

Table 1

Vinalhaven School Return-to-Learning Plan 2020-2021

SUMMARY

Thank you for your interest in discovering how Vinalhaven School will offer learning opportunities to students in grades preK-12 this year! Let's begin with a quick summary.

PLAN A	PLAN B	PLAN C	
When the Maine Department of Education uses the color “green”, they suggest our county has a relatively low COVID-19 risk.	When the Maine DOE uses the color “yellow”, they suggest our county has an elevated risk of COVID-19 spread	When the Maine Department of Education uses the color “red”, they suggest our county has a high risk of COVID-19 spread	
When Vinalhaven School believes the risk of spread is low, we follow PLAN A.	When Vinalhaven School believes the risk of spread is likely, we follow PLAN B.	When Vinalhaven School believes the risk of spread is high, we will follow PLAN C.	
Vinalhaven School Option #1			VH School Option #2
<p>Option #1 includes three plans (Plan A, Plan B, Plan C) that allows the school to move quickly between plans if risk factors change. This means each student is working with classmates and a variety of Vinalhaven teachers. Students will study Math, ELA, Science, Social Studies, plus a variety of other “wheel” classes. With Option #1 Plan A, the school is prepared for all students to attend school in the building, and all state safety requirements will be met (described below).</p> <p>Option #1 Plan B, means some students may attend school in the building, while other students work remotely from home.</p> <p>Option #1 Plan C, means the risk of COVID-19 spread is high, and all students will work remotely from home.</p> <p>Again, at any time in the school year, students and staff might need to move to a different plan based upon risk factors. Our goal is to follow PLAN A whenever safety factors make it possible!</p>			<p>Option # 2 is a more restrictive choice for parents who prefer to keep their student at home. The school provides the online curriculum, technology, supplies, and a Remote Learning Team to support learning in Math, Science, ELA, and Social Studies. It is a big time commitment for students and parents.</p>
<p>How will school look different this year while students are in the building? The first week of school (September 8, 9 10, 11) will have a shortened schedule, starting at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 1:00 p.m. It’s important that we start with an awareness of social and emotional needs, so we’ll ease in and help students practice new protocols for breakfast and lunch, classroom expectations, how we move through the halls, and plans for outdoor breaks. We are planning to make it fun, exciting and welcoming! Our first week, teachers will meet each day from 1:00 - 3:00 to evaluate how everything is working, and quickly communicate with families if we need to adapt. Tents? An obvious change will be the large outdoor classroom tents filled with tables and chairs for “mask off” learning. Students will have more of their own personalized supplies to reduce sharing of equipment. All students/staff will practice staying further apart and regularly washing or sanitizing hands. Since all students and staff will wear masks while in the building, there will be many regularly-scheduled outdoor “mask off” breaks. MORE specific information on the following pages.</p>			<p>Option #2 requires parental consent to a full semester of remote learning for their student. It is a rigorous curriculum supported by two teachers (our Remote Learning Team) who provide technical support and supervision of learning. They are not personal tutors, but will gladly help guide students and parents through the online process.</p>

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DETAILS!

