**Note from the Principal:**

Welcome to a new school year! I am so glad to be back in school. Things will look a little different around here for awhile, but grateful that we can be meeting face to face. Please be aware that all students and adults must wear face coverings of some kind while in the building. If you are here to drop off or pick up your child make sure to wear one. If for medical reasons you are unable to wear one, stop by the office and we will try to accommodate your needs.

**COVID-19 Screening:** Parents, please screen your child/children each morning for the following scenarios:

1. Has our child been exposed to a person with a positive case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
2. Has your child been exposed to a person with a presumptive case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

If you answered yes to either of these two questions you must quarantine for 14 days from the time you were in contact with them.

1. Is your child experiencing an unusual cough, shortness of breath, or fever of 100.4 or higher, diarrhea, vomiting, headache, sore throat, new loss of smell or taste, or rash?

If yes to question 3, that person must be excluded from school for 10 days and 24 hours symptom free or you may seek medical attention and return with a negative COVID-19 test or a note from your physician stating some other medical issue.

**Thank you:** A big thank you to the Taylor family and the others that donated air purifiers for all of the classrooms. We certainly appreciate having them.

**Back- to- School Night**: Friday, Sept. 18th will be our back to school time. Each of you should find a scheduled time for you to meet with your child’s/children’s teachers. When you come, go directly to your child’s classroom. The teachers all have valuable information for you that will help your child have a successful year. VCS T-shirts, and sweatshirts, and yearbooks will be available to purchase at this time.

**VCS Facebook Pages:** We have two facebook pages. One is a public page where we will be posting pictures of activities, information about upcoming events, reminders, school closures due to weather, and much more. You can also post positive feedback for us through reviews. We would love for you to share the posts with your friends and family. It is a great way for people to get to know us. There is also a *private* group for VCS families only. Just “friend” Sandra Bender Swanson and she will send you an invite to the group.

**Quick Schools:** This is where you will be able to access your child’s grades, tuition account, and receive and send emails with the teachers and office. For new families, we will be sending you a link to join as soon as we receive your email address. Be sure to let your child’s teacher know if you don’t have internet access. For parents of Preschool and Pre-K students, we do not post grades for your children on Quick Schools.

**Volunteering**: At this time we are limited on having volunteers in the classrooms. When a need arises we will put a plea out. We would like to serve pizza twice a month. We will need someone to pick it up in town and some to help serve. Please let Mrs. Thomas know if you would like to help.

**Fundraising Notes:** We will be having our first fundraiser, a jog-a-thon on Fri., Sept. 25th. Information will be given to you on Friday, Sept. 18th at Back to School.

**On-going Year Long Fundraisers:** Ray’s Market rewards, Fred Meyer rewards, Office Max, box tops for education, and Oregon Books (mention our school if you purchase something there). Information for some of the companies is posted on the bulletin board by the stairs in the foyer.

**Morning Drop Off:** The school doors open each morning at 8:00 AM. Please do not drop your student off and leave them unattended before this time. If your work schedule necessitates an early drop off you must contact the office and make arrangements. After arrangements have been made, drop your student off at the Preschool door located on the East side of the building where they should proceed to the gym. There is a $1.00 a day per child fee for early drop off.

**After School Pick up:** If the safety cones are in the parking lot we ask that you do not drive past them. When picking up your children please come to the building and walk them back to your vehicle. Preschool and half day Pre-K students should be picked up at their classrooms at 11:30. Afternoon Pre-K through eighth grade students will be waiting at their designated areas at 2:45 pm. The afternoon Pre-K and Kindergarten students will be waiting in their classrooms. You may pick them up there. The 1st & 2nd  grade students will be waiting in their classroom. Please pick them up on the west side of the building at the door leading to their classroom. The 3rd & 4th grade class will be waiting outside the preschool classroom on the east side of the building. The 5th & 6th grade classes will be waiting outside the front of the building at the main entrance. The 7th & 8th grade classes will be outside their classroom. We ask that if you stay to visit with other parents, please keep your children with you. If someone other than yourself will be picking your child up, or your child is to be walking or riding their bike home, please let the school know ahead of time.

**Absence and Tardy Policy:** If your child or children arrive after **8:10am** they will need to **check in** at the office before going to class. A written or verbal excuse from an adult needs to accompany them. Absences need to have an excuse as well. Any ten tardies or absences per trimester will result in a conference with Mrs. Thomas. Let’s work together in helping our children establish excellent character by being on time.

