



**Valley Academy for  
Career and Technology Education**

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**SKILLS FOR TODAY, CAREERS FOR A LIFETIME**

August 12, 2020

Dear Student, Parents and Guardians:

Good afternoon, VACTE students and parents/guardian – I hope you are all well and looking forward to starting in person VACTE CTE classes for the 2020-21 school year at the Valley Academy for Career and Technology Education. At last night's VACTE Governing Board meeting, our board made several decisions about re-opening VACTE to Full in-person instruction. The board voted 4 – 0 to open for in-person learning beginning Monday, Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>.

It is important to recognize that our governing board is sympathetic to student and parent concerns about being on campus again. Our board members realize that some of us are in situations that heighten our concerns about COVID-19. At the same time, our board also realizes that the students we serve are not served well in an online setting. VACTE is simply not built or staffed for an ideal online learning opportunity. VACTE is where students go to receive extended hands-on training they need to prepare for college and careers. This is what sets our career and technical education programs apart from the academic programs at the local schools. So, with that in mind:

- The board agreed that VACTE will start in person instruction on Monday, Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> for the VACTE courses in Construction, Teacher Training, Law Enforcement, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), and Fire Science. The VACTE-YC courses in Culinary Arts, Pre-Engineering and Phlebotomy will start using the YC guidelines on the 17<sup>th</sup> with online lecture and in person lab instruction.
- The board agreed that VACTE will NOT continue with online options after our campuses reopens in the VACTE courses listed above.

While VACTE was able to temporarily deliver online content, we are not well equipped to offer extended online learning because of the hands-on nature of our programs. In addition, unlike our high school partners, we do not have the resources to offer on-campus and online instruction concurrently.

Many of our students and their parents want VACTE to reopen with on-campus instruction. We appreciate that you believe in the quality of the hands-on training we provide, and recognize that many, if not most of our students, come to VACTE because they learn better in a hands-on environment. We believe that to provide them with anything less is a huge disservice to them.

Our mission is to change lives by caring for our students and serving our community. We will accomplish this by giving our students the hands-on training they can only get from VACTE. To do this, we are implementing many layers of safety protocols and procedures and face covering policies to make our campuses as safe as possible. The full Return-to-Learn Plan can be found at [VACTE.COM](http://VACTE.COM)

I know these are difficult times and difficult decisions to make. My hope – as I am sure is yours – is that the current health crisis will end soon. But in the meantime, we must continue to serve our students in the environment in which they learn best.

As always, please feel free to contact me directly at [bweir@vacte.com](mailto:bweir@vacte.com) with any concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Weir".

Bob Weir  
VACTE Superintendent