



Valley Newsletter

December 2020

UN BOLETÍN IMPRESO ESPAÑOL ESTARÁ DISPONIBLE EN LAS OFICINAS

COVID-19 Updates—Mr. Anderson

Governor Little has now moved Idaho back to Stage 2 status. However, Stage 2 guidelines will not completely alter Valley School District's operations. Our district will continue to offer in-school learning as long as we have an adequate number of staff to teach our students, an adequate number of students to fill our classrooms, bus drivers to transport our students, and food service workers to feed our students. We will continue to work with local and state agencies to keep our buildings safe and our doors open. Our school data reveals very little in-district transmission of the Covid-19 virus. Our mitigation efforts practicing the 3 W's is working within our buildings (**W**ear a face covering, **W**ash your hands, and **W**atch your distance). We appreciate the cooperation from our community. We realize we can only control what happens within our district.

Winter Sport Activities. At this point in time Valley will continue to participate in winter extracurricular activities. However, Stage 2 guidelines have stricter attendance rules. Under Stage 2 restrictions there will be no visitor fans allowed to watch our home contests, and home fan attendance will be severely limited. This is unfortunate, but most importantly, we hope extracurricular activities will continue. We will continue to mandate our face covering requirement and social distancing rules for all of our indoor contests.

Covid-19 Numbers: Valley has now over 20 confirmed virus cases. Over 100 students/staff have been quarantined throughout the four month period we have been open. In-district spread of the virus has remained minimal.

Athletics—Mr. Hardy

Due to the Governor rolling the state back into the Stage 2 guidelines for COVID-19 we have to implement some changes for our home & away athletic events. Until further notice, these are the procedures we will follow. I know these events are important to our student-athletes and important to family members. Right now we are trying to make sure the students have the opportunity to participate and spectators have to help follow these procedures in order to make sure they continue to happen. For all away athletic events, no Valley spectators will be allowed. Only essential game participants (coaches, players, stats, managers) will be allowed. We will announce different ways you can watch or stream the games (via phones or computers) on our school Facebook site. This will not be available for every event. For all home athletic events, we are restricted to 10 spectators in the gym. This will mainly be for parents or family of the team playing (1 guest per player). We ask that JV parents arrive a little before 6:00pm and then leave after the JV game so parents of varsity players may watch the next game. Varsity parents or guests, please do not arrive before 7:15pm. We will require any spectators to be on a list the day before the game so we can make sure we do not exceed the 10 person limit. We are doing our best to make sure cheerleaders get to continue to participate at home games, but they will not get to have guests at this time. All home events played in the new gym (basketball & wrestling) will be broadcast on the NFHS Network. The cost is \$10.99 per month or \$69.99 for a yearly pass. This account will also give you access to games at any other school in the nation that uses the NFHS Network. This would include when our teams play at Buhl, Wendell, Canyon Ridge, & Wood River. You can watch these games on a phone, tablet, computer, or connected TV using an AppleTV, Roku, or Amazon FireTV.

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 Services: 829-4165
District Fax: 829-5548

ON THE WEB

valleyvikings.org

Change War and the Giving Tree— Mrs. Elorrieta

A huge, HUGE thank you to our Valley students, their families, and community members for the Change War donations. We collected \$3,486.15 in the competition. In the K-5 category, 5th grade won with a collection of \$341.33. The seniors won the 6-12 competition with a collection of \$782.34. All donations will be used exclusively for buying gifts for children in the Eden-Hazleton community. The Change War was the first step in the annual Giving Tree toy drive that runs until December 11, 2020. If you would like to make a toy donation, please bring **new unwrapped toys** to the school. You don't need a tag from the Giving Tree to participate. Mrs. Elorrieta will match donated toys to children and use the Change War donations to also buy gifts. Our biggest need is generally in the 13-18 category (boys and girls) and toys for 8-10 year old boys. *If your family needs a little extra help this year, please pick up an application at Valley Elementary or from Lakeview Apartments. Applications are due December 4, 2020.* If you have questions, please contact Diane Hohnhorst (208) 539-6967, Carolyn Lee (208) 562-7550, Lana Black (208) 420-5390, or Toni Elorrieta (208) 731-6570 - elorrieta@valley262.org