**Security:** There are security cameras installed around the buildings. The doors are locked at approximately 8:15 and you must ring the bell at the front door to be let in. Everyone who enters will need to stop by the office and sign in. You will be given a badge which you must have on in order to be in the halls or classrooms. You will also need to check your students in and out through the office for any appointments you may have. You will not be able to go directly to classrooms or have your child come out to the parking lot. Thank you in helping to keep all the students safe.

**Textbook Info:** In most classes, textbooks are not the property of the student but are the property of the school. They are on loan to the students. Please take extra care with the books; any book that is returned with more than normal wear will be your responsibility to pay for a replacement. Keeping water bottles out of their backpacks would be helpful. Often times the bottles leak and ruin books.

**Lunch Notes:** Lunch and snacks are available each day to be purchased. The students will need to stop by the kitchen on their way to class in the morning to get their slips filled out and pick up their snack food. If you would like to help them with their selection please go with them to the kitchen.You are also welcome to pick up slips in the office to keep at home where you can fill them out and send to school with your child. If your child forgets their lunch we will try to contact you. If we do not hear from you we will provide them with lunch and you will be contacted with a price for the meal. All lunch items that are sent to school to be heated up should take no more than two minutes. Please be sure to send utensils if your child is in need of them.

**Medicine at School:** If your child needs to take medicine at school you must bring the medicine to the office and fill out a medical authorization form. It will be given to them from the office. Do not send medicine to school for your child to take themselves.

**Cell Phones and Electronic Devices:** If your child needs to bring a cell phone to school, it is to be turned in to

their teacher each morning and picked up at the end of the day. If your child needs to make a call during school

hours they may use the school office phone. If you need to get a message to your child, please call the school office using extension 3#. All other electronic devices need to be kept in backpacks and not brought out during school hours unless authorized by a teacher.

**PE Info:** You will need to send a note if you do not want your child to participate in PE class. If no note is sent we will assume that your child should participate along with everyone else. We also ask that you be sure and have appropriate shoes for PE class for your child. Shorts under dresses and skirts are a good idea for the girls. At this time due to COVID-19 issues we are not requiring students in grades 5th – 8th to have special PE clothes.

**Immunization Updates:** If your child has received shots within the last year you will need to stop by the office and update their immunization records.

**Student Information Forms:** Each child was sent home with a pack of forms that will need to be filled out and returned to school this week. Please check to see that both sides of all forms have been filled out completely. Returning these cards promptly would be appreciated.

**Yearbooks:** The yearbooks for last year have arrived. You may pick yours up at Back to School Night. The cost is $15.00 if you did not prepay.

**Needs:** Many of the classes will have wish list items on their doors or in their classrooms for items they would like to have. If you can help out with these items it would be greatly appreciated.

**Preschool and Pre-K Parents:**

At this time the number of students in the two classes is low enough that we will be dividing the students into two groups within the next couple of weeks. They will be spending time between the two teachers and also time together as a whole. Be watching for details. For those students that will be staying for the full day they will be spending two afternoons with Miss Bleeker and two afternoons with Mrs. Dahl. Please pick up your student at the end of the day at Miss Bleeker’s classroom.

**Preschool (3yrs)** - *Miss Bleeker*

Welcome! I am looking forward to the new and exciting year waiting for us to explore together. Our Back to School Night is Friday, Sept. 18th. I hope you will be able to attend. This is a great time to ask questions, check out your child's classroom and to hear what is up and coming in Preschool.

Our Bible verse for this month is: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." Deuteronomy 6:5

Please feel free to call me at the school or my email is missmbleekerprek@aol.com.

**Pre-K** -*Mrs. Dahl*

Hello and welcome to Pre-K! I am very excited to have your child in class this year. We will have lots of fun learning, discovering and playing together. Parents, as we head into the fall and cooler days, please send a long sleeve shirt or jacket to school every day for outside recess time.

Our first memory verse is Ephesians 6:1 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.” We will begin with the letter “I” in our ABC time.

I hope to see you at our Back to School night Friday, September 18. It is a great time to get those questions you have answered. I will also have important information for the school year for you that evening.

**Kindergarten** - *Mrs. Jones*

Welcome! It is so exciting starting a new school year. Our first weeks of school students will be about learning where to find everything in our new classroom, learning the classroom rules, and we will have a lot of fun while learning all these new things. There will be an amazing amount of growth and accomplishments this year.

Coming up, on Friday, Sept. 18th, is our Back to School Night. A time has been set up for us to meet. I will be sharing a lot of information about this year; I will answer questions you may have and share our hopes for the year. I will also be giving you a folder full of important information.

**1st & 2nd Grades** – *Mrs. Crownover*

Hello Parents! I am so glad that we can be back in the classroom as we begin this school year! Some of the way we do things will be a bit different this year, but it is worth the extra effort to be able to be in school again.

