



VALLEY PARK
SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Developing students today in preparation
for tomorrow*

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September 25, 2020

Dear Valley Park Community:

As we mentioned in previous communications, we are excited to begin transitioning our youngest students into the classroom, Monday through Thursday, beginning with kindergarten students on Monday, September 28. Our plan includes welcoming grades 1-2 on October 5, grades 3-4 on October 12, and grades 5 on October 19. Early childhood students will also return on Monday, September 28 and will attend Monday through Friday.

As we approach the start of the second quarter (October 26), we look forward to expanding our in-person learning opportunities for high school students. On Wednesday, the Saint Louis County Department of Public Health shared that transmission and positivity rates in high school students are slowly declining to a point where they can now recommend that schools explore the transition of high school students from new to in-person learning. We are excited about this news and look forward to the return of our high school students.

The Saint Louis County Department of Public Health continues to express concern about high positivity rates, transmission rates, and lack of adherence to social distancing practices and the wearing of masks by high school students. The county is expected to offer new recommendations specifically for high schools in the coming weeks to help foster healthy school environments that will protect the health and well-being of high school students and the staff who educate them. We look forward to receiving those recommendations and putting additional safety protocols in place so that we can expand our in-person learning opportunities for high school students beginning the second quarter on October 26.

The district has been working for months on health and safety precautions to prepare for the return of students to in-person learning. You can review early childhood precautions by [clicking here](#) and K-12 security measures [by clicking here](#). It will take a commitment from all of us to act responsibly and respectfully as we work to keep our school community healthy, safe, and open to in-person learning. Remember that we all have a collective responsibility to decrease infection rates through social distancing, hand washing, wearing face covers, and [not sending students to school](#) when they are sick.

As we begin welcoming students next week, I want to once again thank all of our students, staff, and families for their tremendous efforts in making the beginning of the school year a success. As with any new and unexplored situation, the school year has had some challenges that we have had to learn and adapt from often at any time, but it has also had many successes and celebrations. We look forward to our first step in bringing our youngest students to the classroom next week and will take [all precautions](#) to keep students and staff safe during in-person learning.

Thank you for your patience and continued assistance as we work together to support our students and their learning.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tim Dilg

Superintendent

IMPORTANT UPDATES

BUS ROUTES

Families can access their child's bus stop and the estimated time to pick up / drop off their children by logging on to the [parents Infinite Campus](#) portals of "More" students (at the left side) and clicking on "Transport". If you need additional assistance, please email Katie Henderson. Main bus driver, in khenderson@vp.k12.mo.us



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COMMUNICATION ON COVID-19 CASES

The district will contact families and staff regarding positive COVID-19 cases in the district only if they are personally affected or determined to be at risk based on CDC guidelines. Federal privacy laws protect the confidentiality of students and staff; therefore, the personally identifiable information of individuals who test positive or are required to isolate or quarantine will not be shared.

PRIMARY START AND END TIMES

GRADES K-2-3-3LA: 8:50 AM - 5:00 PM - 1:50 PM Hours

GRADES 3-5: 8:15 AM Arrival

: Elementary K-2: 8:35 AM - 8:50 AM Elementary 3-5: 8:00 AM - 8:15 AM Dismissal

Time: Elementary K-2: 3:50 PM Elementary 3-5: 3:15 PM

Before and after care will not be available until October 26 at the earliest.

Y-CARE

We hope to resume Y-Care on October 26, 2020. Before and after care will not be available until then. Click [on this link](#) to complete the registration form for your child (ren).

HEALTHY HAWK CHECKLIST

All families should review the [Healthy Hawk Self-Assessment](#) every day. If your child exhibits any of the listed symptoms, please leave it at home and notify your child's school office.

LIVE ELEMENTARY

STREAMED The Valley Park School District continues to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic and explore alternative methods of instruction to better meet the needs of our students. One instructional approach that may be helpful for our students that we will begin to explore in our elementary building is live streaming. This **live broadcast document** is provided to families as an overview of our district's live broadcast protocols. If you have questions, feel free to contact your building manager.

STUDENTS WITH MASKS

All students in grades K-12 are required to wear a cloth mask to school. Students with health conditions that prevent the use of a cloth mask must have medical documentation on file with the nurse. The mask requirement is a St. Louis County Public [Health Order](#).

ABSENCE INFORMATION

Valley Park School District is following [the University of Washington's Ambulatory Research Consortium for Adolescents and Pediatrics COVID-19 algorithms for physicians and schools](#).

- If a student has a low-risk symptom and there are no known exposures to a person with COVID-19, they should stay home until symptom-free for 24 hours. **Low risk symptoms** include stuffy / runny nose, nausea / vomiting / diarrhea, sore throat, headache, body aches, and fever (over 100.4)
- If a student has two or more low risk symptoms, OR one or more high-risk symptoms, and have had no known exposure to COVID-19, should stay home (or will be sent home from school) and should see their doctor or receive documentation from the [county St. Louis to indicate they are COVID negative before returning](#). **High-risk symptoms** include coughing, shortness of breath, and loss of taste or smell. If the student or staff



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member tests negative for COVID-19 OR if the doctor determines that the symptoms are not related to COVID, then they can return to school 24 hours after the symptoms improve.

Parents must inform the district nurse within 24 hours if any student or family member tests positive for COVID-19.