



Redlands, California

# VALLEY PREPARATORY SCHOOL

An International Baccalaureate World School

**November 6, 2020**

## **VPS Families:**

Please be reminded that **the 1st Trimester has ended**. Reports Cards will be emailed to parents in the coming weeks, in advance of the Parent-Teacher Conferences (Nov 18-20). All conferences will be done via Zoom. Teachers will soon be reaching-out to parents to schedule a time-slot.

For the past few years, the school has been gradually transitioning to **Standards-based Grading SBG** (see attachment). On the surface, the main difference is the **grade-scale** that is used to report student performance. The *traditional scale* (of A,B,C,D) has been replaced with a *standards-based scale* (of 4,3,2,1). Only 8th grade continues to use the traditional scale (this, too, will be phased-out next school year).

However, the school's main motivation for transitioning to SBG is two-fold:

First, **SBG allows for improved articulation of the curriculum**. In short, this means that the Learning Standards (the topics & concepts that students are expected to cover during a particular academic year) are clearly defined and available for parents to review ([www.valleyprepredlands.org/Curriculum](http://www.valleyprepredlands.org/Curriculum)). Key standards are then reported on the Report Card (and thru Powerschool's parent-portal). Additionally, in a traditional system, students would receive a single grade on the Report Card for Math, a single grade for Science, etc. In SBG, subjects are broken-down into learning standards, thereby providing **greater detail**. Such detail provides useful information about students' strengths & challenges, which can then be used to better meet their academic needs.

Second, **SBG emphasizes the "process" of learning**, rather than the "product." As students get older, the product is unquestionably important. But as students continue to develop their learning skills (communication, self-management, thinking processes, etc), an emphasis on the "process" of learning helps to develop important 21st century skills such as problem-solving and critical-thinking.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

**John Black, Head of School**

[jblack@vpredlands.org](mailto:jblack@vpredlands.org)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Mid-November:** Reports Cards for T1 distributed via email
- **November 11:** No school for Veterans Day
- **November 18-20:** Virtual Parent-Teacher Conferences (Noon dismissals)
- **December 10:** Virtual Grandparents Day (more details to come)
- **December-January:** Virtual Winter Concert



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## DAYCARE FEES

Please be reminded that Daycare fees are included in the tuition rate for Preschool & Pre-Kindergarten, but are separate for K-8. Fees for **K-8th are charged monthly** through SMART tuition.

## DROP-OFF & PICK-UP FOR PS-PK-K

In previous years, **Kindergarten parents** were able to use the AM/PM carpool-line to drop-off and pick-up their children. For various reasons, we changed this procedure to begin the current school year, requiring parents to drop-off and pick-up their child in-front of the Kindergarten classroom (and sign them in/out). From a health & safety perspective, this approach has worked well and we expect to continue in this way throughout the current school year.

## HOUSE COUNCIL

Congratulations to the following students for being elected to our House Council (student council):

**House of Truth:** President—Cat-Tam Huynh, Vice President—Cash Feldkamp;

**House of Judgment:** President—Pruby Singh, Vice President—Wil Seal;

**House of Courage:** President—Beatrix Williams.

## 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 the end of October, we collected upwards of \$5,000.
- Stay-tuned for the November results!

Visit our website to learn more about the Annual Fund and to **make your donation**. Any amount is appreciated! <https://www.valleyprepredlands.org/Annual-Giving>

## MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILIES

- As previously announced, after consulting with *Boojum Outdoor Adventures*, we have decided to move the **Colorado River trip** from October to **April 5-9**. We will also be adding the 6th grade to the trip, thereby allowing the entire Middle School to attend. Additionally, we are planning a single-day trip to **Joshua Tree** for the entire Middle School, tentatively on **March 12**. Further details about Boojum's revised payment/refund policy will be provided to schools in **January**.
- Information about the 8th grade's trip to **Washington DC** (May 3-7) was emailed to families on **November 2**. Please contact Mr. Black if you did not receive the information.



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## **CLASS PARTIES**

Please be advised that food for class parties (such as birthdays) must be restricted to store-bought items which are individually wrapped. After coordinating with the teacher, the parent may drop-off the items in the front-office. The teacher will distribute the items to the students at the appropriate time.

## **DL-STUDENTS**

Please be reminded that failure to attend a particular class via Zoom will result in the deduction of points, which can adversely affect a student's trimester grade on the Report Card.

## **HEALTH PROTOCOLS** (please see the attachment for full details)

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.

These policies & procedures have been reviewed and approved by the county's Department of Public Health DPH.

## ATTACHMENTS:

<VPS Covid-19 Safety Protocols.pdf>

<What is SBG.pdf>