

November 3, 2009

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

As you may be aware we have had an unusually high number of student absences yesterday and again today. Many of these students reported flu-like symptoms. With the worldwide hyper vigilance in regard to H1N1, we are continuing to encourage students, parents, and staff members to practice good hygiene, and most importantly, stay home if they are sick. At this point, we are continuing to closely monitor the absence rates of both our students and staff. Below are the answers to some of the more frequently asked questions. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us.

- *What is the school doing about midterms?*
Midterm exams have been moved to Monday (11/9/09) and Tuesday (11/10/09) of next week. Tomorrow (11/4/09), Thursday (11/5/09), and Friday (11/6/09) will remain half days and will be used for review in preparation for exams. This will serve two purposes. First, since lunch will not be served on any of these half days, students will reduce their chances of contracting an illness as they will not be in close proximity to others in a situation where there is the potential for their hands to be near their mouths. Teachers will be available in the afternoons all three of these days to allow for students who have missed earlier review sessions to meet on an as needed basis. This time can also be used to communicate to students who are out ill via one of many electronic mediums. Second quarter classes will begin on Thursday, November 12, 2009. Despite these precautions, teachers are prepared to allow for flexibility in administering an unusually high number of make-up exams.
- *What percentage of students need to be absent for school to close?*
There is no “cut off” number that will result in closing school. The decision to close will be made as a result of many factors. Teachers have posted course information/assignments on the VRHS homework site. Students and parents are encouraged to use this, along with other forms of electronic communication, to ensure continuity of instruction if the need to close school arises.
- *If my student is sick, when should he/she return to school?*
Please do not allow your student to return to school until he/she has been fever-free for at least twenty-four hours without any fever reducing medications. Although many of us feel a need to be in school for a whole host of reasons (upcoming midterms, missing class time, games, etc.), no one is helping the situation by spreading illness to others. Please do everyone a favor and stay home when you are sick.

Sincerely,

Ian Neviaser
Principal