



SUSAN GREY, PK-12 Principal

Valley Falls High School
(785) 945-3229

Valley Falls Elementary
(785) 945-3221

Unified District

No. 338

**VALLEY FALLS PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**

700 Oak Street

Valley Falls, KS 66088

Dr. Volora Hanzlicek, Superintendent

(785) 945-3214

Fax (785) 945-6780

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3/12/2020

Dear Dragon PRIDE family,

In the past few days, many questions have arisen in response to the recent spread of COVID-19. We at USD 338 are taking this situation seriously but need everyone to work together as we consider how to make sure the health of our students and employees are a priority during this pandemic. It is important to remain calm throughout our work as children sense anxiety in adults. We want our students to understand the seriousness of the situation without creating undue anxiety.

The district will be working closely with [Jefferson County Health Department](#), [Kansas Department of Health and Environment \(KDHE\)](#), [Center for Disease Control and Protection \(CDC\)](#), and Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) to remain current on specific guidance for schools. Based on the current recommendations, we will be implementing our influenza protocols and adding a few additional disinfecting procedures. Some of the protocols are to put a special cleaning emphasis on surfaces that are touched by humans daily (classrooms, nurse's offices, buses, and locker rooms). Door handles, counters, desks, and banisters are top priorities during our disinfecting protocols.

As COVID-19 is demonstrating a rapid development across our nation, it is important to remember just as we do during the influenza and cold season. Provided below is a summary of how we can protect ourselves from the [CDC](#) (What you need to know):

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

If our district receives a notice of a confirmed case involving a staff member or student, the administration will communicate with parents and we will work with the Jefferson County Health Department to implement their recommendations immediately. Until that point, we will work hard to keep our students and staff safe through preventative measures within the district buildings and busses.

We ask that our parents/guardians are vigilant in watching for symptoms in your child(ren). Please notify the building secretary if your student is ill and state the nature of the illness. Children with fevers should not be sent to school and should be fever-free without fever-reducing medication for 24 or more hours before returning. Please do not send children to

school if they are ill. We also ask parents/guardians to refrain from entering our building if you are ill.

As always, any parent/guardian of a student has the right to keep their child(ren) home if concerns exist regarding the child's health. We are in constant communication with state and local officials and remain attentive so we can provide the most current information as possible. If recommendations from health officials change, we will notify our school community of those changes immediately.

Respectfully,

Dr. Volora A. Hanzlicek

Dr. Volora A. Hanzlicek
USD #338 Superintendent