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Our **MISSION** is to empower all students with exceptional opportunities and access that lead to success in a global society.

We share a **VISION** to ensure a high-quality, world-class education for every student.

www.henry.k12.ga.us

May 27, 2021

HCS Families,

Henry County Schools just ended the 2020-2021 school year this week and will graduate the last seniors of the Class of 2021 this Friday. The district has navigated one of the most difficult years due to the challenges of the worldwide pandemic, but we have finished this school year with academic success, as well as positive trends in local health data.

As announced earlier this month by our board governance team during a scheduled meeting, the recent positive trends in health data, along with guidance from state and national government leaders and health experts allowed us to remove the outdoor mask mandate for Henry County Schools while simultaneously increasing capacity for indoor events and re-evaluating many of our mask-down zones. And with the recent success of several of our graduations, people have been appreciative of the option to choose whether to wear a mask while seated outdoors. We are heading in the right direction to get back to a normal environment.

The continued positive trend in local health data, coupled with our continued mitigation efforts allowed our district to advance plans to make the 2021-2022 school year a mask-optional year for all employees, students, and visitors to our buildings and campuses. It is our understanding that Governor Kemp is considering an executive order directed at schools' mitigation efforts, and we will continue to review and comply as that evolves.

Aside from this one change in our mitigation efforts for our campuses and facilities, we will still maintain a strong commitment to all other safety protocols, including deep, thorough cleanings of all buildings, regular air filtration servicing, and routine maintenance. Henry County Schools is also prepared to continue to make readily available hand sanitizer stations, display hallway signage, and use plexiglass dividers in high traffic locations such as front offices, clinics, and food service lines. These simple measures can still have a large impact on keeping the community healthy and safe even if people choose to not wear a mask.

We continue to ask our community to do their part to help stop the spread of COVID-19 through the continued healthy practices that have led us to this current moment.

In addition to the previously mentioned efforts for the health and safety of our district, current conditions will also allow us to open our facilities once again to visitors and for community use.

Henry County Schools will open the new school year on Wednesday, August 4 with face-to-face, in-person learning on all campuses for the majority of students, while there are students who have already chosen the remote learning option as offered through our virtual school known as Impact Academy.

We hope everyone has a safe, healthy, and relaxing summer, and we look forward to an exceptional 2021-2022 school year.

Sincerely,

Mary Elizabeth Davis