

Putnam County Schools



SCHOOLS

Columbus Grove

Continental

Fort Jennings

Kalida

Leipsic

Miller City –
New Cleveland

Ottawa-Glandorf

Ottoville

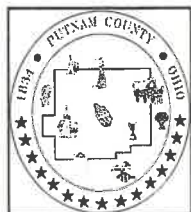
Pandora-Gilboa

Putnam County
ESC

St. Anthony's

St. Mary's

Sts. Peter & Paul



To Putnam County Parents and Residents:

All Putnam County School students, staff, coaches, advisors and administrators have committed to making every effort to keep schools open and allow fall extra-curricular activities to proceed. That commitment was on display this summer as school stakeholders devoted numerous days to planning and making preparations for re-opening on time.

Each school has asked its students to adhere to some new and unusual day-to-day operations. Students have also had to make other sacrifices so that school may stay in session. So far, the kids have been terrific with everything they have been asked to do. They understand by not following the health mandates and other necessary measures they place their own safety and the safety of others at risk. They are also complying because they want to stay in school, play sports, sing in the choir, perform in the band, and act in the play.

The highest priority of schools must always be the welfare of students, but student welfare also involves the necessity of in-person education and the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities. All these things added together contribute mightily to the lasting development of our children.

Without question, these last several months have been a frustrating experience. That being said, whatever your viewpoint is about current health orders it is irrelevant to this situation. This is about our students and not making selfish decisions that place their education and fall seasons in jeopardy. Accordingly, we **must** have attendees at our school-related events follow these state-mandated measures at all times:

- Wear face coverings
- Maintain proper social distancing
- Practice good hand hygiene

If you disagree with these mandates and are not willing to comply then we ask that you not attend any school-sponsored events. We respect everybody's personal beliefs, but in order for our students to stay in school and stay active these mandates **must** be followed while you are in attendance.

Specifically and with regards to fall athletic contests, the Ohio High School Athletic Association in conjunction with Governor DeWine's office is launching a Facility Inspection program where designated OHSAA officials will be attending contests throughout the state to ensure health mandates are being followed by host schools and spectators. If the OHSAA discovers violations, any or all of the following penalties could be imposed:

- School fines
- Game forfeitures
- Ineligibility for OHSAA post-season tournaments

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General non-compliance with these mandates could also lead to further outbreaks of COVID-19 and result in any or all of the following consequences for our students:

- All spectators being prohibited at athletic and/or extracurricular events
- School closures
- Cancellation of fall athletic and extracurricular events

Please understand that even a small number of confirmed positive COVID-19 student cases in any county school building could trigger a school district to close. Any closure could last for weeks to months depending upon how the situation unfolds. School closings would immediately result in stoppage of that school's extracurricular activities. We humbly ask that you keep that in mind as you go about your day.

It would be incredibly disheartening for our students to wind up back where they were in the spring when they had to stay at home to learn and were disallowed from taking part in any school-related activities. Please work with us to prevent that from happening again.

Respectfully,

Putnam County School Administrators