


Vinalhaven School Return to In-Person Learning 2021-2022

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	
VH School will offer in-person learning for all pK-12 students. Parents also have the option to choose remote learning.	VH School may have times where part of the student body is remote, while other students are in the building.	If the risk of infection is deemed too high to attend school in person, VH School is prepared to offer fully remote instruction.	
Vinalhaven School Option #1			VH School Option #2
<p>Option #1 Plan A. Students will study Math, ELA, Science, Social Studies, plus a variety of other “wheel” classes. Students will attend school in-person from 8:00 - 2:40 p.m. each day.</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! Regardless of whether or not the school is following Plan A, Plan B, or Plan C, students follow a daily schedule and will continue to learn from Vinalhaven teachers.</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.</p>
<p>How will school look while students are in the building? We will welcome back students on Tuesday, September 7th at 8:00 a.m. The first week of school we will practice any 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! The staff will meet regularly and communicate with parents if we need to adapt. Students will have more of their own personalized supplies to reduce sharing of equipment. All students/staff will practice appropriate spacing, and regularly wash or sanitize hands. Since all students and staff will be welcome to wear masks, we will continue offering more outdoor breaks, outdoor instruction, or options to each outside.</p>			<p>Option #2 requires parental consent. It is a rigorous curriculum supported by two teachers who provide technical support and supervision. They are not personal tutors, but will gladly support students and parents.</p>

What are Vinalhaven’s Plans for safely opening schools?

1. Symptom screening. All students/staff will conduct self-checks for symptoms prior to entering the building.
2. Physical distancing. Adults and students will maintain recommended spacing to the extent possible.
3. Masks/Face Coverings. Adults and students are required to wear a mask/face covering until otherwise notified by the Vinalhaven School Board.
4. Hand Hygiene. All students and staff will wash hands or use sanitizing gel upon entering the school, before and after eating, after using the restroom, before and after use of playgrounds and when sharing equipment.
5. Illness or exposure. If there are concerns that students or staff are sick, or have had direct exposure to COVID, school staff will communicate with the local medical center, the state CDC, and use the Maine Department of Education COVID hotline for assistance in determining who should quarantine, be tested for covid, and whether or not the school should move to full remote instruction.

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.

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.