



Sara Svir
Principal

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August 25, 2020

Dear Vadnais Heights Families,

I am so excited for the 2020-2021 school year. I know it will look and feel different; nonetheless, we fully intend to continue to provide our students with a world class education whether they are in-person or learning from home.

Many have asked, "How will it look and feel different this year?" I hope to answer that question with the most current information in this letter. Please remember that our situation is ever evolving as we learn more about the virus and how to ensure protocols, schedules, and routines are safe for our students and staff.

Please reference our district's [website](#) for the most up to date information regarding our return to school and safety guidelines.

Fall Welcome Conferences -

Teachers are anxious to meet their students and we are coordinating Fall Welcome Conferences to align with your education preference for the start of this school year:

- Families whose children are attending school, Hybrid, will meet in person, with your child's homebase teacher, for approximately 25 minutes. This will allow time to visit and the teacher will conduct a short reading assessment. In addition, students will meet one on one with an intervention teacher for a reading assessment while at school.
- Families whose children are Distance Learning full-time will have a 15 minute, virtual conference to meet and connect with your child's homebase teacher. In addition, they will complete reading assessments virtually with an intervention teacher on another day.

**** Your flexibility is appreciated in the event we need to adjust homebase teachers to balance our class sizes.**

Conferences with classroom teachers, both 25 and 15 minute, will be held on the following dates. There will be directions outside of our school to support social distancing at this event.

1. Wednesday, September 2nd, 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
2. Tuesday, September 8th, 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
3. Friday, September 11th, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

****Full-time distance learning students will be assessed virtually, during the 1st and 2nd week of school, to complete reading assessments.**

Pictures -

Photos will be taken September 28 or 29th. More information will be provided soon.

Academics -

All students will have a learning board that will cover the content areas - reading, writing, math, social emotional, physical education, music, world language, social studies and science. The learning board will be the same for hybrid and distance learning students. Monday - Thursday there will be online, live opportunities for all students who are distance learning and on Fridays there will be some opportunities for online learning. If students miss or aren't able to view the live sessions they will be recorded and available to access at your convenience.

Chromebooks -

Kindergarten and 1st Grade - Chromebooks will be available for every student. The Chromebooks will stay in-school for our young students who are attending in -school or hybrid, and families whose children are full-time distance learning may request a Chromebook to have at home if needed.

2nd - 5th grade students will be required to bring their **fully charged** Chromebooks (and chargers just in case) to and from school each day they are in-person learning.

If your child needs a Chromebook or if you need assistance with technology, email parenttechhelp@isd624.org or call the Parent Tech Help Line at 651-407-7637.

Hybrid/In-person learners:

- Please have your child(ren) bring their **fully charged** Chromebooks to school on their first day of in-person learning, which would be...
 - Group A: Wednesday, September 9th
 - Group B: Thursday, September 10th
- Please make sure your child(ren) also has a pair of earbuds or headphones for use at home and at school each day.

Distance learners:

- Continue to use the Chromebook you were given for distance learning last spring.

****Students may use personal devices for distance learning. Remember that the device needs to have a camera and keyboard. Unfortunately, iPads and Smartphones won't work.**

Schedule -

A Group	B Group	Distance Learning Group
Last name, A - K	Last name, L - Z	Choice
Attend school in-person on Mondays & Wednesdays	Attend school in-person on Tuesdays & Thursdays	Attend school from home Monday - Friday

*First day: Monday, Sept. 14th Grades 1-5	*First day: Tuesday, Sept. 15th Grades K-5	
Distance learning from home on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays	Distance learning from home on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays	Will connect with teacher(s) throughout the week

Teachers will share their daily schedules with you once they have been determined.

Morning Arrival -

In order to adequately social distance our students during arrival, we must stagger the drop-off times and we ask that families follow the protocol to keep everyone safe.

Location #1 for Parent Drop-off - Front of School/Near Flag Pole on East Side		
Kindergarten (Ms. Lapinski & Mrs. Jones)	9:00 - 9:05	Enter the building @ Door C
1st Grade (Mr. Theissen, Mrs. Loch & Mrs. Gaddini)	9:05 - 9:10	Enter the building @ Door D
1st & 2nd Grade (Ms. Church, Ms. Aubin, Mr. Allen & Mrs. Przybylski)	9:10 - 9:15	Enter the building @ Door B

Location #2 for Parent Drop-off - North Parking Lot/Near Learning Commons (Media Ctr.)		
Kindergarten (Mrs. Lane)	9:00 - 9:05	Enter the building @ Door N
3rd Grade (Mrs. Bliss, Ms. Thimjon, Ms. Petrik)	9:05 - 9:10	Enter the building @ Door N
4th Grade (Ms. O'Donovan, Mrs. Jensen, Mrs. Haley)	9:10 - 9:15	Enter the building @ Door L
5th Grade (Mrs. Rider, Ms. Sawtell, Ms. Ludens)	9:10-9:15	Enter the building @ Door M

** If you have children for both drop-off locations, select which location works best to accommodate your family.

** **Absolutely** no parents/guardians or other adult family members will be allowed into the school building during our morning arrivals. We will have extra staff in the building to assist students with getting breakfast (if applicable) and/or to their classrooms.

