



Vanderbilt Area School

The mission of the Vanderbilt Area School is to graduate respectful, responsible, lifelong learners empowered to meet future challenges.

August 5, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are contacting you on behalf of Vanderbilt Area School to share the potential return to school plan for the start of the 2020/2021 school year. Vanderbilt Area School is currently considered a Phase 5 district and as such, face-to-face instruction, with appropriate safety considerations, is allowable. With this in mind, we will be opening our doors to our students on **August 31st** for another great school year.

Please note the possibility still exists that the COVID-19 pandemic may impact our region with greater significance in the future. To this end and to keep our students as safe as possible, Vanderbilt Area School will open as though we reside in a phase 4 district. This translates to all staff and students being required to wear masks on the bus, in classrooms, and in the common areas of the school. The only exception is for K-5 students; They may remove their masks once in their classrooms if they so choose.

Staff will provide instruction on proper handwashing, and students will wash their hands at regular intervals throughout the day. We will be adding sanitizing stations at school entrances, hallways and in classrooms that do not have sinks. Face masks will be provided by the school and available for all students and staff but you may provide masks for your children as well. Additional cleaning equipment has been ordered that will enable staff to sanitize classrooms throughout the day.

Another precautionary measure will be the option of attending VAS virtually. While Vanderbilt Area School is committed to providing face-to-face instruction, we also realize that some students and families may not feel comfortable attending school in person. To fulfill that need we will be providing instruction, led by our staff virtually, at all grade levels. Families will be able to choose the learning program that best meets the needs of their child/children. The online programs are comprehensive learning programs from a state-approved vendor and administered by Vanderbilt Area School

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teachers. The specific details of our online learning program option will be available in the next few weeks.

The staff expects to complete the VAS Return to Learning Plan by August 10, 2020. The draft of that plan will be shared with staff, families, and the community. Before formal implementation, the Board of Education will approve this plan at the **August 12th** meeting. The first day of school is a half-day for all students on **Monday, August 31, 2020**.

Next week staff will begin calling families to discuss our plan and which option works best for you and your student. Thank you for your patience and support as we formalize a successful and safe return to school. Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Lee Sandy, Superintendent

Sincerely,

Matt Saunders, Principal

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