



VALLEY PARK  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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August 7, 2020

Good Morning!

On August 5, 2020, the Missouri State High School Activities Association ([MSHSAA](#)) [announced](#) that member schools utilizing a virtual instructional model would be allowed to participate in MSHSAA sanctioned athletics and activities. The participation in all MSHSAA sanctioned activities is dependent on member schools complying with any guidelines set forth by their county health departments. In St. Louis County, [the guidelines for participation in sports](#) has been provided by a cooperative of health professionals and leaders through the St. Louis Sports COVID-19 Task Force.

We are encouraged by this announcement and willing to work with St. Louis County to implement the safety precautions required to keep students and staff safe. With most of our fall athletics being outdoors and county guidelines prohibiting competition and limiting activity to practices with no more than 20 athletes participating at a time, we believe this can be safely accomplished with some additional planning.

Student and staff safety remains our paramount concern. The current county guidelines allow us to have student-athletes on campus at an attainable scale, and the county guidelines give clear directions on what protocols we must have in place.

Practices for MSHSAA sanctioned activities, and athletics can commence on August 10, 2020. Due to the timing of MSHSAA's announcement allowing member schools utilizing a virtual instructional platform to participate in sports and St. Louis County's latest release of phase 2 guidance not being active until Monday,, we will not be prepared to begin practices on August 10th.

Additional planning time is required to develop parameters that ensure our students' safety while complying with St. Louis Sports Medicine COVID - 19 Task Force, St. Louis County, and MSHSAA guidelines.

Our Director of Activities, Adam Hamilton, will work with other directors in our area and conference to develop guidelines for a safe return that prioritizes our community's health and safety.

A recommendation will be made to our board of education that includes timelines & details for the start of activities and athletics when we believe it is safe to do so.



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We appreciate your patience as we work to develop plans that safely reintroduce students to activities in the future with the support of MSHSAA and St. Louis County.

*Dr. Tim Dilg*  
Superintendent