**If your student walks or bikes to school, they should arrive at the time mentioned above and enter through the appropriate door.

End of the Day Departure -

In order to adequately social distance our students during departure, we must stagger the pick-up times and ask that families strictly adhere to these times.

Location #1 for Parent Pick-up - Front of School/Near Flag Pole on East Side		
Kindergarten (Ms. Lapinski & Mrs. Jones)	2:40-2:50	Exit the building through Door C
1st Grade (Mr. Theissen, Mrs. Loch & Mrs. Gaddini)	2:45-2:55	Exit the building through Door D
1st & 2nd Grade (Ms. Church, Ms. Aubin, Mr. Allen & Mrs. Przybylski)	2:50-3:00	Exit the building through Door B

Location #2 for Parent Pick-up - North Parking Lot/Near Learning Commons (Media Ctr.)		
Kindergarten (Mrs. Lane)	2:40-2:50	Exit the building through Door N
3rd Grade (Mrs. Bliss, Ms. Thimjon, Ms. Petrik)	2:40-2:50	Exit the building through Door N
4th Grade (Ms. O'Donovan, Mrs. Jensen, Mrs. Haley)	2:45-2:55	Exit the building through Door L
5th Grade (Mrs. Rider, Ms. Sawtell, Ms. Ludens)	2:50-3:00	Exit the building through Door M

*****Absolutely* no parents/guardians or other adult family members will be allowed into the school building during our afternoon departure. Students will be escorted out to the sidewalk to meet the adult waiting in the vehicle. Adults - please stay in your car.**

****If a family arrives early, blocking traffic, you will be asked to exit the parking lot and re-enter at your child's pick up time.**

****Families may also be asked to park if their child is delayed in the building to allow for a constant flow of traffic.**

****If your student walks or bikes home, they will be dismissed at the same time as their class and the expectation will be that they leave our school grounds immediately.**

Breakfast -

Students who have breakfast at school will continue to receive that service. Breakfast will be delivered to the classrooms.

Lunch -

- Students will eat with their class either in their classrooms or in the cafeteria. Classes will rotate weekly so all students will have an opportunity to eat in the cafeteria.
 - While in the cafeteria, students will...
 - thoroughly wash hands prior to going
 - collect a pre-packaged meal or eat their home lunch
 - have assigned tables for their class
 - tables will be designated for students with food allergies
 - sit with one seat in between each other
 - sit on one side of the table
 - thoroughly wash hands before returning to class
 - In between classes visiting the cafeteria...
 - staff will thoroughly sanitize surfaces of tables
 - While in the classrooms, students will...
 - thoroughly wash hands prior to going to the cafeteria to collect their pre-packaged meal or their home lunch
 - eat at their designated desk or table in the classroom
 - thoroughly wipe down and sanitize their desk or table
 - thoroughly wash their hands after all of the above

Recess -

- Students will be assigned to a two to three classroom cohort, depending on class size, for outdoor recess activities. There will be one adult assigned to each cohort
- Indoor recess:
 - The staff responsible for supervising the cohort will also do so during inside recess in case of inclement weather. In this case,
 - the students will remain in their classrooms.
 - The cohorts of classrooms are next to each other, which makes it easy for the supervisor to monitor classrooms to ensure social distancing.

Daily Routines -

- **Masks** - ALL students and staff will be required to wear facial masks or other coverings (such as gaiters, bandanas, etc.,) during the school day and on the buses. Staff will also have the option to wear a clear face shield in addition to masks. Students can also wear a face shield in addition to their mask, but it is not required.
 - We will have several opportunities where students will be able to remove their facial coverings throughout the school day:
 - Lunch (20 min)
 - Recess (20 min)
 - Outdoor learning with their classes (time will vary)
 - PE (25 min)
 - Only students with severe medical conditions, as directed from a physician, will be exempt from facial coverings.
 - The state will supply all students in Minnesota with one cloth face mask which will be distributed at school at a date yet to be determined.
- **Social Distancing** - Staff will teach and guide students in how to maintain a 6ft distance from others. We will need your help in engaging in conversations with your child(ren) about social distancing and its importance.
 - Desks/tables will be placed 6 feet apart in classrooms.
 - When students need to walk through the hallways and/or stand in lines, staff will teach and guide students how to stay 6 feet apart.
- **Hand-washing** - Staff will remind students to wash their hands before and after the following activities:
 - Using classroom materials (books, games, math manipulatives, etc.)
 - Music, PE, World Language
 - Recess
 - Lunch
 - Leaving/returning the classroom for any reason

