



PLEASANT VALLEY

SCHOOL DISTRICT #62

Engage, inspire and empower each student toward academic excellence and citizenship.

Dear Parents,

As a district, Pleasant Valley is dedicated to reviewing the guidelines, mandates, and circumstances surrounding school operations during the Covid 19-Pandemic, on a regular basis. As we approach our second 9 weeks of school I wanted to provide you with answers to questions you might be having.

Q. How many students or staff members have tested positive for Covid 19 since the start of the school year?

A. To our knowledge no staff nor students have tested positive as of 10/15/20. This makes us confident that the measures we have taken to keep our students and staff safe are working. We also understand that we are likely to have positive cases as we move into the winter months, and we must maintain our safety procedures to prevent an outbreak.

Q. How many students chose to be all virtual the first 9 weeks?

A. 168 students in Bright Futures through 8th grade chose to be completely virtual the first 9 weeks.

Q. How many students that were all virtual are coming back for two days a week of in-person instruction for the second 9 weeks?

A. Of the 168 students that were all virtual the first 9 weeks, 90 are coming back for two days a week of in-person instruction. 78 students across the district will continue to be all virtual during the second 9 weeks.

Q. What Phase are we in under the Restore Illinois State Plan?

A. We are in Phase 4 which means P-12 schools, higher education, all summer programs, and child care open with **IDPH approved safety guidance**. We will be able to operate the school in a normal fashion when we reach Phase 5. Phase 5 means that Illinois is Post-pandemic: Vaccine, effective and widely available treatment, or the elimination of new cases over a sustained period of time through herd immunity or other factors.

Q. Where do the guidelines for school operations come from?

A. The CDC (Center for Disease Control), the IDPH(Illinois Department of Public Health), the PCCHD(Peoria City/County Health Department) and ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education) all provided rules and guidance for school districts to re-open this fall.

Q. What are the main rules the district has to follow under PHASE 4 State Guidelines?

RULE	WHAT DOES THAT MEAN AT PLEASANT VALLEY?	WHY IS THAT IMPORTANT?
<p>“Districts should develop procedures to ensure 6 foot physical distance from other persons as much as possible. The expectation pertains to students and staff members in all areas and settings to the greatest extent possible.” IDPH, CDC, ISBE</p>	<p>In order to maintain a 6 foot distance between all students and staff, the classrooms at Pleasant Valley were measured to determine the maximum number of students that could be in each classroom. The maximum number of students in each room is 12 while maintaining the 6 foot social distancing guideline.</p>	<p>Pleasant Valley does not have the capability to have all of our students five days a week in the classroom and follow the guidelines of 6 feet social distancing.</p> <p>With our current enrollment our classes range from 16 to 27 students in each classroom. If all of our students came at once, they would be 2-3 feet apart.</p>
RULE	WHAT DOES THAT MEAN AT PLEASANT VALLEY?	WHY IS THAT IMPORTANT?
<p>“A close contact is anyone(with or without a face covering) who was within 6 feet of a confirmed case of COVID-19 (with or without a face covering), for at least 15 minutes throughout the course of the day. Close contacts to a confirmed case of COVID-19 are required to remain in quarantine at home for 14 calendar days starting from the last contact with the confirmed case.” IDPH</p>	<p>Because we have all of our students 6 feet apart there will be very few, if any close contacts, if there is a confirmed case of Covid 19 in the school. This means our students and staff will stay healthy and able to come to school.</p> <p>No A/B in-person student has lost a day of school in the first 9 weeks due to isolation caused by another student or staff member.</p> <p>Students who have missed a day have only missed because a family member had symptoms or there was a confirmed case in the household.</p>	<p>We want our students in school as much as possible and we want to maintain consistency for our students, parents, and teachers. If we could not maintain 6 feet of social distancing, according to the Peoria County Health Department, each positive case at school would result in quarantining 20-30 students.</p> <p>If your child was a close contact because he or she was in the classroom with a positive student he or she would have to be at home for 14 days. If, when your child returned to school and another student was positive and a close contact, your child would have to be home for another 14 days and so on.</p> <p>One positive student in a full classroom could result in the entire classroom and teacher having to quarantine for 14 days.</p>

