

Velma-Alma Public Schools

"COMET STRONG"

2020-21

"Return to Learn" Re-Opening Plan

Velma-Alma Public Schools has been working diligently to create a plan for our students and our stakeholders. Our main goal with this plan is to provide a safe environment for all students. This year we will have new safety/health measures in place in order to keep student and staff safety our number one priority. Please understand that this plan is very fluid and could change at any given time. Velma-Alma Schools will keep our focus on student safety, continuous parent communication and a positive and conducive learning environment for all students

Our commitment to provide as much normalcy as possible, while also lessening the risk from COVID-19 for the 2020-2021 school year cannot be accomplished without the vigilance of all stakeholders. We trust and rely upon our parents/guardians and staff to self-screen as well as to take advantage of secondary screening opportunities available within the school sites. No student or staff exhibiting symptoms or with reasonable risk of COVID-19 exposure will be allowed to enter any Velma-Alma school site until cleared by a physician or satisfying OKSDH entity. Together, we can lessen the impact of COVID-19.

Communication with Parents and Community

All communication with parents and the community will be delivered via school website and Velma-Alma Public Schools Facebook. Direct communication with site principals and teachers through text and email will be used on a regular basis. We are committed to strong communication and responsive action. If you need assistance and cannot reach your site, you may reach out to Raymond Rice, Superintendent, at rrice@velma-alma.k12.ok.us.

Calendar

VAPS will adhere to the regularly adopted school calendar with students reporting on Aug. 13. While most students would prefer to be on campus for face-to-face instruction, some may prefer or be required to not attend school for a variety of reasons. To accommodate all students we will offer different learning options:

1. **Traditional Classroom Instruction** (Virtual Days may be included in this calendar based on local conditions).

2. Full-time virtual learning at home

- There are qualifying conditions and guidelines that must be followed for option 2. Parents must contact the building principal to receive further information.

School Cancellation or declaration of Virtual Day

- As with previous years during the cold/flu season, VAPS will monitor absence rates on a daily basis starting on Aug. 13. Similar to the flu, if we experience an outbreak then school closure with high levels of disinfecting will take place.

Academics and Distance Learning

- Building on the experiences of distance learning during the school closure last spring, Velma-Alma Public Schools is ready to deliver instructions to students traditionally or in a virtual manner. We know disruption during a public health crisis like COVID-19 is very likely. Although we can expect disruption during the school year, consistent lesson delivery from teacher to student will remain strong either through our traditional method or through virtual/distance learning at home.
- Students must be enrolled in the traditional classroom instruction option to be eligible for participation in extracurricular activities.
- To receive credit and attendance for the courses for this school year, students are expected to participate in class activities and complete the assignments.
- If schools have to be closed due to an outbreak of sickness, students will be given assignments through virtual/distance learning packets or web-based education platforms such as Google Classroom.
- Packet distribution will be based on the number of days that school may be declared as Distance Days. Teachers will contact parents accordingly.

Electronic Devices

- Students who choose virtual learning at home may check out a school device if needed. This device is to be used for educational purposes only.

- No deposit is required; however, damage of the device will be charged the same as a textbook that is checked out and damaged.
- Devices will be checked out at the beginning of enrollment in the Virtual Academy. VAPS will have a parent contract for any devices checked out.
- On virtual learning days, those students who do not have access to internet connectivity may contact their principal to make arrangements in order to utilize school resources for connectivity.

Attendance Policies

- All students will take cumulative semester finals.
- Attendance policies will be relaxed for cases involving COVID-19 to provide for additional absences and to encourage sick staff and students to remain at home
- Site committees will be in place to consider exceptions for medical absences related to covid-19

Screening Protocols

Temperature Screening

- While many options for screening were considered, VAPS has chosen to perform temperature checks on students arriving at school. Checks will be done upon entering the school building in the morning, or before loading a school bus at the pick up location.
- Students will be required to wear a mask when riding a school bus where social distancing is impossible. Students on bus routes will be seated with family members to provide as much protection as possible. Parents are encouraged to bring their children if possible.
- Do not send students to school sick/ with a temperature of **100° or more**
- The school may do random temperature checks throughout the day on an as needed basis
- Employees of VAPS will be required to perform a self-screening each day prior to coming to school.