I am so thankful to have Mrs. Johnson again this year as a teacher’s aide. She will be in our classroom all morning to help.

Our first few weeks will be busy as we learn new routines and procedures that will facilitate learning in our classroom.

Second Graders will be bringing reading and spelling homework home beginning Monday, September 21.

First grade will begin reading homework Monday, September 27 and Spelling homework in October.

Please remember to initial the reading slip inside the front cover of the reading book to verify that your child did their homework. Spelling homework will generally go home on Monday evening and needs to be turned in on Tuesday.

I look forward to seeing you all at our Back to School conferences. It will be a good opportunity to connect, and I will have some classroom information for you at that time.

Please be sure to sign up for Remind. Check your Child’s “Go Folder” for the information on how to do that. It is the platform that all the teachers in our school are using to communicate with our parents.

Have a blessed month!

**3rd & 4th Grades** - *Mrs. Richardson*

Welcome back to school! I am very excited to be able to teach your children this year. There have been many changes, so Back to School will be extra important and helpful. Our class of 13 students has eight 3rd graders and five 4th graders. Mrs. Bergquist will be our aide again, and we will also have Mrs. Wright helping correct papers and assist with other projects. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you.

**5th & 6th Grades** - *Mrs. Swanson*

Here we go! I’m very happy to be starting the new school year. Much prayer has gone in to the opening of the school this fall and it is no doubt in my mind that your child is in VCS in my classroom for “just a time as this.” I so appreciate every minute I have with your child. We have much to learn and do. Things may be a different this year, but I will do my best to make it a positive one full of fun and learning.

Your child has been issued an assignment pad. Please look at it every Monday – Thursday evening. This tool is not just an aid for the student but a communication support for parents. It should be signed by the parent (you) every night and returned to school the next morning. Develop the habit right away and you will be informed regularly.

**7th and 8th Grades-** *Mr. Hunkler*

Bible, Writing, Grammar and History

I am overjoyed that we are able to have in-person teaching and learning this year at Vineyard! I welcome new and returning students and pray that you will be blessed with every blessing from heaven and that you and your family feel and experience God’s love every day! God’s Word comes to us with many promises, one of which is that “You will be blessed if you love according to My Word” (words of Jesus in John 13:17 paraphrased). It is my sincere hope that as we study God’s Work that it will not only be learned but also applied to life. Accordingly, biblical truths will be presented, discussed, and there will be some memorization, but students will be always encouraged to make God’s teachings come alive in daily life.

Since we are urged to “Praise God from the rising of the sun to its setting” (Psalm 113:3), we will do some singing and praising and worshipping God in Bible Class.

World History has a 3-fold goal: 1) to show God’s hand in the history of the world, 2) to emphasize the role of individuals in history, and 3) to teach the many lessons that can be learned from history. Above all, the History of the World Class emphasizes the providence of God in the actions of men and women.

Grammar, the study and use of language, is a high calling for all who follow Christ! The God of the universe used language to bring the world into existence (Gen.1:3)! The Creator of everything calls us to exercise dominion over the earth, and this is partly accomplished through language. God desires that language be used to draw all people to Himself, and so it makes sense that we use language effectively to communicate His purposes. Hopefully, all students will make it their goal this year to speak, read and write more effectively. I love and enjoy language, one of the greatest gifts from God, and I am thrilled to share that with you this year.

Additionally, I offer another language study, French, after school on Tuesdays, from 2:45 to 3:30. This is not a school function and so there is a fee, payable to Cyril Hunkler. The first fee will be for the text, and then it will be $30.00 monthly. Scholarships are available if needed.

**7th and 8th Grades -** *Mrs. Kaily*

Math, Vocabulary, Spelling, Literature and Science

Welcome back to school! I am so relieved to be back in the classroom again. I hope your summer was fun and relaxing. I am excited to see what this year has in store for us and how the Lord will work in all our lives. It is my hope that it will be full of successful experiences for all the students. I am eager to see you at back to school conferences. I have information that will help inform you of what to expect this year and how to help your student reach their full potential.

**7th and 8th Grades –** *Mrs. Wright*

Math

I’m excited to be back at Vineyard! I will be teaching pre-algebra class for 8th grade and helping around the school. I look forward to seeing all the familiar faces from past years and meeting new families!

**Vaccination Report:**

The state of Oregon requires that we post the vaccination records for our school. You may see them posted on our website at [www.vineyardchristianschoolgp.com](http://www.vineyardchristianschoolgp.com) or you may see them posted in the office.