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May 9, 2021

Dear WCASD Community,

Happy Mother's Day to all the moms who provide so much love, support and guidance for our students.

I am sorry to send a note on a weekend, but we have been working very quickly to respond to new guidance released by the Chester County Health Department regarding wearing of masks outside. I wanted to be sure you had this information before school on Monday. The new guidance states:

***Any staff or student engaging in high exertion OUTDOOR activities, including but not limited to, athletics, exercise or play activities, is NOT required to wear masks when actively engaged in those activities.***

The impact of this new guidance applies to the following activities taking place in our schools, and will go into effect on Monday May 10:

- outside recess
- outside physical education classes
- outdoor sports, and any other outdoor activities that fit the criteria of the Health department

We will continue to follow other mitigation strategies including social distancing.

Each time health guidance changes and we send an update, as administrators we know that it will be met with a range of emotions and reactions. Some will think this change is long overdue while others will worry for their child's safety. Certainly, if you want your child to continue to wear a mask outside they're welcome to do so.

One thing I know is certain: Throughout all of this, our teachers and staff been dedicated to our students' success, and I know they will continue to give their all. We truly care about each and every one of our children, and nothing pleases us more than seeing them grow and succeed. It's been a very difficult year, but we are here to support our students, and each other.

Thank you for your continued support as we begin to close out this pandemic year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jim Scanlon