At-School Procedures for those with 100 degree or higher temperature

- Any student or staff member who exhibits a fever of 100 degrees will be immediately sent home. After being sent home, a student or staff member cannot return to school until one of the following criteria is met.
 - WITHOUT COVID TESTING - student or staff member must not be present at school for 14 days or provides the school with a doctor's note releasing them to come back to school
 - AFTER TESTING NEGATIVE - student or staff member can return to physical school 3 days of being fever free with no fever reducing medication or a doctor's note releasing them back to school
 - AFTER TESTING POSITIVE - student or staff members may return when all 3 criteria are met.
 - At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery
 - You have improved in respiratory symptoms
 - At least 14 days have passed since symptoms first occurred.
- 1. Students/Staff in protocol and absent from school are not allowed to participate in or attend school activities
- 2. The student will become a distance learner at home until he/she can return to school.
- 3. The student will be counted as present because distance learning will be provided.

A positive diagnosis does not necessarily mean shutting down a school site or the entire district. Working with health officials will mean completing contact tracing and possibly suggesting students be tested for the virus. Because of changing and uncertain conditions, students, parents, and staff should be prepared for transition to virtual learning at any time.

COVID-19 Screening

- The school will not perform COVID testing
- The school will not require a COVID test for students or teachers to return to school on August 13th.
- COVID testing is greatly encouraged for anyone who has symptoms

- Anyone who has close contact with someone testing positive for Covid-19 should stay home for 14 days after exposure, based on the time it takes to develop the illness.

Social Distancing

- Masks/face coverings are strongly encouraged, but not required to be worn by students. However, protective face covering will be required of all VAPS staff. **(THIS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME)**
- Sneeze guards may be added to reception desks at each school and additional hand sanitizing stations will be added.
- Building traffic will be reduced to help minimize outside exposure such as parents eating lunch with their child, birthday events, attending assemblies, guest speakers, etc.
- Visitors in buildings will not be permitted unless scheduled by the office staff.
- Anyone who enters the school office must have their temperature taken and will be required to wear a mask while on the school site.
- When possible, classroom desks will be spaced apart, and students will not be placed in groups.
- School assemblies, pep-rallies, etc. will be drastically minimized or cancelled.

Hygiene Practices

- Masks are encouraged, but not required to be worn by students. **(THIS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME.)**
- Extra hand-sanitizer, Clorox wipes and other sanitizing materials will be readily available. Frequent hand washing is requested of all school personnel and students.
- Hygiene lessons will be added to daily curriculum (in the classroom, in building announcements, etc.)
- Students will not share supplies in the classroom.
- Students will need to bring a bottle of water for his/her exclusive use, as traditional water fountains will not be available. (There is a water bottle filling station located in the cafeteria)

- 72-hour quarantine period for items being returned that cannot be sanitized, such as library books

School Meals

- Students will have meals prepared daily.
 - Scheduling and seating will be adjusted based on the building.
- Cafeteria staff will serve everyone from the serving line
- Condiments will be provided in packets instead of common-use areas
- Parents/Guests will not be allowed to drop-off lunches throughout the day to the school or cafeteria. NO guests will be allowed to eat lunch on-site as long as the threat of COVID exposure is prevalent.

Transportation

- Parents are encouraged to bring their child(ren) to school. Transportation provided by the district is a privilege.
- We encourage parents to check their temperature prior to sending them to the bus stop.
- Temperature checks during bus routes are deemed to be necessary, students that are running a temperature over 100° will not be allowed on the bus.
- Masks are **required** for bus riders.
- Buses will be sanitized daily.

Extra-Curricular Activities / Gatherings / Field Trips

- Extra sanitizing of facilities will occur
- **Please understand cancellations and rescheduling of events are highly probable**
- Field trips will be limited, but still considered on a case-by-case basis in smaller groups

Please understand that this plan will change throughout this school year. We will keep our parents and stakeholders informed as events arise. Thank you for your understanding and support during this new and uncharted time in education.

Respectfully,

Raymond Rice
Superintendent, Velma-Alma Public Schools