

Family Feedback Form - Opening of School August 2021 (REDACTED Responses)

Which school(s) do your students attend? (please check all that apply)	What grade level(s) will your student(s) be in for the 2021-22 school year? (Please check all that apply)	What would you like to share with District 58 regarding the opening of school this fall?
Hillcrest	1st Grade, 4th Grade, 6th Grade	Anyone unvaccinated should wear masks. So preschool-6th graders should all wear masks until they are fully vaccinated. Do the right thing to keep kids, families, teachers, and staff safe by wearing masks for unvaccinated individuals. The Delta Variant is not something to take lightly. You won't regret stopping the spread.
O'Neill	7th Grade, 8th Grade	If middle school students are not vaccinated, they need to be required to wear a mask. If you don't want to say that, then everyone needs to be wearing a mask. Numbers are going back up again, so this just seems the safest way, and if you don't want to get into with parents who refuse to state if their child is vaccinated or not, then everyone wears one. We require other vaccines for attending school, why can't this be one too?
Indian Trail	Kindergarten, 1st Grade, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade, 4th Grade, 5th Grade, 6th Grade	I think mask wearing for unvaccinated individuals (including students) at elementary schools should be mandatory.
Fairmount	Kindergarten	Given every agency strongly recommends that kids who are too young to be vaccinated be masked, there should not even be a question. Especially given the fact there will be no remote option. For everyone's safety, kids under 12 need to be masked. Please stop letting the loud minority who do not follow the science dictate policy.
Lester	6th Grade	I am in support of no masks for kids at school.
El Sierra	1st Grade	
Fairmount	2nd Grade	Can we please consider teachers who are vaccinated for it not to be mandatory to wear masks? Even if in an elementary building, because that would be similar requirements for the middle school buildings.
Kingsley	2nd Grade	I support "mask optional"
Hillcrest	6th Grade	I believe all elementary school children should be required to wear masks. If kids are not wearing masks, I'm not sure I'm comfortable sending my son to school. I will get him vaccinated as soon as I am allowed, but until then I believe it is your duty to protect him as much as possible by requiring masks for him and those around him. I believe the mask policy should stay in place until two or three months after shots are made available for kids under 12. Thank you for all of time and thought you've put into making tough decisions during the pandemic. Your efforts are noticed and appreciated.
Hillcrest	4th Grade	let the parents decide if their own kids need to wear masks. My son hates them and it affected his ability to be engaged and his excitement was average at best. Enough already.
Hillcrest	5th Grade	I believe at the elementary level students should still wear masks until this age group has the opportunity to be vaccinated.
Fairmount	6th Grade	Masks should be worn by everyone. Some staff haven't been vaccinated and all k-5 have not. Still in a pandemic. Kids are flexible and just want to be in school.
Hillcrest	6th Grade	I hope that students in the elementary school will continue to be masked since they are ineligible to be vaccinated at this time. It seems like the responsible thing to do. However, I support vaccinated staff to be unmasked. Thank you for the communication and welcoming parent feedback.
Lester	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	I appreciate the careful thought and planning that the district is doing prior to the start of the year. I agree that there is still time to decide how to address mask wearing for elementary school kids. Many districts have rushed to a decision prematurely.
Lester	5th Grade	
Highland	2nd Grade	Masks should be required amongst all students, especially those who are unvaccinated. Mutual mask wearing has been shown to reduce spread of Covid
El Sierra	6th Grade	Kids that cannot be vaccinated because of age are at risk. Please do the safe thing and require masks at the elementary. These kids don't have any choice and are vulnerable. We must be proactive in protecting them! It won't be forever, vaccine approval for them is on the horizon. Please do not risk making this a choice.
Whittier, Herrick	3rd Grade, 7th Grade	Middle school unmask elementary mask
Kingsley	1st Grade, 3rd Grade	I fully support the boards decision on this upcoming school year. I hope we can all agree that the students need to be in class this year. Additionally, no matter what the view point is on mask wearing, I believe that anyone who isn't vaccinated or under the age of 12 should be required to wear a mask. Clearly COVID isn't going away, the only way to slow it down it to take necessary precautions. However, while outside or in Gym class, I believe students should be allowed to remove the mask and keep social distancing.
Herrick	8th Grade	Hoping for Sports to be played
Kingsley	3rd Grade	Mask free for those who wish to send their children without masks but honestly at this point in person learning is the priority so if that requires masks to be the safest options then you have our full support! Thank you for your transparency and continued exceptional leadership as a district!

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Highland	3rd Grade, 5th Grade	Masking has to be mandatory.
Fairmount	1st Grade, 4th Grade	I think the guidance for students 12 and older is very logical. As elementary students have not had the chance for vaccination, mask wearing is essential to keep our students safe. My kids need to go back to school, but our family will be forced to home school if masks are not required until vaccination is available. I understand others' frustration with requiring masks, but that frustration cannot outweigh our commitment to students' health and safety. Best of luck navigating this, I'm sure it's immensely stressful.
Indian Trail	6th Grade, 8th Grade	I am in full support of optional and all levels. I fully respect all decisions being made. Thank you for all of your efforts.
O'Neill	8th Grade	No masks and let kids enjoy a normal school year.
Indian Trail	1st Grade, 3rd Grade, 6th Grade	Please make masks optional!!! Not mandatory!
Whittier, Herrick	4th Grade, 7th Grade	I would like to see students wearing masks as school returns. I know it isn't ideal, but it is a good way to help slow the spread of COVID (as well as other illnesses). Students under 12 years old cannot be vaccinated yet and I want all students to be safe at school.
Lester	Kindergarten	Masks must be mandatory for all children ineligible to get the vaccine. I am a single mother who nearly died of COVID-19 last fall with hospitalization. I have since been vaccinated but even so, breakthrough cases are possible. When you send unvaccinated people (children) to gather in large groups in small spaces you are ADDING to the problem and continuing the longevity of the pandemic. PLEASE make mask wearing mandatory until we are able to get our children ages 5-12 vaccinated if we choose to do so. I cannot afford to become reinfected (and may not survive) if my child is exposed based on what other children's and their families do at home. I do not wish to be exposed to another family's risky behavior because the schools are not enforcing ways that children can be protected. ALSO - if you are not going to offer remote learning instruction as an option, you need to create an environment where all children can learn as safely as possible. If children are not wearing masks, I would like to see a remote option available. It only makes sense. As a side note - my child's pediatrician office did not have one single case of the flu last year. Masks work.
Fairmount	5th Grade	I would like to have masks required for elementary schools as the students have not been vaccinated
Hillcrest	Kindergarten, 3rd Grade, 5th Grade	Do not want them to wear masks!!
Highland	3rd Grade, 5th Grade	Please make masks optional for all students regardless of age.
Whittier	Kindergarten, 6th Grade	I am strongly against removing the mask requirement for students under 12 yrs until such time that a vaccine choice is available for all students. Not all students can be seated 3 feet or more apart, especially those receiving IEP services such as 1:1 instructional aides, resource support, small group work etc. Not all students, especially the youngest students such as kindergarten or those with disabilities, have the capacity to respect each other's personal space, use sanitizer, not share personal materials etc. Masks were an effective mitigation strategy last school year and with case numbers of the Delta variant on the rise nationally, it seems premature not to support the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation to continue this prevention strategy.
El Sierra	1st Grade	Please no mandatory masks for children under the age of 12. They have suffered enough already having to go through it for a year. Thank you
Lester	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade, 4th Grade	I strongly prefer the kids not to be made to wear masks and I ask that wearing a mask be voluntary for each family as they see fit. Starting the school year is typically still warm weather and wearing a mask all day would be difficult especially for those with breathing problems, such as asthma or allergies.
Whittier	3rd Grade	Please review mask criteria, hoping masks can be optional as we learn more about covid. Obvious but on my mind :)
Highland	5th Grade	Please require students who can not be vaccinated (i.e. under age 12) to wear masks.
Pierce Downer	Kindergarten	Thank you for your hard work navigating a tricky environment! We will support whatever decision is made regarding masks for the under 12 group. I would like to take the opportunity to provide my family's preference as well as our reasoning: In my experience, kids wearing masks rarely, if ever, wear them properly so I don't believe it's an effective mitigation strategy. Additionally, studies show that cloth masks are not effective at blocking transmission. Finally, I believe that kids are more likely to touch their nose, eyes, and mouth when wearing/adjusting masks which could lead to higher risk of transmitting all disease (not just Covid). Due to the above, we would prefer that masks for under 12 years old remain optional.
Kingsley	6th Grade	Thank you for providing the opportunity to give feedback. We look forward to receiving further guidance.
Kingsley	6th Grade	Start the school year on time, no matter when or what your decision is about the mask wearing. And if the rest of my family has been vaccinated, if any of the rest of us gets sick I don't think we should have to report the sickness to District 58. My daughter will be 12 in February - she will get vaccinated as soon as she is allowed to get the vaccine. She will be the last family member to get one and we are ready to move on. I agree that once vaccinated, she should be able to attend school maskless.

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Herrick	8th Grade	I would like each family to have the choice regarding masks for middle school aged kids
Pierce Downer	1st Grade	I would like mask wearing to be optional.
Hillcrest	4th Grade, 6th Grade	In light of the continuing pandemic and spread of the contagious Delta variant, I sincerely hope that masks will be required for any unvaccinated students (which would be the vast majority of students at the elementary level). The spread of Covid was well controlled in our schools last year with the implementation of six foot distancing and masks. With the removal of the six foot spacing, I believe that the use of masks will remain an essential component in keeping the spread of Covid to a minimum. I understand that wearing masks all day is not ideal, however, the students proved that they are adaptable and quickly became used to wearing them throughout the school day. Even my daughter, who has special needs, had adapted well to wearing a mask. I look forward to the day when masks are a distant memory- I have no love for them and wish they were no longer necessary. However, we are far from finished with Covid and it seems unwise at this point to abandon safeguards. Perhaps we will be in a better position later in the school year, and masks will no longer be necessary.
Pierce Downer	1st Grade	I would like mask wearing to be optional
Belle Aire	1st Grade, 3rd Grade	<p>The CDC has issued guidance that masks aren't "required" for adults or those vaccinated within schools. However, science shows the low transmission rate and symptoms for children. Please use common sense when making recommendations for this fall. Give parents back the right to make the best decision for their families. My children are going all summer without masks at camp, swimming, sports, and other activities. We have been given back the opportunity as parents to make our own decision about masks by these organizations. There is no logic for going back to masks in school this fall. School districts are not beholden to any of the guidelines released by the CDC, ISBH or county health department. In fact, there are already districts in our state that have made the choice to give parents the OPTION to send their children to school in masks. Furthermore, there are superintendents in DuPage County that are pursuing a mask optional school year. I expect district 58, which is supported by my tax dollars, to finally give me back my rights as a parent to make the best decision for my children. I know you want what's best for our community, but respecting the rights of our families should be number one.</p> <p>I am fully confident in the school districts ability to maintain reasonable health and safety measures for the upcoming school year. Considering the exceptionally high vaccination rates in our county and immediate area, I am in full support of a MASK OPTIONAL school year for elementary aged children. My child should not bear the burden of keeping anyone "safe." Children have the lowest risk for this virus and they should not continue to hold the most responsibility for public safety. I have the right as a parent to determine whether or not I want my child to wear a mask in school or any other situation. I implore you to make this logical decision which respects the rights of all in our community - to make the best decision for their respective families. Thank you for your time.</p>
Herrick	8th Grade	I think masks should be mandatory regardless of vaccine status.
Whittier	4th Grade	I would like to promote masking up for all of the district, especially with no remote education option. Vaccinated students can still pass the virus to unvaccinated students—including families with children in elementary and middle schools. Popularity should not stand in the way of science or our children's and teachers' health and safety. Please let us be the district that faces tough decisions and chooses for the good of all.
Belle Aire	2nd Grade	Please keep the mask mandate for kids that have not had the opportunity to get vaccinated yet. I know the decision will be a hard one and will have people divided, but it is the most safe position for all kids until they can get the vaccine.
Kingsley	2nd Grade, 4th Grade	No masks
Hillcrest	5th Grade	My daughter is in the DLP program and needs many supports. She is too young to get vaccinated and struggles with a mask. How will the staff be allowed to interact with her and for how long? Last year she was able to be in person for about an hour daily. If that is still the case and there is no remote instruction, what are we to do?
Fairmount	2nd Grade	<p>If you're not vaccinated, you should wear a mask. Why is this even a debate? If parents don't want their unvaccinated kids to wear a mask, find a cootie corner to put them in so they don't breathe on my kids.</p> <p>It would be awesome if teachers and staff would also wear masks in a show of solidarity for the unvaccinated, especially as new and different variants of COVID become prevalent.</p> <p>Who knows, maybe mandatory masks will help cut down on the general transmission of "run of the mill" colds and flus that run rampant through elementary schools.</p>
Highland	3rd Grade, 5th Grade	Please make masks optional for all ages.
Fairmount	1st Grade, 4th Grade	Please allow for volunteers to work in the classrooms/schools this year. Please consider no masking wearing for people that are vaccinated (teachers/parents). Please encourage families to see the classrooms, as new families did not see the school at all last year.
Lester	Kindergarten	I completely support a mask mandate for elementary schools where children are not yet eligible for a vaccination. My son is currently in pre-school and everyone is required to wear masks all day (except when eating) and there are no issues. If it saves the life of one student, then it is worth it.

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Lester	Kindergarten	If the district is deciding between the two, I would prefer my child wear a mask if that means she can experience a more complete Kindergarten experience. Including the opening of all rooms, activities, and experiences. It seems more important that the children are able to learn and grow as they would have normally, if the other difference is wearing a mask, so be it. Thank you for considering!
Highland	3rd Grade, 6th Grade	Masks should be required at a *minimum* for elementary schools where the vast majority of kids have not had a chance to get vaccinated. Considering this lack of vaccination in addition to the fact that other mitigations like 6' physical distancing aren't being implemented, I am confused as to why optional masking is even being considered. I am happy that, in the past, the district has followed the guidance of local health departments and school organizations. DCHD, IDPH, the AAP, and ISBE are all saying masks should be worn in schools, especially by those under 12. If masks are made optional, it is clear that, rather than listening to medical and public health professionals, the district is listening to a loud minority of parents who do not follow science.
Belle Aire	2nd Grade, 5th Grade	I think masks should be required for all unvaccinated people in school

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Hillcrest	6th Grade	<p>July 24, 2021 Dear Governor Pritzker, IL Government Officials, ISBE, IDPH, IL School Boards, and School Administrators: As various 2021-2022 school year plans are being proposed and announced, we are outlining the following concerns regarding liabilities of any policy that may violate The Health Care Conscience Act, F.E.R.P.A., and various other constitutional rights and protections.</p> <p>1) Policy requiring facial masking and/or Covid-19 injection: Any policy that requires students to wear facial mask/shield or to receive the Covid-19 injection for access to education is a violation of the Healthcare Conscience Act1 (745 ILCS 70/5) (from Ch. 111 1/2, par. 5305). Sec. 5. Discrimination. It shall be unlawful for any person, public or private institution, or public official to discriminate against any person in any manner, including but not limited to, licensing, hiring, promotion, transfer, staff appointment, hospital, managed care entity, or any other privileges, because of such person's conscientious refusal to receive, obtain, accept, perform, assist, counsel, suggest, recommend, refer or participate in any way in any particular form of health care services contrary to his or her conscience. (Source: P.A. 90-246, eff. 1-1-98.) Students/minors attending schools are to be afforded at the very least, the same protections applied to an employed adult, and arguably, even greater protections. Should a minor student, adult student, and/or their discerning legal guardians deem facial masking/shield use and/or Covid-19 vaccination is contrary to their conscience, any policy that requires said minors/students be masked and/or vaccinated for access to education in Illinois is a violation of the Healthcare Conscience Act. It is worth noting prominent health expert, Dr. Harvey Risch2, Yale Professor of Epidemiology, stated on July 19, 2021 that masking is "damaging to the kids and it's all theater" (in response to the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation to mask children).</p> <p>2) Policy requiring contact tracing and/or quarantining of minors: Any policy that requires students to be viral tested or be quarantined or isolated is a violation of the Department of Public Health Act3 (20 ILCS 2305) unless: a) A parent/Guardian provides consent or b) Order of a court is issued (emails or phone calls from school personnel is not a court order).</p> <p>3) Policy requiring facial masks/shielding of un-vaccinated students: Any policy that requires un- vaccinated students to utilize facial shield or mask is a violation of F.E.R.P.A.4 Page 1/2</p> <p>According to the Joint Guidance on the Application of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) And the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) To Student Health Records: "The term 'education records' is defined to mean, with certain exceptions, those records that are: (1) directly related to a student, and (2) maintained by an educational agency or institution or by a party acting for the agency or institution. 20 U.S.C. § 1232g(a)(4)(A); 34 CFR § 99.3 (definition of "education records"). For instance, a student's health records, including immunization records, maintained by an educational agency or institution (such as by an elementary or secondary school nurse) would generally constitute education records subject to FERPA." It is apparent to our organization that numerous IL policy-makers are deploying various forms of government overreach that may result in violation of state and/or federal law. Consequently, in order to be an effective social- welfare organization, we are sharing this statement with fellow citizens and government agencies. In doing so, we aim to mitigate attempts by the state of Illinois to engage in student rights, health rights, and privacy rights as sovereignty. We request that school boards and administrators (both public and private) respect that guidance from the CDC, ISBE, and IDPH does not equate to mandate. Under Title 23 of the Administrative Code5, the Illinois State Board of Education is not in a position to force, reward, or threaten any school district/local board of education regarding said agency guidance. The same rule applies to ISBE on any stipulated guidance. On July 23, 2021, Governor Pritzker issued the 19th Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation6. That same day, our state recorded7 a 7-day average of 1,122 Covid-19 cases, which is 0.00877797% of all 12.782 million Illinoisans. Per the most recent Executive Order issued by the Illinois Governor the following question is left unanswered by many Illinoisans: If Illinois is to be in the final "Restored" Phase 5 of the Covid government plan, why has the Governor issued the 19th Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation? As an organization representing thousands of IL parents and tax-payers, we implore that your leadership reflect support of parental consent, civil rights, and all liberties protected by the laws, regulations, and constitution of Illinois and the United States of America. Please lead Illinois from an ill-proclaimed "disaster" to a state that is ready to prudently educate our youth, to protect the elderly/high risk populations, and to prosper. Respectfully, Awake Illinois www.awakeIL.com</p>
Belle Aire	1st Grade	<p>Please have a mask mandate until vaccinations are offered for elementary aged children. CPS has a mask mandate now and our 3 year old in daycare/preschool is happy to wear his mask all day while indoors and not eating. Keep this community safe and please mandate mask wearing!</p>

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Fairmount Pierce Downer	4th Grade, 6th Grade 6th Grade	I am happy to see that school will return to as normal an experience as possible. That said, I strongly encourage the BOE and Superintendent Russell to implement mandatory universal masking for elementary school students (at a minimum those who are under 12 and cannot be vaccinated). Students adapted very well to wearing masks and it is not a hardship for them. It is worth the minor inconvenience to ensure that they all remain healthy and protected from the Delta variant and other dangerous strains that may emerge throughout the year. Once all students are able to be vaccinated, I would be comfortable lifting that mandate, but until then, please take this important step to keep our kids safe. In addition, the level of anxiety about Covid is very high for many students and the simple act of requiring masks can go a long way to alleviating that. Wearing masks does not harm children, but not wearing them certainly can. I trust that you will do everything in your power to protect our kids and make this decision based on science and reasonable precaution (not politics). I sincerely hope and believe that my trust in you is well-placed. Thank you for all your hard work and the thought and care you put into this and everything you do.
Highland, Indian Trail	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	I think making masks optional for students and faculty will be everyone's worse nightmare in the long run. I'll be surprised if we make it to Christmas break without having to shutdown. CDC strongly recommends individuals vaccinated and non vaccinated to start wearing masks. Cases are on the rise, icu's are filling by the hour. This virus does not care if you are vaccinated or not "no one" is safe from it. Research it! You and the board are making a major mistake if masks become optional. This will have repercussions. My daughter or son will not be experimental lab rats and will not be vaccinated and that'll be fun when they are told to wear a mask by mom and dad but yet will see others are not. Or being bullied for wearing them. Your decisions are putting our children at great risk. Very disappointed on were this is headed. From the sounds of this email I already know where this is going.
Lester	1st Grade	As of late July, the CDC recommends "Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated." Since Lester students are younger than 12 and--at the time of the school year beginning--not yet eligible for vaccination, I strongly support D58 following the expert recommendations of scientists and specialists.
Pierce Downer	Kindergarten, 1st Grade	Our family strongly prefers that masks not be required for elementary aged students. Available data underscores that young children are unlikely to get sick from Covid and are unlikely to transmit Covid. Allowing each family to choose whether to mask respects individual risk calculations without imposing a burdensome physical requirement on all small children. Particularly for children who are learning phonics and reading, being able to see and properly hear the formation of sounds without being hampered by masks is critical. And the social connection and skills that are critical to early education are also hampered by mandatory mask-wearing for all. We understand there will always be pressure to take the most risk-averse strategy, but given the wide availability of vaccines, asking children to indefinitely bear the cost of community transmission to and among adults is misplaced. We have several immunocompromised family members for whom even vaccine protection is not enough, so we understand that the vaccine is not a panacea for all risks and that protecting everyone is important. But after a year where our smallest people bore some of the biggest costs of the pandemic, in spite of limited risks to themselves, we feel strongly that continuing to mask is not scientifically justified (in spite of the CDC's recent reversal) and is not best for our kids or our community. Thank you for taking the time to listen and consider this feedback.
Whittier	2nd Grade	Please follow the guidance that you claim to be following. The latest IDPH and ISBE School FAQs clearly state: "Masks for unvaccinated persons are the most effective measure to prevent transmission. The CDC strongly recommends that masks should be worn by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated when indoors." This includes our student population younger than 12 years old, who are not yet eligible for vaccination. Please follow the guidance and stop prolonging this as a political debate.
Henry Puffer	2nd Grade	Please make mask wearing for under age 12 100% optional. The children are at risk wearing a mask. If the vulnerable population is now vaccinated they are protected. Please stop putting masks on our children!
Henry Puffer	3rd Grade	Very concerned about healthy of younger children as we see numbers increase in young children.
Lester	Kindergarten	I encourage you to follow the example of the Downers Grove Public Library, which requires that masks be worn by everyone in the Kids Room "until our youngest patrons are eligible for vaccination." At the Fry Family YMCA preschool, my daughter, her classmates and their teachers wore masks all year and met in person all year. They thrived and had fewer colds/flu than usual because everyone wore masks and washed their hands frequently. My employer (REDACTED) requires proof of vaccination if I wish to be exempted from weekly Covid testing. I hope you have similar protocols for your staff so our unvaccinated little ones stay safe. I appreciate your commitment to our community. Please continue to follow science-based health and safety guidelines, especially as the vaccination rates stagnate, and new strains of Covid-19 threaten the reopening we've enjoyed this summer. Thank you.

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Belle Aire, Herrick	2nd Grade, 4th Grade, 8th Grade	<p>The CDC clearly states "Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained."</p> <p>There is nothing unclear or vague here. The CDC says children who are unvaccinated should be wearing masks indoors. If mask-wearing is not mandatory for the unvaccinated, they will continue to spread the virus throughout the schools, families, and community. Districts have required proof of vaccinations for years and this is no different. Children who have immune issues, or who have family members with immune issues will not be able to go to school safely if they are exposed to unvaccinated and unmasked people. The pandemic will go on even longer.</p> <p>I am disappointed that the school district is delaying a decision on elementary students wearing masks and not making mask wearing mandatory for unvaccinated older students. Wearing a mask may be a minor annoyance, but keeping children healthy and stopping the spread of covid should be the priority. The CDC guidance is clear and yet the district chooses not to follow it, putting everyone at greater risk.</p>
El Sierra	1st Grade, 4th Grade	With vaccines not being available for children under 12, masks need to be mandatory. This is the safest option for all and provides the most equitable access to public education during this pandemic.
Henry Puffer	Kindergarten, 5th Grade	Normal as much as possible
Fairmount	Kindergarten, 3rd Grade	If the decision is for masks optional at the elementary level, even if a vaccine is approved for those under 12, I certainly hope that the following statement from the middle school plan will apply: "The District will allow anyone to wear a mask if they prefer, regardless of vaccination status." My kids have no problem wearing masks, and I intend to have them keep doing so until this is all over - but I honestly don't care if they are required, as long as they are allowed.
Lester, Grove Children's Preschool	Preschool, Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	School should resume as normal instruction and schedule, however who ever is not vaccinated should be required to wear a mask indoors, and social distancing should take place during lunch and snack. School staff should have to wear a mask if not vaccinated.
Whittier	1st Grade, 2nd Grade, 6th Grade	I'd love to see masks required due to the variant and the lack of vaccination opportunity for children under 12.
Henry Puffer, Herrick	4th Grade, 6th Grade, 7th Grade	No masks.
Hillcrest	1st Grade	I feel very strongly that masks should be required in all schools, but especially in elementary schools.
Lester	6th Grade	Masks need to be required indoors at the elementary level, as they are the primary prevention strategy to stop the spread of COVID in the absence of vaccines for this age group. This is supported by the CDC and AAP. Please make this mandatory. We want to go back to school and have it be as normal as possible, but we need to also do it as safely as possible to protect those at home, at school, and in the community who are vulnerable. The delta variant is different, so please take into account that things are not equivalent to when we left school in June.
El Sierra	1st Grade, 4th Grade	Make masks mandatory for elementary. It is simple. Please do the right thing for all!
Lester, Herrick	5th Grade, 8th Grade	I think we know that this virus does not spread very frequently between Elementary school children below the age of 12. When looking at risk versus benefit, the benefit of the social interaction of seeing someone's face and being able to hear and talk and emotionally exchange and develop verbal skills in elementary children under the age of 12 outweighs the risk of any Covid transmission. These kids are moving about in the community and places of business unmasked and essentially back to normal, and I don't think the school setting should be any different. The schools, teachers and staff should focus on the education of children and what would help them reach their greatest potential instead of being consumed with masking and distancing and quarantines. If the schools want to get into that business then they should make it mandatory for all teachers and staff to be vaccinated.
Indian Trail	Kindergarten, 4th Grade	Thank you so much for all of your efforts to support our children. I know your have worked tirelessly and often with little thanks. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. While my hope is that all children that aren't vaccinated will be required to wear one inside, my children will attend masked until vaccinated whatever the final decision by school leadership (one of my children has comprised health). I also hope students that are visibly ill won't be able to attend until tested. Finally, I hope there will be some SEL support led by the wonderful teachers should students not be required to wear masks. Masks have become so political among adults, I would hate to see it spill over into the classrooms/playgrounds. I wish you well as you continue to make these tough decisions. Please know the Lawrence Family is cheering for you and grateful for you.
Whittier, Herrick	5th Grade, 8th Grade	I encourage you to err on the side of being conservative (specifically around distancing and mask wearing). As you mentioned, there will people unhappy with whatever you decide. I'd rather have people unhappy and healthy over unhappy and sick. Thank you for continuing to work so hard for our kids!
Fairmount	6th Grade	Masks for unvaccinated


Family Feedback Form - Opening of School August 2021 (REDACTED Responses)

