

Dr. Terry Ward
Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Elizabeth Kupiec
Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Khrystie Allen
Committee on Special Education Chairperson

February 28, 2022

Dear Cato-Meridian School District Community:

I hope you found time last week to rest, relax and spend some quality time with loved ones. Spring is just around the corner!

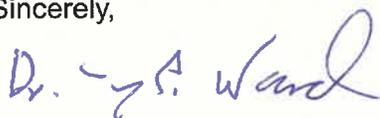
As you may know, Governor Hochul announced that ***the statewide mask mandate for schools will be lifted effective Wednesday, March 2, 2022.*** The Cayuga County Health Department has informed us they will be following the recommendations from the state and therefore supports the decision to not require masking in schools. We greatly appreciate all of the support, patience and understanding you have given us during these challenging times.

While this is yet another indicator that we are emerging from the grip of the pandemic, the Cayuga County Health Department continues to require school districts to reduce the spread of illness in our schools. Our district will continue to screen students and staff for illness and send them home if ill. We will continue physical distancing in classrooms and lunchrooms. We will continue enhanced cleaning when appropriate. Lastly, we will continue to test and follow protocols as appropriate. If you need a home test kit, please contact either the Elementary School Office or the Junior-Senior High School Office at 315-626-3439. When requested, we will send home additional home test kits for students and staff.

Here at Cato-Meridian School, I encourage families to help reinforce with their children the ***importance of respecting each individual's right to wear a mask or not from March 2nd and beyond.*** These conversations will help us maintain a respectful and productive learning environment throughout our school district. As you know, we do not tolerate bullying or harassment of any kind.

Again, welcome back from February break. Please continue to check our school website under the COVID tab for any additional updates.

Sincerely,



Dr. Terry L. Ward