

# Simi Valley Unified School District Family Resource Guide Fall 2021

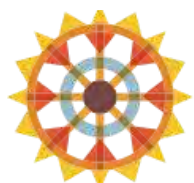
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## Return to Full Day Instruction 2021-2022

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**Simi Valley Schools**  
SIMI VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Message from the Superintendent

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Dear Simi Valley Schools Community,

We hope the summer is going well for you and your families. We are already looking forward to the upcoming 2021-2022 school year!

We know that you have many questions about this new school year and what it will look like in terms of COVID protocols. This **Family Resource Guide** will give you most of the information about our COVID health and safety protocols for the coming school year. Our goal is to return our schools to as close to pre-COVID normal as possible. In order to do this, the District is required to follow the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidelines with regards to COVID protocols.



Some of the major changes for the coming year include:

- Per CDPH guidelines, face coverings are required to be worn by ALL persons indoors (on-campus).
- Students and staff will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming to school.
- We encourage all who can receive COVID vaccinations to do so, but vaccinations are not mandatory for staff or students.
- We will continue to practice the safety and sanitation techniques that started last year. Classrooms will be provided hand sanitizer and personal protective equipment as well.
- Healthy/non-symptomatic vaccinated students and staff will not need to be quarantined if they are exposed to a COVID-positive or symptomatic individual.
- Should a student or staff member test positive for COVID, or show symptoms commonly associated with COVID, they will be asked to isolate for 10 days (unless they provide documentation of being fully vaccinated, in which case a negative COVID test will be required).
- Physical distancing will no longer be required; we do encourage staff and students to practice social distancing when possible.
- Visitors will be limited in schools. In-person meetings may take place for special events and masks will be required if they are indoors.
- Independent study at Monte Vista School is the option for students who do not wish to attend school in-person. Per Assembly Bill (AB 130), the legislation removed the option for distance learning and designated independent study as the option for students who are not able to attend school in-person.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and partnership as we continue to navigate the COVID pandemic. We are glad to be returning to full-day learning in our schools and look forward to a fantastic year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jason Peplinski  
Superintendent  
Simi Valley Unified School District

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# Welcome Back!

Simi Valley Schools will return to full in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. We welcome students back to their campuses with enhanced programs and services to best meet the needs of all of our Simi students as they return.

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## Academic Supports & Opportunities

- Full-time intervention teachers at every elementary school.
- Additional intervention teachers to support English Learners.
- Physical education teachers to support the elementary PE program.
- Intervention coordinators and support classes at each secondary school.
- Online evening learning opportunities for intervention and AP Exam support for secondary students.
- Additional credit recovery options for secondary students.
- Designated Freshman Guidance and Support Counselor at each comprehensive high school.
- Technology access including one-to-one devices for students.

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## Social Emotional Supports and Opportunities

- District social worker to support student and family wellness.
- Five elementary counselors.
- Freshman counselor at each comprehensive high school.
- Counseling support and referral services available to all students (JK/TK through 12th grade).
- Implementation of school-wide wellness and positive behavior programs.
- Tools and resources for students and families available on the District website.



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# Life on Campus

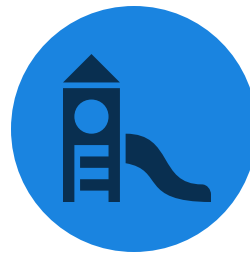


While being mindful of student safety, we are excited that school will return this year to a mostly normal environment in the classrooms and with student activities and peer interactions.



## Length of Day

- All students (except those in Independent Study) will return to a regular full day instructional schedule.
- Secondary students will experience a range of classes daily as they did before the 2020-2021 school year.



## Recess/Nutrition

- Students will participate in recess & PE, including use of shared equipment, swings, and other apparatus following the latest public health guidelines.
- Mask wearing is optional when outside.



## Lunch/Meals

- Students will eat lunch on campus with their peers following the latest public health guidelines.
- All students will have access to the SVUSD meal programs free of charge while on campus.



## Extracurricular Activities

- Extracurricular activities, including athletics, are expected to return to a traditional format and schedule in accordance with the latest public health guidelines.

