

**Unified District No. 338  
VALLEY FALLS PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS**

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July 27, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I have been waiting for nearly 6 months to say we are returning to school! Staff is working hard to create with your support and input a plan that prioritizes the health and safety of our staff, students, and community. Please be patient as it takes time to create a plan that provides various scenarios to help meet the needs of each of our students and their families. It will be presented to the public on July 31st through our website and social media with board approval to follow in the next week. As you wait, here is some information you need to consider as you enroll your student(s).

**First and foremost, the first day of school has been pushed back to August 26.** It will remain a half-day as originally planned. The curriculum and instructional side of the Dragon PRIDE plan will consist of three learning environments that will be utilized to deliver instruction based on the Kansas State Department of Education guidance. These include students in the building, hybrid, and remote. You as parents/guardians will have a choice of your child(ren) being in the building or in a remote instructional setting. This will be a question on the enrollment form. The deadline for making this decision will be **August 7 at 4:00 PM.** Basically, the two options include: 1.) Send students to school according to the learning environment status based on the current county and local health official recommendations; 2.) Register for your student to attend school remotely with his/her teacher (students will be required to engage in instruction for 6 hours per day from home). In remote instruction, students will be asked to engage digitally with the teacher and their classmates at specific times during the day and complete assignments through Google Classroom off-screen for the remainder of the 6 hours. Parents/Guardians will be asked to sign off on the instructional hours each day. This is a state requirement for the district to receive full funding for a full-time student.

Choosing different models to meet the needs of your children will be permitted. Any family who does not feel comfortable returning to school buildings has the option to learn from home by registering for the remote learning choice. This remote learning choice will be a **commitment of one nine weeks**, and parents will have the option to return to on-site learning at the beginning of the next nine weeks with a minimum of two weeks' notice.

The teachers will need to plan differently for each student and moving from remote to the classroom creates not just a challenge for the teacher but a domino effect in numbers and the ability to social distance in some areas of the building. Thus once the decision is made to go remote it will be for a minimum of nine weeks. However, if a parent or guardian chooses to move from on-site learning to remote, we will allow this at any time. They will then be a remote student and will need to follow the required guidelines of the remote learner.

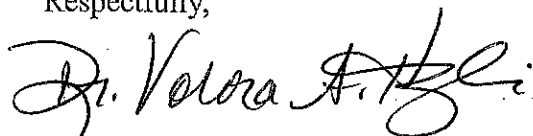
**Walk-in enrollment is August 4 but online enrollment opens on July 29. We request that you have enrollment completed by August 7 at 4:00 PM.** Please be respectful of the deadline as we will use the numbers to determine class sizes and patterns for moving students through the building. It will be important to respect distancing and knowing the numbers of students within the building will help us be more successful in our planning.

In the first days of school, our staff will be completing an assessment to identify what areas each student may need to strengthen. Support services will be designed for individual students with IEPs and Health plans to provide additional targeted instruction in their areas of specific needs.

Families can apply for free or reduced-price school meals at any point during the school year. This is a long-standing rule to reflect the many changes in families' economic circumstances that can occur. This practice applies to households with furloughed employees. To apply, families can contact Brenda Lloyd at 945- 3229. The process is confidential. Just mail or bring your application (in a sealed envelope) to USD #338 Valley Falls Schools, Attn.: Brenda Lloyd, 700 Oak Street, Valley Falls, KS 66088. It can be turned in at any office.

It may be a unique year, one that we have not experienced before in education. USD #338 will be working hard to turn that unique experience into the quality education you have grown to expect from our district. Thank you for trusting your precious children in our hands!

Respectfully,



Dr. Volora A. Hanzlicek