



Greeting

The rain has arrived! I hope this November Friday finds you able to stay warm and dry in our blustery wet conditions. Now that daylight savings time has arrived, it can be challenging to stay motivated in the dark and dreary conditions we enjoy this time of year. At the same time, we can start looking forward to the holidays! Speaking of holidays, THANK YOU to all of you Veteran's for the service you have given to our country. Enjoy the weekend!

Media Arts Elective Class

In case you haven't seen it, Inside VPS did a feature story on our Media Arts class taught by Mr. Young. It is a neat story featuring the great work our students are doing to learn about media arts. Here is the link to the video. The Alki clip starts at 4:17 in the video. Check it out! https://youtu.be/Q4j22_HPQbw

Social Distancing on the Bus

One of my Big 4 reminders regarding Covid protocols is to maintain social distancing. We have recently gotten clarification that on the school bus, contact tracing must still occur if students are within 6 feet of each other. Please reinforce these reminders with your students if they ride a school bus:

- Wear your mask at all times
- When possible, sit 6 feet apart (we know it is not always possible)
- Follow bus driver directions at all times

COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11 approved by FDA

Parents may choose to have their children ages 5-11 vaccinated against COVID-19. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine received emergency-use approval by the FDA and CDC on Nov. 2. Interested parents should contact their healthcare provider or local pharmacies about availability and scheduling. VPS is not offering vaccinations at district schools.

The COVID-19 vaccine is not required for student enrollment in Vancouver Public Schools. We have no indication that a COVID-19 vaccine would become a required vaccination this school year. The Washington state Board of Health determines which vaccines are required for schools and child care and [has begun exploring whether to add COVID-19 vaccination to the state's list of immunizations required for school entry in future years.](#)

Students who are fully vaccinated and not showing symptoms are not required to quarantine if they are a close contact of someone who tests positive.

The Pfizer vaccine for children 5-11 years old is administered as a two-dose series, three weeks apart, but is a lower dose (10 micrograms) than that used for individuals 12 years of age and older (30 micrograms).

More information can be found on the state [Department of Health website.](#)

The American Academy of Pediatrics created a [video](#) to help families understand how the vaccine works. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOlrNlvEiMw>)

Spectator expectations for athletics

VPS has recently adapted some changes to expectations for attending athletic contests in order to improve safety and security. Please note the following if you plan to attend games this season:

- Student ID card needed for entrance into sporting events
- Students may only attend with a parent or guardian (this includes home and away contests)
- No food or drink in the gym
- Positive cheers for all athletes is allowed
- Stay in the bleachers. No re-entry after exiting
- Student must leave campus after school before the game starts.

Upcoming Dates

- 11/15 3:05 early release
- 11/22 3:05 early release
- 11/23 End of 1st trimester
- 11/24-11/27 No school- Thanksgiving Break
- 11/29 3:05 early release
- 11/29 Start of 2nd trimester

Mark Cain

Principal, Alki Middle School

[360-313-3200](tel:360-313-3200)

mark.cain@vansd.org

Working to empower students to create a better world!