



# Valley Stream Christian Academy

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Dear VSCA Families,

It was a blessing to "see" so many of you at our Town Hall meeting. I was glad to be able to lay out a few of the scenarios that we have been presented with over the last couple of months. As many of you may know, Mayor DeBlasio made an announcement that the format they are currently looking at is the hybrid/blended learning model. This would mean that half of the students would go two or three days a week, while the other students are home on Zoom or other platforms. This format is being considered because it allows space in the classrooms for social distancing. I had mentioned this model for VSCA the other night, but I want to clearly communicate the different avenues this opens up for our families.

As mentioned previously, because of our small class sizes and the availability of other spaces on the campus, we would be able to keep the entire school social distanced at the same time. This would work by having half of the students in their designated classrooms and the others in the chapel or gymnasium, also social distanced, doing their classes through Zoom. The downside to this is a lack of funding for the extra supervision that would be needed. While we do have a few teachers who can supervise these students who are out of the classroom "Zooming," unfortunately, after looking at the numbers, we do not have nearly enough. What this leaves us with is giving the parents the same options as public schools --keeping your child at home on their non-face to face days or providing child care in the school. This would be done at an extra cost of \$30 per week. We understand that this may be a financial burden for some which is why we will still be having all classes Zoomed for those who are also at home. We are not certain what the guidelines will be in regards to mask wearing, but we will follow whatever the CDC guidelines are. We are hoping to be able to have a 4 minute break every hour so students can pull their masks below their noses, with no talking. This also would be done according to CDC guidelines. Based on this format, students would still have to remain in the same classroom all day. Lunch, Art, and Music would be brought to them. Physical Education would be outside, weather permitting. All staff members would be required to wear masks.

One scenario which was discussed, was whether or not students would be permitted to work remotely, even if the schools do open up. The answer was, "yes," as all classes will be presented live, on Zoom. I did not explain the two different options for this. Option one: students are home, doing all of their classes on Zoom, in real time with the students and teachers who are in the building face to face. This format allows the students at home to ask the teachers questions in real time and have interaction with their classmates in group discussions. Option two: students are learning remotely with Zoom and online classes through Ignitia. Ignitia is an online curriculum in which lessons are given to the students followed by assessments. The classroom teacher would oversee the progress of these assignments, but would NOT be available to teach these lessons as they are not the same as the live Zoom classes. Ignitia is only available for student in 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. This choice might be selected by a family who would find following a complete Zoom schedule too difficult to maintain, given the family's circumstances. Please also note, Ignitia will not be offered in Math or English as we have found that these two subjects require teacher instruction in order to optimize the learning experience.

As more information becomes available, we will do our best to keep you posted.

God Bless,

Leslie Fowley