

VPS Families:

Well, we made it through our first week of on-campus instruction for all grade-levels! Congratulations everyone! It was certainly a BIG achievement for our little school.

Please be reminded of the following:

- Until further notice, we cannot allow 1-8th grade parents on-campus (except to pick-up their children from PM-daycare). As outlined in our *Campus Re-opening & Safety Plan*, we need to limit access to the campus as much as possible.
- K-8 **students** must wear a face-covering at all times, except during lunch & recess. There are NO exceptions to this policy unless a doctor's note is provided indicating that the student cannot wear one. When **parents** are on-campus, they are required to wear a face-covering at all times.
- Student temperatures are taken daily. Any student with a temp at or above 100.4 will be sent home.
- Students who are continually coughing or sneezing will be sent home (please send a doctor's note if your child has allergies which may cause the continual coughing or sneezing)
- Our Flag Ceremony on Tuesday September 8 will need to be for students only. Sorry parents!! We hope to allow you on-campus later in the school year.
- **FOR DL-STUDENTS:** We are currently developing a *contactless* system for dropping-off and picking-up books, supplies, homework, projects, etc. More info to come ...
- **MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILIES:** Mr. Schutz has made a few revisions to the *class schedules* which he'll be distributing next week. 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). Everyone's patience is appreciated!

John Black, Head of School

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Monday September 7:

- No school (Labor Day)

Tuesday September 8:

- Specialist classes begin for Distance Learners
- AM/PM Daycare is available for all grade levels
- Flag ceremony @ 8am for students-only

DAYCARE FOR 1-8TH RESUMES

- **Morning Daycare** is available beginning at 7am. 1-8th students should go directly to Mrs. Hidey's 4th grade classroom upon arrival to have their temperatures taken. PS-PK-K students will continue going to Ms. Schmidt's Preschool classroom.
- **Afterschool Daycare** is available until 6pm. Students will be divided into three groups (PS-PK-K; 1-4th; 5-8th). In the afternoon, 1-8th parents can park in the upper or lower parking-lot and pick-up their child(ren) from the appropriate classroom.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE

We ended the 2019-20 school year with 156 students. In late July our enrollment had dropped below 115. We are now approaching 130. We believe a realistic goal for the current school year is 135-140. This will likely still result in \$250,000-\$300,000 reduction in revenue from 2019-2020. Although the school's reserve accounts can absorb this loss in the short-term, it is necessary to make additional staffing changes (see below) to ensure long-term stability.

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 has become part-time.
5. Middle School math has become part-time.

In addition ...

- **PE, Music, Art, French, and Spanish** will become part-time. In most cases, the weekly frequency of these classes will not change.
- **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) 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 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.