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Lester, Herrick Lester	3rd Grade, 8th Grade 6th Grade	The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends masks in schools regardless of vaccination status. The CDC is expected to recommend the same in the coming days. I may have misread Dr. Russell's latest email but it is my understanding that unvaccinated students will only be "encouraged" to wear masks. Do we really think most unvaccinated students are going to wear a mask? The administration needs to stop worrying about the "passionate views" on both sides. Experts should be the only ones guiding these decisions. Unfortunately, the overwhelming number of people with passionate views are not doctors or scientists. We are doing an extreme disservice to our students when we allow the bullies to have a bigger voice than the experts.
Highland, Indian Trail	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	This year is a very different ballgame .You can't control the Delta variant and the vulnerable are most of the kids in grammar schools . Preschool through 6 grade who are unvaccinated. This is not like last year! we don't know how sick kids can get with this Delta. This year is not the time to play games our kids health is at stake. unvaccinated adults who get sick it's on them .. their choice ... but there is no ' one person in a family gets sick and the others don't like last year . One person gets Delta and everyone in the family gets it including children and every other person they were with. This will never end.
Henry Puffer, Herrick	5th Grade, 7th Grade	Just a sincere thanks for great communication and doing your best with the guidance you receive. I'm sure there are lots of passionate opinions coming your way, so I hope that when you see this it brings a smile to your face knowing that my family and I are grateful for your work!
Indian Trail	1st Grade, 3rd Grade	I would like the district to err on the side of caution and have masks required at the start of the school year. The unvaccinated children under 12 at an elementary school and with the Delta (and Gamma) variants spreading primarily among the unvaccinated community, I feel it would be prudent for the district to think of the good of all of the public until vaccinations are available to those under 12 to prevent spread within the school. Spread happens more in indoor situations than outdoor. Spread happens less with proper mask wearing. I'm asking the district to be cautious and prevent the spread of the Covid virus and its variants... as well as colds and flush, and keep all the kids and our households as virus free as possible with the extra precautions of masks.
Fairmount	1st Grade, 4th Grade	There is absolutely no way that we should make masks optional for our elementary schools. Every single document listed in the district email and pediatricians, etc. says that everyone who is not vaccinated should continue to wear masks indoors to protect themselves, their families, and those who are medically unable to get vaccinated. It is absolutely mandatory that our elementary schools remain masked. After all we have done this past year to keep safe and to follow guidelines, I'm surprised we would even consider another option. Dr. Russell has clearly stated we are not experts on the virus - we need to follow the overwhelming recommendation to keep our 12 and under children and families safe. I have spoken to many parents and our kids are adaptable and totally used to wearing masks; it's a few parents who speak out that are having the issue. As stated, they are not medical experts and should not dictate how we keep our families safe because they are not taking others or the community at large into consideration. I IMPLORE you to continue to make the right decision based on all the CDC, IDPH, and DCHD recommendations to keep our children masked. The AAP's recommendation is that everyone older than age 2 wear masks, regardless of vaccination status even. Thank you for all your work this year!
Kingsley, O'Neill	3rd Grade, 6th Grade, 8th Grade	I firmly believe that the number one goal for our students is that they are able to return to the classroom and make it as "normal" as possible for them. The students need some semblance of normalcy especially for their social well-being. We know that the next year is going to be difficult for everyone but if they can be in a room with their teacher and their classmates that is what is truly best for our students. Our 8th graders also need an opportunity to feel what Junior High is suppose to look like before entering high school. The need lockers, classroom changes, etc. In regards to masking I feel that the district can make a "recommendation" but that the final decision should be left up to the parents as long as the cases/transmission rates are not at an unsafe level. Everyone has been making masking decisions for their families for the past year and a half, while also respecting the policies put in place by the state. If a family wants their child to always be masked regardless of vaccination status that should be a decision left to them and what their family is comfortable with. I would also like the district to try and explain what their quarantining procedures and policies are going to be for the upcoming school year if they are able. I know that a lot of that information is not out as of this point, but I think for families that is going to play a large role in some of the decisions over the next six weeks or so.
Henry Puffer	3rd Grade, 5th Grade	Please, for the safety of our children who cannot yet be vaccinated, require universal masks for elementary school at least until the vaccine is approved for elementary-aged children (and then for another 6 weeks to give the kids a chance to be fully vaccinated). This is in line with all current guidance in the best way to prevent transmission. Masks do not protect the wearer nearly as much as two-way masks do, so optional masking won't help my child much if he or she is wearing a mask and an unmasked classmate has COVID. Masks will also help to drastically reduce absences from school and interruption of learning, since the ISBE guidance does not require quarantining if both children are wearing masks. Without a remote option, there will be huge interruptions in learning for close contacts without masks.

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Lester	Kindergarten	My son is entering kindergarten. I wanted to voice my support for required masking of students under 12 years of age. My son wore a mask at preschool last year and it was not a detriment to his learning, development or socialization. In fact I think it was a good lesson for him in being a responsible citizen and good neighbor putting the overall good above a small inconvenience to himself. In addition with the dominance of the delta variant which is much more contagious, now is not the time to be adding risk to our youngest children. The CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics both have issued guidance that all unvaccinated people over the age of 2 should be wearing masks indoors in school. In addition the AAP guidance goes further and recommends mask wearing by everyone in schools regardless of vaccine status. Giving this guidance, the least we should require is that those children under 12 who don't have the option to be vaccinated all wear masks at least until they have the opportunity to receive the vaccine. We want our son to have a good school experience, but wearing a mask does not take away from that. We have an even younger child at home, as many families of elementary school children do and we want to protect her as well as she is also too young to be vaccinated. I know it is a tough decision , with dissenting opinions, but with the Delta variant taking over I really hope you will follow the guidance and mandate masks for the elementary students. Thank you for your time.
Highland, Herrick	6th Grade, 7th Grade	Masks should be 100% mandatory for both elementary and middle school. Anyone watching the news realizes the risk of the Delta variant and masks are essential in protecting our children.
Highland	Kindergarten, 3rd Grade, 6th Grade	Excited for in person instruction and our children will continue to wear masks if and until this pandemic is truly in the rear view mirror.
Fairmount	Kindergarten	I am in support of elementary students wearing masks, at least until vaccines become available to them.
Whittier	2nd Grade, 6th Grade	Please make masks optional.
Whittier	3rd Grade	Please require masks for children to stay safe
Lester	4th Grade	Mask wearing in elementary school
Pierce Downer	3rd Grade	The guidelines suggest that anyone not vaccinated wear a mask. If the board isn't able to stand up for the safety of the people who can't be vaccinated due to age or medical conditions, they should be ashamed of themselves.
Hillcrest	1st Grade	<p>A couple of things - my child will not be eligible to be vaccinated at the start of the school year. She is under 12 years old. I'm wondering what the school might be doing to promote ventilation within the school? Filtering and air circulation has been found to be very beneficial in reducing the potential viral load that could be passed from one person to another indoors. (Since COVID-19 is passed through the air.)</p> <p>My brother works in environmental health and he has been helping businesses and office address indoor air quality. Apparently there is a relatively simple and inexpensive solution that involves a box fan and filters. (One article about this can be found here: https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/blog/how-to-diy-an-air-purifier/)</p> <p>Also, my daughter has no trouble wearing a mask. She has been masking all summer long for summer camp and we continue to mask with her when we are in stores and restaurants (even though her father and I are fully vaccinated). Until all children can be vaccinated and the Delta strain of the virus is under control, my vote would be to take the road of caution and ask that children mask when indoors and school. I so appreciate that this is a tough situation. We very much want our daughter to be able to have a productive school year - in person where everyone can be kept healthy and safe. Thank you!</p>
Belle Aire, Pierce Downer	1st Grade, 5th Grade	Parents should have a choice if they wish to mask or not. School should leave it up to the parents discretions just like our church has, sunday school, gymnastics, choir, stores, restauratnts etc.--they let the parent decide what goes on with their kids. let the parents and guardians assess the risk. I hope the schools are prepared also how they will accomodate the religious expemptions and the med exmptions. many are looking into if Masks are not optional - our kids deserve an education. Keep the politics out of it - let paretrns assess the risk for their kids. School should be ready to have all scenarios for those with exemptions.. it's coming. Please do the right thing. Masks optional.
Lester	4th Grade	The guidance from the AAP, CDC and IDPH is crystal clear. Unvaccinated individuals should still wear masks indoor. Our kids under 12 don't even have an option of being vaccinated yet. Taking away the mask requirement for them is dangerous. Unfortunately, this age group developmentally care about fitting in and do not want to stand out. If masking is optional, you will be forcing them to choose between their mental health and physical health. How can a school do that to a child? And given remote learning is not even an option, you would be taking away all measures of protection. Children under 12 should be required to wear masks until the vaccine is available to them.
Fairmount	1st Grade, 3rd Grade	Masks should be mandatory until elementary kids can be vaccinated

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Henry Puffer	2nd Grade	<p>First off, I'd like to thank the superintendent, and the staff and faculty at Henry Puffer for their clear communication and adherence to CDC guidelines ensuring that everyone had a safe and successful 2020/2021 school year despite all the challenges presented. I'm thankful that kids were able to head back to in-person learning with safety protocols in place.</p> <p>I understand there is still about a month left until school resumes and things might change before then, but given the fact that the Delta variant is on the rise & children under 12 are unable to be vaccinated at this time, I am 100% on board with masks continuing to be required for elementary age children, faculty and staff. The CDC just today has now recommended that masks be worn again for vaccinated individuals in certain situations, urging universal masking for all teachers, staff and students in schools regardless of vaccination status. I know it's not ideal, I know masks are a pain, I for one, have reveled in the fact that after being fully vaccinated in most situations I no longer mask, however, to protect our children, I believe that masking should be required as school resumes.</p> <p>I'm concerned about what the certification/testing guidance is going to be as well. I'm hoping it will be similar to how it was in the spring, with required daily certifications and a required negative COVID test if a child is displaying symptoms. I felt like that protocol curbed any outbreaks at the elementary schools.</p> <p>I, like many other parents I'm sure, am very eager to hear what the decisions will be on how to best navigate yet another school year with COVID-19 as a part of it. Thanks for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Best, </p>
Kingsley	2nd Grade	No masks. That is what my son hates most about going to school.
Pierce Downer	3rd Grade	The guidelines suggest that anyone not vaccinated wear a mask. If the board isn't able to stand up for the safety of the people who can't be vaccinated due to age or medical conditions, they should be ashamed of themselves.
Lester	2nd Grade	I highly recommend elementary schools continue with mandatory masking in light of the growing cases from the delta variant, which is much more infectious and virulent, especially in the younger population, than the mother virus. Hopefully once the vaccine is available to the elementary age group, masking restrictions may be eased. Thank you.
Indian Trail	4th Grade	I would highly recommend mandated masks at the elementary level. According to all the recommendations, that is necessary for our younger students at this time.
Hillcrest	2nd Grade, 5th Grade	I would prefer that mask wearing be mandatory for all kids given that they cannot yet be vaccinated.
Pierce Downer	2nd Grade, 5th Grade	Children should not have to wear a face mask. We will not be vaccinating our kids who are both under 12. Masking and vaccination for children should be personal family decisions.
Henry Puffer, Grove Children's Preschool	Preschool, 1st Grade	I would be VERY uncomfortable if masks were not mandated in elementary schools as these students are not yet eligible for vaccination. I really hope given the delta variant and range of safety measures family take outside of school that we will require masks in school to offer more protection. Please consider these concerns as we don't yet know long term consequence of this illness on developing systems (rheumatic fever in childhood can cause heart conditions in adulthood, chickenpox virus can cause shingles in adulthood, etc). Thank you!
Highland	1st Grade, 3rd Grade	Hello! I know there are so many factors to consider for this school year. I completely understand the situation- it must be like attempting to catch a wave. I would like to share my support for masks in the elementary schools. My husband and I are vaccinated but my two children, ages 6 and almost 9, are not due to age. Because of that when we go Target the kids wear masks; at the library they wear masks; at Jewel they wear masks. Why should school be any different? Once they are vaccinated, sure masks can be optional. Just like the policies for the middle schools and high schools. That makes sense. Let's keep these kids healthy and in school, and leave masks on until they can receive their vaccines. Thank you for your time!
Pierce Downer, Herrick	4th Grade, 7th Grade	There are so many unknowns and challenges with this entire disaster, and I appreciate the tireless efforts of the administration to try to keep our staff and students safe. I'm concerned about new reports stating that those vaccinated in January are already contracting covid at a higher rate. At some point a booster is going to be needed, but we don't know when, so as long as all this remains uncertain, I believe masks should be required as a small step we can take to try to mitigate the spread. In addition, I believe the vaccine should be required for staff and students as soon as the FDA gives final approval. I hate all this and want it to be over as much as everyone else, but I don't want my kids to bring home covid to their elderly relatives and kill them, because they take medication that makes the vaccine less effective or just because the vaccine's effectiveness is decreasing as time goes on. I was in PD this spring helping with lunch duty, so I know how difficult it can be to keep kids in masks, but if parents reinforce that it is important, it will go a long way. Everyone can tell which kids have parents who don't think mask wearing is important and which ones do.
Highland	1st Grade, 3rd Grade	All children under the age of 12 should be masked as they can not be vaccinated. They wore masks with great success all of last year with no ill effects, so why change the status quo?

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Hillcrest, O'Neill	5th Grade, 8th Grade	<p>Please require mask wearing in both elementary and middle schools. The Delta Variant is bringing increased cases throughout the country and here in DuPage County. We especially need to protect our elementary students who cannot be vaccinated. As to middle school students, until you can show that at least 70% of those students have been vaccinated, they should be masking up too. We all know that non-vaccinated students will not willingly wear masks unless everyone has to do it.</p> <p>Thank you for all your hard work this past year and a half. Let's not drop the ball so close to the goal line.</p>
Herrick	8th Grade	<p>Is there a way for the 8th graders to have a sneak peek day (at least 1 day!). They were robbed of sneak peek last year, and while yes many went to Herrick/O'Neill to school during the pandemic, it was not ideal. It was basically 6th Grade 2.0.....they never switched classes, stayed with the same co-hort, didn't eat in the cafeteria, didn't have lockers, etc. You will essentially have 2 groups of 7th graders starting school in the fall - where all the kids have no idea how the school is run. Yes, I know the then 7th graders last day of school was some sort of "preview day," but lets be honest - summer was on their minds, and I'm sure none of them remember or paid attention. It would be nice for the 8th graders to be given the same curtesy and introduction to middle school as the 7th graders.</p>
Indian Trail	4th Grade, 6th Grade	<p>I think Elementary school children should be mandatory masks because the kids are not vaccinated. I think vaccinated staff could have a choice. Until close contact with kids (like small group settings) I don't want to deal with close contact quarantine this year. Without a mask I do believe it will be worse. Parents are now back work and don't have the flexibility they may have had before. I think once the majority of the school is vaccinated then masks mandates can be reevaluated.</p>
Kingsley	5th Grade, 6th Grade	<p>Make masks optional!</p>
Belle Aire	1st Grade, 3rd Grade	<p>We trust and respect your decision in regards to mask wearing and safety protocols in place. I personally and strongly support vaccinated teachers being unmasked while teaching. Thank you for all that you do for our kids!</p>
Henry Puffer, Hillcrest	Preschool, Kindergarten	<p>Please mandate masks for those <12yo who are not yet eligible for the vaccine!</p>
Belle Aire	5th Grade	<p>Healthcare Right of Conscience Act: (745 ILCS 70/5) (from Ch. 111 1/2, par. 5305) Sec. 5. Discrimination. It shall be unlawful for any person, public or private institution, or public official to discriminate against any person in any manner, including but not limited to, licensing, hiring, promotion, transfer, staff appointment, hospital, managed care entity, or any other privileges, because of such person's conscientious refusal to receive, obtain, accept, perform, assist, counsel, suggest, recommend, refer or participate in any way in any particular form of health care services contrary to his or her conscience. (Source: P.A. 90-246, eff. 1-1-98.)</p> <p>I'm not sure if the school district can legally require masks and/or vaccines under this act? You would have to ask the school district attorney.</p> <p>EXECUTIVE BRANCH (20 ILCS 2305/) Department of Public Health Act. (Part 1)(c): (c) Except as provided in this Section, no person or a group of persons may be ordered to be quarantined or isolated and no place may be ordered to be closed and made off limits to the public except with the consent of the person or owner of the place or upon the prior order of a court of competent jurisdiction.</p> <p>I don't believe students can be quarantined without parental consent and/or a Court Order. I believe if the school sends a child home to quarantine, a court order must be issued within 48 hours of said quarantine. Again, this is just my interpretation of the law and I would discuss it with the school district attorney. I would be sure to discuss this Public Health Act with an attorney if my child was told to quarantine without a court order because his right to a public education would be taken away without my consent and remote learning was stated it was not an option.</p> <p>I believe it should be up to the parents as to whether or not their children wear masks or not. They haven't been wearing them in most public places and they have been with their friends without masks and by my interpretation of the law and the absence of State mandates, I'm not sure the District can legally make masks a requirement but only make masks a recommendation.</p>
Fairmount	6th Grade	<p>Masks should be recommended for those not vaccinated but not mandated. That is in line with the community at large. When you go into Jewel or a restaurant with your family, that includes your children, this is the expectation. There is no reason that schools should be any different. I am pleased to say that in going through this pandemic, people are paying much more attention to washing their hands and keeping their kids home when they are sick. That should be the focus moving forward. Anyone who chooses to wear a mask, still has that option. Faculty that are vaccinated are just that vaccinated and protected. If a family wants their child to wear a mask because they are afraid of someone bringing a sickness home to them; that is their choice. Simply put, schools should mirror the larger community expectations. Thank you for your consistent communication and leadership.</p>
Henry Puffer, Hillcrest	Preschool, Kindergarten	<p>The unprotected population (<12yo) should be protected by the school by REQUIRING MASKS until vaccination completion.</p>

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Henry Puffer	1st Grade	I am pleased that school will be full time this year. I am thankful that last year was during my daughter's kindergarten year as she really wouldn't notice much difference. I can only imagine what the parents and children had to go through that were used to full time in school instruction. I personally am fine with children wearing masks full time at this time. I do hope that the classroom can be a little more interactive while remaining safe this year. Thank you for everything you have all done and continue to do!!
Henry Puffer, Hillcrest	Preschool, Kindergarten	If you're using the logic that 12+ years not be mandated to wear masks because they have had the opportunity to be vaccinated, then using that same rationale, those under 12 should be required to as they have not had that opportunity. Protect the children and the community.
Fairmount	2nd Grade, 6th Grade	There should be mask mandates for kids 12 and under. And / Or should mandate vaccinations for all 12 years old and above or/and have remote for those who won't.
Whittier	Kindergarten, 3rd Grade	Thank you for taking the time to explore the possibility of giving parents a choice in regards to mask wearing. I have already sent an email to the superintendent and BOE members in support of optional masking of young children. I am not sure which way you are leaning in regards to masking, but it sounds like you are considering both optional and mandated at this point. If you are heavily leaning towards mandating masks, I would encourage you to take a look at the model that Barrington District 220 proposed last week. I listened to their board meeting and I thought their superintendent came up with a great compromise to this highly divisive topic. In regards to masking, he suggested making masks OPTIONAL when 3 feet of distance could be maintained. So, for example when children are walking through the halls and using the restroom, they would need to wear a mask, however when they were seated at their desk, their mask could be removed. My biggest issue with mandating a mask for young children is the length of time they would be expected to wear a mask and the impact on their learning. With this model, the length of time would be shortened and they would be able to remove their mask during key educational times. They can SEE their teacher's face and their teacher can SEE their face. This is crucial for little ones when they are learning fundamental reading and math skills. If you are leaning towards mandating masks, please consider making masks optional for AT LEAST the times when children can maintain 3 feet distance. Thank you for your careful consideration on this topic.
Fairmount	1st Grade	We are moving to Downers Grove next week - in large part due to the outstanding reputation of the schools. We are excited for our children to grow and learn in this school district. That being said, I feel strongly that we need to do everything we can to protect our youth. Simply put, wearing masks equals protection. Since kids are not vaccinated, if we do not mandate masks, it seems that we truly don't care for the wellbeing of our future generation. I am a pediatric nurse and in my hospital, we will continue wearing masks until all children have the option to be vaccinated. It is not rocket science - wearing masks has proven to be effective. Children adapt incredibly quick, as evidenced by the past school year. If we want to keep them in school without quarantines, breaks in their schedule or flipping back and forth between remote and in person, a mask mandate is the way to go. Please make the decision to protect our kids. Thank you!
Indian Trail	Kindergarten, 5th Grade	Absolutely no masks for the children!
Kingsley	Preschool, 5th Grade	Mask wearing should be required for anyone that is not vaccinated. The delta variant is affecting children. I feel that it would be in the best interest of our children's health to continue to have them masked until fully vaccinated.
Lester	2nd Grade	I really appreciate Dr. Russell's update today - and what is being recommended for students 12 and older totally makes sense and will make sense for elementary school kids once vaccines are available to them as well. I'm not sure why there is even a question of elementary school students wearing masks when they do not have the opportunity to get vaccinated, especially when numbers are rapidly rising, even in DuPage county. Please stick to the science that the CDC and AAP are advocating for.

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Highland	1st Grade	<p>High level overview:</p> <p>1) The guidance released from IDPH/ISBE states before a district removed a mitigation layer they are to consult with their local health department. Have you done that and how does that align with what the DCHD released regarding school guidance. It also states that mandates should be made if students and staff are saying they will not attend in-person without a mask mandate. I am saying my daughter will NOT be in -person unless their is a mask mandate in place.</p> <p>2) ESSER III funds: (per the FAQ for ESSER Programs and GEER Programs released by the federal government May 2021) the "LEA plan for safe return to in-person instruction and Continuity of services must describe how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, and each of the prevention and mitigation strategies recommended by the CDC. The plan must also describe how an LEA will ensure continuity of services, which must address students academic needs and students and staff social emotional mental health and other needs and which may include student health and food services." The ESSER III application submitted by the ISBE and signed by Dr. Carmen Ayala Stated that "it is anticipated that universal masking will continue to be a recommendation of the CDC and the IDPH for the foreseeable future. ISBE and IDPH intend to require the use of masks until it is no longer recommended." This response was given, relating to the Universal and correct wearing of masks under the question "How the SEA will support it LE A's implementing, to the greatest extent practicable, prevention and medication policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC for the reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff." While the application is still pending review, the actions of the districts choosing not to follow health guidance, or what was delivered and signed by ISBE in request for ESSER III grant money potentially jeopardizes the state and/or districts viability of receiving that money.</p> <p>3) Furthermore, ISBE has sent notice to two Districts in central and southern Illinois Stating the District may have their recognition status lowered/probation in response to their masking policies. As such there is concern that schools with reduced recognition statuses could jeopardize evidence-based funding. The letter sent to Red Hill from ISBE stated" For this reason, effective the date of this letter (June 23, 2021), we must lower the recognition status...to 'on probation' for exhibiting deficiencies at present a health hazard or a danger to students or staff." What is your response when ISBE has deemed their relax mask policy and defines it as "a health hazard or a danger to students or staff."</p> <p>4) What is the districts liability coverage and how has CLIC responded to districts policies that explicitly go against public health recommendations? Can you provide a certificate of coverage for this type of instance? Is their enough within a budget in the event litigation occurs to challenge the lack of a mask mandate prior to school starting. (Not insinuating or staying I am lodging any type of litigation-this is strictly a liability question I am asking for a response in from the board/district).</p> <p>5) Governor Pritzker extended the executive order through August 26. At this time that executive order requires masking for people over the age of two who are not vaccinated while indoors. How do your policies align with the executive order of our Governor?</p>
Kingsley	6th Grade	<p>I would like mask wearing to be mandatory in the elementary schools. Children under 12 cannot be vaccinated yet for covid. The delta variant seems to be much more transmissible and I have known a few vaccinated adults become infected and transmit it to their children. Better safe than sorry.</p>
Kingsley	4th Grade, 6th Grade	<p>If District 58 will not be offering remote learning options for the 21-22 school year, I strongly urge the leadership to enforce universal mask mandates in the K-6 buildings in order to protect the small percentage of students who have underlying medical conditions that put them in a high risk category for COVID-19. Yes those at risk students will have the option to wear masks but as both the research and real-world evidence indicates, mask usage as part of the layered approach works best when "everyone" is in a mask, especially when physical distancing cannot be accommodated.</p> <p>I understand that the district is likely receiving a tremendous amount of pushback from parents who do not want their kids in masks, but I believe those concerns are political in nature as opposed to being based on science.</p> <p>Both the CDC and the FDA have indicated that the vaccine may be approved for children as young as 2 years old as early as this fall, but almost certainly by the beginning of 2022 so this is not a long term ask.</p> <p>Professionals of all sorts (health care, manufacturing, construction, etc.) have worn masks for long durations long before the pandemic with no negative impacts to their physical or mental well-being. This past spring, our children demonstrated that they can as well.</p>
Lester	1st Grade	<p>If you require our children to wear shoes from a safety and hygiene stand point, why not also a mask?</p>
Kingsley	5th Grade	<p>Students to NOT have to wear masks. Masks should be OPTIONAL FOR ALL AGES.</p> <p>Please require masking for children under 12. The CDC just announced they recommend masking indoors regardless of vaccination status.</p>

Family Feedback Form - Opening of School August 2021 (REDACTED Responses)

Which school(s) do your students attend? (please check all that apply)	What grade level(s) will your student(s) be in for the 2021-22 school year? (Please check all that apply)	What would you like to share with District 58 regarding the opening of school this fall?
Kingsley	5th Grade	Can you please follow the science and recommendations of the epidemiologists and require masking for all regardless of vaccine status. This is the recommendation of the CDC! Also how will band operate to keep our unvaccinated students safe? The amount of air borne particles generated from that will be huge and increase the risk of transmission even more.
Henry Puffer	Kindergarten	I would just like to chime in that masks being required for all students under 12 is something I feel very strongly about. The vaccines are not yet available to this population and masks are proven to be an effective way of mitigating risk while allowing students to still remain in the best learning environment. I do not see any reason for not making masks required for students who cannot be vaccinated at this time. When that changes, yes I think revisiting the policy would make sense. Thank you!
Fairmount	Kindergarten, 4th Grade, 6th Grade	I support mask wearing based on science. My kids cannot be vaccinated, vaccinated people can still get sick with covid, and spread it to my unvaccinated kids. I don't want them in the hospital. I am happy the school day will look more normal. Thanks.
Henry Puffer	1st Grade, 4th Grade	Thank you! We appreciate your hard work and dedication to our students! We are so thankful!
El Sierra	Kindergarten	My husband and myself would like masks for our children to be an optional choice. A parent choice. Thank you
Indian Trail	4th Grade	My child this year on a last school days had thermal shock. The reason was wearing mask on a sports lesson outdoor on a heat . I am not against safety. But it should be with common sense. Will kids have masks brakes at least this school year outside and how will be gym classes this year?
Kingsley	Kindergarten, 3rd Grade	It is irresponsible and unfair to allow unvaccinated individuals to attend a indoor closed room classes without masks. All school aged children who are unvaccinated and adults who are unvaccinated should always wear masks on school grounds. Until enough is discovered about the variants of the disease, I frankly believe everyone should always be masking indoors.
Lester	4th Grade, 6th Grade	Universal Masking for all elementary students.
Indian Trail	1st Grade, 3rd Grade	Please, PLEASE make masks mandatory for all who enter our school buildings this fall and winter (at least). Optional masking is absolutely unconscionable when students must learn on-site yet cannot be vaccinated. The Delta variant is a real threat even to those who are vaccinated, and wearing a mask is just a small sacrifice to prevent a potentially catastrophic covid outbreak in our community. Please do the smart thing here.
O'Neill	8th Grade	I would like students who are vaccinated to not have to wear a mask.
Kingsley	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	It is great that school will resemble a normal day like before the pandemic. I do lot think the kids of this age (elementary) do NOT need to wear masks.
Pierce Downer, Herrick	3rd Grade, 7th Grade	Please keep masks in place for all students regardless of their vaccination status. Thank you for all your hard work and planning.
Fairmount	Kindergarten, 3rd Grade	I think that until children are able to be vaccinated they should be wearing masks while in high risk transmission situations. We don't have any idea what long term effects there are for Covid in children, and even though they don't have high rates of hospitalization when getting sick, it doesn't change the fact that there are still many in our community who refuse or are unable to receive the vaccine. If we were to have a breakout within a school, what would we be looking at when it comes to disruption to the learning and the chances of mutations? The children are already used to mask wearing when in these situations and still should have been following the exact same guidelines as what existed in our community at the end of last school year such as making indoors as those have not changed for children.
Belle Aire, Herrick	4th Grade, 5th Grade, 8th Grade	Masks should be optional in school.
Herrick	7th Grade	All students should be required to wear masks. It's my opinion after talking and reading DG parent's opinions that the kids who aren't vaccinated are also the kids who would be made to wear a mask by their parents. The delta variant stays airborne much longer and is one reason why it's so much easier to spread, not to mention that you can still get covid if you're vaccinated, especially if you are high risk, and we certainly wouldn't want to put our teachers, staff, even children at risk. Cut the politics and read what scientists say across the world. The CDC and the Pediatrics Association both say all kids, K-12, regardless of their vaccination status, should be wearing masks in school, as well as anyone else in the building. It's a small piece of fabric, why are people so afraid to wear them? My kids wear them without complaints, they're pretty logical, they don't want to get sick and more importantly do not want to be the cause of anyone else getting sick and possibly dying. If parents don't complain about it in front of their children, like all responsible parents should be acting, their children aren't going to have any negative reaction. And if there is a big outbreak and kids get quarantined you should have one teacher per grade level or subject in middle school that can do remote teaching or at least assign work for them to stay caught up and act as someone to help them if they don't understand
Lester	1st Grade, 3rd Grade	Make masks optional for all students!! Give the parents the right to choose. Grammar school kids are a low risk population. We know this is a hard decision, we appreciate all your efforts. Thank you for all your hard work!
Fairmount, Grove Children's Preschool	Preschool, 1st Grade	I am hopeful that children continue to be masked, since they are unvaccinated. One of my children has a compromised immune system, and sending her or her sister is risky. We are still unable to vaccinate our children, and are trying to keep them safe.

