



VALLEY PARK
SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Developing students today in preparation
for tomorrow*

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December 4, 2020

Dear Valley Park Families:

Thank you for all you have done to date to stay healthy and keep your children and families safe from the COVID-19 virus. Your hard work in keeping everyone healthy and safe has allowed us to keep our schools open for in-person instruction.

We are now entering an uncertain time as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread across our country, state and county. As we exit Thanksgiving and look forward to winter break, COVID-19 positivity rates and hospitalizations in our area continue to increase, and the meaning of health and safety is magnified. Now more than ever, we must modify our thinking and increase the intentionality of our [actions](#).

It is to be expected that as we navigate this school year, more students and staff will need to quarantine. If the current trend of student and staff illness and quarantines continue, we may need to reduce the number of in-person days our students attend or return to distance learning. Our ability to stay healthy and protect each other will factor into our in-person learning options for January and the second semester. Any plans for in-person learning must remain fluid and could change on very short notice. Families are encouraged to have a plan in place if students need to quarantine or if a school or the district needs to transition back to distance learning.

Please continue to follow all safety guidelines outside of school hours. This includes proper use of face coverings, social distancing, handwashing and avoiding large gatherings. Please review the [Healthy Hawk checklist](#) every day before school and keep your [child home if sick](#).

While the initial reports on vaccines look promising, we must be realistic about the quantity that will be made available initially and recognize that they may not be available to staff and students until later this spring or summer. As a result, we need to prepare ourselves mentally for a long winter ahead and be vigilant in our safety measures. This includes staying informed, being prepared if more restrictions are implemented, shrinking our social bubbles, connecting with others virtually, being ready to transition to distance learning if necessary and keeping our guards up.

I know that everyone has made many sacrifices in the past nine months, and for that, I thank you. Please do your part to continue to contain this virus so that we can keep our schools open. These vaccines offer great hope, however we still need to remain vigilant in controlling the spread of COVID-19 until they are available. Together we will get through this as we try our hardest to keep each other safe, and our schools open.

Thank you for your cooperation, support and patience.

Dr. Tim Dilg
Superintendent



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IMPORTANT UPDATES

BUS ROUTES

Families are encouraged to check their child's bus route in Infinite Campus. Pickup and drop off times have been updated. You may access your child's bus stop and estimated pick-up/drop-off time by logging into the Infinite Campus Parent or Student portals, clicking "More" (on the left side), and clicking "Transportation". If you need additional support, please email Katie Henderson, Lead Bus Driver, at khenderson@vp.k12.mo.us.

LEARNING PATHWAY SELECTION SECOND SEMESTER Registration is now open for families wanting to enroll their students in virtual learning for the 2nd semester. (January 19-May 27). Once you commit to learning this way for the 2nd semester, you are committing to January-May, 2021. Please complete the survey by **December 9th** for each student in your family you would like to enroll in virtual learning. If you do not complete this survey, we will anticipate your student learning in-person during the 2nd semester. Virtual Learning Registration 2nd Semester:

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

WINTER SPORTS

Winter Sports (Basketball and Cheerleading) started this week. All home games can be viewed by visiting: www.vp.k12.mo.us/vpactivities. All St. Louis County School Districts are following the [St. Louis County Department of Health \(DOH\) revised youth sports guidelines and recommendations](#). These recommendations require athletes to wear a face-covering while playing or practicing and recommended that persons who are not essential for athletic activity operations, including spectators, volunteers, and parents/guardians, not be allowed due to ongoing widespread community transmission of COVID-19. These guidelines and recommendations prioritize our students' and staff's health and safety while also providing the most opportunity to keep our schools open for in-person learning and provide our student-athletes a chance to compete this winter.

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.