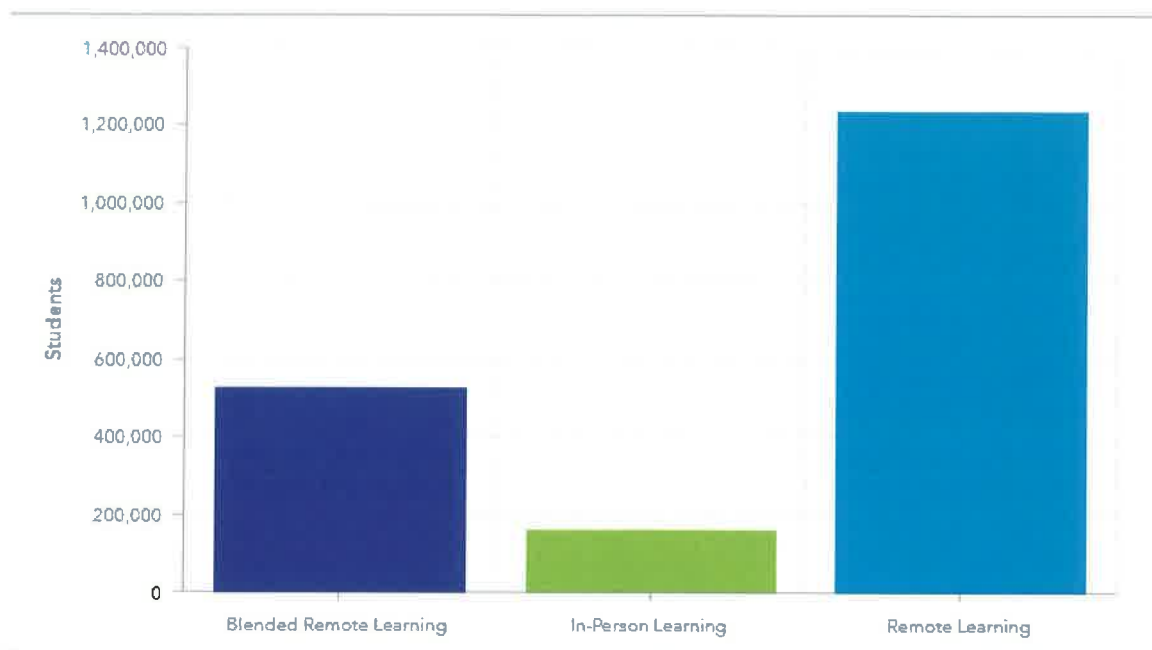
RULE	WHAT DOES THAT MEAN AT PLEASANT VALLEY?	WHY IS THAT IMPORTANT?
<p>“PA 101-0643 requires that school districts “adopt a Remote and Blended Remote Learning Day Plan approved by the district superintendent.” Furthermore, the legislation stipulates that “Remote Learning Day or Blended Remote Learning Day may be met through a district’s implementation of an e-learning program under Section 10-20.56.” ISBE</p>	<p>Pleasant Valley is required to offer an all remote learning option for parents that choose to keep their students at home.</p>	<p>Over 41% of our students were fully remote for the first 9 weeks. Pleasant Valley has worked diligently to provide students at home with the same learning opportunities as the students who attend in person.</p> <p>In order for teachers to provide the remote instruction to our students, the district needs to provide the teachers with time to create videotaped lessons and interact virtually with their students. If we had all students in person all five days, our teachers would essentially have to work double the hours after school to create virtual lessons for those students who chose to stay home.</p> <p>We did not choose to have synchronous instruction (live streaming all day with the classroom) because many of our students are unable to be live on their computers from 8:00 to 3:00 all day. If we required our students to be live, all day every day, many would not receive any instruction at all.</p> <p>We did not choose to have a premade computer platform like Edgenuity teach our remote students because we wanted them to build relationships and interact with their actual teachers and receive the same instruction as our in person students.</p> <p>The district wanted to create a sustainable approach for teaching and learning that could go back and forth between hybrid and all remote if there was a surge in cases and the state returned to Phase 3 and we were required to be in lock down again.</p>

RULE	WHAT DOES THAT MEAN AT PLEASANT VALLEY?	WHY IS THAT IMPORTANT?
<p>“Schools and districts should create procedures to assure compliance with all applicable expectations under state and federal guidelines. All individuals on a bus must wear a face covering, no more than 50 individuals should be on a bus at one time, and social distancing must be maintained to the greatest extent possible.” ISBE and IDPH</p>	<p>Pleasant Valley has three busses that run two routes. One for the Intermediate School and One for the Primary School. When all of our students are present, our buses have between 65 and 102 students assigned to ride each bus for each route.</p> <p>Several of our stops have over 50 students that get on at one time.</p> <p>While some parents do drive their students to and from school by choice, many parents do not have that ability to do that due to job schedules and lack of transportation.</p>	<p>Pleasant Valley does not have the capability to have all of our students 5 days a week and follow the mandate of 50 people or fewer on the bus.</p>
RULE	WHAT DOES THAT MEAN AT PLEASANT VALLEY?	WHY IS THAT IMPORTANT?
<p>“All persons on school grounds, including students, teachers, school nurses, administrative and secretarial staff, food service personnel, custodial staff, public safety personnel, etc... must wear a face covering at all time when in school or in transit to and from school via group conveyance (i.e., school buses), unless a specific exemption applies.” IDPH</p>	<p>All students and staff were provided with a cloth face covering at the beginning of the year.</p> <p>The district also keeps disposable masks on hand at both schools and on all 3 buses in case a student forgets his or her mask.</p> <p>Students and staff were provided information and guidance on the correct way to wear a face mask. The appropriate use of face masks is strictly enforced at school.</p>	<p>Following this rule has proven to be an effective method of reducing the spread of Covid -19 and is mandatory.</p>