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Lester	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	With respect to masking for elementary students currently ineligible for vaccination, Dr. Russell's recent email states that "the District is still reviewing the guidance, local transmission levels, and processing information with staff and working groups" and that Dr. Russell is "not ready to make a final recommendation to the Board for elementary students at this time for the reasons shared above." I do not understand this statement in the least. The ISBE FAQ guidance dated July 26, 2021, a link to which Dr. Russell includes in his email, states in no uncertain terms that unvaccinated students (i.e. currently all students under 12 years of age) should be masking. The FAQ expressly states that "[m]asks for unvaccinated persons are the most effective measure to prevent transmission. The CDC strongly recommends that masks should be worn by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated when indoors and when in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated particularly in areas of substantial to high transmission. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained, as well as in schools where students are not eligible for vaccination." (ISBE FAQ dated 7/26/2021.) The guidance is clear and there is nothing to debate. All unvaccinated students should absolutely be wearing masks when classes resume in fall. The District has always said it would follow expert guidance from the CDC, IDPH, and ISBE. Did the District mean that? Because, if it did, the answer is obvious.
Highland, Herrick	5th Grade, 8th Grade	I strongly feel that all students K-12 should wear masks at the start of school. Kids K-6th are not yet vaccinated and need this protection to keep themselves safe and anyone they live with as well. Not everyone has gotten or can get the vaccine due to an allergy. Not everyone will get it, I understand. But give those who do want to a chance. We're hearing kids 11 & under might not be able to receive the vaccine until mid winter. Give it until after that so they have a chance to get the vaccine. Not all middle school kids are eligible yet to receive the vaccine. In your letter you mentioned bullying and harassment will not be tolerated for families that choose to still wear a mask (or have to). I can guarantee this will NOT be the case! Kids WILL be billed and harassed and that is NOT fair to them. Why put more pressure on those kids? They have enough going on. Keep masks at least right now until things get better for everyone. Please!!!
Whittier	5th Grade	Mask mandate until vaccine available for those 5 and up.
Lester	4th Grade, 6th Grade	Given the current rise of the Delta variant in non-vaccinated populations, and its increased ability to spread to vaccinated people as well, I believe that the elementary schools should require masks of all students and staff upon return in the fall, for the safety of students, staff, and the community at large.
Lester	2nd Grade, 3rd Grade, 4th Grade	Please do not require masks for our elementary kids.
Fairmount	1st Grade, 4th Grade	Please make masks mandatory for elementary until vaccines are available.
Whittier	4th Grade	Please make masks mandatory for students under the age of 12.
Hillcrest	2nd Grade	Hoping to see a safe reopening. Masks okay if necessary!
Fairmount, Grove Children's Preschool	Preschool, 1st Grade	I am hopeful that children continue to be masked, since they are unvaccinated. One of my children has a compromised immune system, and sending her or her sister is risky. We are still unable to vaccinate our children, and are trying to keep them safe.
Lester	2nd Grade	My preference would be masks for all children under the age of 12 until they have an opportunity to get vaccinated. It isn't fair to expose all the children to covid exposure when they have no opportunity to be vaccinated yet. Please require all children to mask until they are able to be vaccinated. Thank you
Belle Aire	3rd Grade	
Highland, Herrick	3rd Grade, 8th Grade	Masks Optional
Pierce Downer, Herrick	5th Grade, 7th Grade, 8th Grade	If parent input will inform the mask policy for elementary students, please ensure there is a forum to collect broad and representative views from parents (i.e. survey like this to all parents?). It is important to test whether the loudest voices are actually representative of all parents. And of course you/the board decides whether majority view and/or loudest views are best for the full community. thank you for your thoughtful diligence and for the opportunity to weigh in.
Highland, Herrick	5th Grade, 8th Grade	CDC just changed the recommended guidelines for mask wearing indoors. All people regardless if vaccinated or not should wear masks indoors. Including schools this fall. PLEASE follow this guideline as numbers are going up and not everyone is able to get vaccinated!!! Please make masks mandatory this fall until things trend in the right direction and ALL kids are able to get vaccinated!!! This is for the safety of all the students and staff.
Henry Puffer	Kindergarten	Please consider making masks mandatory for all children under 12 unless they physically cannot wear one. Thank you for all the District 58 staff have done in the past year and a half, navigating so many different opinions and political differences with aplomb and wisdom. We're very grateful to have our firstborn start K in the fall.
Highland, Herrick	5th Grade, 8th Grade	My preference would be that elementary school students remain masked until they are able to be fully vaccinated. 97% of hospitalized patients are unvaccinated. We are seeing a rise in childhood illness associated with COVID. I think masking is preferred for Herrick students as well. I feel if the choice is to allow vaccinated students to attend unmasked then they need to show proof of vaccination status similar to colleges.

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Highland, Herrick	4th Grade, 8th Grade	First... do no harm. In the majority of cases, wearing masks for children and adults causes no harm whatsoever and may even be beneficial. However, NOT wearing masks is scientifically proven to increase risk especially to those not vaccinated. Science and statistics do not care about the feelings of parents, teachers or students. Dr.Russell and the School Board must advocate for the students and staff by standing behind what we do know about this ever changing virus... wearing masks will rarely cause harm and not wearing masks potentially causes harm. Parents' emotional voices should not have the power to overshadow facts. Including the fact that we can not predict if and when this virus will mutate and spread rapidly.
Highland, Herrick	4th Grade, 6th Grade, 7th Grade	I request that the schools follow the latest CDC guidance where ALL students, regardless of vaccination status, wear masks. This cannot be an individual decision. A pandemic is not individual situation. Wearing a mask protects everyone surrounding the student- not the student themself. With the highly contagious Delta variant, and the new information from the CDC, it would be dangerous and negligent to allow middle schoolers not to wear a mask. We have seen how successfully children wear masks- better than adults. Please make this a uniform policy to protect our students and community. Thank you.
Lester	Kindergarten	Students under 12 years of age are not currently eligible to receive a covid vaccine. They are still at risk for contracting and spreading the more transmissible delta variant to their loved ones. I will not feel comfortable sending my children to school unless there is a mask mandate for students under 12 as well as for those whom have not yet been vaccinated against covid.
Pierce Downer, Herrick	4th Grade, 7th Grade	<p>Please require certification of Covid vaccination, as the district does for all other vaccinations at the Elementary and Middle School level, and require masks for non-vaccinated students in Herrick Middle School. This is what the CDC guidelines recommend: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html. Alternatively, require masks for all students and teachers at all levels, which would be consistent with new CDC guidance released today.</p> <p>At the elementary level, it would be irresponsible not to require masks for students. Teachers should also wear masks to prevent their potential role in transmission, although I could understand some cases where it could be argued teachers should be able to remove their masks. Ultimately, teachers should wear masks in solidarity with and as role models for their students.</p> <p>Masks are a small measure which can easily be taken to protect the safety of our students. They have a minimal impact on instruction. The district should not bend to a vocal minority loudly protesting mask wearing without sound support for their argument.</p>
Henry Puffer, Hillcrest	Preschool, Kindergarten	The world has gone crazy. Please maintain sanity in the district and model responsible behavior and wise decision-making for our students.
Henry Puffer, Hillcrest	Preschool, Kindergarten	If you're using the logic that 12+ years not be mandated to wear masks because they have had the opportunity to be vaccinated, then using that same rationale, those under 12 should be required to as they have not had that opportunity. Protect the children and the community.
Fairmount, O'Neill	2nd Grade, 7th Grade	I would like to say thank you for not recommending mask for the 12 and up kids and for all of your hard work and dedication throughout this entire pandemic. I don't believe you all are thanked enough so I just wanted to extend mine. I believe you have always fought positively for what was best for our children and this family stands with you. Thanks again to the entire district-█
Henry Puffer, Herrick	5th Grade, 7th Grade	In light of the CDC's update (as of today, 7/27) recommending "universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status," Superintendent Russell should reconsider his recommendation with regard to students 12 and older, to suggest that even vaccinated students should mask, and to require (simply "recommending" will not work) the unvaccinated to mask. Universal masking should absolutely be required at all K-6 schools, as no child under 12 has had, nor will have had the opportunity to be vaccinated by the start of the school year. These kids know how to mask; the burden is light.
Lester	Kindergarten	I have a son that will be starting kindergarten in the fall. After looking at the DuPage County Health Department I would like voice support for all elementary students wearing masks. I agree with their assessment that mask wearing cuts down on transmission, and therefore will keep the kids in school with less missed days and safer overall. My son wore a mask in preschool and it was successful learning experience. With the rise of the Delta variant and the recommendations from the Health Dept., CDC, and the America Academy of Pediatrics that all those age 2 and older should wear masks at school it seems clear that the safest way for now. Thank you for your time.
Indian Trail, O'Neill	Kindergarten, 6th Grade, 7th Grade	I strongly urge the district to require mask wearing for all students, K-8, regardless of vaccination status. 3 of my family members are currently recovering from Covid, even having had the vaccination. Mandating it for all students will help prevent teasing/bullying for those who wear masks when they are not required. Thank you for your consideration.
Kingsley	3rd Grade	I think it is a bad idea to separate/segregate/identify children of any age by vaccination status. The kids have enough pressure and stress and do not need another thing to make them feel different or targeted in anyway. Families have super strong feelings about vaccinations and many of those views have been passed down to the kids creating an opportunity for bullying and/or exclusion based on whether or not kids have a mask on or not. Since the vaccinations have not been fully approved by the FDA and have only passed Emergency Use Standards mandating them in anyway seems "dangerous" and "wreckless." Children should not have to be testing guinea pigs to not be targeted at school.

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Pierce Downer, Herrick	3rd Grade, 6th Grade, 8th Grade	Happy to wear masks even though one of my three are vaccinated. We are super flexible about whatever is decided. All my children benefitted from in person learning. I hope we can create environment that there is no stigma if children are wearing masks. I know I enjoyed not having sick children for last year and a half.
Belle Aire	2nd Grade, 5th Grade	I think masks should be required for all unvaccinated people in school
Whittier	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade, 5th Grade	Excited for the kids to be back in person and would like to see masks for those under 12 until vaccination is an option.
Belle Aire	1st Grade	With no remote option, how would a student participate in class work if they needed to quarantine due to testing positive or as a close contact? Presuming the student was feeling well and able to participate.
Kingsley	1st Grade	My daughter started kindergarten last year, and due to the difficult year I personally have never stepped foot in the school. I would like to request the additional measures are considered to introduce families not only starting kinder this year, but those that started last year to meet families, and be welcomed into the school.
El Sierra	Kindergarten	I would like elementary students masked until they are able to get the vaccine.
Herrick	8th Grade	Please make your decision based on just facts. Here's some great data to guide your decision. https://wirepoints.org/illinois-covid-19-crisis-daily-data-update-wirepoints/ I am hoping the Dupage County Health Department is able to provide you this level of data for DG.
Lester	4th Grade	I understand this is not an easy decision. However, based on what students experienced last year, I hope the district can find a way to recommend choice for our families. It is time to have kiddos in school with minimal obstructions to learning (heat, masks, teachers in masks) and to follow local transmission within our community. Students have spent the summer playing with friends, waterparks, and traveling. Families need to choose what is best for their personal situations. There have been 0 deaths in Dupage county based on the covid tracker in the past 7 days. I understand the Delta Variant is our risk but what about the risk to children through immunity suppression? thanks for all your work, I don't envy any school administrator for the decisions they have to make.
Pierce Downer	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	Masks are optional at camp this summer and as a parent I require my children to wear them. Several times I have come in to find them having taken them off or wearing them around their necks. I am a strong believer that masks will prevent unnecessary transmission and quarantines, but at a minimum it will be a lot to ask of the teacher to monitor and enforce some kids to wear them while other students don't have to.
Lester	2nd Grade, 4th Grade	Make mask optional. Mental health is real too and more of an issue for children than COVID. If you require the children to wear a mask then you should also require parents to not smoke, not be overweight and not drink and do drugs. Sounds silly but so does putting a cloth on my child's face to protect them for a virus that has killed approximately 340 children under the age of 18 in the entire United States. Make mask optional!
Whittier	1st Grade, 4th Grade, 6th Grade	With the elementary school age kids not being able to be vaccinated yet, the safest option seems to be that all kids and staff continue to be mandated to wear masks. The new delta variant is another concern that is spreading fast and affecting young kids as well as adults that are unvaccinated. Just want to keep our kids and the general population safe.
Lester	2nd Grade	We are really grateful for the work you're doing to keep the students and teachers safe. We support your professional decisions and are grateful for your time and efforts to make this school year a success. [REDACTED]
Whittier	1st Grade, 4th Grade, 6th Grade	Safest option sounds like having both Staff and kids wear masks. Especially with all of them under 12 and so far unable to be vaccinated.
Lester	2nd Grade	I really wish there was a remote option again this year. I think it's irresponsible to not offer one for families who would rather keep their children away from big groups.
Lester	Kindergarten	Enforce mask wearing for non vaccinated kids.
El Sierra	1st Grade, 4th Grade	Masks should be required if students and staff are not 100% vaccinated. Masks need to be mandatory in grade schools because my children can't receive the vaccine yet.
Highland	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	Masks should be mandatory for those under 12 that are not eligible to receive the vaccine. They don't have a choice and therefore need to be protected. Only after vaccinations are available to this cohort should this be reviewed again. Thank you.

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		<p>We support mask wearing when indoors. We are flexible with mask wearing outdoors. The morning reminder email with a link to the self-certification form by Ms. Nicasio was highly valued and appreciated.</p> <p>We would like to be able to walk all the way to entrance for drop off/pick up, especially with having a kindergartener new to school. Or at least nearer than was previously permitted.</p>
Indian Trail	Kindergarten, 5th Grade	Thanks for all you do!
Herrick	7th Grade	Please make masks optional for vaccinated people.



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		<p>To DG58 Board</p> <p>Thank you for considering the input that has already been sent and taking the time to carefully consider the masking policy for the upcoming school year. My son will be starting Kindergarten this fall at Kingsley, and is so excited to start school. As a parent, I look to this school year starting with much more anxiety as I consider the safety of my family in the context of this pandemic.</p> <p>The adults in my household are fully vaccinated, but have pre-existing conditions that make them more vulnerable to possible infection with COVID. We also have a young toddler who will not be able to be vaccinated, who idolizes her big brother and can't be kept 6 inches away from him let alone 6 feet. I write to strongly encourage that masking should be required for all students in elementary schools to protect not only them, but the families they come home to each day.</p> <p>As the district considers guidelines for the upcoming school year, I understand decisions will be made based on local and national public health recommendations. I am sure the board is aware of the recommendation from the American Academy of Pediatrics recommending mask usage in schools despite vaccination status. The CDC has also clearly stated that masks should be worn in schools by all individuals who are not fully vaccinated. In elementary schools this will include all students as the school year begins. Today the CDC updated their masking guidelines to more clearly and specifically state "Given new evidence on the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant, CDC has updated the guidance for fully vaccinated people. CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status."</p> <p>Communication from the district today included Illinois State Board of Education FAQs. This document identifies reasons for schools to require universal masking that specifically apply to the elementary school population, including that it is a population that is not eligible for vaccination, and that it is a population that would be difficult to regulate inconsistent rules as children of this age benefit from and thrive when there are consistent standards. It also describes increased burden of contact tracing and quarantining if students are not masked, further jeopardizing the goal of in-person learning for the students who are potentially exposed.</p> <p>Finally, I'm sure the board is tracking the unfortunate trend of rising COVID case rates. While I'm grateful that here in Dupage County we have one of the highest vaccination rates in the state, we still are below levels that would be protective for the still vulnerable, unvaccinated population. According to the NY Times Coronavirus tracker, case rates in Dupage County have increased over 200% compared to 2 weeks ago. Hospitalization rates have increased by 60% over the past 14 days. They report that unvaccinated individuals are at high risk due to high COVID 19 transmission rates in Dupage County. They specifically list indoor activities as high risk for unvaccinated individuals. This is the risk level posed to our young elementary school students who are still unable to be vaccinated.</p> <p>The most recent board meeting discussion around use of masks in the upcoming school year stated that guidelines were conflicting, however for the unvaccinated elementary school population, I fail to see any conflicting information about the ongoing need for masks in a congregate, indoor setting. I work in healthcare and education, so I can appreciate the lost elements of non-verbal communication and social connection that universal masking causes. However the risk to benefit balance of that loss, compared to the risk to the health of my family and our community, is not a close call from my perspective and in light of the local and national guidance.</p> <p>Return to in-person learning last school year was successful due to the mitigation measures that were in place, including use of masks. It seems that not requiring the use of masks for the upcoming school year would place our community and school system at risk for further spread of this pandemic, and risk the success of the in-person learning experience that the children in our community need.</p> <p>For my family and our community, I ask that masks be required in the upcoming school year for all students and unvaccinated staff. Without a universal masking requirement in the elementary schools of DG58, my family would be forced to consider other options for my son's Kindergarten education that would prioritize the safety of our family.</p>
Kingsley	Kindergarten	Thank you, [REDACTED]
El Sierra	6th Grade	Please support mandatory mask for all students that are unable (to young) to get the vaccine.
Kingsley	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	It is great that school will resemble a normal day like before the pandemic. I do not think the kids of this age (elementary) do NOT need to wear masks.

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Pierce Downer	3rd Grade	<p>Does the district have staff or have they brought on HVAC consultants/contractors with the capability to implement the current ASHRAE 'Reopening of Schools and Universities' guidelines, including verification that the ventilation systems meet or exceed ASHRAE Standard 62.1 ventilation rates, MERV 13 filters are installed in air handling equipment where possible, and systems have been retro-commissioned to confirm that they are operating as intended? In spaces where central fan systems cannot accommodate MERV 13 filters, have standalone HEPA filtration units been installed? Is there a monitoring system present to promptly alert operation staff of air quality issues or equipment failures? Reference: https://www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/reopening-of-schools-and-universities</p> <p>I am experienced in the above topics and happy to discuss, should it be helpful.</p> <p>Thank you for your ongoing efforts!</p> 
Fairmount	6th Grade, 7th Grade	Please do not force children back into masks this year. The last year has proven that children are not super spreaders. I understand that some say that kids should be masked so they don't bring Covid home to Grandma but kids shouldn't have to suffer to protect grown adults who choose to not get vaccinated to protect themselves... regardless of what the CDC says. Please let parents make their own choices regarding their own children and they're own families. PLEASE!!
O'Neill	7th Grade	no
Fairmount	Kindergarten, 3rd Grade	Please do all you can to have the kids back in school without masks. You're doing all the right things by following guidance (even when it's not clear) but trying to understand the transmission between kids is the best statistic. The other issue which became glaringly obvious last year is that many people have double standards about what they expect from the school and how they act at home. Two good examples are many people took vacations during the pandemic while expecting social distancing and strict rules at school. The other one which was of particular frustration to me was the "learning pods" where parents sent their children to someone's house without masks or social distancing but then expected the school to follow different rules. As mentioned in Russell's email, it's impossible to make everyone happy and we are the type of family that will abide by the rules but please do all you can to make the school year as normal and mask free as possible.
O'Neill	8th Grade	Thank you for your thoughtful consideration for the safety of all students. This will certainly be another challenging year for decision making. I would be in full support of children under the age of 12 wearing masks in order to make school safe for all children. Children with diabetes, immune compromised systems, allergies, and other ailments are still at risk for larger implications if they become covid positive. The school community should unite in ensuring all children are safe while attending school. Again... thank you for all your guidance and thoughtful work during this past and future academic years.
Kingsley, Grove Children's Preschool	Preschool, 2nd Grade	In our house, we teach, before anything, safety. This is at the core of every decision for our children and family and we are trusting you to have the same values. Safety before comfort and convenience.
Henry Puffer	2nd Grade	Please make mask wearing for under age 12 100% optional. The children are at risk wearing a mask. If the vulnerable population is now vaccinated they are protected. Please stop putting masks on our children!
Whittier	4th Grade, 6th Grade	All of our five kids are under the 12 year age limit for vaccinations, plus we have two adults in our household with compromising issues such that a breakthrough COVID-19 illness (theoretically riskier with the better-spreading Delta variant) could be lethal. As such, any of our kids forced to attend school in-person will be masked regardless of district policy. However, if the policy does not mandate that unvaccinated people need to be masked and the social distancing measures are not followed (which seems to already have been a decision that's been made), then our kids, others in our household, as well as other kids, their families, and the broader community are at an elevated risk of spread of the virus only because of a district decision that does not mandate mask wearing for the unvaccinated. A decision to not mandate mask wearing for unvaccinated people compounded with the district decision that no remote learning options will be provided this year means that any family wishing to more thoroughly ensure their children and the community are most safe via mask wearing are essentially being told "you are not welcome in public schools" which is extremely disheartening to hear as a tax payer and heartbreaking for our children to have to consider an additional school year without their classmates in person. All this can be avoided by merely mandating mask wearing by the unvaccinated and anyone complaining about their unvaccinated children being forced to wear masks are not ones with their families scientifically-proven health and the health of the community primarily in mind so putting them first in priority for public schools is making a terrible example of rewarding the selfish and punishing those trying to make the safest decision for all.

