



Valley Stream Christian Academy

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Dear VSCA Families,

On Tuesday, August 11th we held a Town Hall meeting which, hopefully, answered many of your questions concerning the coming school year. Below, please find much of that information plus some added details to better help you navigate the upcoming school re-opening plans.

- Families have 3 models from which to choose.
 - 1.) FULLY REMOTE. All classes will be Zoomed, live. This model allows the student to interact with their teachers in “real” time.
 - 2.) HYBRID. In order for students to return to school face to face, all CDC guidelines must be followed. This includes the wearing of masks and 6 ft. socially distancing. Social distancing requires 1/2 of the students to remain at home. Students selecting this model would be on an A/B schedule, coming to school every Monday and Tuesday and alternating Wednesdays or Thursday and Friday and alternating Wednesdays. When students are home, they will be Zooming, live into each class. In order to be fair to all of our families, the schedule will be based on a student’s last name, alphabetically.
 - 3.) 5 DAY ALL IN. Because we recognize that the above two models may cause a hardship for some families, especially in regard to child care, VSCA is offering this third option. Students would be following the above hybrid schedule, however rather than remaining at home for their off days, students would come to the VSCA campus and Zoom from a separate location (Gym or MMC chapel). All CDC guidelines would be followed including the wearing of masks and social distancing. This model has an added fee of \$25 per week, per child, in order to help in the added expense of additional staffing.
- Families may change models during the course of the school year. A one week notice is necessary when switching from remote or hybrid to hybrid 5 day or regular hybrid. 24 hour notice is necessary when switching to either hybrid to remote.
- Students will remain with their class (cohort) for the entire day. Teachers will be coming in to each room.
- Students and staff are required to wear masks and remain socially distanced. We recognize that there may be times when this is not possible (for example, a child who needs assistance).
- Students will have PE outside, weather permitting. Students at home will receive activities to do at home. In school Zooming students will participate in exercises or seat work which can be done in place.
- Kindergarten -5th grades will have Art and Music, weekly. Equipment will be available for pick up at the school with a date to be determined. 6th-12th grade students will have Art each week.

- Until further notice, classes will be shortened in length. There will be approximately a 10 minute break between classes. This will allow students who are Zooming more time away from their screens. In class students will have an opportunity to remove their masks during these breaks. They will be required to remain seated, behind their individual desk shield. This will also give students specific times to have a snack.
- Lunch time will be in each individual class. Weather permitting, students will go outside for recess. While we cannot use the current playground equipment, students are encouraged to bring in their own jump rope or other items for individual use. Unfortunately, no sharing can be permitted. Games such as Hop Scotch will be encouraged. Social distancing will continue to be adhered to.
- We are looking in to continuing our in school lunch program on Wednesdays and Fridays. More information to follow.
- No individual lunches will be permitted to be delivered.
- Until further notice, high school students will not be permitted to leave the school for lunch. Weather permitting, we will be doing our best to give all students the opportunity to go outside during their lunch period, with staff supervision.
- Parents should contact their home school's transportation office to find out all pertinent information concerning their child's bus service.
- We are looking to see if bus pickup can begin at 2:30 in order to have a separate parent pickup time.
- The first day of school is September 3, 2020.
- All students will have a live Meet and Greet (following all CDC guidelines) on Tuesday, September 1, 2020. These will also be Zoomed live, for those who are unable to attend in person. All students are welcome to attend live, including those who have selected the remote model. Teachers will also use this time to go over remote learning platforms and other information for parents. A schedule is forthcoming.
- Each student MUST have their own device. Inexpensive Chrome books or laptops are suggested. iPads have limited capabilities and will have challenges accommodating some of the online course work.
- While in school, all students who are Zooming must use noise blocking headphones (as opposed to ear phones). These are necessary in order for students who are Zooming to be able to talk with their teachers during their live class times.
- Ignitia Online will be used for 2 or more courses for all 3-5th students. We have selected this program so that, in the event we must go totally remote as a school, the transition will be less challenging. As long as school is in session live, teachers will also be teaching these subjects face to face.
- Students will need to come to school with their devices fully charged. In order to maintain socially distancing, outlets will not be accessible. Students are encouraged to bring a separate, wireless charger to school.
- All students attending school in person must wear their school uniform. Information will be coming as to whether students at home will also be required to do so.

- VSCA will be following all of the CDC guidelines for school safety, with the addition of all in person students having an individual desk shield. Hand sanitizers will be located in EACH classroom as well as in hallways.
- Only one student will be permitted in the bathroom at a time.
- We are looking at ways to add fun during the week. Be on the lookout for games and challenges!
- For better ventilation purposes, windows and doors will remain open whenever possible.
- NO visitors will be permitted in the school building. Unfortunately, until further notice, this includes parents and guardians.
- We are working on a plan for 6-12th grade students to have the ability to access their lockers at least once during the school day. This is still pending.
- Students are strongly encouraged to bring reusable water bottles or bottles clearly labeled to school. There will be no access to water fountains.
- Parents/Guardians will be required to certify EACH day that their child is able to attend school by completing the "Home Screening Questionnaire."
- Students will be required to wear their formal uniform the first week of school.
- ALL immunizations, medical records, and emergency contact information must be up to date in order for a student to enter the school building. Students will be required to attend school remotely until all required paperwork has been submitted.
- An Isolation room will be provided for students who are ill. Parents will need to pick up their children who are feeling ill as soon as possible.
- Any student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19, will be reported to the Department of Health. The school nurse (who works for the Board of Education, not VSCA), will follow all proper protocol for reporting and contact tracing. All information, including an individual's name, will be kept confidential.
- At the present time, we have not received specific guidelines or procedures to follow should a student or staff member show symptoms of COVID, including the time line for testing, as well a return to school. This information will be given to our families as soon as we have obtained it.
- As of this date, we see very few opportunities for parents to volunteer. Because of these unusual circumstances, parents will not be required to fulfill 10 hours of volunteer service or pay the \$400 non-volunteer fee for the 2020/21 school year. We hope that, should procedures and policies allow for more of an interactive experience for students, that parents will make themselves available should the need arise.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Students must be registered with paid tuition by Wednesday, August 19, 2020 in order to ensure enrollment for the 2020/21 school year. Enrollment is limited this year (with one class already closed). ALSO, please return the parent survey stating which model you have selected for the opening of school.

I hope this answers all of the questions you may have. If you require further assistance, please contact Ms. Hough at (516) 561-6122.

We already know that this will be a school year like no other, BUT that does not mean that God is

limited! He is able to make this a wonderful experience for all of us. Let's be creative! We are no longer in a crisis, we are experiencing change, let's do the best of our ability to go with the flow!

God's Richest Blessings,

Leslie Fowley ,
Superintendent