



VALLEY PARK
SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Developing students today in preparation
for tomorrow*

Follow us:



@VALLEYPARKSD



@VALLEY.PARK.SCHOOL.DISTRICT



@VALLEYPARKSCHOOLS

****To view this email in alternate languages, please visit this [link](#) and select the translate option on the bottom right of our website.****

November 6, 2020

Dear Valley Park Community:

Over the last six weeks, we have successfully transitioned students choosing the in-person option back into our classrooms. Our students, staff, and families have demonstrated tremendous flexibility and adapted quickly to following the [health and safety protocols](#) we have in place throughout the district. The protocols in place in our classrooms and schools appear to be effective. We have had very few positive COVID-19 cases since school resumed in late September.

We continue to work closely with the St. Louis County Department of Public Health on monitoring local COVID-19 cases, including contact tracing and quarantine protocols for cases impacting students and staff members. However, we must be realistic that the coronavirus is pervasive and persistent.

Over the last two weeks, isolation and quarantine protocols have resulted in a growing number of staff and students needing to quarantine. This includes a week-long closure of our Early Childhood Center, a quarantined kindergarten classroom, and several staff members in isolation. It is to be expected that as we navigate this school year, more students and staff will need to quarantine. If this trend continues, it could severely impact our ability to maintain and deliver a high continuity of instruction and may, at some point, limit in-person learning. Any plans for in-person learning will need to be fluid and could change on very short notice. Families are encouraged to have a plan in place in case students need to quarantine or transition back to virtual learning.

Earlier this week, St. Louis County Executive, Dr. Sam Page, mentioned that the county's outlook is getting worse as people become lax in their adherence to safety mitigation practices. He also cautioned that if the community transmission continues at such high rates, stricter guidelines and restrictions could be forthcoming, including limitations on schools and businesses. We know that in-person classes are the best way for our students to learn and that school benefits students' social, emotional, and academic growth. We are doing all we can to keep our school buildings open and safe for students and staff. However, we can only control the mitigation practices and safety measures in place in our school buildings. Student and school safety is a community effort. We are dependent on our entire school community to work together to prevent the spread. Today I am urging each of us to make a more substantial, more collective effort across our families and community to take the necessary steps to protect one another's health and safety and keep our students in school. Please adhere to the recommended health and safety practices for mitigating the spread of COVID-19. This includes wearing a face covering or mask, practicing frequent hand washing, allowing for physical distancing whenever possible, staying home when sick, and watching for potential illness symptoms before going to school (or anywhere) each day.

As a community, we must work together to safely navigate the coming months in a manner that protects everyone's health and well-being and keeps our students in school.

I remain grateful for your partnership as we work together with our students, staff, families, and community to promote the learning, safety, health, and well-being of all.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tim Dilg
Superintendent



VALLEY PARK
SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Developing students today in preparation
for tomorrow*

Follow us:



@VALLEYPARKSD



@VALLEY.PARK.SCHOOL.DISTRICT



@VALLEYPARKSCHOOLS

UPDATES/REMINDERS

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. It's essential that families make these choices in a timely manner so we can plan accordingly for teachers, staff, and classroom/course enrollment to support our students. If you do not complete this survey, we will anticipate your student learning in-person during the 2nd semester.

You must **only complete this survey if you are enrolling your student in one of our virtual learning pathways.**

Virtual Learning Registration 2nd Semester: <https://tinyurl.com/VPVirtualJan-May>

Information on Valley Park school District Pathways to Learning: <https://tinyurl.com/VPvirtual>

MEAL SERVICE

Breakfast and lunch will continue to be FREE for ALL (in-person and virtual) students through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Beginning Monday, November 9th meal service for virtual students at our remote locations of Cheryl Lane and Leonard Park will be discontinued due to low participation numbers. The District will continue to offer curbside breakfast and lunch offerings for virtual students on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m, in front of the field house. Meals will include two complete breakfasts and lunches.

NOW HIRING

We need your help to fill our substitute teacher and nurse openings and our full-time bus driver openings. The coronavirus and need to quarantine staff will challenge our ability to stay open for in-person learning. Please help us spread the word to anyone you know who is currently looking for work www.vp.k12.mo.us/careers .

PROTOCOLS CONFIRMED CASES

The district will communicate with families and staff regarding positive COVID-19 cases in the district only if they are personally impacted or determined to be at risk as per CDC guidelines. Federal privacy laws protect student and staff confidentiality; therefore personally identifiable information on any individuals testing positive or being asked to isolate or quarantine will not be shared. The district has created a [notification protocol](#) to ensure each person's dignity and privacy are respected during the contact tracing process. We have also created a [dashboard](#) to share a weekly snapshot of current COVID-19 statistics in our district. Dashboard statistics are accurate as of the time of the posting and may increase or decrease from day-to-day and week to week. The dashboard will be updated every Friday.

THANKSGIVING CDC RECOMMENDATIONS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released its guidance on how to safely celebrate Thanksgiving amid the coronavirus pandemic. Please take some time to review their recommendations and the [risks involved](#) with traveling and gatherings this holiday season.