Family Feedback Form - Opening of School August 2021 (REDACTED Responses)

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Highland Lester	Kindergarten Kindergarten	<p>CDC guidance on mask-wearing was updated yesterday (7/28) to recommend masking for all (including the vaccinated) in indoor spaces and areas of high transmission. This change is a result of the rapid spread and breakthrough cases of the Delta variant. Prior to this, I was very open to the loosening of masking and distancing restrictions in schools. However, a change in circumstances this significant should compel all of us to reevaluate our eagerness to assume our pre-pandemic routines and attitudes. I assume discussions with the county health board and community will continue until school reopens and I understand that whatever decisions are made will probably not make everyone happy. However, making people happy is not the goal. Keeping our children and the broader community safe is and must always be the goal. My incoming Kindergartner cannot wait for the school year to begin and I strongly believe that in-person learning should be prioritized. Whatever precautions we must take in order to make that reality possible, while still protecting the health of our teachers and students, are necessary and we will face those challenges together as a community.</p>
Herrick	7th Grade	<p>I appreciate the information regarding optional masking for middle school. I am wondering if this will change given the newly updated recommendations from the CDC (that was supported by IDPH) released yesterday stating "Given new evidence on the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant, CDC has updated the guidance for fully vaccinated people. CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Children should return to full-time in-person learning in the fall with layered prevention strategies in place."</p> <p>The growing body of information on the delta variant is concerning. We are seeing surges across the country again, some of which are worse than those areas saw last year. I know this is an impossible task for district leadership and I am grateful for your dedication to the safety of our children and all teachers and staff.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,  (Herrick parent and pediatric respiratory therapist caring for covid positive children everyday).</p>
Herrick	7th Grade, 8th Grade	<p>I love the idea that 12 year olds (and older) have the option of wearing masks since they have had the opportunity to be vaccinated. Thanks!</p>
Lester	2nd Grade	<p>I would like to see same measures in place as were in place last spring. Mask wearing, social distancing of 3-6 feet, etc. We have high-risk family members. Although those family members are vaccinated, I have concerns about my unvaccinated 8 year old bringing home COVID around our high-risk family. I am OK with my daughter masking to help reduce community transmission.</p>
Fairmount	1st Grade	<p>To Dr. Russell and the D58 staff,</p> <p>First, thanks for all you've done through the pandemic so far. I've been impressed with the district's commitment to understanding the guidelines, listening to the community, and providing practical options for families. Walking this line can't be easy, but the results so far have been excellent.</p> <p>It's for this reason I am surprised at Dr. Russell's latest note indicating that masks may be optional for children under 12. If this rule is applied to all students in all classrooms, it would be a major setback for families looking for that choice.</p> <p>Cases are rising and the IDPH and CDC is recommending more caution. It is a terrible time to force families to participate in an experiment with unvaccinated, unmasked students in the classroom.</p> <p>Until we can vaccinate our kids under 12, please give us the choice to send our kids to an environment that you've already proven is safe – require masks!</p> <p>Sincerely,  Father of an incoming 1st grader to Fairmount</p>
O'Neill	7th Grade, 8th Grade	<p>One of my greatest concerns is the equity in the teaching load. Some teachers did not get a plan period during the student day and were teaching 8 periods straight. Some teachers also did not have a remote period; therefore, those teachers were required to record on their own time or teaching concurrently. I also am worried about again planning for four different classes and having to potentially record four different lessons for students in quarantine. If there is a remote section for each grade level/school, every subject/ class needs to have a remote section.</p>
Fairmount	6th Grade	<p>As for masking, I am very concerned for the health and wellbeing of students and staff with no air conditioning in their buildings.</p>
Herrick	8th Grade	<p>My preference would be mandatory masking since most students will not be vaccinated.</p>
Herrick	8th Grade	<p>Vaccinated students should not have to wear masks! That's why they got vaccinated!</p>

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Lester, Herrick	5th Grade, 8th Grade	I support making masks optional for K-6. There is no science that shows any measurable risk to this demographic, and I'm a strong proponent of kids needing to see instructors' faces to most effectively learn. Note, we are pro-vaccine and are not an overall anti-mask household. I follow the science...and there's no support for masking young kids. Thank you.
Hillcrest, O'Neill	5th Grade, 8th Grade	Dr. Russell has said from the beginning "we will follow the science." I want us to continue to do so. The CDC and AAP are both saying the science requires masks for everyone but especially the unvaccinated.
Grove Children's Preschool	Preschool	Just that I am pleased it will resume to as close as possible to reality. I believe IEP students should not have to wear masks, especially those cannot thrive in them. thank you
Lester	2nd Grade, 6th Grade	Our hope is to have the kids back in school every day with the same times as before the pandemic. We would be so happy to have all specials back and after school programming. We don't care if we need to have the kids masked but we would love to have the "normal" day to day back for our children. Thanks so much for all that you do and hope your summer is going well!
Herrick	8th Grade	Proof of vaccination for students not wearing masks. As students need to prove vaccination for MMR, etc. before entering any school in the district this seems equitable.
Belle Aire, El Sierra, Fairmount, Henry Puffer, Highland, Hillcrest, Indian Trail, Kingsley, Lester, Pierce Downer, Whittier, Herrick, O'Neill, Grove Children's Preschool	Preschool, Kindergarten, 1st Grade, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade, 4th Grade, 5th Grade, 6th Grade, 7th Grade, 8th Grade	<p>Please allow parents and families to make the decision about whether or not their children should wear masks at school. Local and statewide data does not justify the present panic around covid-19, just like it did not justify the panic surrounding the reopening of schools last summer. The same DG parents who ignored the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics last summer when they both said schools could be opened safely are now touting the recommendations of the CDC and the AAP for mandatory mask-wearing. Our children are not at-risk of serious illness or death from COVID-19. Statistically speaking, children are more likely to die in a bus accident on the way to school than they are from this virus. Recent anti-science/anti-vaccine CDC guidance around mandatory indoor masking for fully vaccinated individuals and the IDPH's adoption thereof shows how utterly wrong they are and how these bureaucrats aren't using data and common sense to make policy. I expect the District 58 administration to act differently.</p> <p>Unrelated: "None" should be an option for the two questions above. You shouldn't have to have a child enrolled in the district to have an opinion on district policies.</p>
Highland	2nd Grade, 5th Grade	I am writing in regards to mask wearing at the elementary level. Your choice and leadership affects thousands of students. Last year we safely returned to school following the cdc guidelines that masking works. Why would you choose to do a turn around and ignore guidance. If you choose to adopt a mask less policy you are contradicting public health guidance from the American academy of pediatrics. As a parent if two children in elementary that do not have the option to be vaccinated, allowing others to be mask less is reckless. State funding is dependent on providing a safe environment and choosing to listen to louder parents that want to ignore health guidance is irresponsible. Guidance shows that both people should be wearing masks for effectiveness. I am disappointed in the leadership and elected officials. Mitigation efforts from spring support mask wearing and simply choosing to ignore that now is dangerous. Masks help ourselves and our community! With so many students choosing activities after school the risk of spread to the community is higher. Please take a stand like Chicago public schools and keep masks on regardless of vaccinated status.
Lester, Herrick	Kindergarten, 6th Grade, 8th Grade	<p>I am an epidemiologist and I want to give my full support to the most conservative approach possible in order to protect our children and staff. Based on the data that I see daily, I support mask mandates for everyone. I support using funds for better ventilation, as well as policies to support holding classes outdoors whenever possible and having windows open whenever possible. I support vaccine mandates for all staff and for all students over 12 years.</p> <p>I have yet to see any studies that show a significant harmful effect of mask wearing. I do, however, see firsthand the negative impact of remote schooling from the past year(s). Anything that we can do to prevent that from happening again is worthwhile. I know this is a challenging decision from a political perspective, but the new CDC guidance (and general consensus among public health professionals and healthcare providers) all seem remarkably clear. Masks and vaccines are necessary to get through this safely.</p>
Pierce Downer, Herrick	6th Grade, 8th Grade	Students should NOT be forced to wear masks. They should be in school full time.
Kingsley	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	Just please let them be in person. It's fine if they have to wear masks- they are so used to it already!
Fairmount	3rd Grade, 5th Grade	OPEN the schools...no if's ands or but's...must be in person
Hillcrest	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade, 5th Grade	<p>Superintendents and School Boards - STOP the PANIC. We are not at high transmission risk in NE Illinois and therefore the new CDC GUIDELINES - not LAW - do not apply. #unmaskthechildren #masksoptional Even if we were, these are only guidelines and the data does not support them.</p> <p>And if you are worried get a vaccine and mask yourself - the rest of us want normal school for our kids. We are not all in this together. Are you wearing a mask 8 hours a day, sitting at a desk and trying to learn at age 5? You first superintendent and school board members.</p>
Pierce Downer	1st Grade	If masks become a requirement, will portable AC units be brought into buildings in order to prevent overheating of staff and students? The buildings are dangerously hot during hot weather days.

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Whittier	3rd Grade	We would like to receive information about SEL support from the social worker and remote learning plan for families that need it. Communities and families of color have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and death. Please have someone reach out to us to plan for a remote learning option to keep our son safe. Thank you. [REDACTED]
Whittier	Kindergarten	My child will be wearing a mask this fall
Fairmount	1st Grade, 3rd Grade	If wearing masks is safest for students and teachers to keep our schools open and learning happening- I'm 100% in. I support your decision and what is best for your district. We are happy to mask and plan to. Thanks for asking our opinion.
Hillcrest	2nd Grade, 5th Grade, 7th Grade	I support masks for all children in the district given the increased risk being brought on by the new variant. It strikes me as logical to take the most precautions for those who are not vaccinated, which our children are not yet eligible.
Hillcrest	2nd Grade, 5th Grade	We do not feel that it is safe to send our children to school with out basic heath precautions like social distancing and mask wearing by everyone on school grounds being taken.
Whittier	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	Please require masks. Our children are not yet vaccinated and until they have that choice, please don't politicize this. Wearing masks is what is safest for our kids. I am a teacher and I am vaccinated, but I will wear a mask regardless of whether I have to or not for the sake of and in support of my students.
Hillcrest, Herrick	4th Grade, 7th Grade	Please follow the science, not the bullies/politics. We've managed to make it this far with none of our family having contracted Covid. 3/5 of our family is vaccinated and we can't wait until the 2 youngest are eligible. We mask for those who cannot be vaccinated. Delta is no joke.
Whittier	6th Grade	We hope that the district will follow CDC guidelines regarding mask usage for non-immunized individuals. We fully support indoor mask mandates at school (as the kids experienced at the end of last year) and will send our kiddo with a mask whether it's required or not until a critical proportion of elementary school students can be fully vaccinated.
Highland, Herrick	6th Grade, 7th Grade	Masks should be mandatory as the vaccine does not prevent you from getting or transmitting the virus. It is just to reduce the severity of it if you get it.
Highland	4th Grade, 6th Grade	I would like masks to be required. I also would like social distancing in the classroom as much as possible. Just because distancing can't prevent a school from opening under guidance, doesn't mean we shouldn't still try to keep our distance. Opening is not an issue in our district since we were able to be distanced and open.
El Sierra, Fairmount, Henry Puffer, Indian Trail	6th Grade	<p>I would like to see the district follow guidelines of the cdc and IDPH and keep masks mandatory for k-8. As a teacher it would be really hard to know which sixth graders are eligible for the vaccine. Also my sixth grade son attends Fairmount where the classes sizes were projected to be 25/26. His 12th birthday is not until August 2022 so he will not be vaccinated all year and has no choice to attend in person classes.</p> <p>I would also like you to create a plan for the quarantined students because concurrent teaching is not the same as a temporary remote section. I am in favor of continued remote sections without a drs note. I would think you are failing to help any student who has to quarantine for 10 days without moving them into a remote section.</p> <p>I am also very, very concerned with the disinfection process...especially at lunch (should still be in the classroom), specials, and shared spaces (LRC, resource, bathrooms).</p>
Pierce Downer	1st Grade	We are fine with masks. We just want our daughter in school vs remote.
Herrick	7th Grade	No masks for anyone. Back to pre Covid in every way
O'Neill	7th Grade	I think the middle schools should be mask free as all of these children have the option to be vaccinated. If a child is not vaccinated, they have the option to wear a mask. The vaccinated kids should not have to wear a mask because of those who have not chosen to be vaccinated. This is no different than any other vaccine - those that choose not to trust science must assume that risk.
Indian Trail	2nd Grade, 4th Grade	Please keep full-time in-person learning the top priority- we moved here this year for this reason. We're coming from a district that did remote until April and then 2-hours per day live plus remote afternoons, and we're all traumatized. My kids have suffered greatly from subpar education and lack of stability & interaction. Masks are easy and simple, but please continue to prioritize in-person learning, thank you!
El Sierra, Indian Trail	1st Grade, 3rd Grade	Please mandate masks for all staff and students, regardless of vaccination status.
Lester	1st Grade	Please make masks optional for the children! It should be up to the parents to decide.
Lester, Herrick	5th Grade, 7th Grade	We definitely need our kids in school for their mental health. We are comfortable with not wearing masks either.
Pierce Downer, Herrick	4th Grade, 7th Grade	Masks should not be mandatory for vaccinated children. Everyone 12 and older has had the opportunity to be vaccinated and put an end to this virus. Please no masks for vaccinated children.
O'Neill	8th Grade	My daughter is vaccinated, and we did it in hopes that it would lead to a more normal school year. Unfortunately the numbers are climbing, many are unvaccinated, and we are in support of starting the school year again in masks. Having family and friends with children not yet old enough to be protected I feel like it is the right thing moving forward. Thanks for all that you do!

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El Sierra, Hillcrest Henry Puffer	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade 2nd Grade, 5th Grade	We are open to whatever safety protocols will allow both our children, including our youngest in a SASSED-run program at El Sierra, to attend full-day in-person school. Thank you for all your work! Please have a mask mandate for children and staff
Lester	4th Grade	Please mandate mask wearing for all individuals, regardless of vaccination status. The percentage of children at the elementary school level who are too young to be vaccinated is far higher than those who can be vaccinated. Additionally, the delta variant is imposing significant risk, including to those who are vaccinated. Our family strongly urges DG58 to mandate mask wearing despite vaccination status. Thank you, [REDACTED]
Lester	6th Grade	I support having the students wear masks if needed. My 6th grader will be fully vaccinated in a week-The goal of this school year, I should think, is that students will return to regular day, full in-person instruction. If masks have to be worn, then fine. But full -day in person instruction is a must. They have already missed enough.
Hillcrest, O'Neill	2nd Grade, 8th Grade	My kids are both excited to be back in school. I am apprehensive with the idea of a mask optional reentry at the elementary level I am hoping that the district adheres to the CDCs newest recommendation of masking in schools. Considering the elementary school aged kids are not eligible for vaccination yet I think the safest and most responsible way forward is to require masks. I do appreciate all you are doing to make the school year fee normal again. I also understand this must be a very difficult decision to make. Thank you.
Highland, Herrick	3rd Grade, 7th Grade	Please allow parents the flexibility of choice for their children. Especially for the children who are 12 and older and fully vaccinated. We are lucky in that our community and surrounding communities are in highly vaccinated areas with low (for now) community spread. We are hopeful that this leads to a as normal as possible school year - with masks remaining optional and social distancing at a minimum. We are forever grateful for this administration - we will abide by whatever rules are set forth and have full trust in decisions that are made. We are just hopeful that our children can move forward and be kids - learning, playing and socializing!
O'Neill	7th Grade	I would like to see kids fully vaccinated without masks. If they must wear masks which I can understand would like to see students being able to talk to each other. They need to be able to communicate and meet new kids for their emotional well being!
Herrick	8th Grade	I believe that mask should be mandatory regardless vaccination status due to the increasing infection by delta variant. Up to this date, there's not enough information on vaccination immunity to delta variant. CDC notified today that even vaccinated individuals can get sick and spread delta variant. Having consideration that students have siblings at home who do not qualify for vaccination recommended age. It's important to keep everyone safe and keep in mind the family members at home as well.
Pierce Downer, Herrick	4th Grade, 8th Grade	I would like our children to be in school FULL days with lunch with their friends and be able to feel comfortable in the school setting. If you're going to have them wear masks all day, then they will need mask breaks.
O'Neill	7th Grade	I would like masks to be OPTIONAL for all students. Thank you.
Belle Aire	6th Grade	Masking seems to have helped create a very safe learning environment last school year. My hope is that masking is required at least until the vaccine is approved for elementary-aged students
Indian Trail	1st Grade	What are you doing to keep up with social distancing in the classroom, lunchrooms and activities outside classroom?
Hillcrest	3rd Grade	From the start of my son's elementary career, he has not had one full year with his assigned teacher. In kindergarten his teacher took a leave of absence, 1st grade was cut short due to Covid, and 2nd grade was on and off between remote and in person as well as his teacher being out on maternity leave. Then when he finally is fully back in person, he has to learn with a mask on for 8 hours a day (because he attends champions). These elementary years are crucial, not only for his academics but for his social/emotional learning as well. All I want is for my son to have a normal school year, without a mask, where he can see his teachers and peers faces and have a normal learning environment. Please allow the parents of our community to make the choice on whether our children should wear a mask to school. It should not be a decision that is taken away from us. Our children have been playing with each other all summer, in close proximity, and not wearing a mask. What is the difference if they are now going to be sitting next to each other in school? It just doesn't make any sense. Mask or no mask - it should be up to the parents to make that decision for their child. Thank you.

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Lester	Kindergarten, 4th Grade	Based on CDC guidelines, I hope masks will be required for all indoors this fall. I don't believe it should be optional until vaccines are available for all students (or community transmission is much lower).
El Sierra	Kindergarten	Respectfully, we still firmly stand that us the parents should be deciding if we want to send our young kids in masks to school. This should not be up to the government, CDC or anyone else other than the parents. We know you all are doing your very best and we thank you for considering our standpoint.
Pierce Downer	6th Grade	Please listen to thr experts. We are in this situation because people have refused to cooperate with the mitigation efforts from the beginning (denied Covid was serious, refused to social distance, refused to wear masks, refused to vaccinate). All unvaccinated children should wear masks and practice social distancing. Please don't be bullied by the loud voices yelling with no expertise or fact based information.
Highland, Pierce Downer	Kindergarten, 4th Grade	I believe masks work. I also hope that when sitting 6 ft apart in the classroom that the children can have scheduled time during the day for mask breaks. Besides lunch. All day everyday with a mask is a lot for these young kids.
Belle Aire	1st Grade, 4th Grade	If there is any way an option of remote school can be offered. Also masking should be required for all students and faculty . Six feet distance between desks . I do realize that these suggestions might not doable but just wanted to put it out there to consider . Thank you .
Highland	7th Grade	Please give the power back to the parents, LET THEM DECIDE WHATS BEST FOR THEIR CHILDREN! DO NOT make masks mandatory!
Lester	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	Regarding the highly polarizing topic of mask wearing, I read the CDC and IDPH guidelines and would like to stress that "recommended" does not mean "required". Given the massive amounts of data that has been collected from around the world showing that children almost universally do not get seriously ill, die from or transmit this disease, I strongly urge you to consider adopting the same approach as our local private schools which is to make masks optional for children and, if parents choose to have their child not wear a mask, sign a waiver that releases the school district from any legal liability. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.
Herrick	7th Grade	Please don't make vaxxed kids wear masks!
Belle Aire, Herrick	5th Grade, 8th Grade	NO MORE MASKS! Enough is enough!
El Sierra	3rd Grade	Only good feedback...so impressed with the caution and care you all are taking to make this new year as safe and successful as possible. Thank you!
Whittier	Kindergarten	I just wanted to say I know you all are working very hard to make the school year be as normal as possible for the kids. I want to thank you for that. I just want to make sure that schools do open and do offer a full day for kindergarten and proceed as planned. My son is perfectly OK with wearing a mask all day as he's done so while in preschool.
Fairmount	2nd Grade	If you are not going to have a mask mandate in place then keep the kids who's parents refuse to have them wear masks for school at home doing e-learning and have the kids who wear masks be able to attend full time in person.
Henry Puffer	1st Grade	Masking is essential to those not vaccinated. I really hope we can continue to keep our numbers low to allow the students/teachers to get/give proper education safely.
Kingsley	3rd Grade, 5th Grade	I would like to see masks be mandatory. Thanks!
Lester	Kindergarten	I am relieved to see the guidance to continue mask wearing indoors in K-12 schools. As a new resident to Downers Grove I've been surprised to see so many young children and other unvaccinated people without masks in businesses and park district building. We have to work together as a community to protect our most vulnerable. Thank you for your efforts to do so effectively. The school district has an opportunity to lead in this area and model the most inclusive and safest public health protocols. Our children are watching.
Highland	4th Grade, 6th Grade	I would like the kids to be mask-free, regardless of vaccination status. Kids were never the at-risk population we were aiming to protect. I firmly believe the harm caused by forcing kids to go to school in a mask for the second year in a row is stunting their emotional, physical and literal growth. It impacts their abilities to interact normally with their classmates and teachers; social cues like smiles and facial expressions are all but lost. It has taken a big toll on both of my kids over the last year. School is about SO MUCH MORE than just the literal learning. I fear we are waiting for "COVID Zero" to happen before we can deem it safe for kids to be maskless in schools. Covid Zero is NEVER going to happen. We are always going to have Covid from here on out. It's time we start learning how to live with it and stop forcing measures on a population that is at an EXTREMELY low risk for hospitalization or death from this virus.
Hillcrest	Kindergarten, 3rd Grade	Please require masks for the elementary buildings.
O'Neill	8th Grade	If all mask are required again this year, we are requesting full remote again.
El Sierra, Hillcrest	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	We are open to whatever safety protocols will allow both our children, including our youngest in a SASSED-run program at El Sierra, to attend full-day in-person school. Thank you for all your work!
O'Neill	8th Grade	Please allow middle school students to have optional masks. They have choice of vaccination.
Highland	5th Grade	I wish I had answers, but I don't. I just want to say thank you to the administration and the school staff for working so hard to make the best out of these situations. These are hard decisions to make and the constantly changing rules and environments don't make things easier. In all of this, I think my child feels very welcome and encouraged by his teachers and school staff. These connections help keep learning fun and keep my child motivated.


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Pierce Downer	6th Grade	Is it at all possible for kids 12 and under to wear masks until the vaccine is available? If student does receive vaccine, will they have to quarantine? or can students quarantine for less time if exposed to Covid? I am concerned for optional mask wearing at the elementary school level since these kids cannot get vaccine just yet. Totally understand optional masks at middle school level although I have been reading the new IDPH guidelines regarding Covid. Feel stressed by things I am reading in the community about masks. It appears many people don't care which is a concern, and some students have underlying issues like Type 1 Diabetes or asthma etc. We have 2 kids with severe asthma, and we are just worried about this Delta Variant. I realize we are not the norm, we still wear masks although 4 of us are vaccinated. Thanks for listening.
Pierce Downer	6th Grade	Please listen to thr experts. We are in this situation because people have refused to cooperate with the mitigation efforts from the beginning (denied Covid was serious, refused to social distance, refused to wear masks, refused to vaccinate). All unvaccinated children should wear masks and practice social distancing. Please don't be bullied by the loud voices yelling with no expertise or fact based information.
Highland	Kindergarten	The mask mandate is simply a guidance and a poor one at that. The start of the school year , the school is hot with little air circulating. This is not right not is it healthy for our children. It has been clear that being comfortable increases retention and improves learning.I really wish the district would reconsider and make this optional. The kids move the masks all day and it defeats the purpose.
Whittier	3rd Grade, 4th Grade, 7th Grade	I'm grateful for a return to full day in person opportunities that include movement - recess and more traditional PE. I'd prefer unmasked but won't throw a fit if unvaccinated students are asked to mask. I'd prefer the teachers not be if they are Comfortable unmasked.
Herrick	8th Grade	We support normal school with whatever you choose for masks. We still require masks for our Karate school with few problems. Thanks for everything you do and we will help to defend whatever your decision is.
Herrick	8th Grade	If they have to wear masks, that's fine, but please let them change classes, use lockers and mix with different kids/teachers. Please don't have just 1 class where the same kids stay and the teachers rotate. Also, bring back all sports, again- with masks if needed. The kids need to be together and have joint activities.
Highland	2nd Grade	MASKS SHOULD BE REQUIRED AS WE ARE STILL UNDER A PANDEMIC!!!
Lester, Herrick	1st Grade, 4th Grade, 5th Grade, 7th Grade	I would prefer that mask be optional for students.
Herrick	7th Grade	My daughter is vaxxed and I would like masks to be OPTIONAL.
Herrick	8th Grade	I believe parents should be the only people making decisions regarding their children's health. It should be our choice whether or not we want our child to wear a mask for hours on end at school.
Whittier	1st Grade, 2nd Grade	I want my child to stay healthy, and I expect the school to take all necessary steps because it's a huge responsibility to keep the children safe and healthy.
Lester	Kindergarten	I really hope District 58 chooses to follow the AAP and CDC's guidelines of masked indoors for all unvaccinated and even vaccinated in areas of high transmission, especially when we have over 2,000 new cases today alone. I know my kindergartner is very excited to start school and knows she'll have to wear a mask and says she doesn't care because it helps her and others stay safe.
Grove Children's Preschool	Preschool	I would ask and strongly encourage District 58 to implement mandatory masking for students. Given the recent variant transmission and percentage of the local population that remains unvaccinated, I think it is imperative that children wear masks as a means of trying to prevent the spread in school. I am not scared of my child dying or being hospitalized from covid, as I know statistically this is unlikely; however, I am scared of unknown long-term effects that could possibly occur from exposure to covid. This is a novel virus and should be treated with the utmost caution for the unvaccinated population. I also would ask that District 58 require vaccination for teachers and support staff. This option allows teachers to teach unmasked, which is critically important for learning and speech development. To summarize, my preference would be to have all children masked and give teachers the option to work unmasked if vaccinated.
Henry Puffer	6th Grade	Only medical masks that have been FITTED to the face will work, so unless someone is going to pay for all of these medical masks and fit them to each kid and staff members' face...there is NO POINT in wearing the masks. It is not a law and masks should be optional for all.
Henry Puffer	6th Grade	Only medical masks that have been FITTED to the face will work, so unless someone is going to pay for all of these medical masks and fit them to each kid and staff members' face...there is NO POINT in wearing the masks. It is not a law and masks should be optional for all.
Kingsley	2nd Grade, 6th Grade	
Whittier	Kindergarten	Thank you for your communication and for keeping our community's (students, faculty, staff, etc.) safety your priority. I wish we didn't need to have masks but am thankful my child will be in person. I commend the teachers for their flexibility and creativity during this pandemic.
Hillcrest	Preschool, 2nd Grade	Enough is enough, school year needs to return to normal. Masks, no masks, whatever, the kids need to be learning the normal amount of time a day in school, pre-pandemic hours.
O'Neill	8th Grade	Nothing everyone has been working so hard to give our kids the best learning experience. My son has said he doesn't care mask or not he is just happy to have a normal start
Pierce Downer	4th Grade	We are hopeful for a as normal school year as possible with regular school days, specials, lunch and optional mask wearing. Thank you for all you do!

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O'Neill Herrick	7th Grade 7th Grade	Given the variant and reluctance of some parents to vaccinate their kids I would like to see a mask requirement for all students. I am especially concerned because for those of us with kids that have conditions where if they would be at a higher risk of hospitalization despite being vaccinated it would offer additional protection and put parents at ease. The District needs to consider the kids that need to be more careful because of existing conditions-what options will be available to those kids if mask wearing is not required??? How will the District monitor vaccination rates? Will the school test for COVID weekly? Some schools are doing that at a cost of \$24/two weeks. Is that something we should consider for our District? NO MASKS FOR ANY KIDS let the parents decide
Highland	1st Grade, 5th Grade	I appreciate the work being done to get our children back in school full time, regardless of what needs to be worn to make that happen. I, personally, think it should be optional, but I am just a carpenter that doesn't have to make those kinds of decisions. Apparently, back to school full time is not good enough for all, but I say its going to be really nice for everyone whether they admit to it or not. So with that, I am thankful for at least a couple of you and good luck. Sending love and light and stuff.
Pierce Downer	1st Grade	I appreciate the updated information from the district. I hope that we continue to protect those around us by wearing masks in schools, as recommended by the CDC. I will be working with [REDACTED] next Wednesday in the Health and Safety meeting but wanted to send a note encouraging continued mask use in schools.
Highland	4th Grade, 6th Grade	Please do not make masking optional.
El Sierra	3rd Grade	Our family prefers/supports mandated mask wearing for all children under 12 and any unvaccinated individuals. If CDC recommendations change, we support following their guidelines.
Belle Aire, Herrick Belle Aire	5th Grade, 7th Grade 1st Grade	Please let families make the choice to mask their children. We support all decisions DG58 has made thus far, but please give us a choice. I thank you all for everything you have been doing this past year. Please give us an option, DuPage Co. is over 80% vaccinated, luckily. The detriment to children -science based, is still extremely low. Please let us choose. No masks
Kingsley Henry Puffer	1st Grade 6th Grade	MASKS OPTIONAL for all grades K-12, kids are not dying like everyone thinks, kids have been having parties and play dates all summer maskless, and guess what no ones getting sick. If those parents who want their kids in masks and are afraid, then they can have their children wear N95 masks and get properly fitted for them as that's the only mask that supposedly can prevent the spread. It should be parent choice. And these "guidelines" are recommendations not mandated or even a law. Thank you for all your efforts! Please mandate masks for all in Elementary Schools.
Highland Hillcrest	Kindergarten 1st Grade, 3rd Grade, 5th Grade	I don't want my son to have to wear a mask for a 7 hour school day. I'm concerned about whether the school has air conditioning and if not the impact the heat will have on kids with masks in for prolonged times. Follow the science. There is such a low transmission rate for children of this age, avoid masks and lets these kids get back to learning in a normal and healthy environment!
Belle Aire Lester, Herrick	5th Grade 5th Grade, 7th Grade	The mask regulation needs to go away for kids in school already, everyone, even during the school year last year was without masks outside of school. and hanging around in groups. You would see kids after school and over the summer riding bikes, etc. maskless. Everyone I know of is already vaccinated and my older daughter is as well. The masks people wear are not going to limit the spread of covid anyways and everyone has suffered especially children. Those who choose to not get vaccinated have made their choice. I understand that a very, very small percentage of people can't get it for medical reasons but almost always that is a temporary period before or shortly after surgery for example. Unfortunately the school board speaks for the few not the many in most cases. Same for doctors and medical experts who all have their own opinions and have never come to a consensus and use this as a way to get their face on TV. Sorry for the rant but enough is enough already. We definitely need our kids in school for their mental health. We are comfortable with not wearing masks either.
Henry Puffer O'Neill	1st Grade, 5th Grade 8th Grade	1. Will social distancing be increased to 6 feet during mealtimes? 2. Will there be snacks in the classroom now that 6 feet of social distancing is no longer required? 3. Will children be allowed to come to school with a runny nose, or any other symptoms of COVID?4. Will I be able to find out the vaccination status of my child's teacher? 5. Will the cafeteria tables be sanitized between each lunch shift? Please allow middle school students to have optional masks. They have choice of vaccination.
Henry Puffer	3rd Grade	Our family fully supports and appreciates all that D58 has done during this entire pandemic. Thank you for making tough decisions to give our kids the best possible outcome. I'm asking for the district to stand firm regarding optional masking. Parents should be able to decide what is best for their children. Kids deserve to breathe freely and see each other's smiles! Thanks for your time.
O'Neill	8th Grade	I believe it is imperative that the Jr high students be allowed to use lockers, have a full 8-period day where they are allowed to change classrooms, teachers and students in their classes in order to best prepare for high school.
Highland	1st Grade	Please make decision on mask wearing and other safety protocol soon for elementary school students who unfortunately don't have the option to get vaccinated. Knowing this info ahead of time will ease the stress on many parents. The beginning of next school year is fast approaching.

