

**VALLEY PARK  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
2020-2021**

**RETURN TO  
SCHOOL PLAN:  
FAQS**



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## ACADEMICS

### **Will this model be for all year? A semester? If a parent chooses blended are they in that model for the year?**

Families are asked to commit for the first semester of the school year (Aug-Dec). Families will have the choice again for the second semester based on the learning options provided at that time.

### **How long will the parents have to make their decisions on placement?**

Families are asked to commit by August 5th.

### **What happens if a parent does not make a commitment?**

Due to the logistics and staffing models required, any family that does not select by August 5th will have their child placed in the in-person learning program.

### **What about elective classes, and PE are the students going to have these classes or are they going to stick to core classes?**

Students will still attend elective courses such as PE, Choir, Band, Art, etc.

### **What does the state of Missouri require as far as Special Education Services virtually?**

Students who receive Special Education services will continue to have these services provided by VPSD in accordance with any IEP or 504 plan on file.

### **My elementary student is in the gifted program. She is interested in the Blended Virtual Learning Pathway.**

#### **What does that mean for gifted services?**

We would still offer services virtually with our gifted specialist. A designated time/date will be determined once we know how many gifted students select virtual learning.

### **What are the plans for Kindergarten testing prior to school starting?**

Kindergarten assessments will take place when the school year begins. We will use our beginning of the year kindergarten assessments that we normally use. There will be no testing prior to the school year starting.

### **Do we have any options to look at the Edgenuity courses online?**

Yes. Families can learn more about Edgenuity by visiting their website [here](#) or checking out this [video](#) (Access Password: Of=n2!D6)

### **Will K-5 Virtual Learning be using Edgenuity as well?**

No. K-5 Virtual will be facilitated by a certified teacher and be a combination of live meetings/instruction with a teacher and independent readings, assignments, software and assessments.

### **Will the district provide some kind of sample schedule for K-5 virtual learning so parents can get an idea of how much parent involvement will be needed prior to making a decision by Aug. 5th?**

We are finalizing the schedule for K-5 and much of the logistics will be driven by the demand for virtual from our families. Families should expect that K-5 students will need to spend 2-3 hours/day working independently, it is an expectation that families will support online learning. Students will also be expected to engage with a certified teacher "live" at a minimum for the amount of time currently recommended by the state. View [here](#).

### **If we choose the virtual option what does that mean for my Seniors schedule? Do her classes change to coincide with what Edgenuity has to offer, or will she be given access to online instruction for the classes she's already signed up for?**

Students will be enrolled in Edgenuity's courses. Edgenuity offers most of the courses VP currently offers, plus many more we previously did not offer to students. Here is the course [catalog](#).

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## ACADEMICS CONT'D

**If we choose the virtual route for our 6th grader will the curriculum coincide with that of in-person instruction? Meaning if we did virtual the First Semester and then went in-person Second Semester would we expect her to be on pace with those children that were in school first semester?**

Yes. The curriculum is aligned to the Missouri Standards. Students would be on pace with their in-person peers. If a student were to enroll for the entire year it is expected they would complete an entire year's worth of curriculum. Our teachers are excellent at personalizing learning. We are accustomed to working with students mid semester and mid year when they transfer from out of state or other districts.

**If a student currently has year long classes on their schedule and decides to do virtual learning 1st semester but in person 2nd semester (or vice versa), how will that work?**

We would accommodate the student. We do this every year when student's transfer in mid-semester or mid-year. The virtual courses are aligned to the Missouri Standards.

**My 11th grader is attending South Tech for the Law Enforcement program. I know they haven't made their plans public yet but I was wondering if he chooses to do the Virtual Learning Pathway through Valley Park, will he still be able to attend South Tech - in whatever capacity they offer?**

Ultimately that will be up to SouthTech, but VPSD is in full support of students completing our coursework virtually and meeting the South Tech requirements.

**Will parents be provided with a sample of what the potential times will be for logged in live meetings so that we can see if it will potentially work with our schedules and/or start working our meetings around them ?**

We are finalizing the schedule for K-5 and much of the logistics will be driven by the demand for virtual from our families. Families should expect that K-5 students will need to spend 2-3 hours/day working independently, it is an expectation that families will support online learning. At a minimum families should expect that students would need to be online for the amount of time recommended by DESE. ([View here](#)) Plus additional time working independently.

**How much online computer time will be required for Kindergarten students doing virtual learning?**

We are finalizing the schedule for K-5 and much of the logistics will be driven by the demand for virtual from our families. However, it is an expectation that families will support online learning. How much online computer time is still being decided. At a minimum families should expect that students would need to be online for the amount of time recommended by DESE. ([View here](#)) Plus additional time working independently.

