



Educating Today's High School Students for Tomorrow's Careers.

Valley Academy for Career &
Technology Education
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(928) 634-7131

March 30, 2020

Dear VACTE Families,

As we enter our third week of school closure, I want to give you an update on where things stand with VACTE. Yesterday, Governor Doug Ducey announced school closures through the end of this school year (May 20). While many things are still uncertain, you can be certain that the staff and faculty at VACTE remain committed to our students, families, and community.

However, this does not mean that your school is shut down, or that your faculty and staff at VACTE are not working hard for you and the children of our community. I speak for all VACTE Staff when I tell you that we are looking forward to seeing your children back in August in one of our CTE programs if they are not a Senior. Please understand that we have been planning accordingly these past two weeks and are ready to continue your child's education remotely. We appreciate the work they have been doing the past two weeks.

The following are guidelines we are asking you and your child to follow during this time of crisis:

1. Assignments, tests, and activities assigned are required to be completed by the students and graded by the teacher. The grades will be added to the grades the students had earned before the school closure and used to assess the High School credit at the end of the year. If students do not do the work, then a zero will be entered toward their grade for the assignment. VACTE will send the student's final grade to their respective high schools. The grade they receive at the end of the course (May 20) will result in earning 1.5 credits with a A – D grade or not earning credits with an F grade.
2. The same is required for the Yavapai College credits. The grade the students earn will be assigned to the college credit by the dual enrollment teacher or the concurrent enrollment teacher. If students do not do the work, then their grades will reflect that, and they may not receive a passing grade for the credits. Each college course follows its own grading procedures and percentages. If the college course requires clinicals or hands-on skills training as part of the grade, then the teacher will work with Yavapai College department chairs on what to do as a grade or an incomplete for your students. VACTE will work on offering the hands-on skills training in June or July so students can receive the credit if an incomplete is assigned due to the requirements.
3. If a student needs a computer to complete the work assigned, please contact VACTE (928) 634-7131 Ext: 12 or Ext: 13 as soon as possible. We will loan the student a laptop during this closure to use for online assignments. Information on internet providers discounts are listed below. IF you need packets printed and handed out to students for some reason, please

contact us and we can get them done and you can come by our office to pick them up.
VACTE is Open: Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

4. Once the school closure is lifted by the state of Arizona or the school year ends and the COVID-19 is at a controlled level, VACTE will offer the following courses (Fire Science, Construction, CNA) face-to-face instruction in June or July on hands-on skilled training so the student can take the industry certification. We will do everything possible to make it a safe environment and teach the students proper hygiene. The Yavapai College concurrent courses will follow what Yavapai College has mandated for them. (Culinary Arts, Phlebotomy, Medical Assistant)

VACTE has partnered closely with physicians, Yavapai County Community Health Services, and Verde Valley Medical Center, sharing information and planning for contingencies that were unimaginable a month ago. We are filled with gratitude for the open lines of communication with our local and county governments. We thank Community Leaders and Yavapai County Supervisor Randy Garrison for their leadership these past two weeks.

This week VACTE will be working on setting up time this coming summer to have the students learn and perform the needed skills so they can take the industry standard testing. VACTE is tentatively looking at 2 weeks of 8 hour a day 4 days a week for this hands-on training with the students and teachers. We know this will be extra time for the students, but this is the only way we can get the students approved to take the industry testing. More information will follow as the crisis is evaluated and the learning opportunities are available. Look for more information from the district in the next few weeks.

VACTE and Yavapai College appreciates the patience and positive efforts each student and parent has shown in this time of crisis. We appreciate all your hard work to make this situation a positive learning opportunity and showing the pride you have for your learning opportunities. As always, please reach out to me if you have any questions or needs, bweir@vacte.com or (928) 634-7131 Ext: 12.

Thank you,

Bob Weir, Superintendent

Internet Services Offered to Students

The following are offers from network providers for students as a response to COVID-19. It looks like many of the providers are stepping up to help students.

Cox Communications "Connect2Compete" \$9.95 Student Home Internet

Comcast COVID-19 response Xfinity Wi-Fi Free for Everyone: Xfinity Wi-Fi hotspots across the country will be available to anyone who needs them for free – including non-Xfinity Internet subscribers. For a map of Xfinity Wi-Fi hotspots, visit www.xfinity.com/wifi. Once at a hotspot, consumers should select the "xfinitywifi" network name in the list of

Charter Communications free internet offer for 2 months (Spectrum Broadband) for households with a K-12 or college student

AT&T \$10/month plans for low income families and unlimited data for existing customers, also the website lists a new grant fund for schools to apply for to help with their online learning resources.

Sprint and T-Mobile are allowing handsets to enable hot-spots for 60 days at no extra charge

Suddenlink/Altice Advantage free internet for 60 days for households with a K-12 or college student. Families can call **1-800-251-7313** and talk to a representative to find out if they are able to receive service.

CableOne/Sparklight unlimited data for 30 days (still waiting on the press release for the 15Mbps per household for \$10 per month)

Cisco has some free offers to support customers with free Webex licenses, Umbrella, Duo security, and AnyConnect free license offers

Zoom.us has long offered free accounts. The linked site has resources for working remotely, using Zoom for online learning, and hosting virtual events.

Microsoft is offering a "freemium" version of Teams for 6 months