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Hillcrest, O'Neill	6th Grade, 8th Grade	Masks should be optional and a parent decision as to what is best for their child and family. If not you will have a flurry of medical or religious exemptions and potential litigation from some.
Belle Aire, Herrick	4th Grade, 6th Grade, 8th Grade	OPEN AND MASK OPTIONAL. No questions asked. Teach American greatness. Yes there were horrible moments in the past, which should be addressed. Do not teach children to hate this country or each other.
O'Neill	8th Grade	My son is vaccinated and he will have his mask. I hope that those not vaccinated wear masks and those that may have the option to not wear masks do not tease/bully those that do choose to wear them for safety.
Herrick	8th Grade	I support mask optional and normal class rotation for all students
Lester	1st Grade, 3rd Grade	You need to consider the fact there is no air conditioning at Lester school. Wearing a mask in a hot classroom poses sanitary issues due to sweating in the masks and increases the chance of overheating in our children. Are we expecting our young children to recognize the symptoms of heat exhaustion in themselves and take action. Please consider these concerns. Thanks
Herrick	8th Grade	<p>The CDC's almost daily flip-flopping flies in the face of sound public health policy/goals. I do not support making kids wear masks in schools. They have been through enough. They shouldn't be marked as disease carriers. Do the right thing for the kids and ditch the mask mandate in schools.</p> <p>PS: You should also consider ditching the CDC's weak advise. They're becoming a national embarrassment.</p> <p>Thank you, </p>
Henry Puffer	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade, 5th Grade	Please make masks required until this age group has had an opportunity to be vaccinated!
Hillcrest	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade, 5th Grade	<p>Superintendents and School Boards - STOP the PANIC. We are not at high transmission risk in NE Illinois and therefore the new CDC GUIDELINES - not LAW - do not apply. #unmaskthechildren #masksoptional Even if we were, these are only guidelines and the data does not support them.</p> <p>And if you are worried get a vaccine and mask yourself - the rest of us want normal school for our kids. We are not all in this together. Are you wearing a mask 8 hours a day, sitting at a desk and trying to learn at age 5? You first superintendent and school board members.</p>
Pierce Downer	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	Thank you for your ongoing work with navigating the pandemic. My hope for the start of the year is that we can get social interaction between students back to what we saw pre pandemic. In social situations in the summer we have not seen any health impact among the students that are also in the elementary school, so I'd like to attempt to start the year with a normal way of interacting between peers and teachers.
Kingsley	2nd Grade, 5th Grade, 6th Grade	Yes
Henry Puffer	2nd Grade	The new CDC guidelines are absurd! THIS IS NOT OK TO KEEP MASKING OUR CHILDREN! School leaders should consider the full impact on learning and social development that masks have on children. Please do the right thing! It should be up to the parents weather or not they want to mask their own children.
Herrick	7th Grade	As close to fully operational and normal as possible and masking wearing should be optional based on parents decision
O'Neill	7th Grade	Our children cannot take another year like last year. Vaccinated students should be given the option of wearing masks, not mandated to wear masks. These are students who are part of the solution, not the problem. And it is a problem that all students have to wear masks because some students have chosen not to get vaccinated.
Kingsley	Kindergarten, 1st Grade	We are hoping for as normal a school year as possible and would like all students and staff to remain masked so that we can continue to attend school each day.
Fairmount	6th Grade	With the Delta variant spreading so quickly, all elementary school children should be required to wear a mask (as should the faculty/administrators). Have we learned nothing since the start of the pandemic? My son was remote all last year. He is on an IEP and needs to be in school. It is your responsibility to make decisions that keep our children safe at school. Masking up helps to diminish the spread of illness. Do the right thing. Require masks.
Whittier, Herrick	6th Grade, 8th Grade	Honestly, I just wanted to say thank you. This is all so much to process and I appreciate all that is happening behind the scenes to get our kids back in school, in the safest and most normal way possible. Thank you!
Hillcrest	2nd Grade, 6th Grade	There is zero science to back the CDC's new guidelines. Stop blindly following the fear tactics and make decisions based what this community knows to be fact - kids are at almost zero risk of contracting and spreading Covid.
Whittier	5th Grade	I would like to have masks optional for the kids

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Hillcrest, Grove Children's Preschool	6th Grade, 8th Grade	I would like to understand what will happen if masks are decided to be mandatory and families send their kids with no mask and do not want their kids to wear one at all. And what is your perspective on the point of view that public educational institutions cannot require masks if not mandated by law?
O'Neill	8th Grade	I would like the district to follow the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation of universal masking in the schools. Not all children are eligible for vaccination and not all children who are eligible haven been vaccinated. https://services.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2021/american-academy-of-pediatrics-updates-recommendations-for-opening-schools-in-fall-2021/
Indian Trail	5th Grade	In favor of keeping our child masked
Highland, Herrick	4th Grade, 8th Grade	Would like to understand why a vaccinated student would need to wear a mask. Thanks!
Indian Trail	Kindergarten, 3rd Grade	My children will be wearing masks and hope that others will be as well.
Herrick	7th Grade	No masks for anyone. Back to pre Covid in every way
Herrick	8th Grade	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I feel like 8th grade students and parents deserve some sort of orientation to Herrick considering last year was far from normal. I keep hearing that Herrick has many clubs and activities but I have no idea what they are. I don't think my child does either. I'd like this information so that I can encourage my child and help him choose what he'd like to get involved with. 2. 8th graders never got a sneak preview last year to find lockers, practice getting into lockers, or go through their class schedule to find their way through the building. I feel they deserve this. Basically, anything that is being done for incoming 7th graders and their parents should also be done for 8th graders. 3. Kids have not been wearing masks all summer. I feel making them do so again during school and activities will impede their ability and desire to learn. They have missed so much already. Having to look at and listen to a teacher who is wearing a mask is difficult for anyone, especially kids who struggle to pay attention in the first place, which puts them at further disadvantage.
Fairmount	3rd Grade	Would like masks to be worn until under 12 group has access to vaccine.
Hillcrest	6th Grade	Looking forward to no masks. Despite recent headlines, as of June 30, Dupage county ranks in top 2% of vaccinated counties in the U.S. Of eligible population (12 and up), over 80% have received at least one vaccination dose. Of residents over 65 years, that number is 98%. Over the past 4 weeks, those percentages don't seem to be published, but had to improve. The county residents have taken their responsibilities seriously, we know children have mild symptoms from COVID, and our elderly are protected. Furthermore, long-term mental health and socialization issues are not being considered. While difficult to measure and predict, we can reasonably assume longer-term masking impact will outlast any minor, short-term COVID symptoms for our youth. I hope logic, reason, and non-politically motivated "science" prevail in the decision making process. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.
Lester	2nd Grade, 4th Grade, 7th Grade	We advocate for full time in-person in learning to begin the school year.
Henry Puffer, Herrick	6th Grade, 7th Grade	I would like masks to be optional if possible and school to be in person instead of remote
Belle Aire	2nd Grade	
Belle Aire	5th Grade	I just want to be sure that by reading the CDC and IDPH documents that were attached in the most recent email from the District that these agencies are submitting Guidelines and Recommendations pertaining to masks not Requirements, correct? Which means masks are optional.
Highland	3rd Grade	We would prefer for masks to be mandatory for our unvaccinated children!
Hillcrest	6th Grade	<p>District 58 needs to remember that the CDC is providing GUIDELINES, not mandates, and certainly not LAWS.</p> <p>Unless court-ordered, a public institution is not authorized to mandate the masking of children.</p> <p>The parents and students of District 58 are the stakeholders. We retain the legal right to make the decision on whether or not to send our child to school with a medical device (mask), and our children cannot be discriminated against nor denied an education because of that.</p> <p>The district needs to understand that there is a large, and growing, group of parents who WILL NOT stand for the school district making decisions that overreach our parental rights.</p>
Whittier	4th Grade	Please make masks mandatory in elementary aged kids. They can't be vaccinated, but they can get and transmit the virus. We have people in our lives who are medically unable to be vaccinated. A mask mandate can save the lives of your students and their families.
Henry Puffer	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade, 5th Grade	Please make masks required until this age group has had an opportunity to be vaccinated!
Fairmount	Kindergarten, 3rd Grade	Please mandate masks for everyone.


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Lester, Herrick Herrick	Kindergarten, 7th Grade 7th Grade	Please make masks OPTIONAL. This should be a family's choice. Please follow the science. Children are statistically NOT effected by this virus. Let the choice be with the families. I would like the kids to be fully in-person. I'm comfortable with masks optional. My son is vaccinated.
Herrick	7th Grade	I felt for you when I saw your email followed up by the new CDC announcement within hours of each other. My 7th grader is vaccinated , but she said "I know how hard the superintendent is working, and if he wants me to wear a mask anyway, I'm totally on board. It's not so bad. I want to make it easier for him, he's only doing what's best for all kids." Thought I'd pass that along.
Pierce Downer	2nd Grade, 3rd Grade	I would like to strongly encourage the district to put decisions for individual children's health & well being back into the hands of their parents. Parents have a right to determine whether wearing a mask, being vaccinated, or being tested for an illness for which a child is not showing symptoms is in the best interest of the child & their family. Please ensure the opportunity for our children to attend school in person full time this school year and allow parents to decide the rest!
Herrick	8th Grade	We are all about the kids going 5 days a week safely. Leaving masking up to individuals to be honest about their vax status isn't working. Teachers cannot be managing this. Separate classrooms by vax and unvax status as of mid August so students who are not vaxed are not singled out as having to wear a mask vs the vaxed kids in a single classroom. We have had since mid May to get them vaxed and the middle school should just move on. Don't mix them and punish all with wearing masks. Then put immune compromised children in vaxed classrooms where they are more protected.
Lester	1st Grade	I would like to express my concern with the possibility that our children will be required to be masked for another school year. You would be doing a great disservice to the children of this community if you require masking again. The education product provided by this district will be negatively affected with a mask requirement. Please take a stand against the ridiculous and disingenuous "guidance" being flowed down from our elected officials and give the parents of your district a choice with thier children's education. Respectfully, A concerned parent
Pierce Downer, Grove Children's Preschool	Preschool, 1st Grade	We would like to express our opinion that facemasks should be optional for students K-12. Hopefully, when the CDC says that masks 'should' be worn that means that they are not required and merely suggested. We are looking into alternative options such as home-schooling and private schools in the event masks are required. Thank you for considering our opinions.
Kingsley	Kindergarten, 3rd Grade	No masks. The CDC changes its mind every other day. This is not a big deal for kids. If teachers don't have a vaccine they can wear a mask!
Lester	6th Grade	Our family is thrilled to be back to a "normal" school day, and we have no problem following the best guidance to make it as safe as possible while doing so.
O'Neill	7th Grade, 8th Grade	I would like to see D58 move forward as planned prior to this latest left-turn by CDC and IDPH. Also, while since the IDPH seems a mere pass-through rubber stamp for the CDC, doubt they'll respond to the info quoted below, but perhaps you can get something substantive on it - e.g. do you agree with these CDC stats, and if so, then why not formulate your own guidance re: schools? Thank you and appreciate your diligent efforts amid an ever changing situation. From the Washington Post 7/27, op-ed by M. Thiessen: "...As Johns Hopkins University professor Marty Makary points out in the Wall Street Journal, CDC data show that of the more than 600,000 Americans who died with a covid diagnosis code in their record, just 335 were children under 18 — and the CDC has no idea whether they had a preexisting condition and whether their covid diagnosis was incidental or causal. A research team at Johns Hopkins led by Makary looked at 48,000 children under 18 diagnosed with covid-19, and found a mortality rate of zero among children without a preexisting medical condition, such as pediatric cancer. Indeed, there is no official government data to show whether any healthy children have died as a result of covid-19. The fact is children are at extremely low risk from covid-19. And this much is certain: Teachers who are vaccinated and otherwise healthy face no serious risk from their unvaccinated students. But with the surge caused by the delta variant expected to peak in late August or early September — right when schools are set to open — expect the teacher unions to use delta to demand that schools stay closed until young children are vaccinated. Sorry, but there is no justification whatsoever not to open schools, or to require that children wear masks or be vaccinated to return to the classroom. And there is no justification to mandate that vaccinated Americans wear masks, or to reimpose any restrictions on the everyday activities of citizens who have either natural or vaccinated immunity."

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Pierce Downer	2nd Grade, 3rd Grade	Please live up to your obligation as a public school district and ensure that all children in district 58 have the opportunity to attend school in person full time for the full school year, and allow parents in the community to decide whether their child should wear a mask, get vaccinated or submit to testing when not experiencing symptoms. The children need to be able to see their friends faces, play together and BE CHILDREN! Don't take that away from them for even one. more. day.
Highland	3rd Grade, 5th Grade	Please make masks optional. Children have a 99.9% survival rate similar to a vaccinated adult with a 99.99% survival rate if they contract covid. Let's make masks optional. Our children are not at high risk and masks negatively impact the learning environment, social interactions and so much more.
Whittier	1st Grade, 3rd Grade	<p>As always, thank you to Dr. Russell and the Board for your tireless, unrelenting work. You are in an unenviable position and I know you all are doing the best you can. Thank you for being open to our comments.</p> <p>Please follow the CDC guidelines for mask wearing - universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status, in addition to other prevention measures such as hand washing, physical distancing, etc.</p> <p>The CDC is limited in its regulatory authority - its language often reads "recommends" not "requires". In the Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools, the CDC also states that individuals showing symptoms of an infectious illness "should" stay home - will the district make this safety measure optional too, as it does not read "must" or "required"? This is not meant to be a facetious comment. It is very concerning that safety measures are being cherry picked from the CDC's guidance by individuals who are not doctors nor epidemiologists nor health experts. It is also extremely upsetting that the only part of the guidance up for interpretation and discussion (mandatory mask wearing) happens to be the most political. The back and forth regarding semantics is illogical and absurd. The guidance is clear and there are no contradictions. These are OUR CHILDREN. We know what the safest course of action is for our most vulnerable (the EXPERTS have told us) - I am baffled as to why any district (especially 58) would work so hard to find loopholes to make such safety measures optional.</p> <p>Until all have equal access to vaccinations, it is my most sincere hope that Dr. Russell and the Board will listen to the experts and require all preventative measures for COVID-19 in our schools (including mandatory mask wearing), as clearly stated in the CDC guidance. Thank you for your time.</p>
Herrick	8th Grade	I hope that fully vaccinated children do not have to wear a mask and the school year will look as close to normal.
Fairmount, O'Neill	4th Grade, 7th Grade	I understand and fully accept the fact that my 4th grader would most likely be wearing a mask in school this year, due to her age and not being able to receive the vaccine yet. But my son who is 12, and vaccinated, should not be punished for his choice to protect himself (and others) from the virus by having to wear a mask while in school. Just as with any other vaccine that is required, by state law, to attend public school, I believe that if a student does not provide proof of vaccination, they should be required to wear a mask while in school. If a person chooses not to get a vaccine but still wants attend public school, maybe they should look at private schools that may not require vaccines for admission. I know what a difficult position all this poses for the district, and I am confident in ours with making the best decision for our kids.
Lester	3rd Grade, 4th Grade	Let the choice of mask wearing up to the parents. We are all doing it now.
Pierce Downer, Herrick	5th Grade, 7th Grade	Even though my 12 year old is vaccinated, she will be wearing a mask to school. The Delta and Lambda variants are a concern of our family and we still have a 10 year old at home. Plus, even with a vaccination, it is not guaranteed that we are 100% safe. I believe it's a good idea to still take safety precautions at all the schools. Extra cleanings, distancing, and mask wearing should still be a priority.
Pierce Downer	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade, 4th Grade	I truly hope the kids are going back full time to start the year which I believe is the plan. I just really hope that doesn't change. As far as masks go I guess it is what it is. I don't think kids should be in them all day for many reasons including the heat but if the alternative is not learning in person then so be it.
Herrick	7th Grade	I feel all kids to mask up so that everyone can be safe and learn. Teachers should have the option of not wearing a mask to make the instruction more effective. Maybe wear a plastic mask head cover.
Herrick	7th Grade	As a precaution, we need to ask all students/staff to wear masks as we start the school year. I do not believe that all unvaccinated individuals will abide by masking "requests", when many of their classmates may be vaccinated/unmasked. It is imperative that we keep our students and community healthy if we hope to continue with onsite instruction for our students this school year, and universal masking will help us maintain a more normal school year.
Highland	Kindergarten	Vaccinated students, teachers and staff should not need to wear masks. Thank you for all of your hard work in trying to make thr best decisions.
Pierce Downer, Grove Children's Preschool	Preschool, 1st Grade	Please have the kids change masks frequently during each school day!
Herrick	7th Grade	<p>Thank you for all you do! You are stuck in a no win situation with parents.</p> <p>My fully vaccinated 7th grader is happy to wear her mask this year. She just wants to continue going to school. As a sub for dg58, the students (k-5) did a great job wearing their masks. What dg58 did worked! Don't change it now with delta....</p>

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O'Neill	7th Grade	Our children cannot take another year like last year. Vaccinated students should be given the option of wearing masks, not mandated to wear masks. These are students who are part of the solution, not the problem. And it is a problem that all students have to wear masks because some students have chosen not to get vaccinated.
Belle Aire	Kindergarten, 4th Grade	I hope the district does not mandate children have to wear masks to school come this Fall. My daughter wears glasses and they were constantly fogging up which made it hard for her to see. The masks also hurt my son's ears. He has had surgery on his ears and it does not help that he has to wear a mask. Children are low risk for getting covid so I do not feel it is necessary they have to wear masks. If a parent wants their child to wear a mask they can. I do not want my children wearing masks.
Pierce Downer	1st Grade	As responsible and well-informed parents, we wholly support that families should have a choice in whether or not to mask their children. If masking is not optional in district 58 this school year, we will be moving our child to another school. It is not fair for the children or teachers.
Belle Aire	Kindergarten, 3rd Grade, 6th Grade	The pediatric Covid survival rate for ages 19 and younger in all of DuPage County is 100%. And for ages 20 and younger in the entire state of Illinois it is 99.998%. The teachers and staff have the ability to be vaccinated. Based on all of the data masks should be optional for the upcoming school year.
Herrick	7th Grade	<p>Masks should be voluntary! If any adult or child is worried about getting covid-19 in a district 58 building they have many options to prevent transmission. Those options include vaccination, wearing a mask themselves, and the various home learning options.</p> <p>The masks mandates have been in terrible for the children! They are demoralizing and unhealthy.</p> <p>We've definitely noticed a very pronounced change in our child's demeanor under mask mandates. Masks are not only physically unhealthy, they are mentally and emotionally unhealthy, and they are a severe detriment to learning.</p> <p>Additionally, to my knowledge, there has been no published science proving that masks are effective.</p> <p>We feel that our child has been used as a political football. Maybe even a Charlie Brown football where every time he goes in to kick the football, the ball is pulled away and he's knocked on his back.</p> <p>Regarding vaccinated versus unvaccinated children, the vaccine is only authorized of their emergency conditions. It is not Fda approved. To my knowledge, there is no safety data for children on any of the vaccines.</p> <p>Finally the morbidity data for children 18 and under shows that death s are almost non-existent for children without comorbidities/significant pre-existing conditions.</p> <p>Experience the only thing we know for sure about masks is that they are harmful to the learning environment for our child and harmful to his emotional well-being.</p> <p>Please don't force our child to wear a mask, or get a vaccine that is unproven safe for children, until there is significant scientific evidence that these are necessary.</p> <p>For the record, my wife and I are both vaccinated. Thank you for listening </p>

Family Feedback Form - Opening of School August 2021 (REDACTED Responses)

Which school(s) do your students attend? (please check all that apply)	What grade level(s) will your student(s) be in for the 2021-22 school year? (Please check all that apply)	What would you like to share with District 58 regarding the opening of school this fall?
		<p>CDC, IDPH, DCHD, JSBE K-12 guidance recommends indoor mask wearing by all as most effective measure to prevent transmission. Why are we even having a discussion on wearing or not wearing a mask? It is so painfully obvious we need to wear masks to keep each other safe, at least indoors and with our children who are not vaccinated. If some would rather not wear a mask and risk infecting others and their loved ones, why don't they stay home? If they don't feel the need to follow guidance and common sense, they can then do so comfortably at home without a mask on if it is such a burden.</p> <p>Dr. Russell, according to 7/9/21 CDC, IDPH recommendation (included in your email that I presume you and all board members read) of mask wearing, you and board members have had this information for weeks now and still opted for optional mask wearing for 12 and up? Why must you wait for additional information DCHD 7/28/21 to make a decision? The situation with the delta variant being more contagious, etc has gotten worse in the past week as evidenced by the sharp rise in cases. Last year you always stated this is a very fluid situation, we are going with the guidance of IDPH, CDC, etc, why has that changed now? Do you and the board seem to know more on the subject than these departments? If so please explain, if not and we are to follow what the experts in their respective departments are advising, at the very least start the school year with mandatory mask wearing, monitor and adjust later if situation improves. But for now: Make mask wearing mandatory</p> <p>What, if any improvements/additions have been made to the Highland ventilation system? Does it even have one? Look forward to hearing from you soon</p> <p>Thank you ██████████</p>
Highland	2nd Grade	
Herrick	7th Grade	Full time school with no masks
Lester	3rd Grade, 4th Grade	Let the choice of mask wearing up to the parents. We are all doing it now.
Kingsley	1st Grade, 3rd Grade	Masks must be required for EVERYONE in the schools with kids that aren't old enough to get vaccinated. We have to protect our kids. Too many people are not abiding by the guidelines such as quarantining after vacations or when family members have symptoms. I know that for a fact. Masks are the only defense to a failed honor system.
Herrick	7th Grade	Since the science shows kids are low risk, parents should be able to decide for their children. Unmask our children.
O'Neill	8th Grade	Will full time on-site students school day be shortened, if masks are required while in school? How will lunch schedule be?
Henry Puffer	4th Grade, 6th Grade	We feel masks should be mandatory in all elementary schools for unvaccinated people and all unvaccinated children under 12. Once these children are vaccinated, mask policies can be revisited but not before then.
Pierce Downer	2nd Grade	Vaccinated individuals should not have to wear masks. What is the incentive to get your grade school child vaccinated if nothing changes for them and they still need to mask?
El Sierra	6th Grade	I feel that we should have the choice to send our kids with masks or not. Per the science, they are not carriers, I am unsure about the vaccine for anyone under 16, with puberty and hormones, it makes me nervous to vaccinate. In addition, my doctor told me a week ago that the masks are causing the kids oxygen levels to drop. Covid is here and so is the flu. I will continue to keep my child home if she is sick, just like the Flu.
Herrick	4th Grade, 7th Grade	I have 7th grade Twins so this counts twice PLEASE MAKE MASKS OPTIONAL!
Indian Trail	Preschool, 4th Grade	I would like it to follow the 3 foot spacing and mask wearing for all students. I would like my kids to see full in school days with lunch and "normal" activities. I'm am okay with staff not wearing a mask if they are fully vaccinated and more than 3 ft away from students.
Belle Aire	1st Grade, 4th Grade	I would like to have a remote option

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Hillcrest	6th Grade	<p>District 58 needs to remember that the CDC is providing GUIDELINES, not mandates, and certainly not LAWS.</p> <p>Unless court-ordered, a public institution is not authorized to mandate the masking of children.</p> <p>The parents and students of District 58 are the stakeholders. We retain the legal right to make the decision on whether or not to send our child to school with a medical device (mask), and our children cannot be discriminated against nor denied an education because of that.</p> <p>The district needs to understand that there is a large, and growing, group of parents who WILL NOT stand for the school district making decisions that overreach our parental rights.</p>
Lester	2nd Grade, 5th Grade	Please allow the kids to have a full normal day with recess and specials. Even with masks the kids really need full normal days. Please.
Hillcrest	3rd Grade, 4th Grade	We fully respect everyones decision to mask or not mask. We DO NOT believe in children wearing a mask and they don't want too either they say they can breathe, can't concentrate and won't go to school. Every family should have the right to do what's best and safe for them. Please let them go back with masks as an option we need to learn to live with this as it's clearly not going away. These kids need some normalcy back in their lives and much better mental health.
Hillcrest	Kindergarten, 3rd Grade, 5th Grade	We are totally ok with the kids having to wear masks and we just really want them to be in school all year. One thing I do have questions about is if there is a positive covid case or a close contact and the student needs to quarantine for 10- 14 days how will they be able to stay up to date on their work and not fall behind? Will there be an option to zoom them into the classroom? That would be ideal.
Henry Puffer	3rd Grade, 5th Grade	Please, please mask elementary students and any students that don't get the vaccine!!! It is science that masking stops the spread, this is the most contagious group and you are mixing from all kinds of homes and backgrounds. We have had such good results with the caution the district has exhibited, please make masking mandatory and help keep these kids and teachers in school this year!!
Pierce Downer	5th Grade	I think masks should be optional. I am a parent of a child with special needs and I have seen how masks hinder communication and makes learning more challenging.
Indian Trail	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	
Herrick	7th Grade	No masks
O'Neill	7th Grade	Please open as normal. Please have all activities continue as normal. We would prefer our vaccinated child to NOT wear a mask. We do not wish to have to accommodate people who are choosing their right to not get vaccinated, if they do not wish to that is fine but we do not wish to continue to wear masks as we have chosen to make the choice to get vaccinated for the good of our own health and those around us. Schools need to be normal at this point.
Hillcrest	1st Grade, 3rd Grade	Mask required for all students and staff
		Mask optional!
Kingsley	3rd Grade, 5th Grade	My children's health is my choice.
Lester	4th Grade, 6th Grade	<p>My kids do not want to or need to wear a mask to school! My kids haven't wore a mask since the day they left school and have been in stores, camps, concerts, restaurants and countless other indoor and outdoor environments without masks. They need to be able to learn in a normal healthy environment. If parents choose to have their kids wear masks then by all means let them but this should not be required. I have personally seen so many kids including my own negatively effected from wearing masks. Before this pandemic my youngest son was a social butterfly, loved hanging out with friends and playing sports. During the pandemic he gained weight, was sad all the time and had no interest in anything unless it was an electronic. The pandemic stole so much of his childhood that he is just getting back. I keep hearing from our government that we are following the science. The science says that kids barely even get Covid, barely get sick from Covid and they don't spread it like adults. I can go on and on but enough is enough!</p>
Fairmount	2nd Grade	<p>Further proof that masks should be mandatory for all unvaccinated.</p> <p>Vaccinated adults should be masked when within 3 feet of the unvaccinated or other crowded areas.</p> <p>Our children under 12 deserve to be kept safe. It's not their choice to be vaccinated or not. They aren't eligible. Until they are eligible, it's society's job to protect them.</p>
Lester	6th Grade	My child will not return to a mask optional elementary school. Since students under the age of 12 are unable to get vaccinated at this time, mandatory mask wearing is their first line of defense.
Pierce Downer	2nd Grade, 4th Grade	We support all thoughtful decisions made by the district. Any mask mandate will work here provided ample breaks are occurring. These decisions are so difficult, thank you for your time and thoughtfulness!
Whittier	Kindergarten	Masks for unvaccinated children should be required in the classroom. Once the vaccine is available for children under 12, we should let masks be optional.