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# Commitment to Safety

The Simi Valley Unified School District will continue to maintain the highest standards to protect the health and welfare of our students as they return to campus.

## Public Health Guidance

The Simi Valley Unified School District will continue to implement the most recent COVID requirements provided by the California Department of Health (CDPH), Ventura County Public Health department (VCPH), the California Department of Industrial Relations Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA), and the California Department of Education (CDE).



## Safety Protocols on All Campuses

Safety protocols will be consistently implemented on all of our school sites, including cleaning and disinfecting procedures, the use of personal protective equipment, hand washing and sanitizing, health screening and response to illness policies.



## Effective Air Filtration Systems

All District HVAC systems function with economizers that bring fresh air to replace inside air constantly while maintaining a temperature setting. All classrooms receive a minimum of five fresh air exchanges per hour exceeding the recommended rate.



## Hygiene

Hand washing areas and hand sanitizer stations will be available to students and staff throughout each campus. Their use will be promoted and incorporated into school routines.



# Student Safety\*



## FACE MASKS

- Indoors: Masks are required regardless of vaccination status except when eating and/or drinking.
- Outdoors: Masks are optional.
- Transportation Services: Masks are required.



## PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Specific physical distancing requirements will not be required.
- Our safety plan includes essential COVID mitigation measures such as mask-wearing, hand hygiene, regular cleaning and disinfecting, high-grade ventilation systems, and more.



## SCREENING & SYMPTOM CHECKING

- Parents are required to perform daily health screening checks at home before sending their students to schools, including ensuring each child has a temperature below 100.4 and does not show any cold, cough, or flu-like symptoms.
- Staff is required to perform daily health and screening checks at home before coming onto campus.
- Staying home when sick is essential for keeping COVID-19 and other infections out of schools and preventing the spread of illness to others.



## SHARING OF OBJECTS & MATERIALS

- Given the very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, students will be able to share materials, supplies, and related instructional equipment and devices.
- Enhanced cleaning schedules will continue to be implemented. Each classroom, restroom, lunch area, and office will be fully cleaned each day.
- Disinfecting surfaces will occur in high traffic areas or under conditions where there may be a higher risk of infection or transmission.



## VISITORS ON CAMPUS

- Visitors will continue to be limited in schools.
- Essential in-person meetings (parent conferences, PTA meetings, and other events) may take place, in which case face coverings will be required unless outdoors.
- Classroom and office volunteers will not be permitted until further notice.

\*All content is based on the safety measure requirements provided by state and local public health departments.

# Monte Vista School Independent Study/Homeschool Program



Monte Vista School is a vibrant learning community that supports our independent study/homeschool program with options for elementary, middle, and high school students. This program is available to all students in SVUSD as an alternative to the full-day traditional school setting. Students will be withdrawn from their current school and enrolled at Monte Vista.

Detailed below are the offerings for synchronous (learning face to face in-person or virtually) and asynchronous (learning anytime, anywhere, and self-paced).

GRADE	Daily Virtual Instruction (synchronous)	Daily Virtual Check-In (synchronous)	One-On-One Weekly Meeting w/teacher (synchronous)	Independent assignments (asynchronous)
TK/K-3	Yes (up to 2.5 hours daily) <i>Daily Schedule</i>	Yes	If Needed	Yes
4-8	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
9-12	No	No	Yes	Yes

Families can choose for their child to participate in the Independent Study program at Monte Vista School by **July 28, 2021**, by filling out the online survey at:

<https://simivalleyschools.wufoo.com/forms/m1hvqracs08ebwif/>

For more information about Monte Vista School please visit

<https://www.montevista.simivalleyusd.org/>

GRADE	TK/K-3	4-8	9-12
Structure of Program	Students in TK/K-3rd grade will participate in daily virtual instruction for up to two and a half hours daily (with a minimum of one hour of daily instruction). Students will be assigned to either a morning or afternoon session.	Students will check-in daily with their counselor virtually at a predetermined time. Then, students will meet with their teacher either virtually or in-person 1:1 for one hour per week.	Students will meet with their teacher either virtually or in-person 1:1 for one hour per week.
Academic Work Required Weekly	20 Hours Minimum (TK/K-3)	20 Hours Minimum (4-5) 25 Hours Minimum (6-8)	30 Hours Minimum (9-12)



# Fall 2021 Student Checklist

To help students prepare and be ready for the first day of school, please use the checklist of steps below. The checklist format is included to help you check off items as you progress.



