



*Developing students today in preparation
for tomorrow*

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March 5, 2021

Dear Valley Park Community:

THANK YOU to every member of our school community for your flexibility, patience, and grace. Your support and commitment to health and wellness and your willingness to work together through the uncertainty and challenges of the pandemic are greatly appreciated. The learning experiences that have taken place this year could not have happened without a great deal of commitment and teamwork from staff, parents, and students. Your commitment to our schools is paramount to all students' success, and we sincerely appreciate your partnership.

It is beginning to feel more like spring each day, and we are quickly approaching the end of the 3rd quarter (March 18th) and spring break (March 19th -28th). When students return from spring break on March 29th, we will continue to educate all K-12 in-person learners 4-days a week (Monday-Thursday) through the end of the school year (May 27th). Fridays will continue to be a virtual learning day.

Together, our school district has celebrated more in-person learning opportunities than most this year despite the stress, strain, and uncertainty of Covid-19. The 4-day in-person learning model has proven safe, successful, and sustainable. We believe that the 4-day in-person model is necessary for our educators to continue to plan and provide high-quality learning experiences to our in-person and virtual learners simultaneously. Fridays also provide needed time to deliver interventions to our at-home learners, review and revise curriculum, contact trace, deep clean, and provide the safest learning pathway to sustain the success we have experienced this year and keep our schools consistently open for learning while also being responsive to a number of variables and unknowns.

We will also utilize Fridays later this spring for state-mandated testing. Despite multiple requests and research to support state testing postponement this school year, The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has mandated that all schools and ALL students be tested. This includes our students who opted for 100% virtual learning since the start of the pandemic. In the coming days, we will release our district assessment plan. That plan includes testing our 100% virtual learners on campus during Fridays to limit our capacity and provide the safest environment possible for our virtual learners to test, just as we have all year for our in-person learners.

Thank you all for your continued support and understanding. Together we have worked tirelessly to mitigate and navigate the spread of Covid-19. We look forward to successfully completing the 2020-2021 school year and working with you to ensure each student is provided a supportive, personalized environment where they will grow strong intellectually, emotionally, physically, and socially today in preparation for tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tim Dilg
Superintendent