



VALLEY PARK
SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Developing students today in preparation
for tomorrow*

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September 18, 2020

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding as we learn together how to navigate the challenges of COVID-19. Today we are excited to share our plans to begin transitioning elementary students back into the classroom.

On Monday, September 28th, we are excited to welcome back our kindergarten students who chose in-person instruction. Kindergarteners will attend in-person learning 4 days a week (Monday-Thursday) through the end of the first quarter (October 23rd). On Fridays, students will not come to school but will be given assignments by their teacher to reinforce instruction and personal development.

Our tentative plan includes welcoming back grades 1-2 on October 5th, grades 3-4 on October 12th, and 5th grade on October 19th.

As we approach the start of the 2nd quarter (October 26th), we hope to expand instruction to 5 days a week for grades K-5 and offer in-person learning opportunities for secondary students (grades 6-12).

Taking a deliberate and staggered approach to re-entry allows us to practice and implement safety protocols with students and staff with greater fidelity and learn and grow with our plan as we safely reintroduce more students each week. This allows us to modify and adjust based on our learning about what is working and what needs modifications to ensure we can continue instructing students face-to-face.

We are also excited to share that elementary students who have chosen virtual instruction will continue to receive a high-quality education from Valley Park certified teachers via live streaming when their grade level peers return to in-person learning. Our elementary classroom teachers will live-stream their classes for students learning at home and continue to record direct instruction. Elementary teachers will plan and prepare for multiple learning modalities on Fridays and continue to offer support to all students at home via small group or 1-1 instruction on Fridays. By live-streaming our education, this also provides an avenue for educating students who may later need to quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure or who are in isolation because of being symptomatic. We had originally asked families to commit to virtual learning for a semester. If you would like to switch your elementary student to in-person learning, please contact the elementary office at (636) 923-3600 by October 2nd.

Students returning to the classroom will have to wear masks while on the bus and at school, as outlined in our [K-12 re-entry framework](#). Adherence to wearing masks is one mitigation technique that will determine our ability to open school safely and remain in school. Please continue to reinforce the importance of wearing masks and practice [other health protocols with your students](#) before returning to school.



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We look forward to welcoming students back soon and appreciate your continued patience and support. In our transition, we will continue to prioritize our students, staff, and community's health and wellness and take every precaution to keep your children and our faculty/staff safe as we resume in-person learning.

Sincerely,

Tim Dilg

Superintendent

IMPORTANT UPDATES

COVID TESTING

St. Louis County Public Health Department and the healthcare community are working together to assure equitable access to COVID-19 testing resources in the St. Louis region. Students, staff, and community members exhibiting signs of Covid-19 can schedule appointments for testing by visiting: [COVID-19 Testing Appointment Scheduler](#). Testing is available by appointment only, so, please, use the website to sign up for testing.

FREE OFF-CAMPUS MEAL SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE

The Valley Park School District is currently serving **FREE** breakfast and lunch offerings for ALL children 18 and under living in the Valley Park School District regardless of free and reduced lunch status at three locations:

- Curbside at the VPSD Field House--Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:30AM-12:00PM
- Cheryl Lane Apartment complex--Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11:00-11:45AM.
- **Leonard Park (Location change)**--Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12:00-12:45PM.

Meals served at the Cheryl Lane and **Leonard Park** locations will be distributed from Valley Park School District busses. Meals are **FREE** for all students and will include two complete breakfasts and lunches. Meals will continue to be **FREE** for ALL students even as students return to in-person learning and will continue through December 2020 or until federal funding runs out.

WIFI ON SCHOOL BUSES--STARTS SEPTEMBER 21st

Starting September 21st the Valley Park School District will provide **FREE** internet connectivity at Leonard Park and near the Cheryl Lane Apartment Complex to help students complete their classwork by using free WIFI from one of our school buses. A Valley Park employee will be onsite to supervise the area. Students will not be allowed to enter the bus, and must socially distance from their peers. Free WIFI will be available **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9AM-1PM.**

ELEMENTARY START & END TIMES

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

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



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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

Before and After-care will be unavailable until October 26th at the earliest.

Y-CARE

It is our hope to resume Y-Care 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).

VIRTUAL STRENGTH & CONDITIONING SESSIONS

Coach Hamilton facilitates virtual strength and conditioning sessions every Tuesday & Thursday from 3:45 pm to 4:15 pm. If you are interested in joining these sessions, [please click on this link](#) and fill out the form. Each session will be limited to 24 students and focuses on teaching 5 movement patterns that form the foundation of all exercise and athletics: Upper Body Push, Upper Body Pull, Hip Hinge, Squat, & Isometric Core.

HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

All families must administer the [Healthy Hawk Self-Assessment](#) before sending students to the bus or school each day. This check is to assure that individuals have not experienced one of the following symptoms associated with Covid-19. Parents and guardians [must report to the district nurse](#) within 24 hours if any student or family member tests positive for COVID-19.

REPORTING ABSENCES

The Valley Park School District is following the [Washington University Pediatric & Adolescent Ambulatory Research Consortium's COVID-19 Algorithms for Clinicians and Schools](#).

- If a student has one low-risk symptom and no known exposures to a person with COVID-19, they must stay home until they are symptom-free for 24 hours.
 - **Low-risk symptoms** include congestion/runny nose, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, sore throat, headache, body aches, and fever (greater than 100.4)
- If a student has two or more low-risk symptoms, OR one or more high-risk symptoms, and has not had any known COVID-19 exposure, they should stay home (or will be sent home from school) and must-see their doctor or receive documentation from [St. Louis County that they are COVID negative before returning](#).
 - **High-risk symptoms** include cough, difficulty breathing, and loss of taste or smell. If the student or staff member tests negative for COVID-19 OR the physician determines symptoms are non-COVID related, then they may return to school 24 hours after symptoms improve.

Parents must [report to the district nurse](#) within 24 hours if any student or family member tests positive for COVID-19.



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POSITIVE TEST & EXPOSURE

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, they must wait until they no longer have fever AND symptoms improve AND they are released by the health department (usually 10-14 days).

- They and their close contacts (including siblings) must quarantine during that time.
- Students must present a release from their health care provider or [health department](#) before returning.
- If a student has a known exposure to a person with COVID-19, they can return to school 14 days after their contact with that person.
- If at any point they develop symptoms, they will need to be tested for COVID-19.

Parents must [report to the district nurse](#) within 24 hours if any student or family member tests positive for COVID-19.

VIRTUAL LIBRARY CARD TRAINING

The VPSD in partnership with the St. Louis County Library (SLCL) will provide ALL students with a virtual library card. This card will supplement the traditional library card and improve each student's ability to access SLCL online research tools as part of their school work. There will be a virtual parent training opportunity on Monday, September 21st at 7PM and Wednesday, September 23 at 7PM to explain how to use the cards, resources available to students and families, etc. To join these virtual training, please click this [link](#) or use

Meeting ID: 505 700 8797 **Password:** vpms

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

Individuals wanting to substitute teach in Valley Park who have completed the [20-hour state-approved 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.