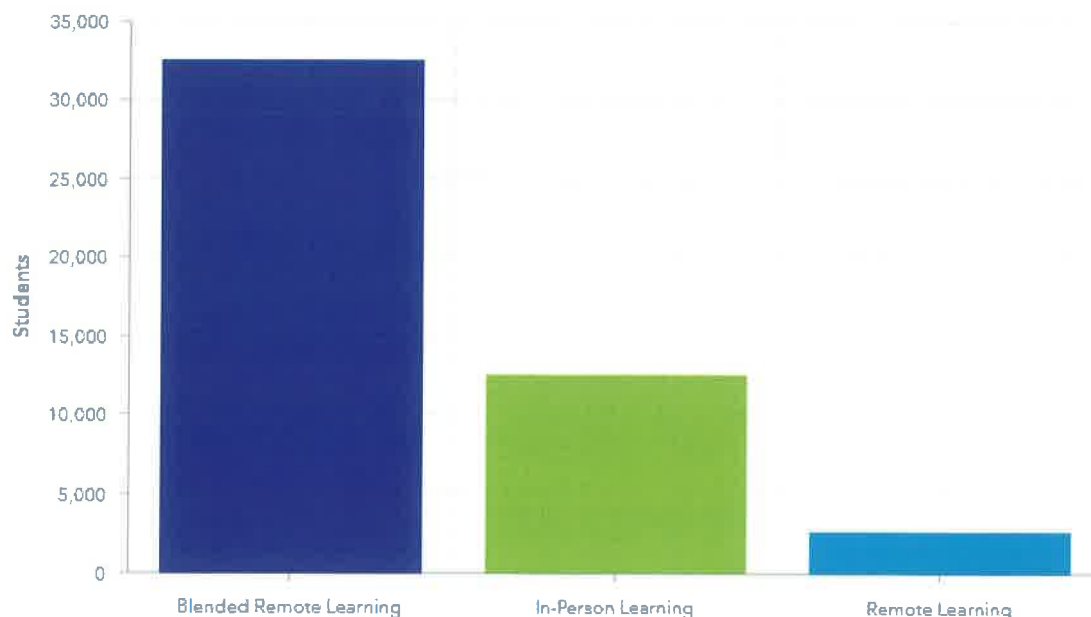
Q. Why are other schools following a plan that is different than Pleasant Valley?

A. There are many circumstances and variables that make each school unique. Some schools have very small student populations and have enough classroom space for students to be 6 feet apart, some schools have alternating weeks for in person and remote (A weeks and B weeks), some schools have half days of in person and half days of remote, some schools reduced the number of classes a student receives in a quarter, some schools chose to take the risk of having students less than 6 feet apart, and some schools are completely remote with no in-person instruction. Each district made a decision on what worked best for them as a whole.

This graph from ISBE shows the number of students in the state of Illinois who are learning in a blended remote, in person, or fully remote setting.



This graph from ISBE shows the number of students in Peoria and Tazwell County who are learning in a blended remote, in person, or fully remote setting.



There is no perfect plan, and no district could have prepared for operating during a Pandemic. Please know that every board member, administrator, and teacher wants to be back to normal. We all want our students to be at school full time five days a week. We would all love to not wear masks, be able to high five kids, and give hugs. However, above all else we want our students, families, and staff to be safe and healthy.

Until the guidelines and mandates for safety change, we will have to teach and learn in different ways. As a district we are layering in as many supports for our students and families as we can. From chromebooks and supply kits, to after school tutoring, Saturday school, and home visits. We are making every effort to engage students in learning, and meet their needs.

We appreciate your understanding and support. We are in this together, and together we will succeed.

With Pleasant Valley Pride,
Tracy Forck
Superintendent