



VCS FAQs

Updated 8.21.20

****All information is subject to change based on current and future conditions as well as updates from state and local health agencies****

GENERAL

Q: When will a final decision be made about the reopening plan for VCS?

A: There is a Board Meeting on August 10th. An announcement will follow afterwards. As of August 11, 2020, VCS families were given 2 options to select for their family. All information was sent out via email and posted on the [VCS website](#).

Q: Where can I find updates about the school?

A: Updates can be found on all of our social media platforms.

[VCS website](#), [YouTube](#), and [Facebook](#)

Q: When is the start of the 2020-2021 school year?

A: The first day of instruction will be Monday, September 8th for both in-person and distance learners. The calendar is published on our [VCS website](#).

Q: Will the school calendar be adjusted to reflect the 2 week delay, for instance will holidays and breaks still be observed?

A: Yes, the calendar can be found on our [VCS website](#).

Q: Does the school calendar apply to Lewis and PG?



A: Yes, there may be a few days that may change here and there, however, major items such as end of grading period and report card days, etc. does not change between campuses.

Q: What is the deadline to choose the distance learning option?

A: Parents who want their children to learn from home, must register for distance learning by Wednesday, August 17th. All forms were due on or before this date. If you missed completing the link, please call the office at 330-788-8088 with your choice as soon as possible.

QUESTIONS FOR IN-PERSON LEARNING

FACE COVERING POLICY

Face masks/shields will be *mandatory* for all students, unless there is an underlying medical condition or disability.

Age appropriate “mask breaks” will be granted by district personnel.

Students **MUST** wear a face covering on all district-provided transportation and during the school day.

Exceptions to the face mask policy will be taken on an individual basis.

All Staff will be required to wear face coverings (masks/face shields). There can be flexibility in this requirement when staff are working alone in their office or classroom.

Q: How will the lack of air-conditioning in the elementary building be handled?

A: That’s one of the reasons the District delayed the start of school by two weeks; to get beyond the very hot days that would make it too uncomfortable with face coverings. Should extreme temperatures be forecasted in September, we may accommodate that by calling for an “Extreme Heat” day. Under a “Heat Day” certain buildings would be closed for in person learning, and students would instead participate via distance learning that day.



Q: Does my child(ren) have to wear a face covering for the entire school day?

A: No. When social distancing cannot be maximized, facial coverings will be on. We will strive to find ways to provide breaks for students throughout the day. When social distancing can be maximized, facial coverings may be relaxed. For younger students, we will continue to explore ways to provide more breaks during the day.

Q: Will masks be provided by the district?

A: We are asking parents to provide masks for their children, but the district will have masks on hand, for students who may forget to bring one or lose theirs during the day.

Q: Will there be before care once school is phased back in?

A: At this point with social distancing guidelines, we are unsure. More details will come when phased-in learning gets closer.

CLEANING

Q: What supplies will be available in classrooms?

A: Every classroom will have a hand sanitizer dispenser, paper towels, and cleaning supplies for desk cleaning.

Q: What other measures are being done to keep our schools clean?

A: High touch areas will get particular attention throughout the day, and hand sanitizer will be available for all students to use in classrooms and stationed throughout the school buildings in high traffic areas. The District will use anti-microbial sprayers to clean targeted areas and items that are difficult to wipe individually.

GYM/RECESS/SPECIALS

Q: Will there be a gym class?

A: Yes, but not traditional large group classes.



Q: Will there be recess for K-3?

A: Yes, but it may be a reduced version of what students are used to because of social distancing rules.

MEDICAL

Q: Will there be temperature checks for students when they enter the building each morning?

A: Yes. Parents are responsible for temperature checks and a health assessment before they send their child to school in the morning.

Q: What happens if a child falls ill during the school day?

A: If your student is exhibiting any signs of illness, it is best to keep him/her home and if well enough, they may make up assignments via distance learning. If a student exhibits signs of illness or a temperature above 100°F during the school day, the student will be sent to the nurse and must return home. Parents should plan for multiple, pre-arranged methods of getting a student home from school should they become ill or exhibit symptoms.

Q: If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, what happens?

A: We will collaborate with the Youngstown City Health Department and are required to report known positive test results to that entity. We will follow the Youngstown City Health Department's guidelines and we have contagion spraying equipment for any enhanced cleaning measures.

Q: How will I be informed if a teacher or student tests positive for COVID-19?

A: The District will work collaboratively with the Youngstown City Health Department, which will determine what steps to take if a teacher or student tests positive for COVID-19.



TRANSPORTATION

New for 2020-2021 school year: All parents/guardians picking up students from VCS Central Campus must display a VCS pick-up tag. If you missed VCS transportation day on July 31st, and are in need of a parking tag, you may contact Heidi Swiger, Operations Coordinator, at hswiger@valleychristianschools.net or via phone at 330-788-8088 ext. 118. The first tag is free.

