



January 12, 2021

Dear Valley Catholic School Families,

Over the past few weeks, since Governor Brown announced substantial changes for schools to return to in-person learning, Valley Catholic School leadership has developed a coordinated plan to have our elementary, middle and high schools transition back to campus at the start of the second semester, January 25, 2021. Last week each principal shared the specifics of their school's plan with families and, because our schools are so interconnected, I'd like to provide you with a campus-wide view of how Valley Catholic will return to in-person learning. Each school is taking a phased approach, which allows students and teachers to get acclimated to a very different school environment with safety protocols in place. Then we will evaluate the success of each phase before proceeding to the next. As you will see, we have three distinctly different Return to School plans that best meet the needs of each individual school and its students, along with careful coordination of campus resources to make sure that all schools' needs are met.

Elementary School Plan

VCES will welcome students back for classroom learning beginning January 25:

Phase 1 - Half-day Hybrid (2 weeks, January 25 – February 5):

- Students attend ½ day of school, 2 days per week, the rest of the week will be digital learning

Phase 2 - Full-day Hybrid (2 weeks, February 8 – February 19):

- Students attend school all day, 2 days per week, the rest of the week will be digital learning

Phase 3 – Full return to classroom learning (beginning February 22):

- All students attend school all day, 5 days per week

Middle School Plan

VCMS students will return to campus beginning January 25, using a subject-area hybrid schedule:

Phase 1 - January 25 – February 19:

- Continue the current Blue Day / White Day block schedule (4 class periods per day)
- Core academic subjects remain on the comprehensive distance learning platform (English, Math, Science, Social Studies)
- Each grade comes to campus two half-days per week for P.E. and Religion classes.
- Focus on social-emotional, physical and spiritual needs of students, as well as building community and friendships among classmates

Phase 2 - February 22 – March 19:

- Under development, will be based on experiences gained during Phase 1

Phase 3 - Beginning March 29:

- Plan is to have all students attend school on-campus 5 days per week, on a modified schedule (TBD)

High School Plan

VCCHS students will return to campus beginning January 25, using a hybrid, block schedule:

Phase 1 - 3 weeks, January 25 – February 12:

- Continue the current Blue Day / White Day block schedule (4 class periods per day)
- All classes remain on the comprehensive distance learning platform
- In-person activity blocks occur 2 afternoons per week for academic, co-curricular, community building and club activities.

Phase 2 - 3 weeks, February 16 – March 5:

- Half-day hybrid schedule. Students attend classes in-person 2 half-days per week and digitally 2 half-days per week. No classes meet on Wednesdays for teachers to host office hours for remote learners and for faculty professional development time.

Phase 3 - March 8 – March 19:

- Full-day hybrid schedule. Students attend classes in-person 2 days per week and digitally 2 days per week. No classes meet on Wednesdays for teachers to host office hours for remote learners and for faculty professional development time.

At all levels, digital options will be provided so students who do not feel comfortable with in-person learning can continue to attend classes remotely. Time is built into the schedules for teachers to connect with off-site learners.

All health, safety and cohort requirements from the Oregon Department of Education will be strictly adhered to. This includes quarantining groups of students and any teachers who may have been impacted if there is an exposure to COVID-19, which would require them to learn/teach from home during the quarantine period. Additionally, time has been built into these plans for teachers and students to get acclimated to the new procedures. While we are looking forward to having students and teachers return to in-person learning, it's important to note that it will be a very different experience for all of us. We appreciate everyone's understanding and support as we take these steps toward being back at school.

Your child's principal and I are happy to answer your questions about how these Return to School plans will affect your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Matcovich', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John Matcovich
VCS President