



JUDSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Jeanette Ball, Ph.D.

August 20, 2021

Dear Judson ISD Families:

I know the past few weeks have been very difficult with the back-and-forth issues related to the masks. It is very unfortunate that we have been put in the middle of the local and state legal battles. The Board and I have a tremendous responsibility to protect the health and safety of our students, staff and community. As cases begin to rise and we are faced with the reality that this pandemic is not over, we've studied our own data to make the best decision for all that we serve in the District. On Thursday night, the board and I made a decision as to what is best for Judson ISD. Our decision was not easy, and it is not one that is based on personal views or politics. It is truly based on Judson ISD data and facts.

Last year, Judson ISD required the wearing of face masks and we were able to keep our students and staff safe. We had very few, and in some buildings, no on-campus transmissions of COVID-19. Because of the masks we did not have to close schools or the district. Our goal is to keep our students in school and help them achieve academic success while prioritizing their health and safety. The best way to help our students be successful is to keep our schools open and to keep our students learning with face-to-face instruction. In addition, Judson ISD is facing a teacher and staff shortage and we need to do everything possible to keep our staff safe at work. We need everyone to be healthy so that we can continue to provide the academic and social emotional supports needed for our students and to address any learning setbacks due to the pandemic.

Effective Monday, August 23, 2021, Judson ISD is imposing a temporary mask mandate. All Judson ISD students, staff, and visitors are required to wear masks indoors in our buildings, on buses and district vehicles. This decision is based on the success that we had last year with wearing masks and the result of having low COVID-19 cases and very little to no spreading of the virus in Judson ISD facilities, in addition to following the recommendation of health experts and the guidance of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

So, in an effort to make sure the doors of Judson ISD stay open all year and to provide a healthy and safe environment for our students to learn and thrive, we will be enforcing the use of face masks in the District starting Monday, August 23, 2021.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Ball, Ph.D.

Superintendent of Schools

8012 Shin Oak Drive • Live Oak, Texas 78233-2457 • (210) 945-5100 • www.judsonisd.org

It is the policy of Judson Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, color, national origin, sex, marital or veteran status, disability or other legally protected status in its programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, 8012 Shin Oak, Live Oak, Texas, 78233. (210) 945-5101.