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Herrick	7th Grade	The district needs to open, be on a regular schedule and masks not be required if you are vaccinated. The CDC guidance is just plain wrong. My children are vaccinated and will not be wearing masks at school.
Hillcrest, O'Neill	6th Grade, 8th Grade	I cannot stress enough how important I believe it is for kids of ALL ages to go back to school full time WITHOUT being required to wear a mask. If someone is concerned their child could get the virus from someone, let that child wear a mask, or whatever protective wear that makes them feel safe for that matter. The wearing of masks was a HUGE distraction last school year. These kids have already suffered enough intellectually, emotionally, and socially. The masks prohibit them from SO much! I feel it far out weighs the benefit of wearing a mask to prevent the spread of the virus. And if 1 kid is vaccinated, that child's family should NOT be concerned about an unvaccinated child getting them sick if they are vaccinated. I feel so incredibly strongly in what I have said. I hope and pray we can start and complete the 2021-2022 school year with an optional mask program. Let's let these kids go back to being kids, please.
Hillcrest	6th Grade	<p>District 58 needs to remember that the CDC is providing GUIDELINES, not mandates, and certainly not LAWS.</p> <p>Unless court-ordered, a public institution is not authorized to mandate the masking of children.</p> <p>The parents and students of District 58 are the stakeholders. We retain the legal right to make the decision on whether or not to send our child to school with a medical device (mask), and our children cannot be discriminated against nor denied an education because of that.</p> <p>The district needs to understand that there is a large, and growing, group of parents who WILL NOT stand for the school district making decisions that overreach our parental rights.</p>
Highland	Preschool, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade	We are super excited for school, we do think that unvaccinated and kids that can't get the vaccine yet should wear a mask. It would be responsible to do for the health of others, kids and to keep schools open. Thank you for all your hard work, it cannot be easy making these decisions.
Fairmount	Kindergarten, 1st Grade	Masks optional, not required for all students.
Indian Trail	Kindergarten, 5th Grade	Absolutely no masks for the children!
O'Neill	8th Grade	Wearing a mask should be a choice. The people who got vaccinated should not have to suffer because others won't. If a student can prove that they are vaccinated they should not have to wear a mask.
Pierce Downer	Kindergarten, 3rd Grade	Follow the cdc science
Herrick	7th Grade, 8th Grade	Wear face mask, for everyone. Regardless if vaccinated or not.
Herrick	7th Grade	I would like the masks to be optional
Lester	Kindergarten, 6th Grade	Please listen to the experts and use caution. Encourage vaccination and mask wearing if recommended by the experts. Thank you!
Whittier	2nd Grade	<p>Hello, I would like to point out that the CDC and IDPH guidance is only a recommendation. It is not a mandate. I think that everyone in this district is aware and educated enough on Covid-19 to be able to make their own decisions for what is best for their children in terms of wearing a mask to school. This cannot be allowed to be the new normal, and continue on forever, which is what is being attempted here by a small group who are very good at making a lot of noise. There is over a year and half worth of science and data that documents children statistically have a 0% risk from this virus. People are free to send their kids to school in an N95 mask, or two masks if that is what they are comfortable with, but it should not be a mandate. It should be up to the family and students.</p> <p>Thank you for all you have done for District 58!</p>
Highland	Kindergarten, 3rd Grade, 5th Grade	<p>School should remain in session full time for all children K-6.</p> <p>Masks should be optional for all students regardless of vaccination status. This allows parents to make the decision for their child based on what is happening with the pandemic at any given time. Clearly this virus isn't going anywhere and a world where children have to wear masks all the time is awful.</p> <p>And allowing only vaccinated children to remain maskless is even worse!! Talk about unequal playing ground!!! There are so many reasons why a parent may choose not to vaccinate with this new un-FDA approved drug, for a young girl especially. Don't force parents to make decisions about potential long-term vaccine side effects because they are afraid their child will be put at a disadvantage because they have to wear a masks. So unfair to the kids!</p> <p>Look at Indiana schools, many remained maskless all year (2020) in unvaccinated children. Can we say they are worse off because of it? Probably not.</p> <p>I hope DG58 will not be a follower of Chicago and other suburban districts on the mask decision. I hope that DG 58 will be a leader and not follow the constant poor decisions of The state of IL.</p>
Indian Trail, Kingsley	Preschool, 1st Grade	mask mandates should be up to the parents!

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Herrick	8th Grade	<p>1. I feel like 8th grade students and parents deserve some sort of orientation to Herrick considering last year was far from normal. I keep hearing that Herrick has many clubs and activities but I have no idea what they are. I don't think my child does either. I'd like this information so that I can encourage my child and help him choose what he'd like to get involved with.</p> <p>2. 8th graders never got a sneak preview last year to find lockers, practice getting into lockers, or go through their class schedule to find their way through the building. I feel they deserve this. Basically, anything that is being done for incoming 7th graders and their parents should also be done for 8th graders.</p> <p>3. Kids have not been wearing masks all summer. I feel making them do so again during school and activities will impede their ability and desire to learn. They have missed so much already. Having to look at and listen to a teacher who is wearing a mask is difficult for anyone, especially kids who struggle to pay attention in the first place, which puts them at further disadvantage.</p>
Belle Aire, Herrick	5th Grade, 8th Grade	NO MORE MASKS! Enough is enough!
Highland	2nd Grade	Open full day as planned
Hillcrest	1st Grade, 3rd Grade	Mask required for all students and staff
Belle Aire	1st Grade	All students and staff should be required to wear masks in order to ensure the safety for all. Also, to ensure an outbreak doesn't occur which would mean potential for removal of in person learning.
Fairmount	5th Grade	Masks should not be mandated. If a child or individual is not feeling safe then they should wear a mask, it should not be a mandate for everyone.
Pierce Downer, Herrick	5th Grade, 7th Grade	Even though my 12 year old is vaccinated, she will be wearing a mask to school. The Delta and Lambda variants are a concern of our family and we still have a 10 year old at home. Plus, even with a vaccination, it is not guaranteed that we are 100% safe. I believe it's a good idea to still take safety precautions at all the schools. Extra cleanings, distancing, and mask wearing should still be a priority.
Lester	3rd Grade, 6th Grade	This is our first year in the District and look forward to a full year of in person learning (mask or no-mask).
Herrick	7th Grade	If you are asking for students to be vaccinated and they are then it is their parents/students choice to wear a mask all day. Once vaccinated they are not harming others and have a choice as to whether or not they feel comfortable enough not wearing a mask and possibly (not likely) putting themselves at risk of getting sick.
Lester	4th Grade, 6th Grade	Thank you for following the agency guidance and waiting for the most updated information before making a final decision. You are doing everything right. Keep up the good work!!! (My strong preference would be for all Lester kids to be masked in the Fall; however, if you feel expert guidance is pointing in a different direction please make the decision you feel is most appropriate based on the guidance. I know it's not easy!)
Herrick	8th Grade	Open it, kids go back full time- & get the kids that are eligible vaccinated immediately! we are new to the district my daughter went to St Helen School in the city (smaller class sizes & school of course). I can't speak for opening the school to everyone at the same time Bc that's a lot of kids but I wouldn't be opposed especially if everyone is vaccinated.

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Highland	5th Grade	<p>I strongly advise our district to require masks for unvaccinated students/staff, which includes all of our students under 12. The efficacy of masks isn't controversial - just look at the rates of common, seasonal illnesses throughout the last school year in our own schools when masks were required. The seasonal flu or cold was virtually non-existent. Our children, while statistically not pre-disposed to serious complications to COVID, are very effective carriers (even more so when you consider that they don't wash their hands as well, cover their coughs, etc). As a community, we don't want there to be more outbreaks at all, let alone one that can be traced back to one of our schools as ground zero.</p> <p>Our children are way more resilient than adults; they simply repeat what they hear at home. If the parents are expressing anti-mask, anti-vaccine sentiments, then the child(ren) will take umbrage with the requirement to wear masks too (too many times have we all heard parents unreasonably and uninformed opinions influence how their kids respond). But let's just err on the side of caution and require masks for those that are unvaccinated. Almost every single death in the nation is an unvaccinated person, so we know what the science says: the vaccine works, and for those not vaccinated, wearing masks is still the best way to mitigate serious illness (when considering viral load) and the transmission of the virus. Our community is more than just kids; we have many people that are vulnerable so we should feel a sense of social duty to protect everyone, even those that don't believe we're making the right choices.</p> <p>We know what would happen if students started testing positive for COVID en masse - we should value their education more than to just have to flip flop between remote & in person. The disruption in continuity of instruction was the biggest stressor/problem during the last school year, so let's mitigate that possibility by requiring masks. Masks = less transmission = fewer absences = continuity of instruction AND keeping our community safer. It's as simple as that.</p> <p>You are NOT in an enviable position because no matter what you decide, there will be a faction of our community that disagrees. Wouldn't you rather make the decision to require our kids to wear a piece of fabric on their faces and be pre-emptively safer or roll the dice and gamble with our health and the continuity of instruction because of a few loud voices?</p> <p>Thank you so much for your time and consideration. It's evident that you're all doing your due diligence and taking these decisions very seriously, so thank you. Here's looking forward to a full instructional year with as little disruption as possible!</p>
Indian Trail	1st Grade, 3rd Grade	<p>I'm just mostly not excited about masks all day in an environment that is not temperature controlled since our elementary school does not have air conditioning. I do not feel it is safer to be masked for 6 hours (even with breaks) in the heat. Seems unsanitary and unsafe to breathe hot air under a mask all day. I wish we could start the school year in the fall or do a hybrid for the first couple weeks. Last year, at the end, my boys were going through 3 masks a day and STILL coming home with WET sweaty masks and I think that is absolutely disgusting. I wear a mask in an air conditioned environment and 6 hours is still rough, can't imagine being them.</p>
Kingsley	1st Grade	<p>It's unfortunate that we live in time where people don't know what to believe. There are a lot of people today who do not trust the government and are unsure which scientists are telling the truth. How can the average person find a real answer with so many contradictory statements floating around the internet? We can't.</p> <p>Most parents are extremely busy and don't have time to do their own research. The CDC themselves have changed their opinions on mask wearing so much that I've lost count. With all the misinformation going around it would make sense to look at past studies, studies done pre pandemic, on mask wearing.</p> <p>There were numerous studies done pre pandemic, most of which showed mask wearing does not help. Here are some examples of the studies.</p> <p>https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/epidemiology-and-infection/article/face-masks-to-prevent-transmission-of-influenza-virus-a-systematic-%20review/64D368496EBDE0AFCC6639CCC9D8BC05</p> <p>https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/j.1750-2659.2011.00307.x</p> <p>https://www.cmaj.ca/content/188/8/567</p> <p>In conclusion, I clearly do not believe mask wearing should be required for our children. There are too many conflicting opinions in current mask studies. Science has not progressed substantially through the pandemic. Not enough to disprove pre pandemic studies, some of which are only several years old. Thank you for taking the time to hear parents opinions.</p>

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O'Neill	8th Grade	I would like mask wearing to be optional for fully vaccinated students. My daughter is fully vaccinated. The only reason I got her vaccinated is so she wouldn't have to wear a mask or be under such tight restrictions/tracing protocols for the coming school year. I believe every aspect of the upcoming school year should return to normal.
Herrick	8th Grade	We are fully vaccinated
Belle Aire	1st Grade	No masks
Hillcrest, Grove Children's Preschool	Preschool, Kindergarten	I am glad to see that the district is now taking into account the CDC guidance that was being widely discussed before Dr. Russell sent the email on Tuesday. I was somewhat disappointed to see him say that he wanted to hear everyone's opinions while also giving his personal preferences/recommendations. I think it's always best to get feedback first. I have two children who cannot be vaccinated due to their ages (3 and 5 years old). I think there should be no question that for those who cannot be vaccinated (elementary), that masks are required. I was so impressed with how the Grove Preschool handled all the COVID changes and requirements last year. One of the reasons I think they were so successful is because of the mask requirement. If we do not require masks for the younger kids, I believe that there will be contact tracing issues every week. For example, if someone is exposed, the entire class and teacher would have to quarantine. It would be really disruptive to their education. I would be very concerned and frustrated if the schools were to go against all CDC and doctor guidance, which is that those under 12 should be masked. My son is excited to start kindergarten and is very used to wearing his mask. He has sacrificed a lot during COVID, but wearing a mask has never felt like a sacrifice to him. The district's goal should be to get as many kids back into school, while doing so safely. Wearing masks is a very easy way to do this.
Herrick	7th Grade	No Masks during school
El Sierra	3rd Grade	Our family prefers/supports mandated mask wearing for all children under 12 and any unvaccinated individuals. If CDC recommendations change, we support following their guidelines.
Highland, Herrick	4th Grade, 8th Grade	Would like to understand why a vaccinated student would need to wear a mask. Thanks!
Herrick	7th Grade	No masks please. They should be optional. Let the parent choose. Parents who want masks have options already. All parents should have options, not just one side.
Belle Aire, Herrick	5th Grade, 7th Grade	Please let families make the choice to mask their children. We support all decisions DG58 has made thus far, but please give us a choice. I thank you all for everything you have been doing this past year. Please give us an option, DuPage Co. is over 80% vaccinated, luckily. The detriment to children -science based, is still extremely low. Please let us choose.
Herrick	8th Grade	I understand that as of last night DuPage County was said to have entered the "substantial transmission" status recommending ALL the wear masks. Upon hearing this I first went straight to the DuPage County Covid Dashboard. What I found was a story just the opposite of what seemed to be reported. Although yes, cases are increasing, hospitalizations and especially deaths have not. I found the last Covid death in DuPage County was 6/27. The 7 day rolling average of hospital admissions is declining from 3.6 on 7/23 to 2.3 yesterday. The Delta variant increase in cases isn't translating to hospitalizations or deaths. I would say that with DuPage being one of the highest percentage vaccinated in the state the vaccine is working. I ask that you consider this data and information and to go to the dashboard yourself and see. In spite of what DuPage County Health is stating publically, hospitalizations are NOT as of now increasing but actually decreasing from Friday's peak.
El Sierra	3rd Grade, 6th Grade	Following safe distance and allow remote option if the COVID numbers are very high
Whittier	1st Grade	With what is known about transmission rates, a readily available vaccine, and how the virus impacts children, masks should be optional.
Belle Aire	5th Grade	PLEASE require masks, especially with the newly updated CDC guidance. None of these kids are vaccinated.
Lester, Herrick	5th Grade, 7th Grade	Thanks for the opportunity. I am of the belief that if a student is fully vaccinated and fully inoculated, they should not need to wear a mask. No vaccine is ever 100% effective, but the covid 19 ones have been tested at a high enough level where wear I feel comfortable with my vaccinated child being maskless. I am also fine with unvaccinated students wearing masks.
Lester	6th Grade	We strongly prefer mandatory masking for K-6 and teachers/staff and continued spatial distancing this fall. Thank you for continuing to communicate openly with the community and for the district's efforts in keeping learning safer during this time.
Pierce Downer	5th Grade	I support whatever the district thinks is best based on the guidance given, but I personally think all students should wear masks in school because the elementary population is largely unvaccinated.
Herrick	8th Grade	Do what will protect our students and, in return, our community. Please do not capitulate to the vocal 'anti' culture that is so pervasive.
Lester, Herrick	2nd Grade, 6th Grade, 8th Grade	These children absolutely need to be in the classroom at school. For their mental and emotional well being. If they have to wear masks, fine but they one million percent need to be at school learning and seeing friends. Life has to move on. Teachers need to be in the classroom with these kids full time. Remote learning is not an option!!!! In person, on site learning needs to happen. Thank you.
Herrick	8th Grade	Stick to educating, let parents decide what is best for their children and masks don't do anything.

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El Sierra, O'Neill	5th Grade, 7th Grade	Hoping school opens up normally. Mask-less.
Highland, Herrick Herrick	4th Grade, 8th Grade 8th Grade	Please consider making masks mandatory in light of the guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation and also the recent CDC guidance that says that vaccinated people can become infected and can spread it to unvaccinated children. I am concerned about the spread of covid to children and also most parents cannot take off work due to their children having to quarantine. Thank you Fully open! Masks optional at the Jr. high level!
O'Neill	8th Grade	I see no problem with requiring masks for all students. It's a minor inconvenience but could have a major impact on keeping everyone healthy and the classrooms open!
Highland	5th Grade	I urge District 58 to follow the CDC and state guidelines and require masking in schools, particularly for children who cannot be vaccinated yet. With the delta variant surging, it's an effective way of protecting kids - which is so important. Over 4 million kids in the U.S. have tested positive for COVID-19, over 16,000 have been hospitalized and over 200 have died, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. Please follow the advice of medical professionals, and do not be swayed by a small minority of parents who seem to think masks are a political issue. No one really likes masks but they work. Please take a stand for children's health and for science. Thank you very much.
Lester	1st Grade, 6th Grade	Masks should be optional and we should be back to normal...please! We can not lose another year of education for our kids. Please do what's right and based on facts and not fear. Thank you!
Hillcrest	1st Grade	Please let children return to school this fall with masks as optional. The data does not support mandatory masks for all. The decision should lie with parents and guardians.
Henry Puffer	2nd Grade, 5th Grade	My daughter (going into 5th grade) had a very difficult time with the masks last year and would need regular mask breaks which she took herself by going to the bathroom throughout the day to breathe without her mask. She has anxiety and sensory issues, and the mask would sometimes induce panic. With that said, my younger son was fine and they both understood why they were wearing masks. I'm not going to angrily fight either way, but very definitely prefer my children NOT to wear masks this school year. I appreciate that you've provided this platform so that I could say my piece, thank you.
Pierce Downer, Herrick	1st Grade, 5th Grade, 7th Grade	As a pulmonary and critical care physician who has seen many people die from this disease over the past 16 months and counting, I think masks should be mandatory for everyone in the school building throughout the day save for lunch, which should be distanced as much as possible. Thank you for all that you do for the safety and well being of my and everyone else's children.
Highland	4th Grade	Can you please share the following: 1. Please have a mask mandate for all students and staff/faculty. 2. All faculty/staff must be vaccinated (if they are able to) or undergo weekly testing. There must be a reassurance to all parents that our children are in a safe space during the day to learn as the COVID numbers continue to rise. Thank you.
Highland	4th Grade, 6th Grade	I hope that the district will independently look at the infection statistics in Dupage county to make any decisions. Especially the death rate which has plummeted nation wide. Even though the health department seems to want Dupage to be classified as "high transmission" the stats don't support it. I believe the infection rate in Dupage has actually declined in the past few weeks. The last death due to covid in Dupage was in late June. These things do not necessitate mandatory masking for our children or return to remote learning. Thank you for your time and efforts.
Kingsley, Lester	2nd Grade, 5th Grade	I just want to say thank you for always being transparent and the amount of communication that you do share. Like you said there will be people that are unhappy and happy. I appreciate you following any official guidance whatever that may be to ensure the safety of the kids and staff.
Belle Aire	1st Grade	No masks
Belle Aire	1st Grade	All students and staff should be required to wear masks in order to ensure the safety for all. Also, to ensure an outbreak doesn't occur which would mean potential for removal of in person learning.
Herrick	8th Grade	Navigating COVID and everything over the past year plus has not been easy. I think DG58 is doing a great job of keeping us informed. I own the local Karate studio and have also been monitoring CDC guidelines. We are still currently wearing masks when training because so many of our students are under the age of 12. From this experience, I would love to see my kid in school full time and if he has to wear a mask, he is good with that. (He still chooses to wear it when we go out grocery shopping even though he is vaccinated. It makes him feel better.) Keep up the good work 58. I just wanted to send my support.
Kingsley	1st Grade	I hope the kids go back full time, with lunch and specials back in place. And I hope masks will be optional. I'd also like some detailed information about if kids stay home for other illness, such as a cold, will a negative test or quarantine be required? Thank you.

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Kingsley	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	I do not want my children or any children to be masked. I believe masks should be optional for all, masks don't work, the virus is smaller than those cloth masks. Please stop with this insanity and do what's best for the kids not the paranoid parents. The thought of dropping my 5 yo at his first day of Kindergarten in a mask with 90 degree heat is incredibly depressing. I will find another schooling option if this madness continues. Everyone in my neighborhood agrees with me and I am encouraging them all to provide this same feedback. Thank you.
Henry Puffer, Herrick	1st Grade, 8th Grade	Masks per CDC guidelines should be mandatory for all students and staff. the kids wore masks all last year, they were fine, essential workers have worn masks all year and they were fine, the people who are not; fine those dead of covid or suffering from permanent damage due to covid, why take the risks, the children don't care about mask wearing.
Lester, Herrick	5th Grade, 7th Grade	Would love if my vaccinated kiddo at least did not have to wear a mask. Hoping that my younger one will be able to get one soon too. Would like the learning to be as close to normal as possible. Good luck navigating this year!
Lester	2nd Grade, 5th Grade	Please allow the kids to have a full normal day with recess and specials. Even with masks the kids really need full normal days. Please.
Whittier	Kindergarten	PLEASE require masks for children who are too young to be vaccinated! I am very concerned about the delta variant of COVID since it is much stronger and much more contagious. If our kids can't have a vaccine yet, at least they can have the protection of required masking in school.
Pierce Downer	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	I am so hopeful that we can return to as much normalcy as possible especially for the Kindergarten class. My daughter was in preschool last year 80% of the time in the classroom. They wore masks but they got to play together and learn together without needing to be distanced. I really want them to feel that same sense of learning this year. I also really want my 2nd grader to be able to have normal library time (one thing he loves!), art and music! They both seem to do fine with masks on with some mask breaks and lots of water in the heat, but I believe forcing them to stay socially distanced causes many disruptions to normal learning. For my 2nd grader one of those disruptions last year was just poorly behaving kids in his class that I believe may be caused from them not being able to get their energy out and having to sit far away from friends. I know why we had to last year, but I hope we can protect the kiddos with masks (if we have to) and let the rest of the routine feel normal this school year.
Lester, Herrick	5th Grade, 7th Grade	Please make mask wearing optional for all kids! Thank you!
Pierce Downer	1st Grade, 2nd Grade, 4th Grade	Go full time Leave the iPads at home or use them VERY sparingly I know this would be hard to do, but get rid of the masks during school. The parents and adults vaccination rates are extremely high in this area and the chance for serious COVID infection or severe symptoms in children of this age group is statistically almost nil.
Hillcrest	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	Please continue to make masks mandatory in elementary. They're not vaccinated and we don't want them to catch/spread Covid in school.
Lester, Herrick	5th Grade, 7th Grade	We definitely need our kids in school for their mental health. We are comfortable with not wearing masks either.
Pierce Downer	3rd Grade	Please keep my child safe and require masks. Why are we denying science? We are in a once in a lifetime pandemic. Why are we denying history? Please stand for the educated since you are an educational facility. Would you even consider these archaic, backwards arguments before the current political climate? No. You would think these people were backwards and uneducated. Well, they still are. Nothing has changed. Follow the science. Please. My child is not vaccinated and I'm putting her life IN YOUR HANDS. We all are.
O'Neill	7th Grade, 8th Grade	Please follow the issued guidance for schools. Masking is suggested to keep children safe.
Belle Aire	1st Grade, 3rd Grade, 6th Grade	As there are strong feelings about masks on both sides of the issue, I think the district should make masks optional, at the discretion of each family in the district. Even though the metrics fluctuate, the number of positive cases in DuPage County and the state of Illinois remains very low. The vaccine is readily available to those 12 and over, so worries about passing COVID-19 to grandparents, etc. has been virtually eliminated. Children have not been labeled at risk as far as suffering from severe symptoms. We were concerned about the mental health of students when they were not at school in person, but masks continue to put a social barrier in place - people cannot see each other's faces and communication is difficult. I can't imagine breathing in all the CO2 trapped in their masks for hours a day is good for our children either. Certainly if the numbers increase dramatically masks would merit consideration. But for now, let's let our kids live as normally as possible please! Students will be more successful academically if they are in an environment that is comfortable for them. Thank you for taking this into consideration and for working so hard to make this coming school year the best it can be!
Fairmount	Kindergarten	I have nothing to share other than sincere gratitude for all of your hard work! No matter what mandates are put into place in regards to children wearing masks, I know my son will still get the best education. Thank you so much for all your hard work!
Henry Puffer	6th Grade	My preference is that mask wearing should be optional. If you want to wear a mask, wear one, however I'd prefer my child is not breathing her own air for 6 hours during school. That is not healthy and is very distracting.

