



860 US Hwy 231 N
Ozark, Alabama 36360
Phone: 334-774-5197 Fax: 334-774-2685

Dear Eagle Family,

In consideration of the latest guidance from the CDC, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Alabama Department of Public Health, the Ozark City Board of Education will require masks to be worn inside all school buildings, classrooms and buses. Effective Monday, August 2, all teachers, staff, students and those visiting campus will be required to wear masks or other face coverings when indoors. The agencies recommend that, "...staff and kids over the age of two should continue to wear masks indoors at school this fall regardless of vaccination status". Current guidance goes on to state that, "A significant portion of the student population is not eligible for the vaccine and masking is proven to reduce transmission of the virus and to protect those who are not vaccinated".

The following exceptions may apply:

For those participating in strenuous physical activity, including athletics and PE outside.

For those having difficulty breathing or are in need of medical attention.

For those actively eating or drinking.

For those in their office and unoccupied spaces.

For those with a documented medical, physical or psychological health concern.

We know that the decision to require masks is not a popular one, but we feel that the mask requirement is what is best for our students, staff, and stakeholders. Please understand, our goal is not only to open school, but to stay in school. Learning has been interrupted far too long and our kids should be back in the buildings where they learn best. We believe that requiring masks at this time is the best way to remain in school as long as possible. We will revisit this decision early and often, and at the appropriate time we will lift the requirement.

As a district, our scope of influence stretches far beyond Dale County. We must be mindful of the impact we have in other counties and communities. Our obligation is always to protect our students, staff, and stakeholders.

We will continue to institute safety protocols including social distancing, handwashing and sanitizing as well as deep cleaning of all affected surfaces and high traffic areas and masking is another safety precaution. We will monitor local, state, and national COVID data and make adjustments and amend the policy as needed.

We appreciate your cooperation and support during this time as we aim to serve our students, staff and community with excellence.

Please stay safe.

#ONEagle

Thank you,

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The Ozark City School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Natasha Allen, Section 504 Coordinator, 860 US Hwy 231 N, Ozark, AL 36360, (334) 774-5197 ext. 2540; email: nallen@ozarkcityschools.net