

Oak Valley Middle School: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about our Reopening

** Updated 10/29/20*



General Questions

When will families be given the opportunity to change their learning choice, VLA/In Person? Would you be able to tell parents about which option you will follow for reopening before resurvey?

Yes, as a site we will need to make our final decision in the next week or so and the survey for parents to select on-campus or virtual will go out after the School Board has approved our plan at the 11/12 meeting. Parents will know which direction we are going prior so they can make the best decision.

Will you have extra rooms with supervision for students to do their virtual class in the simultaneous model?

Yes, we will be using the classrooms of those teachers who are not on campus and who are teaching from their homes to house and supervise our students.

Will teachers be regularly tested for COVID-19 to make sure they are not an asymptomatic carrier?

PUSD is working with county health officials to open a testing center in Rancho Bernardo. The goal is for PUSD staff to be tested every two months. This is still a work in progress and has not been made official.

I want to clarify for the simultaneous model, we already know two of our teachers are virtual. If we choose in person, do we still have the same virtual teacher and then our child would be zooming with the same virtual teachers on campus?

For those classes where teachers are going to remain virtual, your student will be zooming into their class on their Chromebook here at OVMS (if you choose on-campus). The teachers and class schedule would remain the same in this simultaneous model.

You mentioned how there are extra costs associated with needing more subs, because staff gets sick or has jury duty, etc. Etc. How is that any different than pre-Covid time? I don't understand this.

So far this year we have had few subs available to cover staff who are sick, but since we are all working virtually, staff have been able to just post an assignment on Canvas and let students know they are not meeting live that day. That has been a temporary fix. When we return to campus, we will need adult supervision for students in the areas where staff are absent. If a teacher or other staff member needs to remain virtual, we need to pay for a sub to supervise on campus students. With many staff needing to stay virtual, this increases costs from previous years.

What happens when a student gets sick?

The short answer is that students who have any Covid like symptoms will be sent home. The PUSD Reopening Guide 2.0 linked [here](#) provides all the details on pages 14 and 15 that are being used district wide should a student who is on campus be symptomatic.

Would you be open to parent volunteers for on-campus supervision? (Screening, class supervision)

Right now we need help finding substitute teachers, or help to recruit others in the community to apply for this role. OVMS and PUSD would encourage those they know who are looking for work to apply for our district wide openings for substitutes, instructional assistants, noon duty assistants, and more by sharing the district job opportunity page linked [here](#) for non-teaching jobs and [here](#) for teacher substitutes. If we are given permission to use adult volunteers, I will certainly reach out. I know this community will come together to help!

So a student could be sent home and have COVID but we might not know? Is there no obligation on families to test and inform the school?

Based on the PUSD Reopening Guide (linked [here](#)) page 14 and 15 lay out this process. If a student has Covid symptoms, we recommend they get tested, though we cannot require it. If a student tests positive, the doctor's office notifies the County Public Health office who in turn notifies the school. Families are not required to disclose this information but we encourage families to let us know if they receive a positive test result so that we can begin the contact tracing process and keep the rest of our school community safe.

How will classrooms be sanitized in between class periods?

Students will be moving classrooms between periods. Custodians will not be able to adequately clean all rooms in between periods nor can we ensure 6 foot distancing at all times with a campus of our size. We will have wipes and sanitizer in all classrooms for students, but it is critical for parents to help partner with us in teaching our kiddos the importance of being mindful of keeping a distance from those around them, using sanitizer, etc. Classrooms will be sanitized nightly.

A class where the teacher remains virtual, there will be a substitute or other adult supervising those students, what live instruction are they getting when on campus? Are they in class but just watching their teacher on a screen?

Basically yes, if a student chooses on-campus and has a period with a teacher who is remaining virtual, there will be no live in-person instruction outside of what is happening in the zoom. Even when it is OVSM staff in the classroom, the instruction will still be largely focused in a manner for both groups to see and understand.

How will Band and Choir be done safely?

Outdoor singing and band practice are permitted, provided that precautions such as physical distancing and mask-wearing are implemented to the maximum extent possible. Playing wind instruments (any instrument played by the mouth, such as a trumpet or clarinet) is strongly discouraged. Physical distancing beyond 6 feet is strongly recommended for any of these activities. The guidelines and the FAQ for the California Department of Public Health are a little different. This is changing and evolving. We are waiting for an update. We have district employees monitoring this daily.

We have a computer but not a portable device. Will Chromebooks be distributed for 7th/8th graders prior to going back?

We will be distributing Chromebooks to 7th and 8th-grade students prior to reopening. Once we get a count of how many are coming we will plan a distribution event.

How will lunch work for on-campus students?

We will utilize all of our campus for lunch, this will give students more room to spread out. We will need the help of our parent community to reinforce, at home, the importance of keeping a safe distance while at lunch. Unfortunately, there will be no access to some of the games and other fun activities we normally have at lunch. We will be limiting seating at our outdoor tables and students will not be allowed to eat indoors.

What happens at lunch when it rains?

Students will most likely spread out around our covered walkways and other covered areas. It will certainly be a challenge and something that we will figure out. Our kids are great and I know we will be able to make it work.

If our OVMS student has siblings in different schools, can we request a specific AM/PM option so we don't have to pick up students at the same time but at different school sites?

If we move into an AM/PM model, we will want to align siblings together for families to the best of our ability.

In regards to splitting time on campus did you look at one week on, one week off vs am/pm split for any of the options.

We have explored this model. In the end, we think that daycare may be difficult for some families having it this way instead of a common schedule every week.

Is the new survey asking our preference of either on-campus or VLA going to cover the rest of the year or is it going to just cover the next grading period?

