

Valley Newsletter

 October 2020

From the Superintendent—Mr. Anderson

Virtual Learning Day – November 3, 2020

On Tuesday, November 3, 2020, Valley School District will hold a Virtual Learning Day. All Valley students (K-12) are being asked to stay at home while our staff delivers online instruction from their classrooms. The district has implemented a new technology plan and we would like to put the plan to practice. Our technology plan has sought to increase the number of mobile devices for all students, acquire a learning management system, and integrate our curriculum with online instruction. The purpose of our technology plan is to prepare our students for a blended learning environment. During our school closure last Spring it was evident we could not offer district-wide remote learning. After months of planning we would like to use November 3rd as our Virtual Learning Day. What Can Parents/Guardians Expect? At some point in the next few weeks, and/or during parent-teacher conferences, we will be asking about mobile devices, internet access, virtual learning instructions for the day, broadcast/instructional times, and the possibility of guidance for the younger grades. Much of the instruction will be delivered in real time, what is referred to as synchronous learning. Online learning is part of today's world and our district is working hard to prepare our students. We seek to increase our blended learning skills and hope that a Virtual Learning Day will get us closer to our blended learning goals. We appreciate all of your support.

COVID-19 UPDATES:

Our risk level category is unchanged from last month. The South Central Public Health Department has Jerome County still at the "yellow" risk level. The yellow risk category recommends we follow the 3 mitigation strategies: frequent hand washing, social distancing, and wear a face covering. Valley is doing our best to comply with these strategies. We have posted to our website (valleyvikings.org) several announcements regarding a few positive virus cases that have entered our district. Because of the positive tests our administration has received questions regarding who gets quarantined. Our principals and school nurse have followed local health agency guidelines regarding direct contact tracing. If a person has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus that person is sent home for a period of time. Any individual who has been identified as a close contact of a positive case, will be sent home to quarantine. Close contacts are defined as: In a situation where one or more individuals were NOT wearing a face-covering, AND the individual was within 6 ft of the positive case for greater than 15 minutes. In a situation where one or more of the people were NOT wearing a face-covering, and the individual had direct physical contact with the positive case. In a situation where both individuals were wearing a face-covering, AND was within 3 ft of the individual for greater than 15 minutes. Direct Contact Tracing is a difficult task and takes a tremendous amount of time. The administration and school nurse do not take this responsibility lightly. **Our goal is to keep students in school but we also have a duty to keep ALL students and staff safe.** There are many great questions relating to the timing of quarantining. Because the answers are sometimes complicated, we have set up FAQ page on our school website (valleyvikings.org). It should also be noted that we cannot release individual names regarding any illnesses identified at school.

SCHOOL BOARD

ZONE 1: Kortney Romer
ZONE 2: Dusty Standlee
ZONE 3: Jim Ritchie Jr.
ZONE 4: Matthew Kimmel
ZONE 5: Kattie Carlquist

CONTACT NUMBERS

Superintendent: 829-5333
High School: 829-5353
Middle School: 829-5961
Elementary: 829-5961
Food Service: 829-4107
Special Service: 829-5961
Technology : 829-4165
District Fax: 829-5548

ON THE WEB

valleyvikings.org

Flu Vaccines Coming Soon—Mrs. Richardson

On Friday, October 9th, starting at 7:45 a.m., South Central Public Health District, (SCPHD), will be at Valley School to administer flu vaccines for students, family members, teachers and community members. If students need school vaccines, HPV boosters, or college immunizations, please contact the school nurse, and those vaccines will be made available as well. Information and immunization signature cards will be sent home with students prior to the date of the clinic. **Parents must be present for their child to have vaccines.** Details regarding how to sign-up for flu shots and other vaccines will be included in the letter sent home with your child. SCPHD will bill private insurance and Medicaid. **If your insurance requires prior authorization, please obtain this before the date of the clinic.** If your child does not have insurance, you will be billed for the services. **No payment will be taken at school.** This year it is especially important to get vaccinated for the flu. Symptoms of the flu mimic COVID-19 and may result in additional absences from school. Flu is the 6th leading killer in Idaho and accounts for 4.5 days of absence from school. For questions, or to request additional vaccines, please contact Gail Richardson, School Nurse (208)-829-5961. Thank-you for helping to keep our school and community healthy!

Monday Tutoring—Middle & High School

We will have Monday tutoring days for grades 6-12 from 9:00am to Noon on October 12th and October 19th. Parents must provide transportation to and from the school on those Mondays.

