

The 2020-2021 School Year at Vernfield Elementary

July 31, 2020

Please read the [Souderton Area School District Health and Safety Plan](#).

Arrival/Dismissal Procedures

- Upon arrival to Vernfield, students will exit their buses or vehicle and report directly to their classroom. Students will no longer report to the gymnasium for morning line-up. In order to avoid a large number of students exiting multiple buses and entering the school in large groups, exiting of school buses will be staggered. Arriving students must exit their bus or car wearing a face shield or mask.
- Dismissal in the afternoon will also be staggered. Buses will be called in small groups to prevent large groups of students from exiting the school at the same time. Students who are picked-up by a parent/guardian during dismissal, will exit the building in small groups by last name. More information will follow regarding parent pick-up times.

Classrooms

- Vernfield Elementary teachers will continue to build the sense of community that parents and students have come to love about our school.
- If classroom numbers allow for students to physically distance from each other, students will be able to work at their desks without face coverings. Otherwise, students will wear face coverings. Teachers will incorporate “mask breaks” in the classroom throughout the school day. Plexiglass will be used in the “mask break” area.
- Snack time will be held in classrooms. Hand washing will occur prior to and after snack time. Students may also bring a personal hand sanitizer to keep in their desk.
- Students are permitted to bring a water bottle to school. Please label your child’s water bottle in permanent marker.
- Classroom areas frequently used by students and staff will be cleaned regularly.

Cafeteria Procedures

- We have adjusted our schedule to provide enough time for just one grade-level to be present in the cafeteria at a given time. There will be limited seating at each cafeteria table (5 to 6 students rather than the typical 16).
- Students purchasing lunch will find that all lunch items are pre-packaged. Students are welcome to pack lunches. If so, they will carry their own lunch to the cafeteria.
- Students will wash hands prior to eating lunch.
- We have adjusted our schedule so that students will have lunch before going to recess.

Clubs/Events/Before and After School Activities

Due to physical distancing requirements and adherence to other safety protocols, we will not be offering any extra-curricular activities for at least the first trimester. These include:

- Whole school assemblies

- Fall parade and social
- Winter sing-a-long and social
- Home and School Sponsored Activities – i.e. Back to School Bash, Holiday Shoppe
- Reading Olympics, Math Olympiad, Robotics, Student Council, Safety Patrol
- Parent volunteers/building visitors will not be permitted in school

Modified Activities/Events

- Back to School Night – teachers will prepare a pre-recorded presentation for parents
- Fall Pumpkin Decorating – families will be permitted to drop-off decorated pumpkins for display outside of our school in the fall
- Veterans Day – while unable to hold our annual Veterans Day assembly, we will find ways to honor the importance of this day
- Birthdays – students will not be permitted to distribute birthday treats or prizes, but birthdays will still be recognized both schoolwide and in the classroom
- Guest Readers/Mystery Readers – we will explore the use of virtual guest and mystery readers
- Field Trips – students will not be going on traditional field trips, but will look to take virtual tours

Face Shields/Masks

- Due to the [Governor's Order](#), face coverings are required.
- Face coverings, such as masks or face shields, must be worn on the bus, in the hallways, in the nurse's suite, in bathrooms, or any time when a physical distance of six feet apart is unable to be met. Coverings will also be used at recess if students are unable to maintain a physical distance of six feet apart.
- Face coverings do not have to be worn while eating lunch, when sitting six feet apart, during mask breaks, or by students with a documented health condition or disability that precludes the wearing of a face covering in school.

Student Attendance and Exclusion Requirements

- Please see the [School Exclusion Requirements](#) as listed in the Souderton Area School District's Health and Safety Plan

Souderton Area Online Academy

- Questions regarding the [Souderton Area Online Academy](#) are best answered by visiting the Souderton Area School District website. You may also e-mail onlineacademy@soudertonsd.org. You may also reach out to me with any questions.