantine if exposed. Social distancing plays in also, but if vaccinated and/or wear masks constantly, you can almost guarantee that your child would not be sent home on quarantine due to exposure. In the end, each parent must weigh the mask decision versus the chance of being sent home on a quarantine. I personally know this would be difficult for me to make. I have included a fact sheet and a flow chart from the Ohio Department of Health to explain this. Click [HERE](#) for the fact sheet and [HERE](#) for the flow chart.

I am happy to discuss any points above and answer questions. Either email me at [bortt@elmls.net](mailto:bortt@elmls.net) or call the office at 419-655-2583 option 4.

Tony Borton, Superintendent Elmwood Local Schools