Instructional Day for At-School Learning -

What Might My Day Look Like?	
Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grades	3rd, 4th & 5th Grades
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● My parent/guardian checks me for signs of COVID. If I do not have symptoms or a fever, I get ready for school. <p>Bus Pickup</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● I wear my mask or other facial covering..● I load the bus as directed by the bus driver.● I will sit next to my brother and sister.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● My parent/guardian checks me for signs of COVID. If I do not have symptoms or a fever, I get ready for school. <p>Bus Pickup</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● I wear my mask or other facial covering..● I load the bus as directed by the bus driver.● I sit next to my brother and sister.

- I stay in my assigned seat.
- The bus windows are open when the weather is nice. I follow the bus driver's directions.

Parent Drop Off

- I wear my mask or other facial covering..
- My parent/guardian drops me off at school.
- I go to my assigned door.

Arrival at School

- I wear my mask/facial covering before I go in the building.
- I enter my designated entrance doing my best to keep apart from others.
- I walk directly to my classroom and get a warm welcome from my teacher.
- I wash my hands in my classroom or use hand sanitizer.
- I put my coat and backpack away in my locker.
- I make sure my mask/facial covering is on correctly.
- I sit at my desk or at my table spot.
- If I have breakfast, I eat breakfast in my classroom with my classmates.

Morning Routine

- I sit at my desk/table that is spread out from my classmates.
- I start my day by sharing my feelings and how I am doing.
- My teacher helps me make connections with my classmates.
- My teacher guides my class in setting learning goals for the day.

Morning & Afternoon Learning Block

- I work on Reading & Math.
- I write about what I am learning. The manipulatives and learning tools that I use are cleaned and sanitized.
- I share my thinking using a white board and chart paper so that classmates can see it from their seats.
- I use Seesaw to help support my learning. My teacher makes sure I understand the strategies and how to articulate my thinking as we problem solve together.
- If I use a technology device, it is cleaned

- I stay in my assigned seat.
- The bus windows are open when the weather is nice. I follow the bus driver's directions.

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- I wash my hands in my classroom or use hand sanitizer.
- I put my coat and backpack away in my classroom.
- I make sure my mask is on correctly.
- I sit at my desk or at my table spot.
- If I have breakfast, I eat breakfast in my classroom with my classmates.

Morning Routine

- I sit at my desk/table that is spread out from my classmates.
- I start my day by sharing my feelings and how I am doing.
- My teacher helps me with social & emotional support strategies.
- My teacher guides my class in setting learning goals for the day.

Morning & Afternoon Learning Blocks

- I work on Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies.
- I write about what I am learning. The manipulatives and learning tools that I use are cleaned and sanitized.
- I share my thinking using a white board and chart paper so that classmates can see it from their seats.
- I use Seesaw and other technology to help support my learning. My teacher makes sure I understand the strategies and how to articulate my thinking as we problem solve together.