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Kingsley, O'Neill	4th Grade, 7th Grade	According to the CDC, in order to maximize our protection from the highly transmissible delta variant that is currently ravaging our community and country, they are recommending universal mask wearing indoors when in public by all, regardless of vaccination status. Currently, DuPage County is in a substantial level of transmission and the numbers are rising. With this guidance from the CDC and since there is not a vaccination to prevent Covid-19 available for all ages yet, I strongly feel that one of the most important ways we can protect everyone in our school district is to mandate mask wearing for all. If the board decides not to adopt the new guidance from the CDC, will students, faculty and staff need to show proof of Covid-19 vaccination status just like students need to show proof of vaccination against other communicable diseases as well as proof of dental and vision in order to register for school? Will eligible but unvaccinated students be required to wear masks? The CDC recommends that all unvaccinated people wear a mask indoors when in public. How will we make sure that those 12 yrs and older who are unvaccinated are wearing their masks?
Henry Puffer	3rd Grade	I am quite concerned about the health of the kids who are not able to be vaccinated as yet. Given that, I strongly encourage the administration to require masks for children as well as staff. This follows the current recommendation of CDC. I believe it is really important for students to be in school for emotional well-being. But, the way to do this safely would be with the use of masks for all. I am additionally, concerned about the limited availability for students to social distance which is why I think masks are even more critical. Relatedly, I am interested in hearing the plans for lunch as I know that is a challenging place for students to maintain distance and can't keep on masks. I know you all are working in the best interest of the students and I appreciate your efforts and hard work! This is a very, very challenging time.
Herrick	8th Grade	My son is fully vaccinated. We made that choice as a family. We feel very strongly that it should be OUR CHOICE whether or not our son wears a mask. We feel very strongly this should be a decision made by the parents and not by the school. If you do not choose to vaccinate your child, then it should be your choice to wear a mask to protect your child. Vaccinated people should NOT be forced to wear a mask. Period.
Indian Trail	1st Grade, 3rd Grade, 5th Grade	I support NO masks. I have many reasons but I won't list them. I would like school to be as normal as possible. I also think wearing a mask with no air conditioning is almost impossible. My children suffer through the 90 plus heat as it is.... Plus wearing a mask. It's awful
Herrick	7th Grade	We strongly feel that vaccinated students should not be required to wear masks in school this year. Those students and their families have done what they were supposed to do, as encouraged by the District earlier this year. They should not be penalized based on a reversal that, while still unclear as to the reasoning, appears to have nothing to do with any risk to vaccinated individuals. We respect everyone's right to make their own decision on vaccination. Neither side should have the control over who does or does not wear a mask. Please let us as parents, make that decision for our own children. We can't imagine how frustrating this is for the District, the School Board and the Superintendent. We encourage all decision makers to stay the course as outlined prior to yesterday's reversal of course, and look forward to the start of a normal school year.
Herrick	8th Grade	My son is fully vaccinated. We made that choice as a family. We feel very strongly that it should be OUR CHOICE whether or not our son wears a mask. We feel very strongly this should be a decision made by the parents and not by the school. If you do not choose to vaccinate your child, then it should be your choice to wear a mask to protect your child. Vaccinated people should NOT be forced to wear a mask. Period.
Pierce Downer	3rd Grade, 5th Grade	Given the current situation I would like to see masking required in schools for kids and staff both. Almost all kids at the elementary age are unable to be vaccinated and therefore are at risk for COVID. New data suggests the possibility of breakthrough cases and therefore transmission even among vaccinated people with the delta variant. Third, case rates are rising in our community. It's a rapidly changing situation and taking away safety measures that work doesn't protect our kids and adult staff members' health at this point.
Indian Trail	4th Grade	I would highly recommend mandated masks at the elementary level. According to all the recommendations, that is necessary for our younger students at this time.
Hillcrest	3rd Grade, 4th Grade	We fully respect everyones decision to mask or not mask. We DO NOT believe in children wearing a mask and they don't want too either they say they can breathe, can't concentrate and won't go to school. Every family should have the right to do what's best and safe for them. Please let them go back with masks as an option we need to learn to live with this as it's clearly not going away. These kids need some normalcy back in their lives and much better mental health.
Lester, Herrick	5th Grade, 7th Grade	We definitely need our kids in school for their mental health. We are comfortable with not wearing masks either.
Lester, Herrick	1st Grade, 4th Grade, 5th Grade, 7th Grade	I would prefer that mask be optional for students.
Hillcrest, O'Neill	4th Grade, 8th Grade	No masks! If our governor can allow that super spread event to take place in the city (lalapoolza) then kids can be in school without masks. No kid is dying from this. https://www.lawserver.com/law/state/illinois/il-statutes/745_ilcs_70_5
O'Neill	7th Grade	Hoping to open WITHOUT masking

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Belle Aire, Herrick	3rd Grade, 5th Grade, 7th Grade	We don't know enough about the Delta variant. There are already many breakthrough cases where people who are vaccinated have still caught the virus. Let's protect our students and staff and have the students safely go back to school with masks. Especially for our younger students who are not eligible for the vaccine at this time.
Kingsley	1st Grade, 5th Grade	<p>Please take into consideration that the CDC is providing guidelines, not mandates, and not laws regarding children in masks for the upcoming school year.</p> <p>Unless court-ordered, a public institution is not authorized to mandate that children wear masks. I strongly believe this decision should be left up to the parents and what they feel is the best choice for their child and family. As a parent, I should retain the legal right to make this decision for my children, and as a result, children cannot be discriminated against or denied an education based on the decision of whether to wear a mask.</p> <p>Please understand there is a large group of parents who will not stand for the school district making decisions that overreach our parental rights. Children's social-emotional health is drastically being affected by these decisions and we cannot let this alter a third school year. Personally, my children are struggling greatly (one with severe anxiety and another with a speech delay) with sitting in a mask for 6+ hours a day. The numbers are there to show children should have a choice. Please consider making masks optional for the upcoming school year.</p>
Hillcrest, O'Neill	6th Grade, 8th Grade	I cannot stress enough how important I believe it is for kids of ALL ages to go back to school full time WITHOUT being required to wear a mask. If someone is concerned their child could get the virus from someone, let that child wear a mask, or whatever protective wear that makes them feel safe for that matter. The wearing of masks was a HUGE distraction last school year. These kids have already suffered enough intellectually, emotionally, and socially. The masks prohibit them from SO much! I feel it far out weighs the benefit of wearing a mask to prevent the spread of the virus. And if 1 kid is vaccinated, that child's family should NOT be concerned about an unvaccinated child getting them sick if they are vaccinated. I feel so incredibly strongly in what I have said. I hope and pray we can start and complete the 2021-2022 school year with an optional mask program. Let's let these kids go back to being kids, please.
O'Neill	4th Grade	I have issues regarding the mask policy. My daughter is in a private school in DG (not public, I had to select one) that mainly follows dg58 protocols. I'm a parent who firmly stands that masks should be optional and it is up to each family individually to decide, not some board. Is there any meeting with this topic on the agenda?
Hillcrest	Kindergarten, 4th Grade, 6th Grade	Thank you for your diligence during these changing times and the wonderful communication. I know you are putting the well being of all of our children first. I am tremendously impressed with the thoughtful, informed and direct communication we as parents have received. Additional the staff throughout the district and in the schools truly want the best for every child. Thank you for looking out for my children and ask others. Stay strong and we stand by the decisions that are made.
Lester, Herrick	5th Grade, 7th Grade	Please make masks optional for all students
Highland	Kindergarten, 3rd Grade	<p>Dr Russell, I support going back to a fully normal in person attendance and make masks optional. I'd like to share some insight on the AAP "guidelines" for required masking. I am a Internal medicine and Pediatrics physician with Northwestern Medicine. I am also a Fellow at the American Academy of pediatrics. These "guidelines" published by the AAP is an opinion piece written by a small politically motivate individuals at the AAP and is not reflective of science or majority expert opinion. If you look at their references, there is not one scientifically sound evidenced based article or study used to write the guidelines.</p> <p>Guidelines from experts and physician bodies should only be made when there is statistically significant, unbiased, reproducible, high confidence, Grade 1A, reviews/meta-analysis of random controlled trials, and consensus from top experts in that field. Unfortunately the AAP guidelines do not fit those any of those criteria and should be published as an opinion editorial and not a "guideline."</p> <p>My personal observations as a local physician is that there is an exponential increase of new diagnosis of depression. I am seeing patients for depression daily. I see depression even in grade school ages. When I see kids with viral infections, they may be out for a few days and then they are better and bounce back full function. With depression, people are dealing with symptoms for months to years. It affects their sleep, function, ability to learn and concentrate. When you weigh the risk of COVID for kids against the mental health risks it makes sense to go back to a normal school day.</p> <p>I support going back to a fully normal in person attendance and make masks optional. If parents feel their child is at risk for COVID or Viruses, they can mask. If a parent decides to send a kid to school with a runny nose, cough, sneezing, cold symptoms but no fever then that kid should be required to mask.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and thank you for getting my child back in school last year.</p>
Indian Trail	1st Grade, 3rd Grade	I am excited that the kids will be back in school, but we are very much still in the midst of the pandemic. I fully support masking and social distancing guidelines and I am depending on the school to maintain the safety of my children when they are in attendance.
Pierce Downer	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	Less iPad usage overall

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Pierce Downer	2nd Grade, 4th Grade	Do what the District 58 thinks is right based upon State guidelines for school. We are okay with mandating masks. The kids are used to them by now and don't mind them. Any extra protection for our kids makes sense to us.
Fairmount	1st Grade	Good luck, and until children have the opportunity to get vaccinated I personally think we should do our best to protect them that is our civic and moral responsibility. With that being said mask should be mandatory for everyone inside schools regardless of vaccine status safety first. Thanks for time.
Indian Trail	6th Grade	
Whittier	2nd Grade	As we are looking for in-class school this year, I would like to know if all staff members, teachers (also their family members) are vaccinated or not. Also if we can get an update about all student's parents who are not vaccinated so that it would help schools to have different groups of students based on this. I know we cannot force everyone to get a vaccines but as delta variant cases are on rise and still we have long way to for vaccination to eligible citizens, it would be still dangerous to expose students. Just now hearing a news from Georgia that 100 students have been asked to quarantine after teacher and staff got Covid. So please share that information about staff, teacher vaccination
Henry Puffer	5th Grade	I think we should still be given the option of remote learning
Kingsley	Kindergarten	With delta infections on the rise and CDC guidance that all individuals (vaccinated and not) return to wearing masks until transmission rates are down, I am very hopeful that masks will be mandatory for the start of the school year. We all hopefully realize at this point that the mask is not for self protection, but to protect others, which means my personal decision to have my unvaccinated children mask (which they absolutely will) does not protect THEM. Their classmates and teachers also need to be wearing masks to keep them safe.
Fairmount	1st Grade	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to submit feedback. I respectfully request that the administration and school board of District 58 follow the CDC guidance by requiring masks indoors for all children under the age of 12.</p> <p>1.The CDC guidance recommends masks for individuals who are not fully vaccinated. Specifically,</p> <p>a."Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors..."</p> <p>b."CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are not fully vaccinated, to reduce transmission risk"</p> <p>c."CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status"</p> <p>d."Indoors: Mask use is recommended for people who are not fully vaccinated including students, teachers, and staff"</p> <p>If I am not interpreting this guidance correctly, please feel free to let me know.</p> <p>2.As I understand it, the guidance throughout this pandemic has, at a minimum, been mask wearing by unvaccinated individuals when indoors. If you have heard otherwise, please feel free to correct my understanding.</p> <p>3.Children under 12 are minors. They are unvaccinated because no vaccine is available. All adults including me, the administration, and the school board are responsible for their safety. Masks, per the CDC guidance, help ensure their physical safety.</p> <p>4.This is not a decision to be made by survey results. This is also not a decision to be made by whomever has the loudest voice or biggest presence at a school board meeting.</p> <p>a.While I did not choose to send my child in person last year, I understood that the community supported in person learning through a survey, with 80% support, and that the school followed the CDC guidance to provide in person learning. In the case of last year, a combination of 80% survey support with the following of CDC guidance was an appropriate response by the administration and school board. While I personally disagreed with the decision, I do understand it was an appropriate decision for the administration and board to make for the district as a whole. It also allowed for a remote option, an option that is no longer available at the beginning of this school year.</p> <p>b.This school year's decision about requiring masks for the unvaccinated is not the same. The unvaccinated are minors and have no other choice but to rely on being protected by adults. That protection includes required mask wearing indoors per the CDC guidance, regardless of any community survey results. If everyone is in person, everyone should be in a mask to protect everyone and lower the risk of infection for everyone.</p> <p>There are decisions that must be made by those put in leadership positions, decisions that are for the safety of all minors. This is one of those decisions. If we are deciding everything by survey, it negates a portion of the need for administration and school board roles.</p> <p>5.Frankly, if parents do not want their unvaccinated child to wear a mask, they have the choice to withdraw their child from school and home school them.</p> <p>6.I hope that I live in a community. I hope the community I live in shows care for other human beings and for all the children living here. I hope the community wants to protect children. I hope the community understands that pandemic guidance will be lifted when the vaccination rate is appropriately high, higher than it is now, and until then the unvaccinated must be protected, even if temporarily uncomfortable or inconvenient for us as individuals. It must be done. And it must be done by at a minimum wearing masks indoors.</p>
Belle Aire	1st Grade, 3rd Grade	I want everything back to normal, pre-COVID.
O'Neill	8th Grade	Open safely for all and do what is best for the kids thank you!!!

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Herrick	7th Grade	As there is a vaccine readily available and free to anyone who wants their children who are over 12 to have it, all middle school students' parents should have the choice to send their students to school with or without masks. School should go on as scheduled as described in your first email with optional masks and all extra curricular activities with full participation. We all have heard the risks and accept the science. The mental health risks for the many, far exceed the physical health risks for the few.
Indian Trail, Kingsley	2nd Grade, 6th Grade	No more mandatory masks! Let our children breathe! Give them thier childhood back. They are not at high risk of fatality or complications! Let those who want to wear them do so, but please i urge the board to hear the voices of the people who vote you in place. Respectfully i ask the board to give the option to the parents!!
Herrick	8th Grade	Please make masks OPTIONAL. These kids have been through enough. Their immune systems are strong. If teachers have fear then they have the choice to wear a mask.
Lester	2nd Grade, 3rd Grade, 4th Grade	Please do not require masks for our elementary kids.
Fairmount	6th Grade, 7th Grade, 8th Grade	Last year, if sibling C is sent home because of a runny nose, siblings A and B are also sent home, though they are healthy. This year, siblings A and B are vaccinated, would they still be sent home every time sibling C has the mildest symptom?
Lester	2nd Grade, 4th Grade	Please prioritize full day, in person instruction. Social distancing and mask wearing is completely acceptable as long as our children can remain in the classroom. We would be very disappointed with a return to hybrid learning.
Highland, Indian Trail	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	This year is a very different ballgame .You can't control the Delta variant and the vulnerable are most of the kids in grammar schools . Preschool through 6 grade who are unvaccinated. This is not like last year! we don't know how sick kids can get with this Delta. This year is not the time to play games our kids health is at stake. unvaccinated adults who get sick it's on them .. their choice ... but there is no ' one person in a family gets sick and the others don't' like last year . One person gets Delta and everyone in the family gets it including children and every other person they were with. This will never end.
Highland, Indian Trail	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	I think making masks optional for students and faculty will be everyone's worse nightmare in the long run. I'll be surprised if we make it to Christmas break without having to shutdown. CDC strongly recommends individuals vaccinated and non vaccinated to start wearing masks. Cases are on the rise, icu's are filling by the hour. This virus does not care if you are vaccinated or not "no one" is safe from it. Research it! You and the board are making a major mistake if masks become optional. This will have repercussions. My daughter or son will not be experimental lab rats and will not be vaccinated and that'll be fun when they are told to wear a mask by mom and dad but yet will see others are not. Or being bullied for wearing them. Your decisions are putting our children at great risk. Very disappointed on were this is headed. From the sounds of this email I already know where this is going.
Highland	1st Grade	Thank you for giving parents the opportunity to provide feedback. I've mentioned before and still believe we are lucky to have you as a superintendent and our school board members! Please make masks optional. If masks are not optional, I've seen opt out forms from advocate groups- what happens if we use one? Is it true that legally my child can't be forced to wear one? Obviously this is not the path I wish for my son to take, I've spent time teaching my children to be kind and respectful. But we strongly feel masks for kids at this age do more harm than good. It should be a parents choice. Schools in other states have let young children attend without masks and not had outbreaks. We can do this too! Thank you
Fairmount	Kindergarten, 3rd Grade	Please make masks mandatory for staff and students. I am not comfortable sending my kids to school if masks are optional. Almost all kids are used to them by now that I don't understand why the school district would go against the CDC recommendations. Please protect our children
Henry Puffer, Herrick	4th Grade, 6th Grade, 8th Grade	Masks should be mandatory for all children not old enough to be vaccinated. Also for all those 12 and over who have chosen not to get vaccinated. (To not require mandatory masking at the elementary school level at this point in time would fly in the face of science and go against the recommendations of the AAP.)
Herrick	7th Grade	I think it is extremely important for our kids to return to school as normal as humanly possible this year for both their mental health and for their education. I work in health care and I know that life needs to go on as normal as possible. I hope the district can make that happen.
Pierce Downer	6th Grade	I am writing to support a policy that requires unvaccinated students to wear masks while in school. I also strongly support a policy that exempts vaccinated students from having to wear a mask, once they are fully vaccinated and can show proof of having received the vaccine. I understand that this means that majority of the elementary school kids (my own included) would at least have to start out the year wearing masks, and that this will not be a popular decision with many families. However, if the students are not vaccinated and do not mask, the disruption from mandatory quarantining and large numbers of students falling ill from COVID will be severe. By providing an exemption once students are vaccinated, this give us all some hope that, for those willing to vaccinate their children once the vaccine is available, the students could eventually have a much more normal school year. Thanks so much for all of your work this past year.
Herrick	7th Grade	Please require masks
Herrick	7th Grade	There needs to be a choice. Specifically for those vaccinated as to whether or not they wear a mask. My kids need to get back to school without wearing masks all day, without teachers wearing masks. If you can practice social distancing you can allow these kids to attend school unmasked at the same time.

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Herrick	8th Grade	Stick to educating, let parents decide what is best for their children and masks don't do anything.
Herrick	7th Grade	It should be up to the parents to decide if their children should have masks.
Whittier, Herrick	3rd Grade, 8th Grade	The greatest protection we have at this time against the spread of the Covid-19 virus is to have masks mandated at all levels. Guidelines for removal of masks can be put in place when students are working on phonics and when it is necessary for students to see a teacher's mouth for instruction and vice versa as well as for eating lunch. However, the majority of the time, students, faculty and staff should remain masked. There is no reason to rush into a "voluntary" mask environment when we do not know what the impact on the educational setting would be. It is best to wait, see how things pan out with other districts who choose the "voluntary" route, and then using their experience as evidence, make a decision to continue mandating masks or switch to a voluntary model.
O'Neill	7th Grade	Hoping school is as close to pre-pandemic as possible.
Whittier	2nd Grade	Optional masking. This new CDC guidance is based on zero actual science.
El Sierra	6th Grade	I want to thank District 58 for prioritizing safety and student learning as best as possible in the midst of the pandemic. Even though the remote learning was not ideal for many students (especially mine), I was encouraged by the compassion shown by the teachers and staff. We should continue to follow the science for the safety of all and prioritize getting students and staff in-person with as much of a "return to normal" plan as possible.
Indian Trail	1st Grade, 5th Grade	Now is not the time to reduce our health and safety efforts for our children. The majority of District 58 students are too young to be vaccinated and the Delta variant spreads to 8-10 people versus 1 or 2 earlier in the pandemic. By the time school starts the rate of infection could likely be climbing even higher. Masks need to be worn by everyone in our school buildings.
Fairmount	Kindergarten, 3rd Grade	While I would welcome masks optional, I understand that may not be possible. I would be most concerned with the kids getting more breaks given no AC in the schools. As a parent I would like the most normal school year so if that means wearing masks but they can be next to, interact, and move around the classroom with friends, I would be fine with that. I don't want masks and being stuck in a seat all day. I also haven't heard what education will happen if a child is quarantined...will there be instructors for them to check in with or do they just miss 2 weeks of school and have to catch up on their own? Thank you for all you are doing...we do appreciate it.
Fairmount	1st Grade, 4th Grade	I had already sent in a comment in response to the first email explaining just a few of the reasons why our schools (especially elementary) should remain masked in light of the previous data and recommendations and with the new data and recommendations, I think it spells it out even more clearly that we need to protect our children and families this fall and remain masked while indoors at our schools. Thank you in advance. As always, thanks for your service to our community.
Henry Puffer, Herrick, O'Neill	5th Grade, 7th Grade, 8th Grade	Please have school full day, every day, and in person. Hybrid and shorter days was extremely difficult with two working parents and five different school schedules to manage. If our students need to wear masks to keep themselves and others safe, so be it. Thank you.
Indian Trail	4th Grade, 6th Grade	

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Pierce Downer	6th Grade	<p>I am writing as a parent of a District 58 student, to encourage you to make your decisions on the upcoming school year, based on science, data and facts.</p> <p>I felt the need to express my concern as to whether the appropriate decisions will be made to keep our children and families safe. I have watched a good majority of members in this community disregard health department recommendations since this pandemic began, deny how serious the virus is, refuse to socially distance, refuse to wear masks and now even refuse a vaccine. This group of people yelled and protested to keep kids in school last year, regardless of teacher and staff's concerns. Their argument was that the virus was not a serious threat to children. We know that wasn't true then and definitely isn't true now.</p> <p>Last year, you allowed in person school, with masks and social distancing. Things have changed now. We're not dealing with the original Covid-19 virus. We have allowed this virus to pass through so many adults and children it has now mutated and become stronger, more serious and more contagious. Now, our most vulnerable are the unvaccinated and those under 11 years old.</p> <p>Why would you, even just as a few weeks ago, consider making masks optional, lowering your social distance perimeter and not even entertain the idea of remote learning option? Last year, you required masks at school. What has changed for the children 11 year old and younger? Again, the variant we are dealing with now is much more contagious and attacking the unvaccinated, so if masks were ever necessary, it's now.</p> <p>Kirat Doshi, thank you for your clear and objective thinking at the last board meeting suggesting we be prepared. While discussing the remote learning option plan for snow days, you mentioned how the school board was "caught flat footed in an emergency situation" and you were exactly right. Mr Doshi also made the comment that "it would be silly of us in July 2021 that we know what's coming, coming out of a pandemic year that's not over by the way." Again, thank you for thinking practically and being willing to admit that the future is uncertain and we must do everything we can to be prepared for emergency situations. Unfortunately, your ideas were dismissed quickly. I wish more members of the board were as proactive in their thinking.</p> <p>Please keep in mind, you have no remote learning option available. We all agree that kids attending school in person is what's best for them, so please vote to move forward with a safe and healthy environment, where children can stay in school because they're not all getting sick.</p> <p>Please follow the guidelines and recommendations set by health experts. No "options" for families just because they scream the loudest. What they choose to do, affects us all as we now are experiencing, unfortunately.</p> <p>Without a remote option and no mitigation efforts in the school, what is your plan when half a class is out due to the Delta variant? If being in school is what's best for our kids, how will you deal with kids being sick for weeks or having to quarantine? Brett Giroir, the former admiral in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps said, "If you are not vaccinated, you're going to get the Delta Variant. On average, one person will transmit this to 9 people, unlike the original virus which got transmitted to 2 or 3."</p> <p>We have seen what happens when we try to fight science. If everyone had cooperated from the beginning, we wouldn't be dealing with a more serious more contagious variant.</p> <p>Another thing to consider is how kids will treat each other. My son will wear a mask while he is indoors until he is vaccinated, as I'm sure other children who have underlying health conditions will do. If only a few children are wearing masks and the rest are not, I hope the district is prepared to handle any bullying issues that arise.</p> <p>A vaccine for 11 year olds and younger may be approved for use by the middle of the winter. Until these grade school children have the opportunity to get vaccinated, I beg you to keep all mitigation protocols in place (masks, social distance, quarantine when exposed).</p> <p>Thank you, take care and stay safe.</p>

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Belle Aire	5th Grade	St. Joseph's sent an email out today that they are having masks optional at their school. Therefore leaving the decision up to the parents. Private schools have to follow CDC guidelines just like public schools. Which are just that, guidelines and Recommendations, not Requirements. My son had an opportunity to a scholarship at St. Joe's but I turned it down because D58 was headed towards a mask optional route so I re-enrolled him at Belle Aire. I don't want him to go through another year like last year wearing a mask when it's not a mandate or requirement this school year by the CDC when there are other options in our community for schooling which are giving parents choices that are now too late for us to change our minds regarding enrollment. I lost the scholarship opportunity already. Please make masks optional for our children.
Fairmount	Kindergarten, 4th Grade, 6th Grade	My son will turn 12 in October and will be getting vaccinated. I had no side effects after getting vaccinated, my husband was on the sofa for a few days. How will the protocol work for post vaccination side effects? It would be a known cause for covid like symptoms that would have sent the entire family home from school and required testing last school year.
O'Neill	8th Grade	No mask wearing throughout school.
Lester	2nd Grade, 5th Grade, 8th Grade	I have appreciated how you have handled everything and trust that the decision you come to will be based on facts and the health and well being of our community. My hope is that any complete return to normal for the K-6 ages will be dependent on the vaccine eligibility timeline for that age group.
Herrick	8th Grade	In light of this new D variant and increased positivity among even vaccinated people, I ask you to again consider offering a hybrid model or fully remote option for this new school year.
Herrick	8th Grade	My daughter is fully vaccinated and yet still completely terrified to be maskless indoors for any extended periods of time so she will be wearing her mask in the fall, and when I told her that the CDC updated the guidance to say all kids should regardless of vaccination status she was completed relieved as she feared being a "weird" kid still wearing hers while everyone else took theirs off.
Henry Puffer	2nd Grade	Will D58 be teaching Critical Race Theory and utilizing handouts regarding racial disparities? I am aware of the posters/handouts that are currently in a local HS (the one that was posted on the Smithsonian website and subsequently taken offline). We have a bi-racial household and these handouts are offensive. Please advise how CRT is being addressed and the curriculum that will presented to my daughter who is in 2nd grade.
Hillcrest	2nd Grade, 5th Grade	Please ensure all students, facility, etc. are masked inside the school until vaccines are EUA for under 12 year olds. Once that occurs, a six to eight week period of continued masking should occur until kids are vaccinated.
Herrick	8th Grade	Please make masks OPTIONAL. These kids have been through enough. Their immune systems are strong. If teachers have fear then they have the choice to wear a mask.
O'Neill	8th Grade	Unmask the children and get back to normal!!!
Herrick	8th Grade	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I feel like 8th grade students and parents deserve some sort of orientation to Herrick considering last year was far from normal. I keep hearing that Herrick has many clubs and activities but I have no idea what they are. I don't think my child does either. I'd like this information so that I can encourage my child and help him choose what he'd like to get involved with. 2. 8th graders never got a sneak preview last year to find lockers, practice getting into lockers, or go through their class schedule to find their way through the building. I feel they deserve this. Basically, anything that is being done for incoming 7th graders and their parents should also be done for 8th graders. 3. Kids have not been wearing masks all summer. I feel making them do so again during school and activities will impede their ability and desire to learn. They have missed so much already. Having to look at and listen to a teacher who is wearing a mask is difficult for anyone, especially kids who struggle to pay attention in the first place, which puts them at further disadvantage.
Henry Puffer, Kingsley	Preschool, 5th Grade	It's imperative that we start to school year off masking all students as most of District 58 students are not eligible for vaccines. In states where the variant is running rampant there are many children in hospitals and some on ventilators. We don't want that to be one of our students. Most of the children I've seen have adapted well to mask wearing. They will do whatever we tell them to because they want to be in school. If the American Academy of Pediatrics is recommending mask wearing I don't see that there should be a question as to what you should do. Make masks mandatory. It won't be forever.
Fairmount, O'Neill	6th Grade, 7th Grade	School should open in the fall without masks or any further restrictions. Unfortunately the pandemic has been consumed by nonsensical politics, and our children have suffered. The last school year was a complete waste. Also, if critical race theory makes it into the curriculum I will be moving my children to private school.
Lester	1st Grade	I feel it would not be fair to mandate mask wearing and not give a remote option to anyone who wants it. After all this is all new to us and we have no idea what the long term side effects are going to be for growing children masking up for 7 hours and day, 5 days a week.