A second tag is available for a cost of 5.00. Payment may be made via cash, check, or credit card. Make all checks payable to Valley Christian Schools.

Parents must comply with all COVID-19 bussing protocols. More details to come.

Q: Will bussing be available for my child(ren)?

A: Per Youngstown City School District (YCSD), there will be bussing for students with guidelines. If you missed the VCS Transportation day on July 31st, and need to register for bussing or confirm that your child(ren) are on the bussing list, you may contact Heidi Swiger, Operations Coordinator, at hswiger@valleychristianschools.net or via phone at 330-788-8088 ext. 118.

Q: What bussing options are available if my child lives in another school district, i.e. Boardman or Austintown?

A: Boardman Local School district will bus students. Austintown does not provide bussing. There are daycares in the area that provide transportation. It is the parents' responsibility to make those necessary arrangements.

Q: Will students be required to wear face-masks on busses.

A: Yes. All students will be required to wear facemask when riding YCSD busses.

DISTANCE LEARNING

Option #1 – 100% Distance Learning

Distance learning this fall is much different than what you experienced in the spring. Attendance will be taken and grades will be given. If you chose Option 1, this will be the way your student



learns until January 22, 2021. Students selecting this option are required to attend daily, scheduled sessions of live instruction via Zoom during the normal school day hours of **8:45am-3:30pm**.

Option #2 – Phased in learning back into the VCS campus locations

If you chose Option 2, your student will return to school slowly as we integrate small groups of students into the building. VCS will assess the stability of our school community and seek guidance from local health officials before bringing students back on campus in any phase of this plan. The current plan is to begin that on October 19, 2020. More details will follow as the 1st 9 week period gets underway. Students will begin with Distance Learning and be expected to attend Live Zoom sessions during the school hours of 8:45am-3:30pm. Continue to check your email and the [VCS website](#) for more information.

Q: Will VCS still receive the scholarship tuition for my student?

A: Yes, nothing has changed with any of the state sponsored scholarship programs.

Q: Will students be put in a separate area and quarantined if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID?

A: Yes, per [CDC](#) guidelines, there will be a safe space for students to quarantine until a parent/guardian picks them up. Please plan ahead for a designated person who would be able to pick them up.

Q: Will I be able to take the same classes via distance learning as I would in school?

A: Yes, for the most part. There may be some electives or special classes that would be difficult to offer via distance learning.

Q: Will there be honors classes offered in the distance learning option?

A: Yes, advanced classes will be available through distance learning.

Q: If I choose distance learning, will technology be provided?

A: Yes. We will work with families individually to make sure they have the correct technology. There will be resource pick-up days at all three VCS campuses: Central,



Pleasant Grove, and Lewis Center). This will include forms such as uniform purchase and Free and Reduced Lunch forms. More information to follow. Be sure to continue to monitor your email and the VCS website for additional details.

Q: Will the students have to wear the VCS shirts when they are logged on to their live distance learning sessions?

A: Students are not required to wear the VCS uniform, however, students should get up and get dressed and be ready to learn at the designated times each day. Those times are 8:45am – 3:30pm.

Q: Will distance learning follow a daily schedule?

A: Yes. Our goal is for distance learners to have the same educational opportunities as our in-person learners. There will be dedicated hours for distance learners and staff in respect to both students and staff that encourage a normal school routine. However, this may or may not follow the regular building schedule. Plan on your student attending classes between the hours of 8:45am-3:30pm. They will receive a schedule of when they are to attend live sessions on the scheduled pick-up day for their grade level.

Q: Will there be live sessions via Zoom with teachers, and how often will they be?

A: That will vary according to building and grade level.

Q: If you choose option #1, how would kids be phased back into school once the first semester is over?

A: Families choosing Option 1 are committing to distance learning until January 22, 2021. VCS administration will evaluate the situation as we continue through the year. If conditions are still a concern for some families, and distance learning is working well for them, admin may decide to extend the option for the 3rd quarter. If students are ready to phase in for the 2nd semester, we will have a procedure for them to do so.

Q: What if families do not have Internet access? Will VCS provide hotspots?



A: VCS is looking into grant money from the CARES ACT that may be able to assist with internet access. Please let the school office know if you are in need of this assistance. More information to follow.

Q: Will my child(ren) be able to complete the entire year via distance learning?

A: When phased re-opening takes place, if parents decide staying at home is best for their family structure, that option will be available. More details to follow as the school year begins.

Q: Will VCS still receive the scholarship tuition for my student?

A: Yes, nothing has changed with any of the state sponsored scholarship programs.

Q: Will students be put in a separate area and quarantined if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID?

A: Yes, per [CDC](#) guidelines, there will be a safe space for students to quarantine until a parent/guardian picks them up. Please plan ahead for a designated person who would be able to pick them up.

Q: Will class sizes be reduced?

A: Based on parent surveys, we predict that approximately 40% of our families will choose distance learning, thus reducing class sizes.

Q: How will social distancing be accomplished when possible?