## **Be informed of the guidance for the 2021-2022 school year:**

Review all guidance contained within the Family Resource Guide as well as our website for the latest information regarding safety protocols and enrollment. Additional information regarding retention, grade changes, and exemptions related to student learning (AB 104) can also be found on the website. <https://www.simivalleyusd.org/guide>



## **Make an informed decision regarding your learning options:**

Review the information regarding the instructional learning environments offered for the 2021-2022 school year (In-Person or Independent Study). If you choose to continue with in-person instruction, you will remain enrolled in your current school. If you would like to withdraw from your current school and enroll in the Monte Vista Independent Study/Homeschool Program, please find enrollment information at the school's website. <https://www.simivalleyusd.org/guide>



## **Prepare for the first day of school:**

Individual school sites will be reaching out to families in early August with specific information regarding orientations, schedules, procedures, and much more. Please make sure to review the information with your student including the required safety procedures. Students should arrive at school with a proper fitting mask which will be worn while indoors. Should a student forget their mask, one will be provided. Alternative protections may be permissible for individuals with disabilities or those needing accommodations as defined by the California Public Health Department (CDPH). Please contact your school site with any questions regarding the campus procedures.



## **Practice new schedules & routines:**

Students will be adjusting to different schedules, routines, and procedures as they return to campus. Practicing getting up and ready for school, wearing a mask indoors, eating on a regular schedule, and other space and activity limitations will help your child be successful with the transition back to school.



## **Complete the data confirmation in your child's Aeries Parent Portal:**

In order to access your child's schedule for the 2021-2022 school year, you will need to complete the data confirmation process. Please follow the step-by-step included here (insert link) to complete the confirmation. At the end, you will have completed all of the required information needed and will have access to your child's schedule once they Aeries Portal is open for the fall semester. Directions for updating the portal can be found here. [Aeries Instructions](#)

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## Will students be mandated to wear masks at school?

Yes, students and staff will be required to wear masks indoors. This is required by the CDPH mandates for school reopening. There will be no differentiation between students who have been vaccinated or not. No masks will be required outdoors, including at recess, lunch, or during outdoor PE activities, but masks outdoors will be optional. Students who meet the criteria for a mask exemption per CDC guidelines ([Your Guide to Masks](#)) can wear a face shield with a drape.

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## Are California school districts mandated to follow the CDPH guidelines?

Yes, all California schools (public, charter and private) are required to follow the CDPH guidelines ([COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year](#)). California school districts are not allowed to opt-out of the mask mandate for their schools. This information was inaccurately reported last week.

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## Is there a virtual option for students who do not want to attend in-person instruction?

The state legislature did not renew SB 98, which allowed districts to provide virtual learning last year. Instead, they passed AB 130, which requires districts to offer independent study for students who do not wish to attend school in-person. Fortunately, our District already has a robust independent study program at Monte Vista School. Independent study is similar to homeschooling using District curriculum and resources and check-ins with credentialed SVUSD teachers and school staff. (Please refer to page 8 of the *Family Resource Guide* for additional information.) This is not the virtual instruction our families experienced during the pandemic. Independent study is just that, independent. Students are assigned work for the week in each of their subjects. Students will have daily or weekly check-ins with their teachers, depending on the student's grade level. For grades Kindergarten through 3, there is a daily check-in with their teacher. For grades 4 through 12 there is a weekly check-in. Unfortunately, the District cannot provide the same type of distance learning as we did during the pandemic, because the state legislature removed that option.

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## What does this fall look like for my student if they have an IEP (Special Education services) or a Section 504 Plan?

If your child is a student with special needs who has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan, please contact your child's case manager with specific questions. IEP and Section 504 Plan Services will be fully implemented in-person this fall. Your child's case manager can address specific questions.

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# Frequently Asked Questions

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## Will temperature checks and health screenings be required prior to entering the school?

