



DISTRICT OFFICE

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Debra Hunt, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Special Education Director

July 27, 2020

Dear Parents:

Following this letter is detailed information regarding the start of the 2020-2021 school year. The 2020-2021 Planning Committee has been meeting since the beginning of June to help make the transition into what is likely one of the most difficult school years we will ever experience, as smooth as possible. As we planned, one focus became very clear. For the Valders School District to be as successful as possible, we all (staff, students, families and community) must all work together.

Some of the items regarding next school year that you may want to know about are stated below. Please know that many of the specifics will be shared by your building principal when we get closer to the start of the school year.

- Face coverings are required to be worn by everyone. Students are to wear facemasks. Face shields will be okay for students in grades 4K-2 as well.
- There will be face covering breaks throughout the day. We know wearing face coverings all day long can be too much for children. When students are stationary and are able to socially distance they will be allowed to take face covering breaks as directed by teachers and other staff.
- We will not be able to do temperature checks for every student entering the building. We are relying on parents and guardians to provide temperature and overall health checks on their children each morning. If a child does not feel good, they must remain home. Teachers and staff will be very vigilant and if a child does not feel good, or if they have a fever during the school day, parents will be called to take their child home.
- Sanitation Stations – there will be hand sanitizers in every entrance and classroom. Additionally, elementary teachers will have students sanitize their desk tops and other work areas before or after they leave and return to the classroom. The middle school and high school classroom teachers will have students sanitize the desk tops and other work areas two minutes before the end of each class. The teachers will also make sure light switches and door handles will also be sanitized.
- Our Director of Building and Grounds has purchased a number of misters, which are machines filled with special sanitizing formula that can spray large areas like classrooms, bathrooms, locker doors and other areas. This will quickly and easily sanitize areas at night, or when places are unoccupied during the day.
- Isolation rooms are sick rooms specifically designed for children who may be ill with COVID-19. There will be barriers, and the adults who are assisting children will be wearing personal protective equipment to keep the children and themselves safe.

Educate. Engage. Inspire.

- Parents will not be able to enter the school to pick up or drop off their children, or items for their children. Parents will need to wait by the school entrances to pick up their children.
- We are hoping students will bring their own bottles and use the bottle fillers. There will be some water coolers (bubblers) available and they will be sanitized throughout the day.
- We also anticipate that some families will plan on having their children participate in online learning from the beginning of the school year, while other parents will plan on sending their children to school. A survey will be utilized to determine which parents need to have their children complete their learning online.
- The same survey is being utilized to determine which families plan on sending their students to school on the school bus.
- All students in grades K-12 will receive a Chromebook, and 4K students will receive iPods. The plan is to be as paperless as possible. This will additionally help lessen the spread of germs.
- We believe that in-person learning is most effective, and want as many students to attend traditional classes as much as possible. However, if we do need to move to a hybrid model of learning, one group of students will attend classes on Monday and Tuesday, while the other group stays home for instruction those days. The students at home will be able to log in and watch the teacher's lesson(s). Then, on Wednesday and Thursday, the other group will come to class and the first group will stay home and learn online. Teachers will have the opportunity to be equipped with a headset for all to hear them, as well as document cameras can be used to ensure all will be able to view the lesson whether they are at home or in the classroom.
- There will be Parent Training Sessions in early September. The training sessions will be for parents to learn more about Chromebooks, Google Classrooms, and other technologies that the students will be using. We want the families to be informed and knowledgeable of the technology that the students will be working with.

We know that people will not like, or will disagree with, some or all of the decisions that had been developed and determined. We will need to respond to the disagreements with kindness. Kindness is understanding that the school district is making decisions considering all points of view, all aspects of the health of our students and staff, along with the guidelines being provided at the federal, state, and local levels. We are all doing the best we can, with the resources we have, under the circumstances we have been given. Thank you to the many families and community members already having respectful conversations about next school year's plans. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and opinions.

When we return to school please respond with kindness. Please respond with kindness when a school secretary informs you that you can't go somewhere you are used to going to; please respond with kindness when an athletic coach cancels practice; please respond with kindness when a teacher asks something of your child that neither person has had to deal with before. Please help teach your child to respond with kindness when asked to follow new guidelines and rules. We all can use more kindness.

While there will be many and different challenges in front of us all, I know we can work together to ensure that the students, families and staff of the Valdres Area School District are safe, healthy and ready to begin the school year. I look forward to continuing the adventure with all.

Sincerely,

Deb Hunt
Superintendent of Schools



VALDERS
AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

PLANNING FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

As Presented by the 2020-2021 Planning Committee



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Our Commitments

Safety

Student and staff safety is a top priority. Plans will reflect guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics, State and Manitowoc County Health Departments.

Flexibility

Plans will be developed to allow for a fluid response keeping in mind staff, student and parent capacity, coupled with financial resources of the district.

Instruction

Plans will reflect a preference for traditional classroom learning and focus on creating conditions to safely reopen schools. Other instructional models will include online, and blended (in-person and online) options in the event that traditional classroom learning cannot occur.