**What does the A+ program look like for students enrolled for that class?**

The State hasn't provided guidance for 2021 seniors yet, however for the 2020 seniors the number of tutoring/mentoring hours was reduced temporarily to 25 to accommodate those students who were unable to complete 50 hours prior to high school graduation. We currently have a call into the State regarding this issue. We are investigating alternative ways of helping students reach the required number of volunteer hours which could include virtual tutoring. It will look different this year as we will not be allowing A+ tutors to visit elementary classrooms.

**If you have a Senior that decides to go virtual do they have the ability to graduate early (if their schedule/credits can allow for this)?**

We are willing to explore this on a case-by-case basis. Our high school guidance counselor and principal would be happy to meet with the parent/guardian and student to see if this is attainable.

**Will Middle School students still rotate classrooms or will the teachers rotate to their "Hawk Time" classroom....where the students would be staying in the same room all day?**

Middle School students will still rotate classes.

**Where will Middle and HS students eat lunch? (I've already seen that Elementary will eat in their classrooms, but nothing regarding MS/HS).**

At this time our plan is for middle and high school students to also eat in the classroom.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## ACADEMICS CONT'D

**If a child brings a home lunch are they able to bring a lunch box with ice packs to keep them properly cooled? (I have friends in other states who are only allowed to bring disposable “sack lunches”).**

Students may bring reusable lunch packs. When packing lunches it is important to think about the contents of the lunch. We will not have microwaves in rooms and we will not have cold storage for lunches.

**Will there be set “virtual school hours“ or will there be somewhat more flexibility than in-person? I’ve watched the Zoom video sent out and though she discussed live and recorded content, it didn’t go into much detail regarding specific hours?**

For students choosing the 6-12 virtual option they are allowed to work at their own pace at times that work best for them and their families. However, all semester assignments must be completed before winter break. A Valley Park educator will monitor each student’s progress towards and completion and families will get weekly updates on the student’s progress directly from Edgenuity.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## SOCIAL EMOTIONAL

**Are we going to have time to talk with the school counselor regarding the courses that will be available to the student and possibly their expertise regarding what may be best for my own child?**

Yes. Counselors will schedule students for the virtual classes, just like they would for in-person instruction.

**Will counseling services be available to students who choose the virtual options?**

Yes. Students and families can request a video or phone conference with our counselors by completing our online form or calling them or emailing them directly. [Online Form.](#)

**Ashley Hawkins - Elementary School**

ahawkins@vp.k12.mo.us

(636) 923-3655

**Yolanda Hardison - Elementary School**

yhardison@vp.k12.mo.us

(636) 923-3689

**Erin Steinkamp - Middle School**

esteinkamp@vp.k12.mo.us

(636) 923-3509

**Emma Goldberg - High School**

egoldberg@vp.k12.mo.us

(636) 923-3645

**Dana Evans - SSD Social Worker**

devans@vp.k12.mo.us

(636) 923-3533

**Christy Mirth - SSD School Psychologist**

cmirth@vp.k12.mo.us

(636) 923-3650

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

### **How will social distancing be implemented in schools?**

Schools will be utilizing all available classroom and learning spaces and making necessary modifications to help ensure social distancing to every extent possible. While social distancing may be challenging at times, it is just one layer of protection to mitigate the spread of the virus. Families can support a safe environment by conducting the **daily health screening** and encouraging their students to wear masks. Hand sanitizer is another layer of protection that students will be encouraged to use. Hand sanitizer is accessible in every classroom. Social distancing signage will be displayed prominently throughout all schools and buildings. We will also be limiting interactions of classes and eliminating large group gatherings. We also are providing multiple entrances for students when arriving at school and during dismissal.

### **How will you promote social distancing in restrooms?**

Schools will limit the number of students in the restroom by implementing scheduled restroom breaks so each grade/class may go at a specific time and avoid mixing students from different classes. Spaces will be marked outside restrooms to provide visual cues to ensure social distancing while waiting. Some urinals may be marked unavailable to give more space. Custodians will administer at least one deep cleaning each day and clean/wipe down high-touch surfaces in the restrooms throughout the day. In addition, staff will maintain a restroom cleaning log.

### **Will the elementary students still have recess?**

Yes. The elementary school has developed recess schedules that limit the number of students within a specific area of the playground. Safe play and socializing will be encouraged.

### **Why aren't we having students do a temperature check at school every morning?**

We are asking families to partner with us and check their student's temperature before sending them to the bus or school each day. Logistically it would not be practical to take each student's temperature everyday while also maintaining social distancing and adhering to applicable privacy laws and regulations.

