



# VALLEY PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

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October 30, 2020

Dear Valley Park Families:

Thank you for your continued support of the Valley Park School District as we continue to navigate the novel coronavirus, respond to the challenges that accompany it, and strive to provide healthy, safe, high-quality in-person learning experiences for our students.

This week we experienced the highs of finally having all PreK-12 students back for in-person learning, coupled with the reality that our community is not immune to the virus and its lingering effects. This week saw our first confirmed positive student cases and the quarantining of a cohort of students identified through contact tracing and the health department as close contacts. We also felt the strain on our district operations as several classified staff, certified staff, and administration either tested positive for Covid-19 or were required to quarantine due to possible exposure.

As we move forward with the 2020-21 school year, the health, safety, and well-being of our school community will remain our top priority. We are following sound protocols aligned with expert health guidance to ensure we are doing everything we can to protect the health of our students and staff. As a district, we are deeply motivated by the knowledge that on-campus, in-person learning will produce the best learning experience and outcomes for students. In order for schools to remain open and operate both effectively and safely, we all must work together for this to be successful.

Please remind students that masks are for their safety and their friends' and teachers' safety. Masks are required on the school bus and at school for anyone five and older. We also need your help in screening your child EACH day before sending them to school. It takes less than 2 minutes to do a fever check and review the [Healthy Hawk Checklist](#). If your [child is sick](#), please do not send them to school.

I also want to make you aware of our [Valley Park School District Dashboard](#), which is available on our website and updated weekly. On this site, you will find VPSD specific data on confirmed cases of COVID-19, quarantine numbers, and other information. The district has and will continue to communicate directly 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.

I'd like to personally thank each of you for your patience during this transition back to in-person learning for all students. We are excited to have students back on campus and together we will make the most of our in-person learning opportunities. Please stay well and remember the collective responsibility our community has to decrease infection rates by social distancing, washing hands, and wearing face coverings. We may not know what the future holds this school year, and each day often brings new challenges we must resolve and overcome, but we do know that we're better together.

THANK YOU for your support.

*Dr. Tim Dilg*  
Superintendent



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## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

### ATHLETICS UPDATE

Valley Park High School winter sports (Girls' Basketball, Boys' Basketball, and Cheerleading) will begin practice on November 2, 2020. In order to participate, you will need a physical on file with the Activities Office as well as have a parent or guardian complete the MSHSAA Pre-participation form. Physicals are good for two years from the date of the physical. If you think you already have a physical on file, please contact Suzann Scott in the Activities Office at 636-923-3614 or [sscott@vp.k12.mo.us](mailto:sscott@vp.k12.mo.us) to confirm. The form can be found at [www.vp.k12.mo.us/physicalform](http://www.vp.k12.mo.us/physicalform). The MSHSAA Pre-participation Form, which can be found at [www.vp.k12.mo.us/preparticipationform](http://www.vp.k12.mo.us/preparticipationform) must be completed every year. Both forms must be turned in before you can practice with your sport. If you have any questions, please contact Adam Hamilton at [ahamilton@vp.k12.mo.us](mailto:ahamilton@vp.k12.mo.us) or 636-923-3764.

### DROPOFF & PICKUP LOCATIONS

**Middle School and High school** drop off parents are encouraged to enter the parking lot near the baseball field and exit near the softball field. 6th-12th grade students should be dropped off by the double gate near the softball field. Middle school drop off students should enter on the side doors of the middle school. High School students should use the sidewalks and enter at one of the designated high school entrances. A sign will be visible to clearly mark the designated secondary drop off zone. Students are to report directly to their classrooms upon arrival.

### ELECTION DAY

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3. Our school district is a polling location and school is not in session.

### LEARNING PATHWAY SELECTION SECOND SEMESTER

On Wednesday, November 11th we will email all families information about selecting their learning option for the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year. Families will have the same two options for learning: in-person (which could change depending on the spread of COVID in the community) or the Virtual Learning Pathway, which will be 100% virtual instruction for the entire second semester of the school year. Families will register through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

### MEAL SERVICE

Breakfast and lunch will continue to be FREE for ALL students through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. St. Louis County Public Health revised its Food Operation Guidelines permitting establishments to operate at 50% (fifty percent) capacity based on the facility's authorized fire and building code occupancy. Beginning October 26, student lunch will be eaten in the middle school cafeteria, the high school commons, the elementary cafeteria, and multipurpose room accordingly. All students will have assigned seats for contact tracing purposes and will eat with grade-level and classroom cohorts. Alternative locations, including classrooms, may be used in the event 50% capacity is no longer attainable or if county guidelines reduce capacity in the future. Breakfast will continue to be bagged (grab and go) or delivered to rooms each morning.

### 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](http://www.vp.k12.mo.us/careers).



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#### **SCHOOL START & END TIMES**

- Middle School and High School: 7:40 AM-2:40 PM
- Elementary Grades 3-5: 8:15 AM-3:15 PM
- Elementary Grades K-2: 8:50 AM -3:50 PM
- Preschool: 8:15 AM-3:15 PM