

VPS Families:

As the teachers continue to facilitate both On-campus Learning and Distance Learning, please don't hesitate to reach-out to me with any questions or concerns. **Your feedback is important** as we continue to make adjustments to the program in an ongoing effort to meet the needs of all the children. Our goal is to have worked-out most of the "kinks" by the end of this month.

John Black, Head of School

jblack@vpredlands.org

EMERGENCY FORMS:

At the beginning of each school year we ask parents to complete the Emergency Form which provides important contact and medical information. Your cooperation in completing this form is appreciated!

PARENTS ON-CAMPUS

Until further notice, we cannot allow 1-6th grade parents on-campus (except to pick-up their children from PM-daycare). As outlined in our *Campus Re-opening & Safety Plan* which was submitted to the Dept of Public Health, we need to limit access to the campus as much as possible.

FOR DL-STUDENTS

- There is currently a table just inside the main-gate which can be used for the **contactless dropping-off and picking-up** of books, supplies, homework, projects, etc. Please make any arrangements with the appropriate teacher.
- **PE activities** with Mrs. Breckley will be provided thru Flip Grid (rather than the classroom cameras being used by the other Specialists). We will observe the effectiveness of this approach through the month of September, and then make any necessary adjustments.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILIES

- Mr. Schutz has made a few revisions to the *class schedules* which will take affect on Monday September 14, specifically with respect to **8th grade (Distance Learning)**. Additional changes may occur as we (1) continue to balance the needs of the on-campus and DL-students, and (2) adapt to an altered staffing structure (see below).
- After consulting with *Boojum Outdoor Adventures*, we have decided to move the **Colorado River trip** from October to April. We will also be adding the 6th grade to the trip, thereby allowing the entire Middle School to attend. Further details will be forthcoming.
- In further collaboration with *Boojum*, we are planning a single-day trip to **Joshua Tree** for the entire Middle School, probably in early March. Further details will be forthcoming.

PRESCHOOL & PREKINDERGARTEN FAMILIES

Preschool & Pre-Kindergarten on-campus students are currently combined into a single class throughout the school-day. Due to increasing enrollment, we will need to separate these two classes for academic instruction in the morning, beginning either September 21 or 28. More details will be provided next week.

CAMPUS SAFETY PROTOCOLS: Please see below.

Just a reminder that all campus visitors (including parents picking-up or dropping-off their PS-PK-K students) are required to wear a face-covering.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **September 26 - October 4:** VPS Book Fair at the Frugal Frigate in Redlands (see attached flyer)

- **September 28-30:** VPS Nights at the Gourmet Pizza Shop in Redlands (see attached flyer)
- **Early October:** Progress Reports for students struggling in Math, English, Science, or Social Studies.
- **October 9:** No School
- **October 27:** Picture Day
- **October 30:** End of 1st Trimester
- **TENTATIVE:** We are considering a *virtual* Grandparents Day for later in the Fall and a *virtual* Winter Concert in December.

FUNDRAISING THIS YEAR

Our annual fundraising efforts traditionally center-around the Annual Fund, Fall Fest (Halloween Carnival), and the GALA. Obviously, this is a unique year. We will not be able to hold a **Fall Fest** this year. But we will still aim to hold the **GALA** towards the end of the school year. If an in-person event is not possible, then perhaps an online auction is a viable alternative. Your feedback is welcomed! In the coming weeks we will be providing more details about this year's **Annual Fund**.

STAFFING UPDATE

As previously announced ...

1. Our Resource Specialist has been eliminated
2. One Classroom Aide position has been eliminated
3. Library has been reduced to 4-days (M-TH)
4. Middle School English & Math have become part-time.
5. PE, Music, Art, French, and Spanish will soon become part-time. In most cases, the weekly frequency of these classes will not change.
6. Homework Club will not be offered during the 1st Trimester. If enrollment increases during the Fall, we will consider reinstating the program.

ON-CAMPUS SAFETY

1. Face-coverings will be **REQUIRED** at Valley Prep for K-8th (and strongly recommended for Preschool & PK). This requirement will be continually reviewed, with consideration given to any changes in CDC and California guidelines.
2. Where possible, VPS will increase distance between seats (and bedding in PS/PK) in classrooms. (NOTE: due to the small size of our classrooms, we do not guarantee that every seat will be 6' apart).
3. Student temperatures will be taken daily upon arrival. If a student has a temp of **100.4**, they will be sent home. Parents are strongly encouraged to take their child's temperature each day before leaving the house. If a student is sent-home with a temperature above 100.4, the child must be **temperature-free for 24-hours**. In other words, if your child is sent home on Monday, they could not come to school on Tuesday.
4. Teachers will constantly promote good hand hygiene (hand-washing and use of hand sanitizer). Hand sanitizer is available in each classroom and around the campus. Two outdoor sinks will also be available for hand-washing.
5. Teachers will constantly promote respiratory etiquette by reminding students to cover their nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or an elbow or shoulder if no tissue is available) and to keep their hands away from their nose, mouth, and eyes (obviously this is more challenging with younger students).
6. Classrooms and outdoor play-equipment will be consistently wiped-down throughout the day. The school has hired a part-time person to assist Mr. Morales with this important duty.
7. There will be no fieldtrips, inter-school sporting events, or large on-campus gatherings (including Orientation Day, Back to School Night, Back to School Barbecue, Grandparents Day, Fall Fest) until further notice. In addition, monthly PTO meetings will be held virtually.
8. Teachers will do as much classwork outdoors as possible. The school has purchased additional picnic tables for this purpose (and to allow physical distancing during lunch).
9. Teachers will constantly discourage the sharing of supplies and food.

10. Installation continues of **Bi-Polar Ionization kits** into each classroom. Studies have shown that these air-filters have a 99.4% reduction rate on a SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) surface strain.