### **If a child is forced to self quarantine because of exposure, will an online learning option be made available to them?**

No. Students will be provided assignments by their teachers just as if they were sick/absent for an extended period of time before COVID-19. We are asking teachers to post assignments in Campus Learning for all grade levels and to incorporate more technology even when students are seated in-class.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES

### **Are students who will be participating in the virtual option allowed to participate in extracurricular activities?**

At this time yes, because we are also offering in-person education. If the district has to pivot and ONLY offer virtual instruction our district would not be eligible for competitions under the current MSHSAA guidelines. MSHSAA's current stance is "If [schools are] ONLY offering virtual instruction with no face to face education, either temporarily or for the semester/year, you may not offer sports & activities during that period." Click [here](#) for the information.

### **Are virtual students able to participate in extracurricular activities such as sports, show choir, etc.?**

Yes. At this time we plan to work with our moderators to determine what activities can and will go on, but we do hope to offer after school activities and students participating in virtual education can participate in athletics and activities that we offer.

### **Will you still be providing an activities bus and what time would it depart VP?**

Yes. The Activities Bus will depart Valley Park at 4:15 PM

### **Will there still be extracurricular Clubs in Elementary/Middle/High School (referring to 1st Semester only at this time)?**

Yes. At this time we plan to work with our moderators to determine what activities can and will go on, but we do hope to offer some after school activities.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## TRANSPORTATION/DROP OFF/ AND BEFORE/AFTERCARE

### **Where can I find my child's bus time?**

Bus routes and times will be finalized after we know how many students will be attending school in person and how many will be attending virtually. For directions on how to access your child's elementary or secondary bus route, please visit this [website](#).

### **Will Kindergartners still be dropped off at their home?**

Yes they will.

### **What will happen if the buses are running behind?**

We will communicate via email, text and phone calls using Infinite Campus, just like we have prior to COVID-19.

### **Will before care and after care remain the same as last year?**

Yes, Y-Care will be available before and after school as it has been in the past.

### **What is the drop off time for elementary kids?**

As of now, grades 3-5 drop off time is 8-8:15 and grades K-2 drop off time 8:35-8:50.

### **What is the drop off time for middle school students?**

7:20 is when middle school students will be allowed to enter the building and head to classrooms.

### **What about parents who drop off their K-2 kids along with the 3-5 kids?**

Parents would have to sign the students up for **Y-Care** program if they drop them off before their designated start time.

### **For Kindergarten students choosing to attend in person, is there a plan to allow parents to escort them into school the first couple of days?**

As of now, kindergarten parents will be allowed to walk in their kindergarten students on the first day of school.

### **Describe your thinking on having 3-5 before K-2?**

It allowed for our 5th graders to still have band during their specials block. It allowed us to maintain our master schedule with few changes so that all students would still be able to have specials, interventions, recess and lunch. It also ensures that an older student will be home when our K-2 students get off the bus later. It also spreads out the drop off times of our Pre-K and K-2 students which tend to be the heaviest users of the car line.

### **What is the price list on Y Care?**

You can access this [link](#) for more information regarding Y-Care.

### **Will we have an in-person back to school night?**

Schools will need to limit large groups and practice maximum social distancing. Adults are still the primary transmitters of COVID-19. As such, many events like back-to-school-night, meet the teacher, etc will be provided virtually until further notice.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## CLEANING

### **Is the air quality in the building being addressed?**

ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, Air- Conditioning Engineers) standards 62.2 states that the target air exchange for schools is 4-5 exchanges per hour. That means that the air in a room will be completely exchanged 4-5 times an hour. Our schools will achieve this with mechanical ventilation from our rooftop units and makeup air units. The rooftop units are monitored and controlled with a system called Compass. This system allows the district to open and close the outside air dampers and increase the fan speeds to achieve the proper airflow rates. The district has purchased air quality and CFM meters to allow maintenance to monitor and verify air quality.

### **Would it help to open the windows?**

Opening windows will not help. Our HVAC system is designed to filter air, where as opening windows significantly limits our ability to do so.

### **What confidence do we have in the cleaning supplies we are using?**

We are confident that we are choosing the best cleaning supplies with the knowledge that is currently available. Ecolab advertises that the Peroxide Multi-Surface Cleaner and Disinfectant that will be provided to teachers and custodial staff kills 99.999% of germs and meets EPA criteria to be effective against COVID-19 in 45 seconds. However, there is still limited testing available on the effectiveness of cleaning products on COVID-19. We will be continuously monitoring developments and re-evaluating our selections to be sure we are using the best products.

