

Reopening Updates for Parents and Families

Dear VPA Families,

We understand that you likely have many questions as the new school year is upon us and we still find ourselves in the middle of a health crisis. The purpose of this communication is to make you aware of our plans for this school year and ensure you understand the options you have as we prepare to provide your students with the outstanding education you expect.

First Day of School and Distance Learning Plan

Our first official day of school will be **Wednesday, August 26, 2020**, but it will look different because we will be starting the year with distance/online learning as opposed to welcoming students back to our classrooms. We have approved a [Distance Learning Plan](#) to provide access to our successful digital learning platform and ensure the needs of all students are met. We will plan to reopen for full in-person instruction as soon as the school determines that it is safe to reopen, having taken into account [ADHS benchmarks](#) and the advice of local health officials. You can expect to receive regular communication regarding the status of reopening plans as they progress.

Free On-Site Learning Opportunities and Support Services

The School intends to support its community and families by providing free on-site learning opportunities and support services to students who need a place to go during the day starting **August 17, 2020**. In order to do so, in addition to making space available at the school building itself, we have partnered with Educational Options Foundation to make its [learning center facilities](#) available to students during this time. Please contact the school if you believe your student(s) will need access to on-site services so that we can direct you to the most convenient location. Services will remain available through and beyond the first day of school on August 26, 2020 when distance learning begins until the school reopens for in-person instruction. We will be implementing health protocols outlined in our [COVID-19 Mitigation Plan and Face Covering Policy](#) to help maintain a safe, healthy school environment for students, families, and staff.

On-site services will be offered Monday through Friday during normal school hours, starting August 17. From August 17-25, prior to the start of distance learning, we will provide supervision for students in a safe environment and will offer opportunities for them to prepare for the start of the school year.

Beginning August 26, the first day of school and distance learning, services will be expanded to include:

- Access to technology to participate in distance learning
- Teacher-led tutoring for students who are behind academically
- Paraprofessional academic support services

- Support for students with disabilities
- Support for English language learners

Attendance Requirements

Please note that despite the temporary need to deliver instruction via distance learning, [mandatory state attendance requirements](#) will apply to students beginning August 26, 2020. Attendance will be tracked via teachers, administrators and support staff communicating multiple times daily with students and parents via online Connector messaging, phone calls and Zoom conferencing to ensure students remain engaged for the full school day and to track progress in their classes. All of those interactions will be noted in the Connector to establish a record of contact and attendance. If on a given day the school is unable to establish contact with a student/parent and the student fails to show progress in their classes, the student will be marked absent for that day. Additionally, students who are present for on-site support services on a given school day will be considered in attendance.

We encourage you to contact us with any questions or concerns and we will also be reaching out to all families directly to find out what your needs are at this time and how we can help meet them.

Thank you for your support and partnership - let's make this school year a great one!