



September 10, 2021

Dear Helena Public Schools Families,

With two weeks of school under our belts, it's gratifying to see students, families, and staff settle into their autumn routines. This isn't the case for many communities, and I'm grateful for every day we're able to teach, learn, and work. Again, I am so proud of our Helena families and community who have partnered with us to give our students a five-day school week and a relative sense of normalcy. We thank you.

My team and I at the Central Office continue to visit schools daily to support our students and teachers. As I noted last week, I'm eager for the day when parents can once again volunteer and visit our classrooms. For now, I want to report that I'm seeing children thrive on the routines, academic challenges, and care they're experiencing as they return to the classroom full-time.

Now we need to keep our foot on the gas. Helena Public Schools (HPS) is faring better than many districts across the state and nation, and I believe that's thanks to the efforts of our families and staff. I am fortunate to work with such a supportive school staff and community.

Yet COVID has a foot in the door, with 37 confirmed cases in the district since the first day of school. Each new case is an opportunity for the virus to infect many more. Instead, let's stop COVID in its tracks: Follow masking guidelines, stay home if you're sick, and get vaccinated. As a reminder, the mask requirement remains in effect for PreK-8 and masks are strongly recommended for grades 9-12 into next week. I look forward to the day that this is not the case, and I can report differently. Until then, we will remain vigilant and stay the course.

Thank you helping us keep our kids in school and keep COVID out.

Have a healthy weekend and a great third week!

Respectfully,

Rex Weltz  
Superintendent, Helena Public Schools