

**WHITEHALL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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**Whitehall – Birthplace of the U. S. Navy – [www.railroaders.net](http://www.railroaders.net)**

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Dear Whitehall Community,

I wanted to take a moment to thank the Whitehall community for working in partnership with the district throughout this pandemic and most specifically, during this past, very confusing week. A great deal of misinformation has been circulating throughout social media and I wanted to thank each of you for continuing to work with the school to keep the children our first priority.

I am sure that you are aware, school districts throughout the state have experienced families protesting masking and the ruling from the case in Long Island. Protests have unfolded at many districts, on campuses and have placed children in unfortunate situations. Since this pandemic began, school districts throughout New York State have been working hard to navigate the ever-changing guidance and state mandates that are issued with little or no advance communication from the state agencies. This has been an incredible challenge and I am thankful that our community understands that all the enacted mandates and daily protocols are coming directly from Albany and that you understand that for our district to remain open, we are required to comply with the regulatory agencies' determinations.

I am hopeful, as I have shared earlier in the week, that a court hearing which is scheduled to begin tomorrow (Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>) will eventually determine if the Governor's masking mandate is legal. A decision from the Appellate court is anticipated within the next few weeks.

Rest assured, the Whitehall Central School District will communicate the outcome and will make any and all necessary changes to our protocols to comply with the law. Again, THANK YOU for NEVER putting children in the middle, and ALWAYS putting children first.

Best,

Patrick Dee  
Superintendent of Schools