College and Career—Mrs. Elorrieta

The next College and Career meeting will be on Monday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m. in Room #126. Please use the entrance by the Greenhouse and wear a face covering. The discussion will center on scholarships -finding scholarships, how to apply, and tips for a successful scholarship essay. Parents of current seniors are encouraged to attend. The content and discussion will also be helpful to all students in grades 8-12 and their parent(s). Senior parents - will you please check with your student to see which colleges they have applied to and if they have received a welcome letter via email from the college? Please let me know if you have questions. I am available for individual meetings to help with financial aid, applications, or searching for employment. A new opportunity has opened through Job Corps and the College of Southern Idaho. I am very impressed with what is being offered in the program. Please contact me if you know someone, age 16-24, that has been considering college as an option, but does not have the financial resources to attend. Job Corps might be an option to assist you through the process.

Food Service News—Mrs. Kelso

If you have not filled out a free and reduced form yet this school year now is the time. Even though all students are receiving free meals for this school year, some programs rely on our percentage of free and reduced students in order to receive funding through the year. Students doing home schooling are encouraged to fill out a form. As long as you are doing IDLA, it is important for these students to be counted also. You also will want to be free or reduced when we start back next August. It is very important to get these forms filled and returned to the lunch room. PLEASE get those forms in. IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

Si aún no ha llenado un formulario gratuito y reducido este año escolar, este es el momento. A pesar de que todos los estudiantes están recibiendo comidas reembolsables para este año escolar, algunos programas dependen de nuestro porcentaje de estudiantes gratuitos o reducidos para recibir fondos durante el año. Se anima a los estudiantes que realizan educación en el hogar a que llenen un formulario. Mientras esté haciendo IDLA, es importante que estos estudiantes también sean contados. También querrá ser gratis o con descuento cuando

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Keep Up The Good Work —Mrs. Richardson

As the holidays approach, it is likely that many will be spending time with extended family and friends. Some families will have children coming home from college. As careful as we may try to be, there is a high likelihood that we may see an increase in COVID cases after Thanksgiving break. We will continue to have our students complete a daily screener for COVID symptoms. Unfortunately, almost any symptom of any common illnesses is also a symptom of the coronavirus.

If your child has any **ONE** of the following symptoms: **cough, fever or chills, shortness of breath, or loss of taste or smell**, they will need to go home for 10 days, or have a doctor's note or negative test result in order to return. If they have any **TWO** of the other symptoms: **Muscle/body aches, fatigue, headache, sore throat, congestion/runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea**, they will follow the same guidelines.

PLEASE, keep your student home if they have symptoms or tell you they are not feeling well. We realize this is a HUGE inconvenience. I am currently sending home approximately three students each day due to these symptoms. This increase in absences is not what any of us want, but it is much better than having no school at all.

We appreciate all of the sacrifices that families have made this year. The frustration with the situation is understandable. We know parents are stretched to their limits, and our staff is also feeling this stress. We couldn't be prouder of the way this community continues to work in order to keep their students at school every day. We are equally proud of the students who are working harder than they ever thought they'd have to in order to succeed. It has been so encouraging to see people cooperate and communicate with the school when they know they have been exposed to someone with the virus, or when they have had the virus themselves. This has been a crucial factor in allowing us to keep operating in a face-to-face setting. It has also been uplifting to see people rally around one-another when the virus affects a family.

Continue to ask your students if they are having symptoms before you send them to school. Keep students home if they are sick or having symptoms. Please continue to communicate with the school regarding exposures or positive cases in your family. Don't hesitate to contact the school with questions regarding school-work and our quarantining protocols. Please continue to do the hard work that is required to keep our doors open.

Be Thinking About Winter/ Spring Drivers Ed—Mrs. Lamun

Winter/Spring Drivers Ed will begin at the end of February (The exact date has not been determined yet). Class will be held from 8-11am on Mondays and 6:30- 7:30am Tuesday - Friday. Drives will be scheduled in addition to the class hours. The cost is \$200. You must pay at least \$100 before class starts and the balance must be paid before class ends. You must be 14 1/2 BEFORE class starts because students **MUST** have purchased their permit BEFORE class. To purchase a permit you must have an official birth certificate. Please don't wait until just before class starts to get your documents together to get the permit. Many students are unable to take the class because they don't have a permit in time. Get the necessary paperwork from the high school office and have it filled out before going to the Jerome County Sheriff Office. The cost is \$21.50. If you have any questions please see or call Mrs. Lamun.