

Southmoreland School District



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“High Quality Learning for All”

September 7, 2020

Governor Tom Wolf
Governor’s Correspondence Office
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Governor Wolf,

I would like to recognize the multitude of challenges leaders have during these difficult times and how circumstances can change dependent upon events that are taking place. In my role as Superintendent of Schools, I have seen these challenges through the eyes of our students, faculty, staff, parents, administrative team, and the Board of Directors as we attempt to re-establish our educational process that was disrupted by the pandemic. This letter comes with the understanding of the difficult decisions and the delicate balance that must be achieved to guide our stakeholders through these times.

Our student athletics have devoted countless hours of hard work and dedication to participate in the activities they love. Southmoreland School District appreciates that limited spectators are now permitted to be a part of the activities that will be taking place on our fields and courts. The outdoor limit of 250 and the indoor limit of 25 is mostly comprised of the players participating in the contests and the ancillary help that is needed to support the operation of the event. Our athletic venue is large enough to support the implementation of the strict procedures for those in attendance that would fit current social distancing, the wearing of masks, and other COVID-19 preventive criteria.

Our district has done a remarkable job of planning and preparing for the start of school and for the return of sports for our students. The spectator limit is a factor that is causing great concern within our community. Our community prides itself in recognizing the hard work of our students while making all efforts to support our teams on and off the fields and courts. We believe the capacity numbers should enable our teams, band, cheerleaders, and parents the ability to attend events and support our students’ efforts. We believe we can manage the spectator limitations while maintaining the highest degree of adherence to the established criteria. Our students and community have sacrificed greatly since the onset of the pandemic, and we would like to provide the Southmoreland community the opportunity to watch and support our students.

It is understood these are unique times and that our country, state, and communities are struggling to deal with an unpredictable virus that has changed much of what we do on a daily basis. Our district has been forced to respond to mandated restrictions that have caused stress within our

community and has compromised the cooperation and partnerships we have developed with our community. It is during these times communities must work together to provide the greatest opportunities for our students. Providing our district the opportunity to be more flexible with spectator limits would help mend some of the rifts that have occurred over the last six months.

On behalf of the Southmoreland School District, I thank you for your consideration on this issue that has become a focal point not only in our school district but in the entire community.

Respectfully,

Vincent Mascia

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Superintendent of Schools
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