



Mr. Thomas J. Colabufò
Superintendent

January 25, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This morning, I sent a letter to all Central Square staff members informing them not to confront any students that were not wearing a mask in our schools and on our buses. That was a direct result of the Nassau County Supreme Court decision overturning the standing mask mandate for all NYS schools throughout this school year. I sent a letter to all parents/guardians informing them that we were waiting for clarification from the State regarding the legalities of the mask mandate. I also stated in that letter that throughout the pandemic, the Central Square Central School District has not (and will not) add any additional mandates/requirements beyond those that we are legally obligated to follow.

Moments ago, we were notified that the Appellate Division issued a temporary stay of the Nassau County Court's decision invalidating 10 NYCRR 2.60, which included a mask mandate for schools. There is a full hearing on the issue scheduled for Friday, 1/28/2022. **This means that, for this week at least, the mask mandate required by the NYS Department of Health regulation is still in effect.** If that changes in the future and the mask mandate is overturned again, then we will repeat our stance that we illustrated today in our schools and any student not wearing a mask will not be confronted about their choice.

As I stated in the parent/guardian letter this morning, please understand that we are required to enforce the mask mandate as long as we are legally required to, **and effective immediately, all schools in NY State are legally mandated to require masks for all students, staff, and visitors that enter a school or a school bus.** I understand that this news is not what many of you wanted to hear today, and similar to today, I will take any and all parent/guardian phone calls tomorrow answering any additional questions you may have. Thank you, and enjoy your family time.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Colabufò
Superintendent