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ALABASTER
CITY SCHOOLS

CHAMPIONS OF OUR FUTURE

Alabaster City Board of Education
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Superintendent

L. Wayne Vickers, Ed. D.

September 2, 2021

Dear Warrior Family:

The Alabaster City School System is committed to continuously analyzing COVID-19 data pertaining to the safety and well-being of our students and employees. Since the onset of the pandemic, we have strived to keep our students and employees safe and to keep our schools open for in-person instruction. Our staff has done an outstanding job of encouraging social distancing and the use of masks, and maintaining a clean, healthy learning environment.

While we are encouraged by our low number of positive cases within ACS and the availability of vaccinations to persons over the age of 12, the number of positive cases in our community and surrounding communities continues to rise. Further, the number of close contacts having to isolate due to possible exposure continues to increase since school began on August 19.

At this point, we must base our decisions on practices that mitigate the spread of COVID-19, decrease the number of isolations/quarantines of faculty/staff and students, and help maintain in-person instruction. **Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, effective Tuesday, September 7, Alabaster City Schools will require masks or facial coverings inside school buildings for all faculty/staff and students in all grades (Pre-K through 12) until further notice.** Masks will not be required for outdoor activities. For medical exceptions to the mask requirement, please provide a letter from your child's physician to your school principal.

We will continue to follow our *Plan for Continued In-Person Instruction* to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. As such, we ask parents/guardians and employees to be the first line of defense with daily screenings for symptoms. If you or your child have symptoms of illness, are awaiting COVID-19 test results, and/or have tested positive for COVID-19, you/they should not attend school until cleared by a medical professional. Please contact your school nurse if you have any questions. Students who are asked to isolate due to close-contact exposure should not attend school or school-related activities. Also, please remind students to practice preventative measures with facial coverings, social distancing, and proper hand hygiene in school and throughout the community.

Our goal is to keep our students and staff safe and healthy. With your cooperation, we can continue in-person instruction for the students of Alabaster. Thank you for your support and patience as we navigate this public health crisis.

We will get through this together.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "L. Wayne Vickers".

L. Wayne Vickers, Ed.D.
Superintendent