



Valley Stream
Christian Academy

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Dear VSCA Families,

It has been my hope for a while that I would be able to give you solid information about the upcoming 2020/2021 school year, but unfortunately, that is not the case. What I CAN give you is the current plan for all of the possible scenarios. Please note that I have used the word "current", as we are subject to any and all changes that may be thrown into the mix, including governmental policies, resurgence of illnesses, etc. The first case scenario is that we return in the fall as we have always done, face to face with no restrictions. The second is that we will be completely remote for the entire year. Next scenario is that we are remote for a period of time and then open when a vaccine is available. Another scenario is that we open with varied student schedules, with approximately half size classes, to be able to adhere to current social distancing guidelines. This would mean something similar to an A and B schedule: A students come Monday, Wednesday, Friday; B students come Tuesday, Thursday and alternate each week. Students who are not scheduled to be in the building, would be working remotely from home.

Because of the number of different circumstances surrounding each possible form of learning, we have decided to take a proactive approach. We will be selecting new curriculum that can seamlessly be done remotely and at the same time, be taught face to face. We have spent (and continue to spend) countless hours in meetings, conferences, Zoom, etc., with various companies looking for the "Holy Grail" of said curriculum. It has been a daunting task, but one which we believe is necessary so that we can provide the best education for our students, no matter what the circumstances may be. One format that we are looking into implementing is the way in which Zoom classes are done. We are fortunate to have one of our assets be small class sizes. This means that we can have much smaller instructional classes to give more individualized instruction to ALL of our students. What does this look like? If we have a class of 9 students, rather than have all their Zoom classes be with the entire class, this class would be broken down into smaller groups of 3. This does not mean the class as a whole would not be together, it means that specific content area, especially math, will have this new approach.

We continue to be thankful to Bethlehem Assembly of God and their inclusion of the school in their decision making. They will be changing all faucets, dispensers, hand sanitizers, etc. to touchless. We are all working with consultants about adhering to all of the CDC guidelines for schools. In addition, we will be working together to set up the capability of LIVE meetings in EACH classroom, should the varied schedules need to be implemented. This will also help those families who feel that even if schools do reopen, they would like to have an option of keeping their child at home, while still being a student at VSCA. There is so much more to write about with the different nuances concerning all of the above. As soon as we are given definitive guidelines, our families will be notified ASAP. Once this does happen, we are planning on having a Town Hall meeting for all of our VSCA families. (Please see Mrs. Ayala's email dated 5/28 regarding re-enrollment).

Last, but not least, is information about the end of THIS school year. Much discussion has taken place about the when and how. The last day of classes (including Zoom and online work) for Kindergarten through 12th grade will be **Monday, June 15, 2020**. This will be the last day students will have an opportunity to see their classmates through a VSCA Zoom class. During the following week, our teachers will be speaking/Zooming with each of their students, one on one. We believe there needs to be closure for the students and staff and we feel that this is the best use of the remaining days. While we still have ceremonies planned for July 25th, we don't know how those will look. In addition, we will be giving parents a date in which they can pick up all items left at school. This will be sometime during the end of June.

Two VERY important reminders:

This coming **Tuesday, June 2nd**, is our Walk-a-Thon kick off. Please see the email sent by Mrs. Ayala on May 19th for all of the details. There will be NO live Zoom meetings held this day.

This coming **Wednesday, June 3rd**, at **11 am**, is our Parade for our Graduates. We are asking as many of you who are available to come out (parked in your car or social distancing on the sidewalks) to celebrate our graduates. Please see Mrs. Ayala's email for all of the details. There will be NO live Zoom meetings held on this day.

And finally, remain strong in the Lord and in the power of HIS might! He will give you even MORE than is needed to sustain you!

God Bless,

Leslie Fowley

Superintendent