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October 5, 2020


Dear Parent/Guardian:

In July, as we were preparing for this year and how to open school safely, we placed a large order of face masks and neck gaiters for our students and staff. At the time we felt that the gaiters might be easier for our younger students to keep track of and to be able to pull them over their nose and mouth when needed. Since then, the effectiveness of gaiters and bandanas have come into question.

I just learned that the Otsego County Department of Health is now recommending that gaiters and bandanas not be worn in school. OCDOH is also recommending that face masks with vents also not be worn. With this in mind, I am sad to say that going forward students and staff will not be allowed to wear any type of gaiter, bandana or mask with a vent while at school. We are in the process of ordering more face masks for our students, including smaller face masks for the younger students. I hope to have those in within the next few weeks and will give each student who received a neck gaiter a new mask.

I am sorry for the confusion and that the gaiters that we specifically purchased for the students can no longer be used. As we learn more about COVID-19 and its spread, however, we will continue to receive new recommendations from the health experts.

Thank you.


Matt Sheldon
Superintendent