



WHITESIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT 115

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Belleville, Illinois 62221*

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Mark Heuring
Superintendent
Monica Laurent
Middle School Principal
Jamie Cotto
Middle School Associate Principal
Nathan Rakers
Elementary Principal
Kim Bossler
Elementary Assistant Principal

2/6/2022

Dear Belleville Area Families and Staff,

Many of you are likely aware that there have been legal challenges to the Governor and IDPH's ability to enforce executive orders related to the pandemic. On Friday evening, Judge Grischow of Sangamon County ruled on a lawsuit filed by more than 700 parents across the state that challenged state-mandated COVID-19 mitigations, which include masks, vaccines, and quarantines.

At this time, we are in the process of reviewing the judge's decision and will communicate with you as soon as possible whether this ruling impacts our students and staff members. The judge initially ruled that the decision only pertained to students, staff, and districts named in the lawsuit, which does not apply to any of the Belleville area schools. However, the ruling also came with strong language regarding the Governor's executive authority including rules through IPDH and ISBE. The decision has also been set up for an appeal at the Appellate level. That decision is expected to be delivered in two weeks and will help clarify next steps for all Illinois school districts.

Until there is definitive guidance on the mandates, we ask for your patience and thank you in advance for following our current policies and procedures. Also rest assured that no matter the outcome of this ruling, our priority remains to continue keeping our communities safe and provide the best learning environment possible.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, teachers, and staff.

Sincerely,
Belleville Area Superintendents

Dr. Brian Mentzer
Belleville 201

Mr. Matt Stines
Grant 110

Dr. David Deets
Harmony-Emge 175

Dr. Ryan Boike
Belleville 118

Dr. Jeff Daugherty
BASSC

Mr. R. Dane Gale
Belle Valley 119

Dr. Julie Brown
Pontiac 105

Mr. Scott Harres
Wolf Branch 113

Mr. Kelly Bohnenstiehl
Signal Hill 181

Dr. Beth Horner
High Mount 116

Mr. Mark Heuring
Whiteside 115

Whiteside's mission is to help all learners reach their maximum potential so that they may become tomorrow's leaders.