



Sevier County School System

Dr. Jack A. Parton, Superintendent of Schools

226 Cedar Street
Sevierville, Tennessee 37862

Phone (865) 453-4671
Fax (865) 774-4562

MOUNTAIN TOUGH CHALLENGE

Sevier County School System Family,

In order to make our school buildings as safe as possible, we are monitoring local and school data regarding the COVID-19 virus on a daily basis. Our community has seen a recent surge of COVID that has also been reflected in classrooms around our district.

- The Sevier County Health Department reports an increase in daily case counts of 52 to 82 in the last three weeks.
- The health department also reports a considerable uptick in the 11-20 year old age category.
- The Tennessee Department of Health has indicated that state-wide, 36% of COVID cases are currently children.
- Total positives in our schools have nearly doubled in the last week, nearing the greatest total number of cases we saw in December of 2020.

It is clear that the new variant in our community is both more communicable and more transmissible to children. In keeping with Governor Lee's order, we will certainly remain respectful of parents' choice. As a community, however, we must work together to slow the spread of this potentially deadly virus.

In keeping with the volunteer spirit our state is known for, we are asking that all students and staff members wear masks while at school and on buses until this most recent wave of positivity has begun to subside.

Masks will be available upon request. New guidance from the Tennessee Department of Health indicates that students who are appropriately masked DO NOT need to quarantine following close contact if both parties were masked. While wearing masks last year, we were able to keep more students healthy, in school, and learning for all but a handful of school days. With your help and cooperation, it is our goal to do the same this year. After all, Sevier County is Mountain Tough.

Thank you,
Dr. Jack A. Parton