



VALLEY PARK
SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Developing students today in preparation
for tomorrow*

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December 11, 2020

Dear Valley Park Families:

I hope you and your family are staying healthy and safe and finding the holiday spirit.

I would like to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to our entire Valley Park Community for your ongoing support. Your attentiveness to all communications, your ongoing support of your children, and your kindness towards our educators is truly appreciated and is essential to the overall success of our schools. I know this year has not been easy, and it is definitely not what any of us expected or hoped for, but we continue to make the best of a very challenging situation, and I am optimistic that better days are ahead.

To keep our community safe, healthy, and physically in school, we need your ongoing awareness and steadfast commitment to the [Healthy Hawk Checklist](#)! Please screen your students daily BEFORE sending them to school. Keeping sick students at home will slow the spread of Covid-19 and seasonal flu and help keep our schools open for learning.

With just a week and a half before Winter Break, we have extended the deadline to register your child for virtual learning during the second semester to this Sunday, December 13th. The registration has been open for several weeks and we need to finalize registration in order to staff appropriately to meet the needs of our students. You must ONLY complete this form if you would like your child to learn virtually during the second semester:

<https://tinyurl.com/VPVirtualJan-May>

[K-5 virtual pathway students](#) will receive instruction from a certified Valley Park educator and 6-12 virtual students committed to the [6-12 Virtual Learning Pathway](#) will continue to learn through our [Edgenuity Program](#) for the entirety of the second semester. Your choice will take effect on January 19, 2021, and end on May 27, 2021. We will continue to Livestream classes for in-person learners only when they are required to quarantine by a doctor or the district nurse due to testing positive for Covid-19 or because they have been identified as a close contact.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your continued support and understanding during the school year. We look forward to a successful and memorable second semester of the school year. Thank you for supporting our school district and for being our partner on this journey.

Dr. Tim Dilg
Superintendent



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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIGITAL THANK YOU CARD

We know that this year has been difficult for everyone and there have been many changes to navigate. I continue to hear our teachers have been a bright light during this time. If you would like to send someone a quick note of gratitude, here is a [digital thank you card](#).

WINTER WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS & SNOW DAY PLAN

We are heading into the season of inclement weather. If you would like to receive a weather/emergency announcement from the school, please make sure that your information is updated in Infinite Campus. You can verify this with your building secretary. Text and email announcements are sent through Infinite Campus. School closures are also announced on local television news outlets, and on our website and social media channels. Our state and board-approved calendar built-in additional instruction hours due to inclement weather. In the spirit of hope and in an effort to maintain some normalcy in our students (and staff) lives, we have decided that we will maintain the hope of children by calling traditional snow days due to inclement weather provided our calendar hours allow it. If additional snow days are needed virtual learning will occur on any subsequent day(s) to prevent the extension of the school year.

QUARANTINE GUIDELINES

The St. Louis County Department of Public Health (DPH) continues to recommend the 14-day quarantine period and will not adopt the alternative [CDC quarantine options](#) at this time. As the new guidance reiterates, a 14-day quarantine is still the safest option to limit post-quarantine transmission risk. Close contacts of COVID-19 patients should still quarantine for 14 days following their last contact with the COVID-19 positive patient and are encouraged to be tested for COVID-19 if symptoms develop during the quarantine period. This decision was made, in collaboration with regional and state partners, based on the assessment that the residual post-quarantine transmission risk in alternate quarantine modeling is unacceptable when community transmission is at high levels. This approach puts the community at increased risk due to the greater pre-test probability that an exposed person has been infected, and leads to higher post-quarantine transmission risk, causing further community transmission. Any future decision to follow shortened quarantine periods will be made in the context of the overall level of community transmission, and such changes to St. Louis County's quarantine orders will be communicated as soon as they are determined.