



Valley Stream Christian Academy

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Dear VSCA Families,

We're back and ready to go! I hope that you were able to spend some quality time with your loved ones during our recess (some of you might be saying you've had enough time with your family)! In the last few weeks, some questions and concerns have come up and I hope that I am able to address them all here. As with all schools, public and private, we are dealing with a number of variables including the length of time distance learning will be taking place, financial stability of the school, as well as individual households, upcoming events, etc. I continue to have meetings with both public and private school administrators and leaders. These meetings have also included legal counsel. As a ministry of Bethlehem Assembly of God, we are grateful for their guidance and help in navigating all the ins and outs of running an "organization".

QUESTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ASKED:

1. Should distance learning continue until the end of June, am I still required to pay my full tuition?

Answer-Yes. As long as Valley Stream Christian Academy is providing academic rigor and therefore providing the service for which they have been contracted, it is the responsibility of each family to continue with their payments. Our teachers have been working overtime to ensure that every student is given the tools they need to have a successful transition to remote learning. That being said, if there is a financial hardship due to our current circumstances, PLEASE contact Mrs. Shanhai so that we can be there to help your family. Our desire is to have ALL of our students continue with us through June (and beyond!) and we will do whatever is possible to help make this happen.

2. Am I required to pay the \$125 fundraising fee?

Answer- Yes. This fee has been taken off of the base tuition for EVERY student. This began a number of years ago in order to relieve some of the financial burden from the parents. While this amount is small, in comparison to total tuition due, when multiplied by over 100 students, it is a substantial amount of the base income to the school. Parents have always been given the option to either pay the amount out of pocket or raise the money through the school's fundraiser (in this case the Walk a Thon).

3. Is the Walk a Thon STILL taking place?

Answer- Yes. In person or virtually, it WILL take place. Some families have mentioned feeling uncomfortable about continuing to raise funds. As mentioned above, the first \$125 from each student is in the CURRENT school budget. All income that exceeds this amount is used for financial aid and scholarships. Now more than ever, there will be families in need of these funds to help their children continue to receive a Christian education.

4. What about my 10 hours or \$400 fee for PSP?

Answer-ALL hours that are not possible to be made up will be excused. Including lunch aides and Walk a Thon hours (should it be done virtually). IF we return before the end of the school year, all scheduled hours will be expected to be completed.

5. What will happen if the school closes?

First, let me say that there is nothing that would lead us to believe that VSCA will not be in existence for the upcoming 2020-21 school year. We started in 1997, with 23 students. IF we were to ONLY have 23 students this fall, then we will be here for those 23 students. Until God Himself shuts the door, we plan on being here for a long time. BUT-should God decide it IS time for this season to end, ALL money that has been designated for the 2020-21 school year WILL be refunded. That includes registration and tuition payments. We are thankful that Bethlehem Assembly of God oversees our finances. They are above reproach in the handling of the school's money. Money for the next school year, ethically, cannot be used to pay current bills. They would not permit it.

6. In the event that 'live' classes are canceled for the rest of this school year, what will be happening with upcoming events such as the Formal, graduation, and awards ceremonies?

Answer-We have been fortunate to have been given an alternate date for our Formal. That date is Tuesday, July 7, 2020. Any student who has already paid, but will NOT be able to attend, will receive a FULL refund. In addition, we are opening up the event to any student who has not signed up, but would like to attend. Space is limited and this will occur on a first come, first served basis.

We are currently working with Bethlehem Assembly to work out an alternate date for graduation and awards for all grades. We have a tentative date of Saturday, July 25th with a morning ceremony for K-5th and afternoon ceremony for 6-12th. In the event that we must still have social distancing, we are looking at other alternatives, such as live stream or totally virtual. We will keep you updated as we learn more.

I hope this has answered most, if not all of your questions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me, via email, should you need any other questions answered. As always, it is very important that you know that we continue to be here for you if you are facing financial challenges. In addition, we continue to have staff devotions, we are here to lift up any specific

prayer requests you have. We will also be sending families a link on our website, where you can share your requests with our entire VSCA family.

In my next email, you will be receiving information about some new activities we have planned for the students, including the addition of after school clubs and other after school activities. This Covid pandemic has been a disruption to the ENTIRE planet. Its effects are unprecedented, but **GOD has handled disruptions before! In fact, HE has been THE great disruptor!** HE changes lives in the blink of an eye! He heals the incurable! He breaks the strongest chains of pain, addiction, and brokenness! He makes the least, the greatest and the weakest the strongest! What a wonderful King and Friend!

God's Richest Blessings,

Leslie Fowley