

Parents and students,

This is Executive Principal Tim Berry with a few key reminders about enrollment in Virtual School. In the past couple of days, we have tried our best to answer many questions about factors influencing your decision about whether to send your child to school or select the virtual option. I have been very impressed with the detailed questions around class and course needs, cleaning procedures and virtual school instructions and expectations. I know this is a tough decision and many important variables come into play.

At the same time, I have been a little concerned about some questions and social media posts by a few parents and students around the wearing of masks. Please keep in mind, if wearing a mask at all times is a concern, the virtual option is definitely for you. I completely understand that will be uncomfortable and frustrating at times. However, we are not going to negotiate the health and safety of our students and staff and we are not going to spend each day arguing this with some students, like we do with hats and hoodies. Please have this conversation with your children before Wednesday night's 11:59 PM deadline, while you still have the choice. There were several other requirements that I outlined last week that are not going to be very popular for a while, but will be important to the health and safety of others. In-Person school is going to look very different for a while, so please refer to our web-site one last time and make sure everyone understands those "In-Person" expectations.

We are a very diverse community, with varied ideas and opinions surrounding tough issues in this world today. I want us to focus on mutual respect, understanding and grace, while navigating through troubled times. I have over one hundred faculty, staff and administrators who are going to be working at ground zero, for the first time since March 12th. Like you, we all have families and loved ones to protect and care for when we leave school each day. They love your kids and are going to give 110% for them each and every day, whether we are looking through a mask, face shield or a computer screen. I ask that while you reflect on your decision, please know and respect their anxiety. It will take all of us, working together, to be safe and have a successful school year. It will not be perfect and there will be mistakes, but know they are vetted in the best interest of everyone associated with the South-Doyle High School Family.

Grace and peace be with you all!