



VALLEY PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Developing students today in preparation
for tomorrow*

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October 9, 2020

Dear Valley Park families,

Thanks to our incredible students and staff, we've had a successful transition over the last two weeks welcoming back our PreK-2 students. As we have mentioned in previous communications, we intend to continue bringing back students gradually. We are excited to welcome back 3rd and 4th-grade students on Monday, October 12th, and 5th-grade students on Monday, October 19th. Earlier this week, St. Louis County Executive Sam Page recommended that schools explore a return to in-person learning for high school students. This recommendation aligns with our intentions to increase in-person learning opportunities for middle school and high school on October 26th (start of the 2nd quarter). We are finalizing our return to learn plans with the health department and our school administrators and will provide more details next week. When in-person learning resumes for 6th-12th grade, those students and families who committed to the [6-12 Virtual Learning Pathway](#) will continue to learn through our [Edgenuity Program](#) for the entirety of the first semester and have an option to return to in-person learning when the second semester begins. We will continue to take **every precaution** to keep your children and our faculty/staff safe as we resume in-person learning.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a challenging and fluid situation. While data is trending in the right direction, things could change. Any plans for in-person learning will need to be fluid and could change on very short notice based on public health officials' guidance or an outbreak of cases among students or staff. The District will do its best to provide as much notice as possible if there needs to be a change in the schedule once students return. Still, the District urges families to be flexible and have a plan in place in case the students need to transition back to virtual learning.

The past months have brought many challenges for students adapting to taking classes virtually, to staff learning how to deliver high-quality instruction through multiple modalities, and to our families faced with uncertainties created by the pandemic and the challenges of supporting their students at home during the school day. Part of our district mission is dedicated to providing a supportive, personalized environment in which students will grow strong socially and emotionally today in preparation for tomorrow. This Saturday, October 10th is World Mental Health Day and comes when our daily lives have changed considerably as a result of the pandemic. Throughout the week of October 12th-16th, our district counselors and social workers will share mental health advice, mindfulness activities, and stress relief tips through newsletters, emails, and social media posts. On Friday, October 16th, our District will invest in our students' and staff's mental health and social-emotional learning and model the importance of mental health and personal development. Instead of zoom meetings and digital learning, students and staff are encouraged to use the day to explore the outdoors, exercise, read for pleasure, practice mindfulness activities, engage in community service, or participate in other pursuits that bring them personal fulfillment without electronic devices. Look for more information next week.

I'd like to personally thank each of you for your patience during this transition to in-person learning. We are excited to have students back on campus and together we are continuing to make great things happen for all students. 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.

Sincerely,



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Dr. Tim Dilg
Superintendent

UPDATES & REMINDERS

ATHLETICS UPDATE:

This week, St. Louis County Executive Sam Page announced the easing of restrictions on high school sports that will once again allow student-athletes to participate in high-contact sports in St. Louis County. Any schools that want to compete must first submit a plan to the St. Louis County Department of Public Health for review. We are encouraged by Dr. Page's announcement and the corresponding recommendation that schools also explore a return to in-person learning for high school students. We are working with our winter sports coaches and athletic trainer to create a return to play plan to submit to the county to allow us to compete in basketball this winter. The first day of MSHSAA practice for winter sports (basketball) is Monday, November 2nd and we are committed to developing an approved plan that will allow our teams to compete when games begin in late November. More information will be sent out in the coming weeks.

BUS ROUTES

Families may access their 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

DROPOFF & PICKUP LOCATIONS

Parent drop off will be limited to using the car lane only to reduce the number of people entering the building. [Elementary\(K-5\)](#) and [Early Childhood](#) parents are required to use the circle drive. [Middle School and High school](#) drop off parents are encouraged to enter the parking lot near the softball and baseball field and exit near the central office. 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.

ELEMENTARY START & END TIMES

GRADES K-2: 8:50AM-3:50PM

GRADES 3-5: 8:15AM-3:15PM

Drop Off Times: Elementary K-2: 8:35AM - 8:50AM Elementary 3-5: 8:00AM - 8:15AM

Dismissal Times: Elementary K-2: 3:50PM Elementary 3-5: 3:15PM

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

All students, those attending in-person and learning virtually, must present documentation of up-to-date immunization status, including month, day, and year of each immunization before attending school. The district will not allow a student to attend school until the district has satisfactory evidence on file demonstrating that the student has been immunized, that the immunization process has begun and satisfactory progress is being accomplished or that the student is [exempted from obtaining immunizations in accordance with law](#). Please submit proof of immunizations to our District Nurse, Tina Elsner.

<https://health.mo.gov/living/wellness/immunizations/pdf/2021schoolrequirements.pdf>



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Y-CARE

Y-Care will resume on October 26, 2020. Before and After-care will be unavailable until that time. Please [click on this link](#) to complete the registration form for your child(ren).