- Parents are required to perform daily health and screening checks at home prior to sending their students to schools, including ensuring a temperature below 100.4 and no cold, cough, or flu-like symptoms.
  - Staff is required to perform daily health and screening checks at home prior to coming on to campus.
  - Individuals should stay home if they have had any symptoms related to COVID-19 within the past 10 days, which include flu-like symptoms such as fever, coughing or shortness of breath, chills, muscle or body pain, fatigue, headache, sore throat, nausea, or vomiting, diarrhea, congestion or runny nose, or new loss of taste or smell, or if they are subject to quarantine due to being in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual.
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## Will there be social distancing requirements?

No, specific social distancing requirements will not be required. Our safety plan includes essential COVID mitigation measures such as mask-wearing, hand hygiene, regular disinfecting, high-grade ventilation systems, and more.

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## Will there be handwashing/hand sanitizer stations?

Yes, hand sanitizer stations and hand-washing stations will be in place around the campuses. Students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer upon entering and exiting the classrooms.

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## Will there be cleaning and disinfecting taking place?

Enhanced cleaning schedules will continue to be implemented. Each classroom, restroom, lunch area, and office will be fully cleaned each day. High-touch areas (doorknobs, faucets, light switches) will be sanitized each day. Disinfection of rooms or surfaces will take place in the event of a possible or confirmed exposure.

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## Will there be testing and contact tracing?

Yes, in the event a student or staff member exhibits symptoms, there will be available testing ([County of Ventura Expanded COVID-19 Testing](#)), communications to potential exposures, and contact tracing. Quarantine and conditions for a student or staff member to return to campus will follow CDPH requirements.

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# Frequently Asked Questions

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## What happens if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, or comes into “Close Contact” with an individual with COVID?

- The District will comply with all notification and quarantine protocols called for in the local county health order by Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidance.
  - It is important to note a recent change in guidance: Consistent with VCPH County Health Orders, fully vaccinated students and staff who come into close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual will not be required to quarantine at home, but instead will be able to remain in in-person instruction with biweekly testing ([\*County of Ventura Expanded COVID-19 Testing\*](#)).
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## Will students be required to be vaccinated?

No, however, vaccination is the leading prevention strategy to protect individuals from the COVID-19 disease (CDC). Vaccinations are currently available for students ages 12 and up and parents are encouraged to consult with their health providers in considering vaccinations for their children. **Vaccination sites are available county-wide and the SVUSD will work with Ventura County to provide “pop-up” vaccination clinics periodically.**

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## Will visitors be allowed at SVUSD Schools/Facilities?

In the 2021-2022 school year, visitors will continue to be limited in schools. In-person meetings may take place for parent conferences, PTA meetings, and other events (registrations, orientations, back-to-school night, school tours, athletics), in which case face coverings will be required unless outdoors. Classroom and office volunteers will not be permitted until further notice.

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## If I need assistance from the school, may I just show up?

- Please call or send email messages in lieu of visiting the school for assistance.
  - While school offices are open, we request that, whenever possible, visitors attempt to conduct business by phone or email, to limit the number of people on site.
  - When this is not possible, please contact the school site to schedule an appointment.
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## If I have scheduled an appointment on campus, what do I do?

- All pre-approved visitors should self-monitor for symptoms and temperatures at home. If symptomatic, please do not enter school facilities.
  - Pre-approved visitors must wear a face covering upon entering a school building and are asked to respect social distance.
  - Check in at the front office for a visitor badge.
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# Frequently Asked Questions

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## Will the drinking fountains be operational?

- Drinking fountains will be available.
  - Students are encouraged to bring personal, labeled water bottles to refill.
  - Drinking fountains will be cleaned daily.
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## What about school meals?

This year we are excited to announce that all meals for SVUSD students will be free and served on campus. Students will be able to eat lunch with their peers. Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide Grab-N-Go meals this year. Breakfast is available at many, but not all, SVUSD schools. Please check with your school site about breakfast.

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## Will there be Athletics, Band, Choir, Drama, and other Extracurricular Activities?

- Yes, each school will have extracurricular activities this year.
  - Schools will publicize specific COVID-19 protocols for all athletic, band, choir, drama, and extracurricular programs.
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If you have any safety concerns please contact your school office. These FAQs will be updated as guidance evolves.