



Dear Vicksburg Community Schools Families,

As previously announced, the Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department (KCHCSD) released an emergency order that has required revisions to the return to school plan we communicated in July. The order requires children in Kindergarten through grade 6 to wear a mask while inside any enclosed building. Vicksburg Community Schools will be following this mandate.

Please know our plans are subject to change based on any future recommendations, mandates or orders from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) or Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department (KCHCSD).

- Full in-person learning five days per week at all levels Pre-K through 12.
- In accordance with the KCHCSD mandate, students and staff in Pre-K through 6th grade will be required to wear a mask inside any enclosed buildings. The mandate applies to all before and after school activities within the buildings as well.
 - Medical documentation will be required to be exempt from the mask mandate. Face shields are strongly recommended for students with a mask exemption.
- Consistent with MDHHS and KCHCSD recommendations, VCS strongly recommends that students and staff in grades 7 through 12 wear masks and are vaccinated against COVID-19 if eligible.
- Per CDC requirements, staff and students are required to wear face coverings on VCS transportation.
- VCS will not require unvaccinated students to be tested for COVID-19 to attend school or require COVID-19 testing for student athletes unless mandated by MDHHS, KCHCSD, or MHSAA.
- VCS will offer a fully online 3rd party virtual option for students with extenuating medical conditions on a case by case basis. Please contact your child's building administrator.

- VCS will continue to work collaboratively with the KCHCSD regarding infections, contact tracing and quarantines.

Continued Health and Safety Protocols from the 2020-2021 School Year:

- Enhanced cleaning protocols
- Multiple hand sanitizing stations in buildings and classrooms
- Encouraging hand washing and covering of mouth while coughing or sneezing

Please partner with VCS by:

- Checking your child's health every day before coming to school. If your child is sick, please do not send your child to school.

VCS recognizes the divisiveness that exists in our community, state and nation regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate all the feedback we have received from our stakeholders about this issue. We are now focusing on having a great school year for all our students and staff. Staff returns to our buildings next week, and we are looking forward to welcoming our students back on Monday, August 30th. Please join us in making the 2021-2022 school year a safe and fun experience for everyone.

Our number one priority is and will always be the safety, security and health of all our students, staff, parents and community. We will continue to follow all State and County orders and continue to work closely with the KCHCSD.

Thank you in advance for your patience and support.

Sincerely,

Keevin J. O'Neill
Superintendent