ORCHARD VIEW SCHOOLS

35 S. SHERIDAN DRIVE MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49442

www.orchardview.org

Dear Orchard View Staff and Families, October 9, 2020

This has been a busy week with updates and information coming from Lansing. Recent decisions by the Michigan Supreme Court and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services related to the COVID-19 pandemic may create some confusion about mask requirements and spectator guidelines at district events.

The guidelines from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services are currently in effect until October 30, 2020. In our region, these guidelines

- Require the wearing of masks at schools for all grades
- Limit gatherings at indoor venues to 20 persons/ 1,000 sq. ft – limit of 500 persons
- Limit gatherings at outdoor venues to 30% of normal capacity – limit of 1,000 persons
- Require the wearing of facial coverings during organized sports by participants and spectators

Based on the requirements and recommendations of the Michigan Safe Start Plan, a team from Orchard View Schools developed our "Return to Learn Plan," which was approved by the Board of Education, the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District, and Muskegon County Public Health in August of 2020. We have successfully followed our plan to date, and will continue to do so.

This means we will continue our current masking procedures that were in place since the beginning of school, on buses, in classrooms, in hallways, at lunch, etc. **At the K-5 level we will continue wearing masks in classrooms.** Staff and students will have scheduled "mask breaks" throughout the day, and we will monitor developments closely in the next several weeks. If you have specific concerns about masks in the elementary buildings please contact your building principal.

Our primary concern is watching out for the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and school community. As always if you have questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 760-1300, or email me at jim.nielsen@orchardview.org. We are thankful you have chosen Orchard View Schools and we will continue to strive to make **Every Day a Great Day to be a Cardinal!**

Jim Nielsen, Superintendent