

Beaver River Central School serves as a center for education in dynamic partnership with students, staff, parents, and community to provide each student the opportunity to achieve maximum potential in all areas of life and learning now and in the future.

**Todd Green**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Kimberly Lyman-Wright**  
Elementary School Principal

**Daniel Rains**  
Middle/High School Principal

**Troy Hebert**  
Middle/High School Assistant Principal



February 9, 2022

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
NYS Capital Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Honorable Kathy Hochul,

On behalf of the Beaver River Central School District, the seven members of the Board of Education, respectfully request that you end the state mandate for requiring masking in schools. We would like to see that mandate be changed to a local district decision, thereby giving local school districts the authority to decide masking guidelines and rules.

Throughout the pandemic we have created a partnership with our local county officials including our County Manager, and the Lewis County Director of Public Health. Through this partnership, we have been able to ensure students attend each and every day with many of the local decisions that not only keep our community safe, but also our tradition of academics strong. As a small rural school, metrics look different from other areas of the state. A small change in one number can cause the appearance of a large global change for our community. However, since we are small we are also very nimble and able to make adjustments that many other larger communities may not.

Having local decision would allow us to prevent and respond to changes to our needs. Our focus is our students, their safety and their academic growth. These two factors should not conflict with each other and over the past few months this has been increasingly the case. We have now reached a point where we have a greater understanding of the effect of the COVID-19 virus on our community, and with the ability to make some local changes, we could mitigate anything that may hinder our student learning and safety.

As each community across NYS differs in size, population density, and resources available, we feel that local school boards have the necessary information and tools to be able to set forth our own policies in terms of the who, what, where, when, why, and how of masking requirements. We are willing to bear the responsibility that comes with setting policies that ensure a safe school environment for our students, staff, and teachers.

Yours in Education,

Dr. Samuel Chamberlain, President  
Todd Lighthall, Vice President  
Jonathan Beller, Trustee  
Stacy Greaud, Trustee

Brian LaChausse, Trustee  
Jacqueline Pate, Trustee  
Zechariah Zehr, Trustee  
Todd Green, Superintendent of Schools

cc: Mary T. Bassett, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner NYS DOH  
NYS Senator Joseph A. Griffo  
NYS Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush  
Dr. Betty A. Rosa, NYSED Commissioner

Robert Schneider, Executive Director, NYSSBA  
William Miller, Area 5 Director, NYSSBA  
NYS Dept. of Public Health & Safety Commission

P.O. Box 179, 9508 Artz Road | Beaver Falls, New York 13305-0179 | Phone: (315) 346-1211 | Fax: (315) 346-6775

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER