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January 5th, 2022

Dear Families,

Extra-curricular activities such as after-school clubs, activities, and sports are highly valued by our staff and the Crook County community. Our goal here at Crook County High School is to protect those opportunities and ensure our students don't miss out on activities that keep them engaged and healthy.

The Oregon Health Authority this week recommended that school districts suspend extracurricular activities because of the Omicron variant of COVID-19. It's only a recommendation and not a requirement at this time. Some school districts, like Portland Public Schools, have decided to bring back stringent protocols that include limiting fans at events or requiring proof of vaccination for attendance, making athletes wear masks during competitions, or canceling activities altogether.

These are *not* measures we plan to implement and our District Leadership remains committed to prioritizing in-person learning and offering students and families a wide variety of opportunities to engage in fun activities outside of normal school hours. The safety of students, staff, and athletes also remains a top priority, which is why we believe our current COVID-19 mitigation practices remain effective and have helped to minimize the spread of the virus in our schools.

Our concern is that OHA and the Oregon Department of Education could change their recommendations and require all Oregon school districts to follow tougher protocols that limit activities and opportunities for parents to support their children in person. Some spectators at school events across Oregon have taken pictures of other fans not wearing masks and submitted official complaints with OSHA. They've accused individual schools or school districts of failing to follow COVID-19 safety protocols - potentially jeopardizing extracurricular activities and causing school districts to face financial penalties.

We need your help to protect sports and other activities by simply wearing a mask when attending indoor events. We recognize that mask mandates are unpopular with some of our families and that not everyone agrees with them. Our goal is to avoid situations where the state requires us to limit fans or cancels events altogether.

Please be kind to our staff who check people in and monitor events. They don't make the rules, so your cooperation would be much appreciated. Our students and athletes have the most to lose, so let's work together and make a small sacrifice to ensure sports and all after-school activities remain in place.

Thank you,

Rob Bonner
CCHS Athletic Director