

Good Afternoon Summit Hill School District 161 Families,

Excitedly, today is the first day of school for students! This brings so much anticipation (and nervousness) for both staff and students, but we have spent the last two Institute Days preparing for the arrival of our students. We are ready for an amazing school year, one where we see a return of our students to full in-person learning! Academically, there is no question that in-person learning, five days per week, is what is best for students, and our students also need athletics and extra-curricular opportunities to continue to grow socially and emotionally. We will look to offer the opportunity for school to look as normal as possible, in as safe an environment as possible for everyone in our learning community.

With that being said, we continue to be under the Governor's mask mandate, as such, all staff, students, and visitors must wear a mask when at school. We will continue to watch case counts and local positivity rates closely for a time when the mandate is removed and local control is returned. Along the way, as changes are considered, we will keep our learning community informed. The most up-to-date Opening Plan for SHSD161 can be found on our website, please take the time to read through how school will start this year.

Again, we are looking forward to a great 2021-2022 school year and helping each and every student *flourish!*

Sincerely,

Dr. Paul McDermott  
Superintendent