



VALLEY PARK
SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Developing students today in preparation
for tomorrow*

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8/14/2020

Dear Valley Park Families:

Patience, grace, understanding, and kindness are powerful words that will drive our work as we enter the most extraordinary start to a school year in Valley Park Schools' history. While no one could have predicted the COVID-19 pandemic and how much it would impact our lives, we are looking forward to beginning the school year with an enhanced Distance Learning program on August 24th. You may access resources for distance learning on our new webpage by [clicking this link](#). However, don't hesitate to contact your school if you have questions or need support.

As we move closer to August 24th, I want to thank all parents, staff, community partners, and our board of education for your compassion, patience, and understanding. I am fully aware of the challenges and opportunities ahead of us, and as a community, I believe in our ability to work together to support our students. Our staff is caring, committed, knowledgeable, and ready to ensure that every child is provided with positive and meaningful interactions. I believe in their ability to provide high-quality learning experiences while also meeting students' social-emotional needs. We are also looking forward to partnering with our families and community to provide students with the knowledge, skills, experiences, resources, and supports they need to be successful.

As we begin this new journey in our district's history, we may not know what the coming months will bring. We do know that together we will continue to be Valley Park strong and provide a personalized environment where students will grow strong today in preparation for tomorrow.

As we face a new and extraordinary year of possibilities, our remarkable flexibility and resiliency will keep us moving forward. Along with the Board of Education and Valley Park staff, I remain committed and passionate about meeting all our student's and families' needs by providing resources and opportunities that will prepare everyone for their journey ahead. I look forward to sharing our successes and achievements with you!

Thank you for your patience, grace, understanding, and kindness.

Please stay healthy and safe.

Dr. Tim Dilg
Superintendent

BELOW ARE SOME IMPORTANT UPDATES AS WE PREPARE FOR THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR.



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ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS

On August 13th, in response to the ever-changing environment created by COVID-19, the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) released [alternate schedule options](#) for schools to consider. We have reviewed these alternative options and are working collaboratively with our neighboring superintendents and conference directors to determine the best route to pursue for our students. At the same time, we continue to work closely with other high school athletics and activities directors and superintendents in St. Louis County to review safety protocols and determine how to offer athletic and activity opportunities to our students safely. A recommendation to the board of education will be forthcoming.

DEVICE PICK-UP

If you requested a district-provided device for your student(s), curbside pick-up is available on August 15th-18th. To find your registration time, please visit [sign-up genius link](#).

DISTANCE LEARNING WEBPAGE

To best support the needs of all students and families, we have created a [Distance Learning webpage](#). On the page you will find the elementary, middle, and high school schedules, direct links to Infinite Campus log-in pages, support links to teachers, counselors, and technology, along with [student](#) and [family](#) expectations for distance learning. Previous messages to families and much more are also posted on this site. Please bookmark it for easy access.

EDGENUITY

Our district counselors, administrators, moderators, and support staff continue their training on the Edgenuity platform. Training includes the scheduling component, curriculum review and selection, and system operations. We anticipate schedules being finalized by August 21st. Mrs. Steinkamp and Dr. Muzzey will be communicating information about Edgenuity for the middle school during their principal meetings. BJ Lancaster, our Edgenuity moderator, will host a high school Zoom meeting for students enrolled in Edgenuity on August 20th at 7 pm. Families who have students enrolled in Edgenuity can expect more information from the Middle School or Mr. Lancaster next week.

MEAL SERVICE

The district will continue to provide breakfast and lunch options for students and families for curbside pick-up during Phase 3 instruction beginning on August 24th. At this time, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) branch of the USDA and state of Missouri have [not issued waivers](#) that would allow for free meals [for all students](#) as they did in the spring of 2020.

VPD participates in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. This allows families the opportunity to apply for Free and Reduced Price Meal Benefits. Eligibility for the program is based on income and the number of people living in the household. We will continue to work with our Food Service provider (Chartwells) to offer free and reduced meals to our eligible students and daily charged meal options for students wanting to purchase a meal. We will also continue to actively pursue any waivers that may become available and keep exploring community partnerships that might offer meal services to our families in need. More information will be provided in next week's update.



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PRINCIPAL MEETINGS

Next week the elementary, middle, and high school principals will be hosting Back-to-School Virtual Meetings via Zoom for families. Topics include schedules, expectations, supports, SSD services, and so much more. Look for more information to come directly from your building principals on times, dates, and how to access them.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Students who receive Special Education services will continue to have services provided by VPSD--SSD staff during Phase 3 instruction, including those students who are participating in the Edgenuity (grades 6-12) virtual learning pathway. Our district's Special Education Coordinator, Julie Schroeder, will join the principal meetings next week to provide more information. On August 11th, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) notified us that our district Meets Requirements in Implementing the Requirements and Purposes of the IDEA. Our Special School District Services received the highest score "4" on all eight (8) audited regulations. This is an excellent reflection of the commitment, talent, and dedication of our Valley Park School District Special School District Staff who support our students