

Valley Catholic High School Distance Learning Supplement

In general, the expectations for students and families follow the protocols in the main Handbook. There are, however, some changes, due to distance learning, that are outlined below.

While distance learning does not replicate onsite learning, teachers can deliver powerful instruction based on a robust curriculum that allows students to meet expected standards in an online environment aligned with the mission of our school.

Classroom interactions and engagement opportunities continue through virtual meetings, live chats, and video tutorials. Distance learning continues to provide opportunities for authentic learning and purposefully planned and assessed lessons.

Daily Schedule:

Classes will be 85 minutes long with four periods each regular scheduled day. There will be 30 minutes at the start of each day for office hours, meeting times, etc. Days will alternate between Blue and White days.

We will also be adding an Activity Schedule (TBD). The purpose of the Activity Schedule is to provide for a variety of faith and community building experiences for the students and teachers.

We are also planning to implement an Advisory Cohort system. Students will be grouped into cohorts (of approximately 10) and assigned to a specific staff member. The Advisory will meet on a weekly basis during the Office Hours period. The Advisory system is designed to create another level of personal contact with students. The Advisory will be used to build community, to discuss important topics, and to help students navigate challenges that may arise.

Blue Day

8:00 - 8:30 Office Hours
8:45 - 10:10 Period 0
10:25 - 11:50 Period 1
11:50 - 12:30 Lunch
12:30 - 1:55 Period 2
2:05 - 3:30 Period 3

White Day

8:00 - 8:30 Office Hours
8:45 - 10:10 Period 4
10:25 - 11:50 Period 5
11:50 - 12:30 Lunch
12:30 - 1:55 Period 6
2:05 - 3:30 Period 7

Classroom Expectations:

We know that direct contact between teachers and students and direct instruction are important and necessary. We are also cognizant of the amount of potential screen time that students and teachers are exposed to during distance learning and the negative consequences of sustained screen time. In an attempt to strike a balance between these we will require a minimum of 30 minutes of synchronous instruction per scheduled class period. Students and teachers are expected to be available during their scheduled class time. Both asynchronous and synchronous instruction will be used during distance learning.

Asynchronous instruction: Provides a learning environment that does not require teachers and students to be online at the same time.

Synchronous instruction: Real-time instruction that provides opportunities for students and teaches to participate and interact at the same time.

During digital class time students are expected to participate in online discussions.

Students should expect to receive a blend of daily and long-term assignments.

Students should expect up to 30 minutes of homework per class each day.

General Zoom Etiquette:

Appropriate behavior via digital instruction should mirror appropriate behavior that takes place during in-person instruction and outlined in the main Handbook. Some specific measures for digital learning, however, include but are not limited to the following; student screen names should be their names, students should be appropriately dressed (i.e. NOT in pajamas) and in an appropriate place (i.e. NOT in bed), have their audio and video turned on, and have their face visible.

Attendance:

Teachers will take attendance each period.

If a student is unable to engage in digital work parents/ guardians should email Mrs. Joyaux (Main Office) at pjoyaux@valleycatholic.org and Ms. Gram (Dean of Students) at kgram@valleycatholic.org

Students who are absent are still required to contact their individual teachers to make arrangements regarding any missed lessons or assignments.

Academic Integrity:

The expectations for academic integrity are exactly the same for distance learning as they are for in-person learning. Students are always expected to complete their own work unless otherwise instructed. They are expected to cite sources and cite them as instructed. Violations of academic integrity are taken seriously and can lead to consequence including receiving a zero on the assignment up to expulsion for a third offense. Please review the complete policy in the Handbook.

Device to Use:

The high school does have a number of iPads that a student can borrow during this time of distance learning, if they do not have adequate access to technology at home. More information about how to request and check out a device will be made available in August.

Calendar:

The calendar will be adjusted to reflect our shift to distance learning. Some events may be cancelled, others postponed, others offered digitally.

Communication with Students:

School communication with students will be carried out via a student's vstudent email account.

Students should check their vstudent account **daily**.

Teachers will communicate with students via their vstudent account and/ or Google Classroom.

Teachers will establish parameters for regular contact with students and postings for assignments.

Academic Support:

Students who are struggling academically should seek the direct support of their classroom teacher. There are times, however, when more guidance/ assistance is required. Students who may need extra support should contact either the Dean of Academics, Mrs. Brown (bbrown@valleycatholic.org) or the Counselor, Mrs. Smith (bsmith@valleycatholic.org)

Social/ Emotional Support:

Students who are struggling with social/ emotional issues (i.e. "connecting," conflict resolution, heightened anxiety, etc.) should contact the Counselor, Mrs. Smith.

General Communication with Staff:

The chain of communication, whether during distance or in-person learning, remains the same.

Academic questions/ concerns should first be raised directly with the teacher involved. If there is no resolution then the issue should be brought to the attention of the department chair, then to the Dean of Academics, Brenna Brown (bbrown@valleycatholic.org).

If it is a question about behavior or attendance then the issue should move from the teacher to the Dean of Students, Krista Gram (kgram@valleycatholic.org).

If it is a question regarding athletics then it should first be raised with the coach then to the Director of Athletics, Joel Sobotka (jsobotka@valleycatholic.org).