Getting Back to the Classroom Safely:

2020-2021 Plan to Reopen Schools with Traditional Classroom Learning

- Operations
- Instructional Models
- Professional Development

Possible Action:

Consideration of recommendation to Approve Reopening Schools 2020-2021 as presented providing Superintendent Deb Hunt authority to move between instructional models as needed.





Operations: Physical Spaces

Physical Barriers

Plexiglass barriers in some classrooms
(some science and 4K classrooms)

Floor Adhesives

6' separation stickers in high traffic areas

Creating Space for Distancing

Reconfiguration or moving of teaching spaces
Lunch seating in a zig zag pattern for distancing

Isolation Room

Identification of space and PPE needs

Sanitation Stations

Increased placement and encouraged usage
(school entrances and in all classrooms)

Safety Signage

Hand hygiene, social distancing, symptoms

Drinking Water

Bottle filling **ONLY** in most areas
Sanitizing of water coolers throughout the day



Operations: Healthy Environments

Ventilation

New HVAC increased circulation of outside air into buildings

Hand Hygiene

**Teach and reinforce
Strategic signage placement**

Cleaning and Disinfection

**Increased daily and weekly protocols
(misting sanitizers, desks, door knobs and light switches cleaned throughout the day)**

Shared Objects

**Individual supplies
Sanitization requirements**



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Operations: Day to Day

Visitors

Limit non-essential visitors and visits

Entrances & Exits

Regulate access and directional flow

Temperature Checks

Parents must check temps. before leaving each morning – must be below 100.4

Field Trips & Gatherings

Limit and monitor conditions before final approval for trips & large school events

Staffing

Reassign staff as needed to cover daily operational needs prioritizing student learning and safety

Face Coverings

**Masks will be REQUIRED for ALL
Face shields are okay for students in grades 4K-2**

High Risk Staff & Students

Limit exposure and provide alternatives

COVID-19 Point of Contact

Schools: Principals, Secretaries, Nurse

Communication

Frequent & systematic



Operations: Transportation

Health & Safety

Buses will be disinfected following each route with special attention to high touch areas

Families will sit with another

Social distancing will be practiced as much as possible

Self-Transport

Parents and/or students planning to self-transport are encouraged to complete the Transportation Survey to increase accuracy of routes

Students with Special Needs

IEP driven accommodations in review with a commitment to finding solutions for all families

Face Coverings

Face masks will be REQUIRED for ALL

Face shields are okay for students in grades 4K-2



Instructional: Traditional Classroom Learning

Return to the Classroom

Students and staff practice operational safety procedures to reduce the spread of COVID-19

Alternatives

Students and families who are not comfortable will be provided an online/virtual option

Communication

Ongoing and systematic communication to staff

Moving Between Models

Models may need to be moved between based on positive COVID-19 cases within the community

Resources

May require additional resources to support work and systems (ex. Chromebooks, wireless keyboards)

Schedules

Daily schedule modifications (ex. lunch, recess) as necessary with start and end of day bells remaining the same

Social Emotional

SEL foundation for reboarding students and staff



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Instructional: Hybrid Learning

4K-12

May be used to reduce the number of students in classrooms

Schedule

- Monday/Tuesday: Cohort A attends class; Cohort B online learning**
- Wednesday/Thursday: Cohort B attends class; Cohort A online learning**
- Friday: Teacher prep, all students online learning**

Resources

May require additional resources to support work and systems

Grading

Traditional grading (Grades 9-12 = A-F, Grades 4K-8 = Standardized Grading)



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Instructional: Hybrid Learning

Communication

Ongoing and systematic communication to staff and families

Moving Between Models

Models may need to be moved between based on positive COVID-19 cases within the community

Devices & Access

Students use district device, home internet access becomes vital for all students

Early Identification

Teachers and schools to quickly identify students struggling to engage



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Instructional: Online Learning

Schedule

Monday through Thursday: online learning

Friday: Teacher prep day, Student catch-up day

Grading

Traditional grading (Grades 9-12 = A-F,

Grades 4K-8 = Standardized Grading)

Resources

May require additional resources to support work and systems

Devices & Access

Students use district device, home internet access becomes vital for all



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Instructional: Online Learning

Communication

Ongoing and systematic communication to staff and families

Moving Between Models

Models may need to be moved between based on positive COVID-19 cases within the community

Early Identification

Teachers and schools to quickly identify students struggling to engage



Instructional: Social & Emotional Health

Reboarding

Focus on social and emotional health during the first week back for students and staff focusing on inclusion and anxiety reduction

Wellness

Focus on staff wellness program and communicate Employee Assistance Program options

Communication

Ongoing and systematic communication to staff and families

Climate & Culture

Work to introduce students to new look of school and classrooms before school starts creating welcoming environments for learning

Universal Instruction

Lean on existing curricular components of Second Step, Zones of Regulation (Grades 4K-8) Sources of Strength (Grades 9-12)

Moving Between Models

Needs will likely change if/as instructional models change in response to school or community conditions



Instructional: Special Education

Environments

Access to education may be reconfigured to meet the needs of individual students

Communication

Ongoing and systematic communication to staff and families

Resources

May require additional resources to support work and systems

Moving Between Models

Models may need to be moved between based on positive COVID-19 cases within the community