### **What type of cleaning supplies will be used in the classrooms?**

We will be using a few different types of cleaning supplies in the classrooms. First, there will be wipes in a hand sanitizer solution for the children to use on their desks. The hand sanitizer solution's strength can be adjusted to meet the needs of the classroom. Second, there will be a much stronger sanitizing solution called Peroxide Multi-Surface Cleaner and Disinfectant, which will be available for the teachers to use. In the evenings, the custodial staff will be wiping down and sanitizing all hard surfaces in the classroom, as well as using a sprayer to disinfect the classrooms.

### **Are they safe for children?**

There are different cleaning supplies available for the children to use than for adults. The children will be using hand sanitizer solution, which is safe for children when used as advised.

### **Is green killing the same number as non-green does as far as sanitizer and cleaning products? What are the kill rates?**

Our goal is to select products that fit our needs that are effective and as safe as possible. We will use products that are safe for children to use and commercial products for custodial staff to use that have a high kill rate to keep infection rates down. We will be continuously monitoring developments and re-evaluating our selections to be sure we are using the best products for our situation. Currently, kill rates for the hand sanitizer solution are unavailable. It is advertised to kill 99.999% of germs. Ecolab advertises that the Peroxide Multi-Surface Cleaner and Disinfectant that will be provided to teachers and custodial staff kills 99.999% of germs and meets EPA criteria to be effective against COVID-19 in 45 seconds.

### **What are the parents' responsibilities this year as far as providing wipes, hand sanitizer?**

The parents are not required to provide chemicals for cleaning or disinfecting the classroom. We would ask that parents not provide hand sanitizer or wipes as a school supply as this makes it difficult to monitor what is in our classrooms.

### **Are we giving the kids wipes in their rooms? Are they safe?**

The children will be provided with wipes. They are simply dry wipes that will be soaked in liquid hand sanitizer solution. The sanitizing wipes are as safe as hand sanitizer is on hands. The FDA states that "When used according to the directions on the Drug Facts Label, hand sanitizer is not dangerous for children." We will be providing adult supervision for our children during use.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## TECHNOLOGY

**If K-5 parents choose to do the virtual learning will the district be providing laptops to those students?**

Yes we will, provided families sign the Technology Use Policy in Infinite Campus.

**So if kids decide virtual will they get a device before school starts?**

We hope to arrange pickup of devices no later than the first week of school.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## NOTES

If you have a question not addressed in our **Re-Entry Framework** or listed in the FAQs, you can reach out to our Valley Park Question/Answer email address at **vpquestions@vp.k12.mo.us**. Most questions will be answered via updates on the FAQ page. If you need more in depth answers, please contact your principal or any member of the district's leadership team. We will continue to update this document on our website: **[www.vp.k12.mo.us/reentryfaqs](http://www.vp.k12.mo.us/reentryfaqs)**

### DIRECTORY:

**Activities and Athletics:** Adam Hamilton, Dean of Student Activities, ahamilton@vp.k12.mo.us

**Building Cleaning:** Chris Poll, Director of Facilities, cpoll@vp.k12.mo.us

**Building Logistics:** Dr. Ryan Luhning, High School Principal, rluhning@vp.k12.mo.us

Dr. Kelly Muzzey, Middle School Principal, kmuzzey@vp.k12.mo.us

Dr. Jan Monroe, Elementary School Principal, jmonroe@vp.k12.mo.us

**Communications:** Jaime Gast, jgast@vp.k12.mo.us

**Health Services:** Tina Elsner, School Nurse, telsner@vp.k12.mo.us

**Human Resources:** Dr. Tim Dilg, Superintendent, tdilg@vp.k12.mo.us

**Food Service:** Dr. Tad Savage, Asst. Superintendent, tsavage@vp.k12.mo.us

Susan Dawson, CFO, sdawson@vp.k12.mo.us

**Re-Entry Framework Oversight:** Dr. Tim Dilg, Superintendent, tdilg@vp.k12.mo.us

**Teaching and Learning:** Dr. Tad Savage, Asst. Superintendent, tsavage@vp.k12.mo.us

**Transportation:** Susan Dawson, CFO, sdawson@vp.k12.mo.us

Katie Henderson, Lead Bus Driver, khenderson@vp.k12.mo.us

**Technology:** Dr. Patrick Jones, Director of Technology pjones@vp.k12.mo.us

**VICC:** Dr. Tim Dilg, Superintendent tdilg@vp.k12.mo.us

Dr. Tad Savage, Asst. Superintendent, tsavage@vp.k12.mo.us

**Virtual Instruction:** Dr. Tad Savage, Asst. Superintendent, tsavage@vp.k12.mo.us