



VALLEY PARK
SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Developing students today in preparation
for tomorrow*

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September 11, 2020

Good afternoon.

I want to thank our families, students, and staff for continually going above and beyond to make distance learning a positive success for our students during this ever-changing educational environment. The start of the 2020-21 school year has been untraditional and not without challenges, but our community's persistence and dedication to our students has been unwavering. I continue to be impressed with the creativity and care our teachers put into every learning opportunity. I am grateful that our families continue to work with us to ensure that each student is provided with learning opportunities that keep them connected, challenged, and productive in their growth and development. Together we are persevering, and I encourage all of us to remain committed to unlocking the potential of every student we serve.

As I mentioned earlier this week, our staff is working extremely hard in preparing to welcome elementary students back earlier than the end of the first quarter (October 23rd). In doing so, we will be deliberate in creating a controlled environment that ensures we can adhere to increased safety protocols that will allow us to return to school and stay in school. This planning includes for multiple modalities of instruction and engagement, delivery of meal services to students both in-person and virtually, and prioritizing our health and safety protocols to meet the evolving guidelines of St. Louis County and the CDC. We have modified our re-entry framework and guidelines to meet the latest safety standards for **Early Childhood** and **K-12**. Click [here](#) for the Early Childhood Safety Measures and [here](#) for the K-12 Safety Measures.

Next week we will release more details and timelines about our staggered approach to re-entry. Our transition will prioritize our youngest learners' return first with hopes of middle school and high school students resuming on October 26th if conditions improve in their age band. We will communicate any transition back to in-person learning at least a week in advance to give our families and staff adequate time to make necessary arrangements.

As always, we appreciate your patience, positivity, and partnership.

Dr. Tim Dilg
Superintendent

IMPORTANT UPDATES INCLUDED BELOW



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FREE MEALS FOR ALL STUDENTS

We have received a waiver from the USDA that will allow our School Food and Nutrition staff to serve **FREE MEALS** to ALL children 18 and under living in the Valley Park School District regardless of free and reduced lunch status. Meals will be **free** for ALL students even as students return to in-person learning. This waiver takes effect immediately and will run through December 2020 or until federal funding runs out.

OFF-CAMPUS MEAL SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE--STARTING SEPTEMBER 14th

On Monday, September 14, 2020, the Valley Park School District will begin **FREE** breakfast and lunch offerings for ALL Valley Park students at three locations:

- Curbside at the VPSD Field House--Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Cheryl Lane Apartment complex--Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11:00 a.m.-11:45 am.
- Brignole Center--Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12:00 p.m.-12:45 p.m.

Meals served at the Cheryl Lane and Brignole Center locations will be distributed from Valley Park School District busses. Meals are **FREE** for all students and will include two complete breakfasts and lunches.

NOW HIRING BUS DRIVERS

The Valley Park School District is hiring bus drivers. Full-time and substitute opportunities are available. The district offers competitive pay and benefits. For more information or to complete an application, please contact Katie Henderson, Lead Bus Driver at khenderson@vp.k12.mo.us or 636.923.3646.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHING

The Missouri State Board of Education approved an alternative route for individuals to obtain a substitute certificate of license to teach. Individuals who possess a high school diploma or equivalent may complete a 20-hour state-approved substitute teacher online training to be eligible for a substitute certificate. To enroll in the 20-hour program [please click here](#).

Individuals wanting to substitute teach in Valley Park who have completed the 20-hour program OR who already have completed 60 hours of College Credit OR those who possess a Missouri Teaching Certificate may apply online by [clicking here](#). For questions, please contact Melinda Coates at (636) 923-3600 or mcoates@vp.k12.mo.us.

WIFI ON SCHOOL BUSES--COMING SOON

Our district remains committed to providing as many resources as possible to support students and families during distance learning. The district has secured a Missouri Student Connectivity Grant that will allow us to activate wifi connectivity on some of our school busses. Beginning the week of September 21st we will begin parking our buses throughout the district to increase internet connectivity for families who don't have an internet connection at home. Students will be able to access the wifi once they are near the bus, while still maintaining a safe distance from others around them. More information, including locations, will be distributed next week.