



August 18, 2021

Dear Gull Lake Families and Staff,

Today, the Kalamazoo Health and Community Services Department communicated a new order to all county public, charter, parochial and private schools ([Kalamazoo County Health Department Emergency Order](#)). The new order requires Young 5 – 6<sup>th</sup> grade indoor mask wearing for all students and adults in those educational settings. This mandate applies to all individuals regardless of vaccination status. Grades 9-12 are *masks optional* and do not fall under the new mandate. The District is reviewing the mixed age setting at the middle school level and the building will communicate additional information later this week. There will be more information shared by building principals regarding the Ryan Intermediate and Middle School open houses scheduled for next week.

The Health Department is basing this new order on the lack of available vaccines for the students in this age range. This order will be in place until further notice and will be reviewed as vaccines become available for the target population. All districts within the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) are already directed to mask on public transportation per the prior federal mandate; additionally all districts shall comply with the new health department order. We will continue to closely monitor health information and are prepared to act decisively should the situation warrant.

We thank you in advance for your understanding and adherence as we navigate these changing circumstances together.

Partners in Learning,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Raphael Rittenhouse', is written in black ink.

Raphael Rittenhouse/Superintendent  
Gull Lake Community Schools