



**West Valley School**  
Above and Beyond-  
The West Valley Way

8/12/21

Dear WV Staff and Families:

We have been busy preparing for the 2020-21 school year and are looking forward to starting the school year as normal as possible. West Valley School will be back to full-time, in-person learning to start the school year. We will not be offering any remote learning to start the school year and we will continuously evaluate our need for remote learning throughout the school year. Our staff is committed to providing a top notch education for the students at WV and we will be welcoming families back into the school too.

We all understand the struggles that have come with the pandemic and our number one concern at WV is to keep all stakeholders as safe and healthy as possible as we embark on this new school year. We will continue to monitor the Covid-19 cases in the Flathead Valley and take every precaution we can to ensure that all stakeholders are safe at WV and while riding our buses. Here are the latest plans related to the opening of school as it relates to Covid-19.

During our June regularly scheduled board meeting the W/VS Board voted unanimously to remove the mask mandate and make face coverings optional. We transitioned from Phase II to phase III of the District's reopening plan-  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fRjj63APX66z1fkL5bv4lN-FiVHTQBUGHA\\_Tl976v44/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fRjj63APX66z1fkL5bv4lN-FiVHTQBUGHA_Tl976v44/edit).

At the recently held August board meeting, the board voted to remain on Phase III for the start of the school year.

- Masks will be optional at school
- The CDC is currently recommending indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students and visitors, regardless of vaccination status. West Valley School District will not be mandating face coverings at this time.
- School buses are considered public transportation and everyone who rides the bus will be expected to wear a face covering. This is a federal law for all public forms of transportation. Please make sure your child has a face covering if they intend to ride the school bus to and from school, on field trips, or any extra-curricular event.

- Please be mindful that it may not be your preference to wear a face covering at school, others will and we should be respectful of each individual's decision. The District will not tolerate any harassment and or bullying as it relates to face coverings at school.
- We will continue to mitigate the spread of the Covid -19 virus and other communicable diseases at school in the following ways:
  - ❖ Encourage vaccinations(Not mandated)
  - ❖ Encourage all stakeholders to wear a mask, especially those with underlying health concerns
  - ❖ Maintain social distancing guidelines
  - ❖ Encourage good hygiene throughout the day
  - ❖ Looking into the possibility of rapid testing for those who want it
  - ❖ Continue to encourage anyone feeling ill to stay home
  - ❖ We will isolate and quarantine, working with the FCHD

Students and staff will continue to follow the Covid-19 protocols for quarantines. [Quarantine Statement](#) These rules were established by the CDC and required by the FCHD.

We appreciate your full support as we continue to provide the highest quality education for the students at West Valley! Let's everyone do our part to help make this school year as safe and healthy for all of our stakeholders as possible. Thanks for your support of the WVS and we will see you very soon!

With Appreciation,

Cal Ketchum

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