Blue Valley

Masks • Literacy Screenings • Food and Nutrition • BVEF

back to school
BLUE VALLEY
Return to Learn!

Choosing a mask or face covering

Students and staff will wear masks/face coverings indoors at all times when at school. While the district will have masks available, students may choose to wear a homemade or store-bought mask. Most masks are effective at blocking a large number of respiratory droplets that leave the nose and mouth. As families consider masks/face coverings, here are some recommendations from Johns Hopkins Medicine:

- Bandannas, scarves, hand towels, or any items made of cotton or linen are a good place to start.
- Thicker, more densely woven cotton fabrics are best, such as quilting cotton or cotton sheets.
- Stretchy knits are ideal.
- Hold the fabric up to the light. The fewer tiny holes you can see, the better it will work to filter droplets.
- Making a good mask involves finding a balance. You want a fabric that does not allow droplets to pass through while ensuring you can still breathe properly with your mask in place.

Please note: Based upon a recent study done at Duke University, cotton alternatives likely perform better than stretchy polyester options (such as traditional "neck gaiters"). For this reason, it is recommended that options other than neck gaiters should be considered. If someone likes the idea of a neck device that reaches up to the mouth and nose, consider fabrics that are not stretchy and porous. Additional guidance about masks/face coverings is available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In the event a student or staff member has a medical reason to be excluded from wearing a mask while at school, a mask exemption form must be completed and returned to the school nurse for review once completed. The Request for Face Mask Medical Exemption form is available online. A form is required for all exemptions. Please note, the form must be completed by an M.D., a D.O. or a nurse practitioner.

Literacy screening assessments to continue this fall

Blue Valley educators will continue learning about dyslexia and best practices to support students with dyslexia in accessing and demonstrating their learning this year. In accordance with the state policies, all students in grades K-5 will take a brief universal literacy screening assessment three times annually. In the event the screening data indicates the potential for concern, students will be given a diagnostic assessment in the area(s) where the concern is indicated to gather more detailed information.

An Orton-Gillingham trained dyslexia consultant and in-district dyslexia trainer will help teachers continue to grow in their knowledge and practices associated with dyslexia by:

- Expanding professional learning about the science of reading and structured literacy
- Continuing to focus on phonological awareness and resources to support phonics instruction
- On-demand professional learning through a new resource, Blue Valley Staff Dyslexia Handbook, which was created by Blue Valley educators with wide-ranging areas of expertise in general and special education.

New point of sale meal payment system for families

Blue Valley Food and Nutrition Services is excited to announce their upgrade to a new Point of Sale software for student meal payments. Starting September 1, 2020, families will no longer pay student meal fees through ParentVUE, but through the new point of sale software - TITAN School Solutions. The new platform offers an improved experience for families participating in the district's meal service program. Key features include:

- Monitor and manage your student's accounts remotely
- Make an online meal payment to all students in your home in one location (Begins Sept. 1)
- Make online meal payments through mobile device app
- Save payment information, if desired
- Setup one-time or automatic recurring payments
- Setup low balance email message alerts
- Submit an online application for free and/or reduced meals
- View eligibility status

Register today!
All families participating in the district's meal service program must set up a new account in TITAN Family Portal to access these services and pay meal fees. Current meal account balances and eligibility status will automatically populate in your TITAN Family Portal once you have set up/registered your individual account.

To register, go to family.titank12.com and click **Sign Up Today!** to get started or download the TITAN Family Connect app (available in the Apple Store and Google Play) to register on your mobile device. Please refer to the FAQs for guidance on how to set up an account and answers to frequently asked questions**.** For more information about the district's Food and Nutrition Services or meal service payment, visit the district website.

Coming Soon: Online ordering and drive-thru pickup meal service for remote learners

Blue Valley's Food & Nutrition Services department, in partnership with Nutrislice, is pleased to announce online ordering and drive-thru pickup meal service for remote learners beginning Sept. 9! This includes Blue Valley students enrolled in Hybrid (limiting capacity) Learning, Distance Learning and VirtualED modes of instruction. Through this paid meal service, families will be able to pre-order their student's breakfast and lunch meals online, select from a variety of prepackaged meal options, and pick up meals during designated dates/times at one of five district sites. Meals will be charged according to the student's eligibility: free, reduced or paid. Please note, this service applies to dates when students are learning remotely. On dates students are learning in-person, they will have the opportunity to participate in the meal service program at school as usual or bring a sack lunch. Be on the lookout for additional information regarding cost, menus, pickup timeframes and locations coming soon!

Mark your calendar, grab your coffee and help BVEF celebrate 30 years

Have you ever wanted to attend the Blue Valley Educational Foundation's (BVEF) annual Community Breakfast and just haven't had an opportunity? Well, this is your lucky year! BVEF is going virtual for the 30thAnnual Community Breakfast, and you are cordially invited to join us and celebrate remotely.

On Wednesday, September 2, tune in at 7 a.m. to see a photo history of our 30 years and keep watching as the official program kicks off at 7:30 a.m. You will enjoy recorded musical student performances, Hall of Fame inductees Rev. Adam and LaVon Hamilton, a panel discussion with members of our district administrative team and more! The broadcast is available online.

Blue Valley Schools

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