



VALLEY PARK
SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Developing students today in preparation
for tomorrow*

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August 28, 2020

Good afternoon.

On behalf of the entire Valley Park Faculty and Staff, THANK YOU for your support leading up to and through this first week of distance learning! This week was a tremendous success because of your efforts. One of the many challenges that accompany distance learning is the demands it places on families. It has not escaped us how patient you have been as you have rearranged your personal and professional lives to support your students' education. Words cannot express our gratitude and appreciation. Thank you for working with us to ensure our students' school year started successfully.

Thank you to the many parents and families who have taken the time to send us positive feedback and for sharing photos, videos, and stories of your child's excitement and success this first week of school. We have created a highlight video from the memories you have shared with us that can be [viewed here](#). Your emails, phone messages, and social media posts have affirmed the talent, creativity, and kindness of our faculty; highlighted the responsiveness, positivity, and friendliness of our technology team; remarked on the patience, empathy, and helpfulness of our administrative assistants; and acknowledged the accessibility, determination, care, and leadership of our building administrators. Like any new process or system, there were glitches that we are mindful of and always more work to be done, but overall our first week was a success, and we are excited to grow and learn with you and our students and get better every day.

I also want to take a moment to thank our staff. This has been an intense and challenging time for our staff as we opened this school year remotely. We have had to reimagine how we deliver curriculum, instruction, and assessment while developing and preserving relationships that will propel our students' growth socially, emotionally, and academically. Their commitment to our students has been so evident in so many ways. I am grateful for their growth mindset, their willingness to embrace change and approach new challenges, and their commitment to ensuring that each student continues to receive a supportive, personalized environment where they can grow strong today in preparation for tomorrow.

We may not know what the future holds this school year, and each day often brings new problems sets and challenges we must resolve and overcome, but we do know that we're better together. THANK YOU for your support.



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We look forward to continuing to re-engage with our students, developing their academic skills, building relationships, and providing a sense of emotional safety throughout distance learning.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tim Dilg
Superintendent

IMPORTANT UPDATES & REMINDERS:

ATTENDANCE

During distance learning, the district will monitor student learning and mark student attendance during live instruction. Teachers take attendance for internal purposes and as a method to communicate with our families if the student was present or absent for their assigned class(es). Tracking attendance also has value for monitoring and supporting student access and exposure to engaging teaching and learning opportunities. We recognize that each family's situation is unique in this distance learning environment. As such, a student is not penalized for missing live instruction. However, the student is expected to watch the recording of instructional videos later and submit all assignments by due dates established by our teachers.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH CURBSIDE SERVICE

Curbside breakfast and lunch offerings are available for purchase every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in front of the field house. Meals include two complete breakfasts and lunches. Meals will be charged, at pick up time, according to your eligibility status of the Free & Reduced Meal Program, or they will be full price. Meal Prices, Menus, and Free/Reduced Lunch Applications can be found by visiting: <https://www.vp.k12.mo.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=96>

CHAMPIONS CHURCH--FREE FOOD & HOME ESSENTIAL BOXES

Champions Church and the non-profit TWIGS program will provide **FREE** food and home essential boxes for all Valley Park families every Friday beginning August 28th and continuing each Friday throughout distance learning. Pickup time is 10:30-12:00 outside the field house entrance. Boxes will include food staples such as bread, peanut butter, flour, and milk, and other home essentials such as laundry detergent, shampoo, etc. to support our Valley Park Families.

CONNECTIVITY

VPSD is committed to ensuring that students have access to online instructional materials during distance learning. We are pleased to announce that a limited number of WIFI Hotspots are available to provide connectivity to households that do not currently have an internet connection. Hot spots are small mobile devices that offer a wireless internet connection with a computer or tablet. Hotspots will be distributed to families demonstrating an economic need who do not currently have internet available for their student(s) at



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home. There are a very limited number of internet hotspots available. If you have reliable internet access, please do not request a hotspot device. Hot Spots will be on loan from the VPSD and must be returned in good working condition. To request a hotspot, please contact Dr. Tad Savage, Assistant Superintendent at tsavage@vp.k12.mo.us .

FREE TUTORING

Valley Park students can receive **FREE** tutoring through [Tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com) . This service launched publicly on Monday, August 24th, and it is available to all students who have a library card or virtual library card with St. Louis County Library (see below). We are excited our students have access to this valuable resource.

VIRTUAL LIBRARY CARD

St. Louis County Library (SLCL) will create virtual library cards in its system for all VPSD students so they may seamlessly log in from school, home, or any computer or device to access to SLCL's online resources, including the **FREE** tutoring.com program. All students will automatically be enrolled in this program and receive a virtual library card unless the parent/guardian opts out of the program. For more information, [please read our August 27th communication.](#)