March 5, 2021

Dear Parents, Communities, and Staff,

The purpose of this letter is to update you on the District's COVID Mitigation plan for the final weeks of this school year.

I want to start by thanking each of you for your efforts and support in keeping COVID out of our communities and schools.   As a result of the efforts of many, we have been fortunate to keep our doors open and the spread of COVID in Lake and Pen to a minimum. There are not many districts that can say that this year.

During our last COVID Task Force meeting, we discussed lifting the mask requirement in our schools. We sought medical opinions and our local and State health experts all told us the same thing, the CDC still recommends universal masking and it is not yet time to let up. We also discussed the opportunities that we want to provide for our students this spring and masking in our classrooms/schools helps us justify student activities and travel.

It is tempting to want to go back to a time where masks did not rule our decisions; however, the more we talked, the more obvious it became that we have been successful this year, in part, because of the steps taken in our schools – and those decisions have helped to keep our students and staff safe.

Therefore, I have a request. I would ask that you continue to support our efforts for universal masking in the schools, social distancing, and frequent hand washing. These efforts have shown results, as hard and uncomfortable as they can be to follow. We may be done with this virus, but the virus isn't yet done with us – let's finish strong.

We sincerely hope that next year will bring us to a time when COVID is not foremost in our decisions. But for the remainder of this year, the School District will continue our efforts to provide the safest environment possible for LPSD students and staff.

Thank you for your support,

Ty Mase, Superintendent