

VPS News (Jan 22)

Valley Prep <admin@vpredlands.org>

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To: John Black <jblack@vpredlands.org>

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VPS Community:

We are pleased to announce that our Middle School will reopen for on-campus instruction on Monday January 25. Many thanks to our MS-families for their patience and understanding with our staffing situation.

Please review some important information below.

Take care!

John Black, Head of School

jblack@vpredlands.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **February 12:** End of the 2nd trimester
- **February 15 & 16:** No school (Trimester break)
- **Weeks of March 22 & 29:** Spring Break

THANK YOU, SPECIALISTS!

The school is so fortunate to have such a great team of Specialists providing those programs which differentiate our school from so many other public and private schools: Art, Music, PE, Spanish, French, Technology, and Library. Despite reduced working-hours this year as the school continues to rebuild enrollment, they continue to work hard and do their best for the children. Please join me in thanking them for all that they do under very difficult circumstances!!

VPS BUDGET 2021-22

Before the Winter Break, our School Board approved our budget for the 2021-22 school year. As we continue to **rebuild enrollment**, the budget is

conservatively based upon an enrollment of 145 students. We currently have 140 students, down from 156 at the end of the 19-20 school year. Our goal is to reach **145** in August 2021 ... 150-155 by August 2022 ... and 155-160 by August 2023. Our long-term goal is to reach an enrollment of 165-170, which is an average class-size of 15 students.

Understanding that such enrollment growth requires **tuition rates** which are affordable for as many families as possible, we continue to review our tuition rates (and staffing structure) for the 2021-22 school year. We expect to provide further details in early February.

HEALTH PLAN FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR

Although vaccinations for Covid-19 will soon be available to teachers in SB-county, we fully expect to continue with all of our current **health precautions** until the end of the current school year. This includes the wearing of masks; daily temperature checks; additional cleaning, etc. We will continue to coordinate our activities with the county's DPH.

Also, we are currently considering a few options for the **8th Grade Graduation & Moving-up Ceremony** in early June. Our hope is to have an in-person celebration of some sort. Additionally, preliminary plans are being made for our **Summer Camp**. Further details will be provided in the coming months.

VPS GOALS 2020-2022

Despite the many disruptions experienced this school year due to Covid-19, it is important for the school to remain goal-oriented as we look ahead to the next five years. Accordingly, please find attached our most updated goals, carrying us through 2022. Key goals include:

- Enrollment growth, as we recover from the pandemic
- Improve staff collaboration with respect to the planning and facilitation of the IB program\
- Review of our current Science program (the online platform of which has not proven successful)

VPS Goals

GALA 2021

Due to current health conditions in California, we will not hold an in-person GALA this school year. However, we are moving forward with plans for a **virtual auction** in the Spring. Although various platforms are available to manage such an auction, we obviously want to keep our overhead as low as possible. Accordingly, we are experimenting with a **single auction item**,

graciously provided by our very own Dr. Berry. The attached flyer provides more information. Bids for the item can be made using the link below.

TRANSITIONING TO DL

Since returning from Winter Break, we seen an increased number of VPS families choosing to transition their child(ren) from on-campus instruction to Distance Learning. Since this transition requires some prep-time for the teachers, please be reminded of the **24-hour 'grace period'** (1-business day) between the time that a family informs the school of the transition, to when DL-instruction can begin. Everyone's cooperation is greatly appreciated!

HEALTH UPDATE (as recommended by DPH to ensure transparency)

Since September 1, the school has been informed of the following:

- **11 students** have been tested for Covid-19, following possible exposure. 2 students subsequently tested positive.
- **9 staff members** have been tested for Covid-19, following possible exposure. 3 staff members subsequently tested positive.

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

Our *Annual Giving Campaign* (Annual Fund) is one of our three annual fundraisers, including the Fall Fest (cancelled this year) and the GALA (which we remain hopeful of holding in April or May). As we continue to rebuild enrollment, proceeds from all fundraisers will be used to "**close the gap**" between the amount of tuition collected, and total expenses. For the current school year, we expect that gap to exceed \$160,000 (which includes monies allocated for Tuition Assistance). Your support of the Annual Fund will begin to close that gap! Last year, more than 90% of our families donated to the fund, which raised nearly \$40,000. Can we push that total to \$45,000? Or even \$50,000?!

- Through early January we have received upwards of **\$30,000**
- Stay-tuned for the January & February results.

Visit our website to learn more about the Annual Fund and to make your donation. Any amount is appreciated!

Give Now

HEALTH PROTOCOLS

Please be reminded that a student (or staff member) is not allowed on-campus if they ...

- ... **Have a fever of 100.4 or above.** If a student is sent-home, they must be fever-free (without medication) for 24hrs before returning to campus.

In other words, if your child is sent home on Monday, they could not return to school until Wednesday. The school will always confirm the temperature by using two different hand-held, touchless thermometers (not including the kiosks near the stage).

- **... Are continually sneezing and/or coughing.** If a student is sent-home, they may return the next day, so long as they are not continually sneezing and/or coughing.

CONFIRMED TO HAVE COVID-19

- If a student (or staff member) in a particular class tests **positive** for Covid-19, that student (or staff member) must quarantine for a minimum of 10-days (from the time of the positive test) AND submit a negative test result before returning to campus. **NOTE:** If the student (or staff member) has completed the required quarantine and is symptom-free, but still tests positive, then a "clearance note" from a doctor may be submitted in lieu of a negative test result.
- If the positive test result occurs while school is in-session, then the entire class (including the teacher) must also quarantine for a minimum of 10 days. All students in the closed classroom would transition to 100% Distance Learning during the quarantine.
- If the student (or staff member) is in Middle School, then the entire Middle School would be closed and transitioned to Distance Learning.
- Each student (and the teacher) would need to submit a "clear/negative" test result before returning to campus.

EXPOSED TO SOMEONE WITH COVID-19

- DPH defines "*exposure*" as ... close proximity (within 6ft), without a mask, for more than 15min.
- If a student (or staff member) in a particular class is **exposed** to someone confirmed to have Covid-19, then the student (or staff member) must submit a test result to the school as quickly as possible AND quarantine (for a minimum of 10-days from the time of exposure, regardless of the test result) before returning to campus. If the test result is positive, then the procedure outlined above will be implemented.
- While waiting for the test result (from a student or staff member), other students in the class have the option of transitioning to Distance Learning (DPH does not require a class to be closed while waiting for a test result).
- Further, regardless of their own test result, if the student (or staff member) resides in the same household as someone confirmed to have Covid-19, then the student (or staff member) must quarantine themselves for a minimum of 10-days beyond the quarantine period of the person in the household who has Covid-19 (i.e. if the person with Covid ends their

quarantine on the 1st of the month, then those residing with them must continue to quarantine until at least the 10th of the month).

SUPPORT THE SCHOOL WHILE SHOPPING

- On-going: Shop Amazon Smile – Gotta Shop! See details below to support Valley Prep and shop with Amazon at the same time.

Amazon Smile



Bid Now!

Limited Time!

Your School Logo Applied Free!

Your school families can get **Your School Logo Applied Free!**

January 28 - February 3!

Share this offer with your school today.

CODE: **CLASS**

PIN: **2910**

GET MARKETING KIT

Shop Now



Join us for Valley Prep Disney Day!

Who?: Valley Prep Students PS-8th Grade (in person and distance learning).

What?: A Disney themed spirit day where you can wear Disney themed clothes.

When?: Wednesday, January 27th

Disclaimer:

All House Council Members must participate. For others, participation is optional, but if you don't participate you must wear your daily uniform.



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2019-2020 Families

Our mailing address is:

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