PLAN A	PLAN B	PLAN C	VH School Option #2
<p>What are Maine’s 6 requirements for safely opening schools in September? <u>1. Symptom screening.</u> All students/staff are required to conduct self-checks for symptoms prior to entering the building. Click here for the pre-screening tool. Any person showing symptoms must report their symptoms and not be present at school. <u>2. Physical distancing.</u> Adults must maintain 6 feet of distance from others to the extent possible. Maintaining 3 feet of distance is acceptable between students when combined with the other measures outlined in this list of safety requirements. 6 feet of physical distancing is required for students while eating breakfast and lunch, as students will be unable to wear masks at that time. <u>3. Masks/Face Coverings.</u> Adults, including educators and staff, are required to wear a mask/face covering. Face shields may be an alternative for those students with documented medical, behavioral challenges who are unable to wear masks/face coverings. <u>4. Hand Hygiene.</u> All students and staff in school must receive training in proper hand hygiene. They must wash hands or use sanitizing gel upon entering the school, before and after eating, before and after donning or removing a face mask, after using the restroom, before and after use of playgrounds and when sharing equipment. <u>5. Personal Protective Equipment.</u> Additional safety precautions are required for any staff supporting students in close proximity, when distance is not possible, or when students require physical assistance. These precautions must at a minimum include eye protection and a mask/face covering. Classrooms and/or areas that have been used by an individual diagnosed with Covid-19 must be closed off until thorough cleaning and sanitization takes place. <u>6. Return to school after illness.</u> Sick staff members and students must use home isolation until they meet criteria for returning to school.</p>			<p>Parents who choose to keep their child at home for a semester of remote learning will follow their own choices regarding symptom screening, physical distancing, etc.</p>
<p>So what’s the good news? Good question! Vinalhaven School has a small number of students in a large building. We can meet all of the safety requirements above with appropriate spacing. We have large spaces to go outside and take mask breaks as we learn. The building has multiple entrances, an excellent ventilation system with quality filters, lots of windows, and grade level “islands” so that student “mixing” is minimal. Coronavirus Relief Funds have allowed us to make building adaptations, buy adequate supplies, and support outdoor learning. Plus, groups of teachers are in the building nearly every day preparing exciting learning events, sharing new strategies, and brainstorming plans for student engagement without compromising safety.</p>			<p>The good news for parents who choose Option #2 is that they are not completely “on their own”. Vinalhaven school provides curriculum, technology, supplies and online support.</p>
<p>Safety starts with self-checks daily. Parents and staff should call the school and report illnesses to Amanda, the school secretary. Call (207) 863-4800. <i>(Any student or staff member with a fever of 100..4 or greater, symptoms of possible COVID-19 virus infection, or use of medicine in the past 24 hours to reduce a fever should not be present in school.</i></p>			
<p>Plan A. All students are in the building with teachers taking the full, regular school curriculum.</p>	<p>Plan B. Not all students are in the building. If certain student age groups are at a higher risk, remote learning might be necessary with adaptations in some subject areas.</p>	<p>Plan C. No students are in the building. The risk of spread is high, so the entire school moves to remote learning. The curriculum content will be similar to regular school, but teaching formats will adapt.</p>	<p>Students work from home for a full semester, taking appropriate level courses in Math, ELA, Science and Social Studies.</p>
<p>Follows the regular school calendar.</p>	<p>Follows the regular school calendar.</p>	<p>Follows the regular school calendar.</p>	<p>Follows the regular school calendar.</p>
<p>Everyone in the building will wear a DOE approved mask or a shield. Regular, planned mask breaks are required.</p>	<p>Everyone in the building will wear a DOE approved mask or a shield. Regular, planned mask breaks are required.</p>	<p>Appointments for school entry require a mask, hand washing protocols and distancing.</p>	<p>Appointments for school entry require a mask, hand washing protocols and distancing.</p>

PLAN A	PLAN B	PLAN C	VH School Option #2
Students: 3 feet distance minimum indoors. Staff: 6 feet distance minimum indoors. All: 6 feet minimum for meals/snacks. Students and staff who are outside with a minimum of 6 feet spacing may remove their mask.	Students: 3 feet distance minimum indoors. Staff: 6 feet distance minimum indoors. All: 6 feet minimum for meals/snacks. Students and staff who are outside with a minimum of 6 feet spacing may remove their mask.	Students should not plan to enter the building if Plan C is needed. If urgent, appointments can be made with school administration. School entry will require a mask, hand washing protocols and distancing.	Students working remotely should not plan to enter the building. If urgent, appointments can be made with school administration. School entry will require a mask, hand washing protocols and distancing.
Playground/Play equipment cleaned regularly and hands washed before/after. Students outside without a mask will practice appropriate spacing.	Playground/Play equipment cleaned regularly and hands washed before/after. Students outside without a mask will practice appropriate spacing.	Playground and fields available to individuals as needed. Hand washing and spacing encouraged.	Parents may use playground and fields after regular school hours.
Enhanced hand washing / sanitizer protocols	Enhanced hand washing / sanitizer protocols		
Enhanced Cleaning of School	Enhanced Cleaning of School		
Limit non-essential visits inside school for guest speakers, parents, substitutes, or other visitors	Limit non-essential visits inside school for guest speakers, parents, substitutes, or other visitors		
Virtual Open House and P/T Conferences	Virtual Open House and P/T Conferences	Virtual Open House and P/T Conferences	Virtual Open House and P/T Conferences
Limited or delayed sports or after school activities based-upon updated state guidelines. Added safeguards .	No after school activities. Sports follow updated state guidelines.	No after school activities or sports.	No after school activities or sports
Breakfast and lunch will be offered inside and outside, with at least 6 feet spacing since masks will be off when eating.	Meals available for students working remotely to eat at home.. In-school students follow guidelines in Plan A.	Meals made available for students to eat at home.	Meals made available for students to eat at home.
Limited Sharing: supplies of classroom materials are in personal packets (clip boards, pencils, calculators, etc.)	Limited Sharing: supplies of classroom materials are in personal packets (clip boards, pencils, calculators, etc.)	Supplies of classroom materials sent home when needed and feasible.	Supplies of classroom materials sent home when needed and feasible.
<p>What is this new Remote Learning Platform and how does it work? Special funding through the Cares Act allowed us to purchase a comprehensive online curriculum for all students in grades K-12. Whenever learning has to occur in a remote setting, the Remote Learning Platform provides teachers, parents, and students an option for learning (like math or ELA). For instance, a 2nd grader could watch a math or science lesson, practice skills, do assignments, and take quizzes all through the same online format. Similar for a high school student. We will also have a Remote Learning Team: two veteran educators who have worked with this platform for many years. Last year, as trainers, they traveled to many schools supporting teachers who taught online courses. This year, they will live in Vinalhaven and work exclusively with our school.</p>			
Even though we'll be in the building, the Remote Learning Team will provide comprehensive staff training, so we are prepared for remote learning as needed.	The Remote Learning Team will support those teaching and learning remotely by helping customize courses and providing technical assistance.	The Remote Learning Team will support those teaching and learning remotely by helping customize courses and providing technical assistance.	The Remote Learning Team will help parents and students learn to use the online platform, provide daily guidance, and monitor progress.