Parent/Teacher Conferences—Mrs. Kohtz & Mr. Hardy

Parent Teacher Conference are coming up on October 26th. Please call the elementary at 208-829-5961 to schedule your conference. Middle and High School students do not need to schedule ahead. Please just come in and meet with all of your child's teachers.

ALL Students Eat Free—Mrs. Kelso

Effective September 10, 2020: We are excited to announce that on Monday, August 31st, USDA approved funding to feed all children, ages 1-18, with breakfast and lunch at no cost through December 2020 or until USDA funds are exhausted. Starting January 2021, Valley students will revert back to their regular approved meal status. For those children (ages 1-18) not enrolled in Valley School District, breakfast and lunch will be available from 12:30-1:00 PM at the south door of Valley School between the new and old gym. We are happy to share this good news with parents during these trying times and hope this helps make a difference and ease the burden. Thank you for letting us feed your kids. Student participation keeps our programs operating. For those families that have not already submitted a Free/Reduced Meal Application for the 2020-2021 school year, we encourage you to do so as it helps with school Title 1 funding & grants for our school district. If you have any questions, please reach out to the Valley Food Service office at 208-829-4107. This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Wounded Warrior –Mr. Hardy

The athletic department will once again be joining the 4th District Coaches Association drive to help raise funds for the Wounded Warrior Project. The past 5 years we have raised money that has been pooled with other schools in the Magic Valley. Last year the coaches association donated over \$13,000 to veterans and families affected by military service. If a family would like to donate to make a \$10 donation, we will create a sign to put up on our display board at the school and during the football game on October 23rd against Soda Springs. We will also be taking donations that night to help in this worthy cause. Thank you for your support.

Valley School District No. 262
882 Valley Road S.
Hazelton, Idaho 83335

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Girls Basketball—Coach Kohtz

Girls basketball will start on Monday, November 2nd. Times for try-outs will be announced at the school later this month. All girls wanting to play basketball need to have a physical on file with the school. 9th and 11th graders will need to have a new physical. We are excited for the upcoming season and look forward to working with the players.

College and Career Readiness—Mrs. Elorrieta

FAFSA, Merit Aid, Pell Grant, Scholarships, Subsidized Loans, Work Study! Navigating the Financial Aid vocabulary can be overwhelming and confusing. It's that time of year to start thinking about Financial Aid and to consider ways to budget for college or technical school. Students in grades 8-12 and their parents are invited to attend a College and Career Readiness meeting on Monday, October 12 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in Mrs. Elorrieta's room #126 at Valley High School (Please enter the building by the greenhouse. Face coverings are required in the building). Parents of seniors and students already in college: the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens October 1, 2020. Many colleges will make priority financial aid decisions by December 1st; you should plan to have the FAFSA completed within the next two months. More information can be found on the FAFSA website <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> or visit Mrs. Elorrieta's website at www.vhsfcs.org. The student and at least one parent or legal guardian will need an FSA ID <https://fsaid.ed.gov/> before applying for FAFSA. **Do NOT delay the FAFSA process.** If you have any questions, please contact Toni Elorrieta or Risa Moffitt at the school (208) 829-5353 or email elorrieta@valley262.org. If you are unable to attend or would like monthly updates, please send Mrs. Elorrieta an email and she will add you to the monthly email correspondence.

Trick or Treat for Community Baskets—BPA/FCCLA

"Save your change!" BPA and FCCLA high school students will be trick or treating for Community Baskets on Monday, October 26th from 6:00—8:00 p.m. Members will go door-to-door with Christmas stockings to Trick-or-Treat for change. ALL money donated will be used to purchase Christmas gifts for children in the community in coordination with the Valley Community Helpers Christmas Basket initiative. Last year, your donations helped provide gifts for 92 children. Thank you for your support! We couldn't do it without you.

Mini Cheer Camp—Coach Codi Van Sickle

The cheerleaders will be putting on a mini cheer camp for Kindergarten through 5th grade. The camp is a fundraiser for Valley Cheerleading program. The cost will be \$20 and will include a shirt. Camp will be held October 20th-22nd after school from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. All participants will meet in the old gym however all practices will be held outside. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Participants will learn cheers, dance, jumps, and kicks. A presentation for family and friends will be held on October 23rd during half time of the Varsity football game. Signup forms will be sent home from your child's classroom soon.

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