



ADMIRAL PEARY AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL

www.ap.tec.pa.us

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Andrew K. Paronis
Executive Director

September 3, 2021

Dear Parents or Guardians,

In late August, the Admiral Peary Vocational-Technical School, Joint Operating Committee voted 9-0 to approve a Health and Safety Plan that made masks recommended but optional to sending school students. Since then, the Department of Health order requiring mask in k-12 was issued. PASA, Pennsylvania Association of School Administration and local solicitors reviewed this order and found it to be binding. In fact, the district could be liable for not enforcing it, could lose its insurance coverage, and individual teachers or administrators could lose their certifications for not enforcing this order. As the Executive Director, I can shoulder the responsibility for delivering bad news, but I cannot ask our teachers and administrative team to jeopardize their livelihoods.

On a positive note, I met with our teachers this afternoon, and each is developing plans for his or her program of study that will make this order less disruptive. Depending on the program of study:

- Open the garage doors for better ventilation periodically, continuing social distancing,
- Allowing frequent mask breaks when students can be separated 6+ feet and
- Allowing students to respire in the health room nurses office when needed.

Additionally, the mask order will ensure that virtually no contact tracing is necessary, students shouldn't need to quarantine or isolate just because a classmate seated near them test positive.

This is placing a lot of stress on teachers, who want nothing more than to educate your children, is unfair, and puts them in the middle of something they did not sign up for. I do encourage you to address your concerns with our state legislatures. Please go to our website, www.ap.tec.pa.us, to review additional information pertaining to the Department of Health's face covering mandate.

Thank you,

Mr. Andrew Paronis