PLAN A	PLAN B	PLAN C	VH School Option #2
<p>Staff will receive training, and can practice gradual integration of the new remote learning platform in their classrooms to help students prepare for potential moves to Plan B or Plan C. Staff will explore how to customize the content of courses, and options for credit recovery or “gap” recovery options, national test prep, career readiness, etc.</p>	<p>In Plan B, students learning remotely will still continue their education with their regular school teachers. Teachers who use the online courseware as part of their remote course design, will have ongoing technical assistance from the Remote Learning Team.</p>	<p>In Plan C, all students will continue their education with their regular school teachers. Teachers who use the online platform as part of their remote course design, will have ongoing technical assistance from the Remote Learning Team. For students, there will be more courses with a similar format for learning.</p>	<p>For students learning from home in Option #2, the Remote Learning Platform will be the primary source for learning. The Remote Learning Team will work with teachers prior to the semester to select appropriate level courses in Math, ELA, Science and Social Studies. Parents are in charge of student learning, with technical assistance from our Remote Team.</p>
<p>Specialized training for staff will occur prior to the first day of school, during planned staff development days, during staff meetings, and as requested by individual teachers seeking support.</p>	<p>Specialized training for staff will occur prior to the first day of school, during planned staff development days, during staff meetings, and as requested by individual teachers seeking support.</p>	<p>Specialized training for staff will occur prior to the first day of school, during planned staff development days, during staff meetings, and as requested by individual teachers seeking support.</p>	<p>The Remote Learning Team will provide training and support for parents and students via zoom or phone calls.</p>
<p>What supplies will the school provide for safety and learning? The school will be able to provide all students and staff with several cloth masks. The school is going to provide all back-to-school classroom supplies this year. Parents are encouraged to provide additional masks as needed, and to regularly wash all cloth masks. We’ll have disposable masks available as needed. For special situations where a shield is needed, we’ll have those available, plus protective gear for staff such as disposable gowns, gloves, cleaning supplies, etc.</p>			
<p>What if someone feels sick at school? We’ll have a designated area where a student can wait for a parent pick-up. And if a student tests positive for COVID-19, we will be ready to offer supports for remote learning until the symptoms are gone and there is a negative test.</p>			
<p>What about parents who are considering option #2? By August 24th, please contact one of the school principals, Monte Selby or Bryan Feezor. (mselectby@vinalhavenschool.org or bfeezer@vinalhavenschool.org) We’ll explain specifically how it works, the time commitments and challenges, and we’ll answer questions!</p>			
<p>Want to read more? Click https://www.maine.gov/doe/framework to explore Maine’s Return-to-Learning Framework.</p>			
<p>Regardless of which Plan we must follow, emotional well-being, relationship building, and high-engagement learning will be a priority at Vinalhaven School!</p>	<p>Regardless of which Plan we must follow, emotional well-being, relationship building, and high-engagement learning will be a priority at Vinalhaven School!</p>	<p>Regardless of which Plan we must follow, emotional well-being, relationship building, and high-engagement learning will be a priority at Vinalhaven School!</p>	<p>Also with Option #2, emotional well-being, relationship building, and high-engagement learning will be a priority at Vinalhaven School!</p>