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March 18, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds all of you well. It is hard to believe that just a few weeks ago, our school began its fourth quarter of in-seat learning for the 2020-2021 school year. I consider ourselves very fortunate to be able to have as many in-person events as we can while some schools struggle to get inside their classrooms for the very first time this school year.

As many of you already know, the number of positive COVID cases continue to decline in our county, state and country. This is due to many factors that I will not go into because of public opinion, but none-the-less, numbers are declining.

As these numbers of positive cases have been watched closely throughout the school year, our administration has been watching as well. Since November/December, positive Covid Cases have declined 95% within Miller County. (554-24). During this time our school district has taken the initiative to continue to wear masks each and every day. Additionally, our district continues to spray our buses and classrooms down daily (Monday thru Friday,) as well as continue to wear masks on a daily basis. We also continue to social distance (where possible).

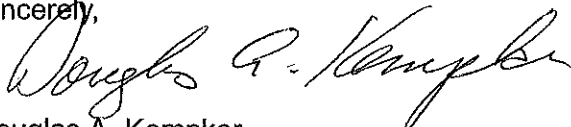
While taking in the decline of the positive cases within our county, community and school, **the St. Elizabeth R-IV School District school board has decided to rescind the mask mandate during school hours effective on Tuesday, March 23, 2021** as long as cases remain low.

We appreciate the willingness of all of our community members, as well as parents, having your child and or loved one, adapt to this policy. When it was put into place in November, our classrooms were almost empty in some classrooms. The intent was to eliminate the vast number of students that would have to be quarantined for each positive case.

Please be assured, while mask wearing has now become an individual choice, your child is encouraged to wear a mask but not required to do so. All other safety measures have been kept in place to allow your child to attend school on a regular basis. Masks will still be available for all students and staff who wish to wear them.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Douglas A. Kempker
St.Elizabeth R-IV School District.