



BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Guardians of BCCS Students,

When I returned to town Sunday, I was met with a barrage of information pertaining to the Michigan Supreme Court ruling on Friday at 4:36 pm. Needless to say this is a most interesting issue that has a significant amount of concern among members in the k-12 school community.

Today I read school-related articles, media posts and memorandums from the governor's office, school affiliated attorneys, the Kent County Health Department, the State Superintendent and various local and state educational and health agencies.

What we do know in plain terms is that last Friday the Justices held that the Governor lacked the authority after April 30, 2020, to issue or renew any executive orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it is also very clear that it is unclear as to the impact the ruling has on schools. Frankly, those decisions have yet to be made by other courts and the legislature.

I have received numerous phone calls and communications from concerned BCCS parents, and to be honest, most of which focussed on relaxing some of the safety protocols deemed as excessive. It is no secret that right up to KCHD mandate for all K-12 students to wear masks at all times while in schools, I held that k-5 students should not have to wear masks during class and outdoors as long as they were with their cohorts. This was the CDC recommendation. However, it was made known today that the Michigan Departments of Health and Human Services created its own Executive Orders that among other things, limit the size of gatherings and require masks at indoor and outdoor gatherings...including schools.

In a nutshell, there is much ambivalence about what public schools can and/or cannot do at all levels. We need concrete and specific information regarding how the court's decision impacts our return to school plans. It would be wrong to make changes without having the proper background knowledge or we run the risk of false starts that can be harmful and cause division within the school community.

I ask for your patience and understanding as we continue to follow the developments of the Michigan Supreme Court ruling. We have a Return to School Plan in place that, while not perfect, is working and has shown to be effective. We will also continue to learn and move forward when appropriate.

Please feel free to contact me with your questions and Thank You again for your consideration and partnership during this unprecedented time in our history

With Care,

Mark R. Kasmer
BCCS CAO