



VALLEY PARK
SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Developing students today in preparation
for tomorrow*

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8/21/2020

Good afternoon.

First, let me thank you for your support and understanding. We, as a community and school district, continue to respond to the unexpected invasion of COVID-19 and the unknowns that accompany it with remarkable grace. I am very proud of how our Valley Park students, parents, staff, and community have responded to the challenges and disappointments. It is a testament to our strength as a community that we can remain unified and resilient amid uncertainty and challenging circumstances.

Today I am writing to inform you that after much thought, consideration, and collaboration, the Valley Park School District is postponing all fall athletic activities. We are electing to participate in the Missouri State High School Activities Association ([MSHSAA alternate fall season \(March 12-May 1\)](#)). The Valley Park School District recognizes the valuable role athletics plays in the development of students, but our primary focus is on getting students back into the classroom when public health officials recommend it is safe to do so. In this time of many unknowns and potential risks, we believe this decision is the safest. It also continues to prioritize the health and safety of our student-athletes, coaches, staff, and other participants.

This decision was not taken lightly and comes with a great deal of empathy for our student-athletes and their families. For the last several days and weeks, our district has collaborated with all the county superintendents and spent extra time with our athletic conference (SCAA) superintendents and activity directors to determine the safest options for our student-athletes. We also continued monitoring the health conditions in St. Louis County and the frequent guideline changes from the St. Louis County Sports Medicine COVID-19 Task Force.

At this time, most of our conference and non-conference competitors have also elected to participate in the MSHSAA alternate fall season (March 12-May 1). By aligning with our competitors, we can provide our athletes with more competitive opportunities in the spring than we could in the current environment and still offer our student-athletes an opportunity to compete safely in MSHSAA state competitions. The alternative fall season will consist of a regular season as well as a MSHSAA post-season.

In addition to our athletic teams, we have several academic clubs (chess, band, choir, theater, student council, etc.) that have been impacted by our decision to educate remotely for the 1st quarter. We look forward to all of these activities resuming to in-person practices once students physically return to school. Our focus the next 2-3 weeks will be getting students and teachers acclimated to the demands of our enhanced distance learning program. Club and activity moderators/sponsors will increase the frequency of virtual connectivity with your students after Labor Day. We are also developing a virtual non-sport specific after-school strength and



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conditioning program for all interested students via ZOOM.

Thank you for your continued kindness, patience, and grace as we strive to make decisions that prioritize the health and safety of our students and staff. Please continue to support and look out for each other during these uncertain times.

With great appreciation,

Dr. Tim Dilg
Superintendent