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Professional Development

	Traditional Classroom	Hybrid Learning	Online Learning
Learning Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Defining the “new” normal in classrooms & schools- Responsive classrooms- Technology expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Defining the “new” normal in classrooms & schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Clear expectations for staff & students- Clear expectations for paraprofessionals for student learning
Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Google Classroom- Identification of learning targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Google Classroom- Identification of learning targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Google Classroom- Identification of learning targets
Social & Emotional	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Defining the “new” normal in classrooms- Second Step (elementary & middle school)- Sources of Strength (high school)- Zones of Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Defining the “new” normal in classrooms- Second Step (elementary & middle school)- Sources of Strength (high school)- Zones of Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Defining the “new” normal in classrooms- Second Step (elementary & middle school)- Sources of Strength (high school)- Zones of Regulation



Instruction

	Traditional Classroom	Hybrid Learning	Online Learning
Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safety precautions implemented to limit spread and exposure - Driven by positive COVID-19 case factors to include; possible staff exposure, student exposure, building exposure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be used as a tool to reduce the number of students present in buildings on a given day while providing in-person opportunities for teaching and learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be used in the event of exposure to positive COVID-19 cases, county or state mandate - Allows for fewer instructional interruptions - Allows cleaning protocols to be executed
Family & Community Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Addresses community & parent child care crisis concerns - Reduces family burden of teaching and working from home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allows district flexibility to increase distancing while prioritizing traditional classroom learning - Provides in-person interactions while reducing building capacity on a daily basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anticipate use of this model to address COVID-19 exposure and/or outbreaks - Families must be prepared for short-term school closures without significant notice throughout the school year
Social & Emotional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offers needed human interactions in a safe environment - Uses the first weeks of school to rebuild relationships and debrief experiences - Establishes the new normal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offers needed human interactions in a safe environment - Rapid identification of disengaged or struggling students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special attention paid to emotional health of students or staff - Rapid identification of disengaged or struggling students or staff



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Instruction

	Traditional Classroom	Hybrid Learning	Online Learning
Technology Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chromebooks for students & staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chromebooks for students & staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chromebooks for students & staff
Student Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Charge Chromebook each night before; bring to school each morning- Wear a face mask or shield- Sanitize hands as they enter & exit each room- Follow safety procedures set by district and teachers- Tell teacher immediately if you feel sick- Social distance from teacher and students- Do not bring extra things from home	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Charge Chromebook each night before; bring to school each morning- Wear a face mask or shield- Sanitize hands as they enter & exit each room- Follow safety procedures set by district and teachers- Tell teacher immediately if you feel sick- Social distance from teacher and students- Do not bring extra things from home	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Charge Chromebook each night for online learning in the morning
Curriculum Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Changes made to small group & partner work to facilitate social distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Changes made to small group & partner work to facilitate social distancing	



Instruction

	Traditional Classroom	Hybrid Learning	Online Learning
Parent/Family Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parents will keep sick children home - Temperature checks must be made each morning – stay home if there is a temp. of 100.4 or higher - Participate in education of Google Classroom - Participate in education of school safety protocols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If child is available for Google Meet they attend live - Temperature checks must be made each morning – stay home if there is a temp. of 100.4 or higher - Participate in education of Google Classroom - Participate in education of school safety protocols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in education of Google Classroom - Participate in education of school safety protocols
Google Classroom Teaching Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Go paperless when possible with interactive online activities - Physical materials when needed with safety measures – quarantine, cleaning, etc. - While teaching will also operate Google Meet if there are virtual students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Go paperless when possible with interactive online activities - Physical materials when needed with safety measures – quarantine, cleaning, etc. - While teaching will also operate Google Meet if there are virtual students - Teachers use Loom to create lessons with directions for online learners first and then explain work so it can be viewed multiple times - Grade level guidelines for amount of time students should be working online - Use coordinated Google Meet calendar for each building so students can attend Google live - Use end of school day – 3:00 p.m. for all due dates for assignments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Go paperless when possible with interactive online activities - While teaching will also operate Google Meet if there are virtual students - Teachers use Loom to create lessons with directions for online learners first and then explain work so it can be viewed multiple times - Grade level guidelines for amount of time students should be working online - Use coordinated Google Meet calendar for each building so students can attend Google live - Use end of school day – 3:15 p.m. for all due dates for assignments - Assignments not due for a minimum of 48 hours - 1:1 time for each student for 15 minutes every two weeks or each week for struggling students – depending on class size, subject – or small group meetings



Extra Curricular: **Activities**

WIAA Guidance

**Rely and implement guidance from WIAA to
Safely hold athletic practices, competitions and
events**

Clubs Activities

**Assuming school is able to resume in a
traditional classroom learning
environment, clubs and activities may take
place & social distancing &/or other safety
measures will be in place**

Communication

**Ongoing and systematic communication to
participants and advisors**

Moving Between Models

**Activities and events may be postponed or
adjusted to meet guidelines and/or
current conditions in schools or the
community**



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Questions?

