

VC is *Returning to Learning* 2020-2021

The Valley Central School District is working collaboratively with teachers and administrators to develop a solid plan for the reopening of school in the fall. A VC Reopening Task Force was established to weigh the survey data that was collected and review the New York State guidance documents in order to develop the *VC Returning to Learning* plan. This work began as we were ending the 19-20 school year in June. The full plan will be complete by the end of this week and submitted to the State Education Department, as required. However, we are aware that many of our parents are anxiously awaiting more information; therefore, we are providing this overview of the *VC Returning to Learning* plan.

Valley Central has chosen a hybrid-learning model that will include both in-person classes, remote instruction and online instruction. Although this is not an ideal plan when compared to a normal school year, it will allow Valley Central to provide for adequate social distancing and provide in-person instruction during this difficult and complicated time. Students will begin with two days a week of in-person instruction and three days of on-line/remote instruction. ***An in-depth explanation of the instructional program will be provided by the end of the week.*** If the COVID-19 situation improves, we will move to three days of in-person instruction and then eventually to full time in-person instruction. Alternatively, if the COVID-19 situation worsens, we will move to a full on-line teaching model. It is expected the State will provide benchmarks for making such decisions.

The decision to adopt a hybrid-learning plan was made by the VC Reopening Task Force after weighing data collected from the recent Reopening Schools Surveys and reviewing New York State guidance documents. **Should the guidance or circumstances change, this hybrid model may need to be modified.**

The district has created the following framework for its hybrid model. This is a brief summary of the plan:

- All K-12 students will be divided into two teams: Team 1 and Team 2. Families will all be kept together. A-L will be Team 1 and M-Z will be Team 2, with accommodations being made for blended families.
- **Team 1** will attend school *in-person* on Monday and Thursday. They will be provided with *remote learning* on Tuesday and Friday.
- **Team 2** will attend school *in-person* on Tuesday and Friday. They will be provided with *remote learning* on Monday and Thursday.
- The formulation of these team days will ensure that students will experience in-person; direct instruction from teachers that will be interrupted for not more than four consecutive days, including weekends, while school is in session.
- All students will engage in *online learning* on Wednesdays following a regular schedule while at home.
- Self-Contained (12:1:1, 8:1:2, 6:1:2, Life Skills, Viking Academy and ALC students) will be provided with 5 days of in person instruction.
- Students and staff will be grouped together in such a way that cohorts will intermingle as seldom as possible.
- Students and staff will observe standard social distancing, including the wearing of masks throughout the school day, as per State guidelines.
- Families eligible under State guidelines will be provided with the choice of 5 day a week remote/online learning. A request form is forthcoming.

Daily Team Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Team 1	In-person	Remote	On-line	In-person	Remote
Team 2	Remote	In-person	On-line	Remote	In-person

The reopening plan is due to the State Education Department on July 31, 2020 and will address the following areas: health/safety, facilities, nutrition, transportation, social-emotional well-being, school schedules, attendance, technology, teaching/learning/special education and bilingual education/world languages. Once fully developed, our full VC reopening plan will be shared with parents and guardians. The plan will also take into account the official [New York State Education Department Reopening Guidance](#) document, which was released on July 15th.

It is important to remember that we will need to remain attentive to the changing circumstances of the pandemic, stay flexible, and be responsive as the situation develops and changes. We know that there will be many questions. We hope that once the entire plan is posted on our website, many of those questions will be answered. We will also provide many resources on our website about reopening including a Frequently Asked Question document. We are also investigating ways in which to provide virtual information sessions.

Please know that the safety of our Valley Central students, staff, and the whole community is at the center of every decision we make. Together we have faced and overcome many challenges since the beginning of this pandemic. We are confident that the coming challenges will be met together as we face this school year~Viking Strong.