



**AUGUSTA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



November 2020

Dear Families of Staunton City, Augusta County, and Waynesboro City Schools:

As we move into the holiday season, we are so grateful for our students, their families, and our dedicated staff who have persevered during the unprecedented COVID-19 global pandemic. While there have been many changes this school year, all of our school divisions remain committed to providing a first-class education to all of our students.

Our staff has worked very hard to provide meaningful learning experiences in our schools and the virtual classroom. Most importantly, you have endured many challenges this year and partnered with us in your children's education and well-being.

We need your continued vigilance over the next several weeks to help keep our schools open. You can take several actions this holiday season that will slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community and, in turn, allow us to welcome your children back to in-person instruction during and after the holiday season. Those actions include:

- wearing a mask;
- practicing proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette;
- staying at home when you are not feeling well;
- practicing social distancing by maintaining a 6-foot distance from people not living in your home;
- considering the community levels of COVID-19 and whether it is safe to travel during the holidays; and,
- limiting your time with small and large groups of people who do not live in your household.

Please remember that we're in this together. Each individual's actions during the holiday season can directly impact our community, and our ability to remain open or reopen in January. Each division continues to monitor health data with the Central Shenandoah Health Department to determine the most appropriate course of action for its students.

Thank you for your vigilance, support, and commitment to the health of our community. We wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

Respectfully,

Garrett Smith, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Staunton

Eric Bond, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Augusta

Jeffrey Cassell, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Waynesboro

Laura Kornegay, MD  
Director  
Central Shenandoah Health District