<p>and sanitized before anyone else uses it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether we are discussing learning in small groups or as a whole class, we stay as far apart as possible to stay healthy. • I have movement breaks throughout the day, following social distancing as possible. • If I need to get up to get materials or go to the bathroom, I follow the routine my teacher set, and I always wear my mask or facial covering. <p>Lunch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I wash my hands before and after lunch. • If I am eating food from the cafeteria, I will walk in a socially distanced line to the cafeteria to grab my lunch. • If I bring lunch from home, I will walk with my class to the cafeteria and wait patiently while the other kids get their meal. • Some days we will eat in our classrooms and other days we will eat in the cafeteria. • After I finish eating, I will clean my area and I will throw my lunch debris into the assigned trash can. <p>Recess</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I wash my hands before and after recess. • I stay with my class and the other class that joins us and follow the supervisor's directions. • Our class will play in different areas each day, and we will stay with our supervisor at all times. • I will make sure I am safe while playing with my friends. <p>Specialists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each day we have one Specialist (PE, Music, World Language), they will come to our classroom and/or go outside. <p>Heading Home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I follow the pickup plans for the end of the day that my teacher tells me. • I wear my mask or o. • I load the bus as directed by the bus driver. • I will sit next to my brother and sister. • I stay in my assigned seat. • The bus windows are open when the weather is nice. I follow the bus driver's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If I use a technology device, it is cleaned and sanitized before anyone else uses it. • Whether we are discussing learning in small groups or as a whole class, we stay as far apart as possible to stay healthy. • I have movement breaks throughout the day, social distancing as possible. • If I need to get up to get materials or go to the bathroom, I follow the routine my teacher set, and I always wear my mask. <p>Lunch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I wash my hands before and after lunch. • If I am eating food from the cafeteria, I will walk in a socially distanced line to the cafeteria to grab my lunch. • If I bring lunch from home, I will walk with my class to the cafeteria and wait patiently while the other kids get their meal. • Some days we will eat in our classrooms and other days we will eat in the cafeteria. • After I finish eating, I will clean my area and I will throw my lunch debris into the assigned trash can. <p>Recess</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I wash my hands before and after recess. • I stay with my class and the other class that joins us and follow the supervisor's directions. • Our class will play in different areas each day, and we will stay with our supervisor at all times. • I will make sure I am safe while playing with my friends. <p>Specialists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each day we have one Specialist (PE, Music, World Language), they will come to our classroom and/or go outside. <p>Heading Home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I follow the pickup plans for the end of the day that my teacher tells me. • I wear my mask or other facial covering. • I load the bus as directed by the bus driver. • I sit next to my brother and sister. • I stayed in my assigned seat. • The bus windows are open when the weather is nice. I follow the bus driver's
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<p>directions.</p> <p>How My School Keeps Me Safe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have as much space as possible between myself and others. • My class' movement is scheduled to minimize the number of people in common areas at one time. • I eat breakfast and lunch in classrooms when eating at school. • I learn and practice safety routines and frequent hand washing. • I have individual spaces or containers for belongings. • I have individual supplies that are not shared. • If there are supplies that I share, they are cleaned between use. 	<p>directions.</p> <p>How My School Keeps Me Safe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have as much space as possible between myself and others. • My class' movement is scheduled to minimize the number of people in common areas at one time. • I learn and practice safety routines and frequent hand washing. • I have individual spaces or containers for belongings. • I have individual supplies that are not shared. • If there are supplies that I share, they are cleaned between use by each student.
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Tier 1 Programming for K-6 Children of Critical Workers -

- Tier 1 programming will cover the full school day hours on your child's non-classroom days.
 - Elementary School: 9:00 am - 3:40 pm
 - Middle School: 8:00 am - 3:00 pm
 - Programming during this time will be FREE to these students.
- Pre-registration is required for each day the student would need care on their non-classroom days. You will have to register on the [Eleyo](#) website.
 - Deadline for registration to start the first day of school is Wednesday, August 26.
 - Parents will be required to submit an employment verification letter for student(s) to attend.
- Full details and more information is available on our website.

Resources:

- [Tier I Program District Website](#)
 - Recorded registration videos, including closed captioning, are available on this website.
- [Eleyo Registration Website](#)
- Xue Xiong, District Center Administrative Assistant | 651-407-7501 | communityservices@isd624.org
- Stacy Bertelsen, OST Administrative Assistant | 651-407-7511 | communityservicesbilling@isd624.org

Backpacks & School Supplies -

We are fortunate to have received many donations of student backpacks and school supplies. If you need these items for your children, they will be available at Fall Welcome Conferences.

Teacher Assignments for 2020-2021 -

Many of you are anxious to know your child's teacher and that information will be available online this Friday, 9/28, after 2 PM. Once you know your child's homebase teacher, you'll be able to sign up for their conference at a time that is best for your family.

Annual Update: Required for ALL Students -

We need every family to complete the Annual Update for each student attending school. If you've completed it, thank you, or you may click on this [link](#) to find the annual update information. If you need assistance completing the annual update, please come to our school office Monday-Friday between 9 and 12 or 1 and 3.

I have provided a lot of content and I hope this has helped to answer questions. It may be helpful to hang onto this Email so you may go back and review the information as needed.

The most recent change is the date that our school year will begin -

Monday, September 14th is the first day of school for the 2020-2021 school year.

If your child attends on "A" day they will be in school on the 14th. If your child attends on "B" day they will be at home, distance learning, on the 14th. If your child is a full-time distance learning student they will begin on Monday, September 14th. The preschool program, at our school, also begins on 9/14/2020.

At any time, if you have questions or concerns please contact me through Email, phone or we can meet for an in-person visit. Each and every day we receive new and improved information and we will continue to make changes that keep students safe and academically challenged.

2020-2021 may be starting off in a unique fashion yet together we will have a great school year!

Sincerely,



Sara A. Svir



Principal