There are still many unknown factors, but this would be the plan for now. If and when health restrictions change, we would move to adjust our system as allowed by the School Board and other county requirements.

Can kids go home for a period to attend class at home if their teacher is VLA? Especially if it is the first or last period of the day?

Parents and guardians are always able to check out their students at any point in the school day.

At a local elementary school, a student tested positive for Covid so the entire class and the teacher (both AM/PM) were sent home to quarantine for 14 days. In the MS/HS environment, where a student interacts with 6 different teachers and 6 different groups of kids, what are the current quarantine guidelines if a student tests positive?

If you have close contact with a positive case, which means less than 6 feet away for more than 15 minutes, then you will be quarantined for 14 days. The school will notify all contacts and the school community. For secondary schools, this means that multiple classes may be exposed and may need to quarantine. Depending on the classroom, it might only be a couple of kids in that class that were in close contact and those would be the ones who must quarantine. It is not automatic. It will be very difficult to mandate social distancing at this age level. We cannot guarantee all kids will be 6 feet apart at all times. We will educate our community and remind them, but kids at this age want to be close. This will be a challenge for middle schoolers and we will help them with that challenge.

Will my child's teachers be the same if the kids return to campus?

This will depend on what instructional model Oak Valley adopts. If we must reorganize our master schedule, that will result in many students having new teachers. If we adopt one of the other models, it is highly likely that your child's teachers would be the same. We are doing our best to keep things as consistent as possible for the good of our students and staff.

How will models be determined?

The Oak Valley staff has organized a think tank. We meet weekly to discuss the models. We also work with our Team Leaders who lead various departments on our campus. Finally, we will have an all-staff meeting to build consensus for one specific model. Our model must be determined by November 12th and submitted to the Poway School Board.

The simultaneous model sounds interesting, and are we able to support teachers with some devices or equipment for supporting both in-classroom and online students?

One of the best ways to support additional resources is to give to the Oak Valley Education Foundation. The OVFF actively works to support the requests of teachers and the needs of the school as a whole. Learn more at <http://www.oakvalleyfalconfoundation.com/>

Can you please reiterate why kids will need supervision in class when they are on campus?

Some of our classes will not have the teacher in the physical space during in-person classes. Those classes would be supported by an adult supervisor, potentially a substitute teacher or other staff member, while the teacher is teaching the class virtually.

When Oak Valley reopens, will there be bus service?

While small groups are returning, we are unable to provide bus service. However, once we have a widespread return to campus, bus services will resume at Oak Valley.

Will we know which teachers will be virtual and which teachers will be in-person before we decide if we send our students back?

Unfortunately, since this is a personnel issue, we cannot specifically disclose this. Students and families will be notified which classes will be in person or virtual once this process has been completed through the district office in the manner we are allowed.

My son is struggling like he never has before due to staying home. Does the district recognize the strain on students' development, confidence, and mental health from at-home learning?

Absolutely, this is why it is so critical for secondary schools to get those students back who need us the most. We are all working hard to make this happen as soon as possible. Until then, we have set up lots of supports for students. Please reach out to your student's counselor, they are here to help!

What safety measures are in place inside the classrooms? Are students required to wear masks at all times? Are their dividers in classrooms? Will the door and windows remain open?

The tables in our classrooms will be spread out 6 feet apart to the best of our ability. All students will be required to wear masks at all times. We do have dividers in classroom spaces. Unfortunately, none of the windows on campus have the ability to be open but doors can. Students and staff will have their temperature taken upon entry to campus each day. Classrooms will be sanitized nightly.

How are you going to ensure social distancing for all students?

The degree to which physical distancing is possible throughout our campus will largely depend on the number of families choosing the on-campus option. OVMS is a large school with lots of students and while they will be advised to keep physically distant from one another, this is certainly a challenge on a campus of our size. In the movement of students around campus, it is likely that 6 feet are not always adhered to unless each student, through discussions with family and teachers, continues to be vigilant in creating space for themselves.

If OVMS is adopting the simultaneous teaching model (on-campus and VLA students taught together), how will teachers ensure that VLA students will get the attention of teachers/on-campus students if VLA students have questions or comment during class time?

If a student chooses on-campus and has a period with a teacher who is remaining virtual, there will be no live instruction outside of what is happening in the zoom. This will be similar to teachers who are on-campus. While staff are in their classroom, the instruction will still be largely focused in a manner for both groups to see and understand. The goal is for virtual and on-campus students to really see no difference. We cannot sacrifice one group for the benefit of another. We must be equitable to both.

Are there going to be desk partitions in classrooms?

Yes, the district has purchased plastic desk partitions for all schools in PUSD.

Will there be a full-time virtual option still available?

Yes, students will be able to remain virtual for the remainder of the school year.

How will teachers be given adequate time to prepare for any kind of transition so that they are prepared to provide effective instruction?

District leadership is working on training opportunities and possibly some extra time built in so that teachers can be properly trained. This is something that must be worked out between the District and the bargaining units.

How will positive cases on campus be communicated to families?

The county will handle this in a similar way to other past health concerns. The county will notify PUSD, and then our district will work with our site to communicate with our families. This communication home for our families will be sent via our automated Connect5 email message system.

How will PE be handled? - locker rooms, masks?

Overall, our guideline is facemasks are required. We will continue to work with the county to seek guidance related to physical activity and masks. Those details, again, are being discussed but have not been finalized.

How can parents help the students, teachers, staff, etc prepare to return?

We really appreciate this community! If there are needs, I will certainly reach out and ask. Thanks so much 92127!

This form will be updated as needed.