

Fall Update

Elementary Hybrid Postponement

We are grateful to VEA members, VPS colleagues, and families for reaching out to VPS School Board members and Admin to share lingering questions and concerns around the lack of planning and communication for elementary hybrid. Last Friday, VPS announced they would postpone the transition until further planning and communication can take place.

In addition, this past Tuesday, [Clark County Public Health announced our COVID cases per 100,000 at a level of 76.15](#) – putting us back into the high range for COVID activity. As a result, tracking for 3 consecutive weeks (reported 9/29, 10/6 and 10/13) of moderate and/or low activity resets and the soonest we would be able to begin elementary hybrid (stage 1) would be Tuesday, 10/20. To begin secondary hybrid would require 3 subsequent and consecutive weeks with moderate and/or low activity. VPS' interpretation of CCPH guidance for schools can be found in further detail [here](#).

In the meantime, as we proceed with distance learning for elementary and secondary general education students, thank you for continuing to innovate and improve upon the remote experience for students and families. **And, shout out to VEA members Nadia L, Lisa P, Dana M, Jennifer G, Shannon S, Nate Y, Anne V and many others who candidly shared their remote learning experiences with VPS School Board Members during Tuesday's VPS Board Listening Session!**

Who's your VPS COVID Site Coordinator?

Consistent with section B2 of the VEA/VPS MOU, VPS shared a list of the COVID Site Coordinators for each school site. If you are unsure of who serves in this role at your worksite or if you serve at multiple work sites and just need help keeping things straight, you can view the list [here](#).

Please report questions, concerns and violations of COVID health and safety protocols to your COVID Site Coordinator as soon as possible to solicit support. If you receive no response or corrective action regarding violations of protocol, you can notify VEA to reach out to an Executive Director for additional support. Health and safety violations can also be reported directly as [Labor & Industries claims here](#).

Per sections B4 and B5 of the MOU, requests for replenishment and/or additional PPE, cleaning wipes, and/or sanitizer should go through your COVID Site Coordinator. In addition, special education teachers and ESAs in need of special PPE/cleaning materials can place their requests with Becky.Baker@vansd.org.

Gender Inclusion in our Schools

With a heightened awareness of the mental health and safety needs of our students, VEA is grateful for the intentionality our members bring to creating inclusive learning environments. Whether planning for remote interaction with and among students or in preparation for returning some students to onsite learning, thank you for considering gender inclusion among your priorities.

One simple approach to make your learning environment gender-friendly is to model and ask students to identify their preferred name and pronouns. VEA Equity Team members share the following tips:

- Take attendance by reading last names aloud and asking students to respond with their preferred first name/pronouns
- Get to know student names, pronouns, languages and more through their responses to a Google Form [like this](#)
- Model and have students create a digital name plate [like this](#)
- Add pronouns to your name in Zoom: instructions [here](#)
- Enable personal pronouns in Canvas: instructions [here](#)

It's not just a matter of doing right by our students; it's also the law. Per OSPI, "Civil rights laws prohibit discrimination and discriminatory harassment on the basis of gender expression and gender identity in Washington public schools. All students have the rights to be treated consistent with their gender identity at school." You can find further state and OSPI guidance [here](#) and read more on the topic of inclusive classrooms [here](#).

Give More 24! to the Foundation for VPS

Today is Give More 24!, our community's day of online giving. Now through midnight, donations to the Foundation for VPS will be doubled until they reach a \$17,500 match!



[Make your donation here!](#)

Donations during Give More 24 will be used to help remove barriers for the approximately 12,000 youth experiencing poverty by providing access to resources such as: FOOD, HOUSING ASSISTANCE, MEDICAL CARE, REMOTE LEARNING SUPPORT. EARLY LEARNING, CLOTHING & HYGIENE SUPPLIES, AND MORE.

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