A: When phased-in learning begins, VCS will follow social distancing guidelines, however, to expect 6 feet of social distancing at all times is NOT practical. The district is planning to purchase Plexiglass barriers to assist in situations where the optimal 6 feet social distancing is not possible.

CAFETERIA

Distance Learning Lunch Policy



Per Federal guidelines schools are required to offer lunches to all students per their free, reduced and paid eligibility. Breakfast \$1.25/.25 per meal. Lunch \$2.75/.40 per meal.

Lunch pick up for resource week 9-8-20 is as follows: Pick-up at Door 121 on High school side

- Tue 9-8-20 PG/Lewis/Central at CENTRAL campus 8:00am to 9:00pm
- Wed 9-9-20 PG/Lewis/Central at CENTRAL campus 8:00am to 9:00pm
- Thurs 9-10-20 PG at PG campus at 4:00-9:00pm
- Thurs 9-10-20 Lewis/Central at CENTRAL campus 8:00am to 9:00pm
- Friday 9-11-20 PG at PG campus at 8:00am-4:00pm
- Friday 9-11-20 Lewis/Central at CENTRAL campus at 8:00am to 9:00pm

Starting On Sept 14th lunches will be offered from door 121 near the high school side On Tuesday's (2 meals) and Thursdays (3 Meals) only for the duration of distance learning. Follow the brick path to door 121. Meals will be available for pick up between 11:00 am to 12:30pm.

Must Have Lunch ID Badge to claim meals.

This and all other VCS cafeteria guidelines and information can be found on the Food Service & Menus page of our [VCS website](#).

ATHLETICS

Q: Will sports for fall proceed as planned?

A: At this time, fall sports will continue as planned. Our Athletic Director, Dolph Carroll, is continuously abreast of changes as it relates to the [OHSAA](#) (Ohio High School Athletic Association). As of August 18, 2020, Gov. DeWine has given the green light for contact sports. More information on what that means for VCS sports will follow.

Q: Has VCS moved sites for their home football games?



A: Yes. Valley Christian is now playing all of their home football Games at Campbell Memorial High School. The address is [280 Sixth St. Campbell, OH 44405](#).

Q: What athletic conference is Valley Christian playing in?

A: Valley Christian became a member of the Eastern Athletic Conference (EOAC) and will begin its first year of play within the conference in 2020.

Q: Who are the other member of the EOAC?

Columbiana, East Palestine, Leetonia, Lisbon, Southern Local, United and Wellsville

Q: What are the restrictions and guidelines for spectators at the fall sports venues indoor or out?

A: We will be following all of the [ODH](#) guidelines:

- If you are sick, please don't attend.
- All venues will require everyone to wear a mask unless under the age of 10 or if you have a medical issue that forbids it.
- Social distancing must be adhered to. You may sit with your family, but you also must keep a 6' distance between you and anyone else.

Q: Can spectators attend fall sports events?

A: Yes, but with restrictions set by the Governor, [Ohio Department of Health \(ODH\)](#) and the EOAC mandates.

2020-2021 TICKET POLICY

**THERE WILL BE NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE HOME SITE
OR AWAY SITE FOR ANY SPORTS
Everything will be done pre-sale.**

All Venues are limited to a 15% capacity

- Everyone in attendance **must wear a mask and maintain social distance (6')**.



- You are allowed to sit in your family pod of no more than 4.
- All tickets are \$5 each.

VOLLEYBALL (home and away) each student-athlete on the JV and Varsity teams will have the opportunity to purchase 2 (two) tickets for \$5 each from their Coach prior to the event. We will do that for home and away games. ***NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE SITE.***

Everyone in attendance must wear a mask and maintain social distance (6') in the bleachers

SOCCER (home and away) each student-athlete on the JV and Varsity teams will have the opportunity to purchase 2 (two) tickets for \$5 each from their Coach prior to the event. We will do that for home and away games. **NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE SITE.**

2020-2021 TICKET POLICY

VCS is following the Ohio Governor's office, [ODH](#), and the EOAC mandates.

**THERE WILL BE NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE HOME SITE
OR AWAY SITE FOR ANY SPORTS
Everything will be done pre-sale.**

All Venues are limited to a 15% capacity

- Everyone in attendance **must wear a mask and maintain social distance (6')**.
- You are allowed to sit in your family pod of no more than 4.
- All tickets are \$5 each.

FOOTBALL - AWAY GAMES

Each student-athlete on the Varsity teams will have the opportunity to purchase 2 (two) tickets for \$5 each from their Coach prior to the event. Tickets must be purchased by the preceding Thursday.

FOOTBALL – HOME GAMES



Tickets will be sold on line and in person at the HS office. Tickets must be purchased by 2pm on Friday afternoon. ***YOU CANNOT PURCHASE A TICKET AT THE GATE.***

More details will come. Be sure to check your email addresses and [VCS website](#).

Still have questions, complete the Parent Question Submission Form located on the [VCS website](#).