

Richmond Community Schools

35276 Division * Richmond, Michigan 48062 * (586) 727-3565 * www.richmond.k12.mi.us

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Superintendent

**Richmond Early Childhood Learning Center
& Will L. Lee Elementary School**
68399 Forest
Richmond, Michigan 48062
David Kochan, Principal

Richmond Middle School
35250 Division
Richmond, Michigan 48062
Keith Bartels, Principal

Richmond High School
35320 Division
Richmond, Michigan 48062
Andrew Kastl, Principal

October 5, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On Friday, October 2, 2020, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that Governor Whitmer did not have the authority to issue COVID-19 Executive Orders after April 30, 2020 under the *Emergency Management Act*. The Court also ruled that the *Emergency Powers of the Governor Act*, an alternative basis for issuing the Executive Orders, is unconstitutional. The Governor has stated that the decision is not immediately effective and that all current Executive Orders could remain in place for at least 21 days. Members of the Legislature have opined that the decision could have immediate effect. Action by a federal court could also impact the decision's effective date.

Once again public schools are caught in the middle of a political battle in Lansing. After consulting with legal counsel over the weekend, Richmond Community Schools will continue to comply with its board-approved *COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan*, and any local health department orders, as it has since school started. **Students in grades K-5 will be required to wear a facemask on school buses and in common areas (e.g. hallways, gymnasium, recess, etc.), but will NOT be required to wear facemasks while in the classroom or eating in the cafeteria. Students in grades 6-12 will be required to wear facemasks at all times.** In other words, no change to our current practice.

As required by law, the Richmond Board of Education will review its *Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan* at least one a month at a regularly scheduled Board meeting, where public comment on the plan is welcomed. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's principal or my office.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Walmsley, Ed.S.
Superintendent

Guaranteed Learning for All Students!