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Hillcrest	2nd Grade	I want all kids in the elementary school to wear masks! The fact that the district is still on the fence about mandating the mask wearing policy with the Delta Variance rising makes me extremely concerned! This is not a political issue. It should not be based on how many parents call you complaining that their kids has to wear a mask. Remember those were the same parents complaining to you to make kids wear masks and get us back to school. People will argue whether or not masks keep the virus spreading and will argue having kids wear them. Kids wore them and the spread of COVID was less. Parents will argue how they kids can't wear them, how uncomfortable they are.....As you and your staff so continually told us at all the board meetings. Our kids are resilient. They can wear masks and did. For me it is, if there is a remote chance that masks will keep my child safe, then she will wear one. The more kids in the school that wear masks, the safer she will be. My question to you is what will you do to keep my child safe. What will you do so that parents will feel safe sending their child to school. The choice is yours. What decision you make determines the safety of many children. Mandating wearing masks is a small request to keep my child safe. I am asking again, please mandate masks.
Herrick	8th Grade	Please allow parents to make decisions about their children's health, i.e., parents should decide whether their child needs to wear a mask, be vaccinated, etc. The "science" with regard to COVID-19 is not pointing to the necessity of masks and vaccination; rather, it is the institution - the CDC - that is making a judgemental decision. My child will not be wearing a mask. If she is removed from school or suspended, I will look to the school district to find an alternative mode of education for her. Regards, [REDACTED]
Kingsley	2nd Grade	I think for the minor population opening the schools would be safe
Indian Trail	3rd Grade, 6th Grade	Please follow the CDC recommendations that all individuals, regardless of vaccination status wear masks. Many of our students are not yet able to be vaccinated. Wearing a mask will help them be able to stay in school and receive instruction. Consistent guidelines also help students be consistent.
Herrick	7th Grade	It seems your communication on this matter is confusing. Maybe it's just me. Is the district requiring fully vaccinated students to wear masks? The "takeaways" section should be updated then; because as of July 9 , I'm assuming, fully vaccinated students would not be required to do so. When is the district going to stand on it's own two feet and stop deferring to the CDC, or hiding behind it rather. The science makes a strong case that children do not spread the virus as readily as adults and are not spreading it at home or in the community. When is the district going to do a real cost benefit analysis regarding all of this? Does the district at all take into consideration the negative effects, and there are many, that these guidelines have on our children?
Pierce Downer	1st Grade, 4th Grade	I am for masks being optional. Strongly oppose masks being mandatory. Thanks
Kingsley	1st Grade, 3rd Grade	Thank you for all your great efforts in preparing for this next school year. We thought this school year start would be easier to comprehend and prepare for than the last, but there's always challenges ahead. As you make this upcoming plan, I really look forward to having this school year as normal as possible, including having masks be optional. We know this young age group is the least affected by the virus and so I'd love for them to be treated that way. Being able to work in groups, having friend interaction, seeing the teachers entire face, and showing them that the virus did not take over our world is so crucial these days. That is how we'll best prepare them for the future. I'm looking forward to a calmer and more reasonable school year, just like I bet the administration is too. Thank you again.
Kingsley	1st Grade	Please make masks optional for students. As a pediatric speech language pathologist in private practice where masks are required to enter our therapy clinic I see first hand how dirty and disgusting the inside of masks are on these children. This is not sanitary or healthy for children. We have no controlled research trials proving that masks are safe on our children. Further, our children need to see each other's faces to learn speech and language and read social cues and develop their social emotional learning through nonverbal language. We do have data that suggests decreased oxygenation while masking and that masks harbor bacteria and pathogens that are harmful to be breathing all day long. We have no idea of the long term negative consequences of mask wearing for full day school. Regarding COVID-19 and children, we do know from data that children are now making up a LOWER percentage of new weekly cases. New child cases have DECREASED since 4/19/2021. Hospitalizations rates remain LOW and Stable since Dec. 2020 despite variants and that kids' hospitalization rates are over reported. Meaning children who tested positive for COVID were hospitalized for other reasons not for COVID but tested positive upon admission. Child mortality rates have remained LOW since the beginning of the pandemic. UK data confirms that children are at extremely low risk of COVID. Additionally, most school and family outbreaks have been traced to adult-->child transmission. Meaning children are not super spreaders of COVID and have lower viral load = less infectivity and that adults living with children have lower COVID risk. I can cite sources for all of the statements regarding COVID and children and would be happy to share them via email. Please also see this resource on masks. https://stephdocuments.s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/MASKS+-+Review+of+Literature.pdf I urge you to do the right thing and let parents decide if their children should wear a mask to school. Please please take note of our neighboring districts who have also decided to make masks optional this school year. I look forward to attending the next board meeting in support of a mask optional decision.
Lester	1st Grade	I am in favor of NO masks for children.
Whittier	4th Grade	Clarification on quarantine (email states): In situations where individuals are not vaccinated but all contacts involved are wearing masks, they are not required to quarantine as long as other mitigation measures are in place (i.e. social distancing, cleaning, etc.). If my child is in a 3-foot classroom and the child next to him tests positive for COVID (and my child was sitting next to her the day before she tested positive), will my child have to quarantine (assume everyone is wearing masks)?
Highland	3rd Grade	Very happy to know that it looks like our children will all be masked for the school year, thank you for keeping our children safe!

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Kingsley	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	I just want full day class for kindergarten and all grades. I don't mind if kids wear masks. I would still send my kids if masks were not mandatory.
Herrick	8th Grade	I just sent in my vaccination card for my daughter at the H.S. so that, should they have need for contact tracing, she is not quarantined. Will i need to do the same for my 8th grader? And who would that go to? Thanks again for everything being done for the kids and staff. I am appreciative of the information shared.
		<p>Thank you for following the health dept guidelines! This is a huge weight off parents shoulders until vaccines become available!!!!</p> <p>-I am hopeful that kids will be able have recess this year (I think they were but [REDACTED] was still in Kindergarten so I'm unsure what that looked like).</p> <p>-It may already be outlined somewhere, but if information could be provided on how specials will be scheduled, such as art, PE, music, Library, etc. (unsure if this is weekly or more frequently). I'm new to this and our first school year was last year for kindergarten.</p> <p>-In times of quarantine/isolation, what will elearning look like? Will their class be streamed (Hinsdale accomplished this last year), or will there be teachers who are dedicated for remote? How will the transition be eased to help navigate where one teacher is at in a lesson plan vs another?</p> <p>-Will the district maintain the dashboard and transparency of positive-case communication as you did last year?</p> <p>-Are there other activities that we will be able to resume this year, such as room parties (maybe outside), assemblies (maybe outside), field trips (do schools still do these?).</p> <p>Thank you, doesn't seem enough! But genuinely, thank you! This is a huge relief to know [REDACTED] can go to Highland, with her friends, and be safe and focus on learning! I am confident this will provide the closest to "normal" at this time with the least disruptions for all of our kids. I am so appreciative!</p>
Highland	1st Grade	[REDACTED]
Fairmount	1st Grade, 4th Grade	You probably don't get positive feedback enough on these so I would just like to say thank you for continuing to adhere to the the national and medical guidance and requiring masks during this time to keep our families safe!
Belle Aire, Herrick	5th Grade, 8th Grade	STOP THE MADDNESS! Children don't belong in masks!
O'Neill	8th Grade	If students are not vaccinated and contact traced to be exposed and they need to quarantine, will a remote option be offered in that situation or will the student just miss out on 10 days of school? My child is vaccinated so this will not affect her but this scenario keeps coming up in my head and just curious how this will be handled. A few friends have brought it up.
Herrick	8th Grade	Thank you for your updates. As an 8th Grade parent - I would like to encourage when possible you make your policies for the Middle Schools be separate from the K-6 schools. These schools/formats are very different. In your last email there was not a comment about the passing of different classes for these grades - and I HOPE we can have them have a normal class setup (different classes/kids in different rooms/changing of rooms/lockers) - similar to the High Schools.
		<p>I really like the updated quarantine procedures, and understand the need to wear masks especially for students. I do still have a few questions...</p> <p>1- My daughter will be in Kindergarten, if her teacher is vaccinated would it be possible to allow clear face shields so that they can see their mouths as they are teaching important skills like reading?</p> <p>2- If my child has to quarantine for 10-14 days will there be any option for instruction during their time at home?</p> <p>3- I'm so hopeful they will have some more normal "recess" time to be able to get out energy and take mask breaks, will there be more information on these times?</p> <p>Thank you for all your leadership throughout the last 1.5 years.</p>
Pierce Downer	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	Best, [REDACTED]
Indian Trail	1st Grade	How are kids kept safe on bus? Social distancing, how many kids per bus or seat?
Lester	6th Grade	I am just curious if you are anticipating the 6th grade class to attend the outdoor education in the fall at Camp Edwards? It was listed on our registration invoice, but because it's costly, I don't want to pay for it unless it's a sure thing. I know things are fluid right now, but with the masking requirement as it is, I don't see how this trip will be possible. Thank you!
El Sierra	Kindergarten	Will there be any type of open house or kindergarten event that will allow parents and children to meet their teacher/see their classroom prior to or after school begins?

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Pierce Downer	2nd Grade, 3rd Grade	<p>At this stage of the pandemic, a blanket "masks required" statement and a promise to "quickly revisit" when guidelines change yet again is unacceptable. The community deserves definitive clarity NOW on what specific metrics will be used to provide families with the opportunity to determine for themselves whether mask use should be followed for their children. District 99 built this into their recommendation last evening. I strongly encourage District 58 to ensure the same prior to the start of school. We don't need an additional board meeting every time a health department or government agency changes their mind. Please make a plan, and stick to it!</p> <p>Further, please ensure that you clarify as part of your plan how recess and PE will be facilitated and how or if mask use will be required for them. Outdoor recess should never require the use of a mask. PE should be held outdoors without masks. My child nearly lost consciousness while exercising indoors wearing a mask at camp this summer and I will no longer allow the use of a mask for him during PE.</p>
Highland, Indian Trail	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	So happy regarding the new requirements (mask wearing for ALL individuals!) keep up the great work! :)
Highland	Kindergarten, 1st Grade	<p>All, First, thank you for the hard work you're doing, trying to juggle everything that's going on with protocols changing all the time - I know it's not easy and I really appreciate all your efforts. I have more of a question than a comment, as I'm wondering when the bus schedules will come out? We're trying to plan our fall schedule and get everything in line with us both having to go back to work, and it would be helpful if we could know sooner than later. Again, I know this is something you may still be figuring out on your end but any information you could share would be helpful. Thanks in advance for your consideration and your time. If you need anything from us don't hesitate to ask.  P. S. If the information is already out there and I've somehow missed it, my apologies.</p>
Indian Trail	3rd Grade, 6th Grade	Please follow the CDC recommendations that all individuals, regardless of vaccination status wear masks. Many of our students are not yet able to be vaccinated. Wearing a mask will help them be able to stay in school and receive instruction. Consistent guidelines also help students be consistent.
Herrick	7th Grade	Thank you for today's 8/3 email about your current masking and mitigation measures. I greatly appreciate that the district is following the masking guidance from the CDC and AAP.
Kingsley, O'Neill	5th Grade, 7th Grade	Please reopen and make things as normal as possible for children this school year. Let children be children. COVID is not going away and kids need to learn. We are going to be dealing with this for years to come and we need to make the best decisions for our kids so they can learn. Last year there were way too many surveys allowing parents to make decisions. We have hired administrators to make these decisions for our kids and we are entrusting you to make it the best environment and always have the kids in school. I also think we need to revisit the start of the year to match the high school and surrounding districts. Older siblings may be in charge of younger siblings in Downers while parents work. Most districts align high school and elementary school schedules to start and finish around the same time. Most educators are also mothers with kids in neighboring districts and having different spring breaks, start times, and kids out of school due to COVID does not help. It is impossible to find care for kids who should be in school. Could superintendents in most regions get on the same schedule or close to the same schedule? Could 99 and 58 get on the same school calendar? Thank you for your continued work for our children.
Whittier	1st Grade	I'm very concerned about the plan to have lunch as usual during this school year. k-6 students are all yet unvaccinated. The delta variant is known to be spread with less than one second of contact. I know that lunch is a very difficult puzzle to solve and the community has low tolerance for preventative measures but the health and safety of our medically vulnerable children and families are paramount.
Highland	4th Grade, 6th Grade	Kids are not now - nor were they ever - the drivers of this pandemic or vulnerable to falling seriously ill or even dying from this virus. While I am happy to hear that the school board is moving forward with getting kids in school full time, 5 days/week, I am fearful that we will spend the entire year once again in masks - regardless of what is happening with a surge in cases. The conflation of "cases" with "deaths" is extremely troubling to me and misleading. We are NEVER going to get rid of this virus, and until we learn to live our lives with it we are going to continue to subject our children unnecessarily to oppression. I hope that once this "surge" passes the board will do the right thing and unmask our children, as study after study has shown that schools are NOT the primary spreader of this disease, and kids are NOT at high risk for hospitalization or death even if exposed.
Henry Puffer, Indian Trail	Preschool, 4th Grade	Will the schools be full capacity? My preschools will be going to a different school than my 4th grader and is in line to go to IT if the schools can reopen at full capacity. I was thinking if anything does happen with covid wouldn't it be better to have both children at the same school so we aren't around as many people?
Pierce Downer	6th Grade	Good news for us.
Herrick	8th Grade	Please please push for masks to be optional.

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Grove Children's Preschool	Preschool	You said " We will also continue to emphasize the hand hygiene, cleaning and sanitizing protocols that were in place last year." does that mean pre k kids can't share toys? They can play and maintain 3 feet, but when you remove the option of sharing toys, that cooperative play piece really falls apart. Think of setting up a restaurant play center, the chef can cook and set the food on the counter for the customer to pick up, while maintaining distance, but if kids are not allowed to touch some thing that someone else just touched, then that play scheme falls apart. Same with a board game with a spinner. Or dice. an easy protocol would be to have kids wash hands first play in their little group and then wash hands again before moving on. PreK is very different than K-8 and may need some more specific guidelines on those sorts of things.
Lester	2nd Grade	You've stated yourself that there is a sharp increase in covid cases, yet there are no remote options. That is not a responsible decision.
Highland, Indian Trail	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	So happy regarding the new requirements (mask wearing for ALL individuals!) keep up the great work! :)
Fairmount	6th Grade, 7th Grade	If it wasn't so tragic I would find it laughable how all of your emails preach following the CDC guidelines when last October the District IGNORED the CDC guidelines that clearly stated that kids weren't superspreaders and belonged in full day school. You instead gave them 6.5 more months of half ass hybrid learning. Every state around us is giving parents the RIGHT to choose for their children and families whether to mask or not. Stop playing politics and give that right to us too.
Fairmount	Kindergarten, 3rd Grade	I was wondering if the kindergarten students will have any additional transition day/ preview of their classroom or teacher besides the move-in day. Thanks!
O'Neill	8th Grade	I think masks should be optional and up to the parents to decide. Especially if your child is vaccinated. N
O'Neill	8th Grade	Masks should be optional and up to the parents to make the decision for our own kids, especially if they're vaccinated.
Highland	Kindergarten	We agree that masks are best for the health and safety of everyone. If a kid is sick (non-covid) or if a kid is exposed to Covid (unvaccinated) and needs to stay home to ensure symptoms don't appear, will there be a remote learning option for them while they stay home? Would love guidance for how that will be handled.
Highland, Herrick	4th Grade, 8th Grade	How is returning to school full time, even for vaccinated students, at all safe in the face of a rapid rise in COVID cases? I truly don't understand the science. Federal guidelines are fairly strict in comparison to state guidelines. The ISBE is not, nor has it ever been, a health organization. Nor is guidance the same as best practice.
Lester	2nd Grade, 3rd Grade, 5th Grade	Would love it if the kids can have as much of a normal year as possible, with specials, etc. Would be great to have them back in, even with masks. I saw such a difference in the kids, when they went back to school last April! The teachers did such a fabulous job in that short amount of time, trying to recreate normalcy! Thanks for all you are doing!
Lester	3rd Grade, 6th Grade	Will the school hours be modified again? Meaning 8:20-2:30? Or regular hours of 8:15-3?
Herrick	8th Grade	Question 1 - what are the start and end times going to be at Herrick? Question 2 - if a child is "showing symptoms," it may be because they have another illness that is not Covid. Are they required to have a negative Covid test before returning to school?
Highland	1st Grade	I'm not sure if I'm following the Quarantine policy. There's no quarantine required? If someone gets covid, vaccinated or unvaccinated, is he/she allowed to continue attending class with covid in person next to all the unvaccinated kids? If quarantine is required for some situations, will the kid be able to attend class virtually to keep up with the class? Please clarify.
Highland	4th Grade	I would like to know more about ventilation/HVAC systems in Highland. Is there we can ensure the air quality is okay for students to be in during the winter months?
Lester	2nd Grade, 3rd Grade, 5th Grade	Would love it if the kids can have as much of a normal year as possible, with specials, etc. Would be great to have them back in, even with masks. I saw such a difference in the kids, when they went back to school last April! The teachers did such a fabulous job in that short amount of time, trying to recreate normalcy! Thanks for all you are doing!
Pierce Downer	Kindergarten, 1st Grade	Following up on my prior comment, I appreciate the district's commitment to full in-person learning this year and not imposing excessive quarantine rules. I understand that the district is now required by the state to impose masking for all students. I hope as soon as that is no longer the case that the district will end the mask mandate for younger students under 12. Health officials have not provided evidence that younger students are at grave risk from this disease, and masking seriously hampers young children's experience at school. They have done more than 18 months of remote learning and masking for the good of the community. It is time to weigh their needs against the risks of adults who can be vaccinated and to look seriously at the lack of proven, rather than hypothetical, scientific basis behind requiring young children to wear masks.
Whittier	1st Grade, 3rd Grade	Hello, I hope you're able to reinstate the usual special activities/speakers/mystery readers, fund raisers, "Fun Lunches", etc. at school again this year. Will this be possible? Thank you for all you do!
Highland	5th Grade	We are glad the school will be following social distancing and masking requirements as necessitated by the current increase in cases especially while the majority of children in these schools are not yet vaccinated.

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Lester	2nd Grade	Thank you for following the guidelines. I support you!!!!
Herrick	7th Grade	I am concerned with any sort of indoor PE requiring a mask. Middle school has daily PE I am fin with participating outside with no mask what can we do about indoor PE this is a new circumstance since the pandemic.
O'Neill	7th Grade	Thank you to you, Dr. Russel, the school board, and all of the district staff for you tireless efforts and attentiveness to students' needs during the crazy time. My family appreciates all you all are doing to help our kids.
Lester, Herrick	1st Grade, 4th Grade, 5th Grade, 7th Grade	I am concerned for my children wearing a mask indoors all day in non air conditioning classrooms. How can we expect our kids to be able to focus appropriately while being already hot during certain months amd them asking them to smack a mask over their faces to make them even hotter and harder to breath. That doesn't seem fair. Also- if they are wearing masks, what happens in the case they are close contacts?
Lester	Kindergarten	I am totally against this mandate. This mask mandating is getting ridiculous. I am not in favor of my daughter wearing a mask 10 hours a day and breathing in whatever she's got in her mask for 10 straight hours. This is absolutely ridiculous. If mandates were so important they would be given to every single state in the United States for all children to wear. So why is it that only certain states you have to wear it but yet others you don't? I plan on opposing this in person at the next school board meeting.
Herrick	8th Grade	Will students be changing for PE this year? With having to still wear masks and remaining 3 feet apart is it a good idea for students to change for PE class? I know a lot of parents are waiting to purchase a PE uniform if there's no need for one. A fast response on this would be helpful
Hillcrest	3rd Grade, 4th Grade	Can you/would you give recommendations for in district home school programs? It's an option we are considering but I'd also like to be able to send them one day back to school and want classwork to align with what is being taught in school. Our biggest concern is the health and mental health of the kids but being in a mask isn't good either so while it's great we are going back full time how is that going to affect their lungs? I don't want to hear that my children are getting yelled at over not wearing their mask properly all the time if they need a min to breathe normal air. Obviously we are conflicted as I'm sure many are.
Belle Aire	5th Grade	Sorry again....Covid protocols. Again, I understand the health risks and all that. Mandates aren't a law. Why 3 feet of space instead of 6 now if there is a super contagious virus now, CDC previously said 6 feet wasn't enough. Why are athletes coaches allowed to not wear masks indoors and out when they will be in close contact with one another? All the masks people are wearing aren't effective against spreading viruses. And another year where kids don't know what their friends look like in school luckily my son met a few kids last year. And like everyone else, they hung out maskless for many months. Sorry that you are in tough spot but this is all ridiculous now and all these stats and charts and information is so easy to manipulate into whatever you want it to be.
Belle Aire	1st Grade, 5th Grade	I agree with the masking and the opening plan. I think 6 feet distance should be maintained indoors not 3 feet.
Hillcrest	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	This family would like to express its gratitude to the whole of the DG58 administration for its terrific work over the last 18 months. While we have not always agreed with the district's decisions, it has always been clearly communicated that the education and well-being of the children in the district has been the main priority. I don't think that any of the staff working for the district could have imagined being put into a situation where every decision seems so consequential or so heavily scrutinized. For your hard work and dedication we are extremely grateful and hope that the new school year is successful.
Herrick	7th Grade	Thank you so much for continuing to navigate all this pandemic stuff! That is truly the main thing I want to share. I personally disagree with the mask mandate for the upcoming school year, but I am very grateful for your communications and your commitment to keep the year as close to pre-Covid as possible. (I was fully supportive of mask wearing last year before vaccination rollouts.) Once again, THANK YOU DG58!
Indian Trail	3rd Grade	I am very pleased with the Governor's mandate as well as the districts decision regarding masks. I would absolutely hope the district tries to accommodate 6 feet of distancing since the current variant is more contagious, more deadly and significantly more dangerous to youth than previous strains. My next concern is lunch. How will lunch be handled this year? Clearly packing the kids into crowded lunchroom on top of each other while they remove their masks to eat is a disaster waiting to happen. Even if kids are eating in the classroom at a spacing of 3 feet, this is not adequate spacing for 20-30 minutes of exposure at a close distance. This is a serious problem. Also, kids will be quarantining....what will happen to them during the 10 day wait?!
El Sierra	1st Grade	I'm concerned with whether or not remote learning will be offered in reference to the raise of new cases. At BelAire smaller kids like Kindergartens caught COVID. What measures are going to be in place for smaller students are a huge concern and 3ft is not enough. I understand that everyone is eager to return as I for my daughter but safety is a must.
Kingsley	2nd Grade	I don't think it's fair to have children wearing masks all day long. Even with breaks. Enough is enough!!! Fight for our children!!!
Pierce Downer	Kindergarten	Thank you for enforcing mask wearing!
Lester	2nd Grade, 3rd Grade, 4th Grade	Please consider having regular recess. It is so sad to see them sitting on those dots. They have been playing with friends (unmasked!) all summer long. Our kids have always enjoyed school, but that is starting to shift. A big part of this is because recess isn't recess. Please bring recess back.
Hillcrest, O'Neill	Kindergarten, 5th Grade, 7th Grade	I don't mind the mask wearing for my children but I will not be happy with is if they need to wear them during school if it over a certain temperature when the schools my children attend don't have air conditioning. So I please ask that school start after the warm few weeks of normal school start or window units installed. The kids have always had a hard enough being in the school when it's 90 degrees with no air then you want them to cover their nose and mouth on top of it? I just do t think that safe or healthy for their little bodies. Thank you

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Herrick	7th Grade	I want masks to be optional
Highland, Herrick	4th Grade, 8th Grade	There is a very high chance that in-person learning will temporarily stop, at some point, due to an outbreak. Is there a plan for online learning during that time?
Whittier	Kindergarten, 4th Grade	We would love to see after school enrichment programs (held at the school) green lighted if possible. Thanks!!
Hillcrest	2nd Grade, 6th Grade	Hello. It is very hard to wear masks for my sons, one is asthmatic, and the other has tactile issues. Are shields an option at all? Or two shifts- am and pm? Thank you! And i appreciate all the hard work the district does!
Highland, Indian Trail	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	Masks save lives.
Fairmount	2nd Grade	The governor has mandated masks. That's all you need to say.
Highland, Indian Trail	Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	Masks save lives.
Pierce Downer	1st Grade	Since masks will be required at the beginning of the school year, what is the concrete number/standard that will be used for the mandate to be lifted?
Fairmount	1st Grade	Thank you for everything this past year!
Hillcrest, O'Neill	Kindergarten, 5th Grade, 7th Grade	I don't mind the mask wearing for my children but I will not be happy with is if they need to wear them during school if it over a certain temperature when the schools my children attend don't have air conditioning. So I please ask that school start after the warm few weeks of normal school start or window units installed. The kids have always had a hard enough being in the school when it's 90 degrees with no air then you want them to cover their nose and mouth on top of it? I just do t think that safe or healthy for their little bodies. Thank you
Hillcrest, O'Neill	2nd Grade, 8th Grade	My kids are both excited to be back in school. I am apprehensive with the idea of a mask optional reentry at the elementary level I am hoping that the district adheres to the CDCs newest recommendation of masking in schools. Considering the elementary school aged kids are not eligible for vaccination yet I think the safest and most responsible way forward is to require masks. I do appreciate all you are doing to make the school year fee normal again. I also understand this must be a very difficult decision to make. Thank you.
Lester	2nd Grade, 4th Grade, 6th Grade	Masks should be a PARENTS CHOICE for their children. I volunteered for intermission last school year. The CONSTANT reprimanding of students regarding masks and social distancing, sadly created such a noticeably stressful environment at a place children should feel most comfortable. Teachers will sadly continue yet another year of being super-stressed and weighed down by having to enforce use of disgusting and unsanitary masks. What Gov. Pritzker doesn't see is this: students sucking on their masks until there is a visible wet spot, noticeably dirty masks that haven't been washed in over a week, the same mask being worn day after day, kids wiping runny noses with masks, then breathing through a dirty, unsanitary rag on their faces for the remainder of the day, students with asthma not catching their breath in unairconditioned schools.... The list goes on. Students will now be hearing, "put your mask up" and "stay apart" 100 times a day, instead of "great job students." It's all so very sad, for both the teachers and the students.
Fairmount	5th Grade	Please.... PARENT CHOICE for disgusting mask use.
Whittier	1st Grade, 5th Grade	Not understanding why we are not taking this delta variant as seriously as we did with covid last year. If the CDC is saying this is affecting young children the most, why is there no option for remote learning when last year children's cases were not this high, nor a concern and, we DID have a remote option. Why are we only prioritizing the "elderly" (last year they were a concern) and not our children this year. As a parent, I should have a say whether or not I want them back in school during an outbreak of cases. What is the school district going to do to assure large number of outbreaks don't occur in the classrooms causing many students to quarantine with no option? Parents need to choose. Period
O'Neill	7th Grade, 8th Grade	Thank you for following the mandated masking. Thank you for ensuring that you stick to what you've done from the start- following the current guidance and science to ensure safety for all and learning for students.
Whittier	1st Grade, 5th Grade	Not understanding why we are not taking this delta variant as seriously as we did with covid last year. If the CDC is saying this is affecting young children the most, why is there no option for remote learning when last year children's cases were not this high, nor a concern and, we DID have a remote option. Why are we only prioritizing the "elderly" (last year they were a concern) and not our children this year. As a parent, I should have a say whether or not I want them back in school during an outbreak of cases. What is the school district going to do to assure large number of outbreaks don't occur in the classrooms causing many students to quarantine with no option? Parents need to choose. Period
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Fairmount	Preschool, Kindergarten	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I'm curious about the expectations for teachers when it comes to enforcing mask wearing. An apparent local parent/out-of-district teacher has been boasting about how they will be refusing to address any mask wearing issues (being the "mask police") in their classroom, and that a "large (and growing) group of District 58 parents will not be complying once school starts". This is really unnerving because my children can't be vaccinated, will be attending in-person, and must rely on their classmates' efforts to stay healthy.</p> <p>I also want to thank you for all your planning, flexibility, and overall guts, the past year and a half! It's been tough for us, but I can't begin to imagine what a battle it's been for you. I really appreciate everything you've done, thought through, and planned out, to try your best to keep our kids safe. Thank you for listening to recommendations and considering required mask usage, even before it was mandated.</p>
Indian Trail	1st Grade	How are kids kept safe on bus? Social distancing, how many kids per bus or seat?