



Early Learning School  
Elementary School  
Middle School  
High School  
Music School

Dear VCS Families,

With Valley Catholic's digital learning platform now fully implemented, we would like to update you on our planning process to bring students back to campus, when the appropriate metrics are met. We are keeping a close eye on potential changes to the school re-opening metrics, while at the same time continuing our planning process in the following areas:

- Moving forward with safe, limited, small group opportunities for student interaction in the near future;
- Planning for a return to in-person classroom instruction once Washington County meets the state and county metric criteria.

This letter will give a campus-wide view so all families are aware of what is being planned for Valley Catholic School.

Shortly after Governor Brown mandated that schools start the year with digital learning, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) issued guidance on "Limited, In-person Instruction" that allows schools to bring groups of 10 or fewer students to school for up to two hours per day, with a maximum of 250 students at school in any given week. While ODE's initial intent was to provide student support and special education services to students whose educational needs could not be easily met through digital learning, it was later expanded to include activities that support the educational and social-emotional needs of all students and to help build a sense of community. This is the provision that currently allows schools to bring students into the classroom prior to meeting state and county metrics.

With a maximum of 250 students allowed per week, coordination is necessary since we have three schools - each with an enrollment greater than 250 students. When the school year began, the first priority was to implement our digital learning platforms. The next phase that we implemented was having the high school bring new students onto campus for community-building activities. We are currently in the third week of hosting live evening events for students. Moving forward, the high school will expand these activities to athletics and other co-curricular activities. All will be conducted in small groups according to ODE guidelines.

Middle school will be waiting until early November to start similar in-person community-building activities for their students during the second academic quarter.

4440 SW 148th Avenue  
Beaverton, OR 97078  
Phone: 503.906.1129  
Fax: 503.646.1102

[valleycatholic.org](http://valleycatholic.org)

Elementary school planning is focused on the return of K – 3 students to classroom instruction. The county metrics prioritize kindergarten through third grade returning to in-person learning ahead of older grades. If you are interested, here are the metrics mandated by Gov. Brown:

	<u>Grades K – 3</u>	<u>Grades 4 – 12</u>
Oregon: COVID-19 test positivity:	under 5%	under 5%
Washington County: COVID-19 test positivity	under 5%	under 5%
Washington County: Weekly case count	< 30 per 100,000	< 10 per 100,000

By comparison, here are the most recent metrics for the Week of September 27<sup>th</sup>:

Oregon: COVID-19 test positivity:	6.3%
Washington County: COVID-19 test positivity	5.5%
Washington County: Weekly case count	42.4

You can follow the weekly metric reports at this link:

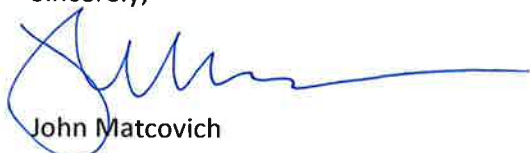
[https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Emerging%20Respiratory%20Infections/Weekly-County-Metrics.pdf?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Emerging%20Respiratory%20Infections/Weekly-County-Metrics.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

There are many logistics involved in bringing just a portion of the elementary school back to campus. Fourth and fifth grades will continue with digital learning at home, and additional teachers will be needed in grades K – 3 to reduce class size to meet social distancing and cohort requirements. This requires some reassignments for specialist teachers. If the state and county metrics are not met by the time the second academic quarter begins on November 9, we are considering plans to bring K – 3 students in for two hours at a time under the Limited In-Person Instruction guidelines, as well as developing options for fourth and fifth grade students to return to campus. However this is still in the planning stage and might not be feasible.

I realize this is a lot of information to take in, but I want families to be aware of the campus-wide efforts to bring students back to school. We will continue to be cautious when making decisions and keep the health of students and teachers at the forefront. Also on our minds is the potential disruption that would occur if we bring students back into the classroom and then are required to return to distance learning, either because of changing metrics or – worse – because a case of COVID were to put the school into quarantine. Please keep this in mind, as we are all anxious for students to return to campus soon - but not too soon.

If you have questions about how this could affect your child, don't hesitate to contact me or your school principal.

Sincerely,



John Matcovich  
President