

Valley Elementary Middle School



Orientation Program

August 29th, 2022

Staff Introduction

Mr. Christopher Yourechko – Principal
Mrs. Laura Barletta – Assistant Principal

Mrs. Jill Rodgers – Guidance Counselor
Ms. Heather Warner, R.N. – Nurse
Ms. Deyanira Perez – Bilingual Liaison

Ms. Annie Chicaiese – Secretary
Mrs. Lisa Chulock – Secretary
Ms. Emily Pick – Office Assistant

Ms. Nancy Holloman – Security
Mr. Shawn Jones – Security
Officer Joe Jones - School Police Officer

VEMS PTA

- The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is a vital aspect of our school.
- Throughout the school year, there are many activities and events planned, organized, and run by the PTA.
 - These include class field trips, science fair, race for education, spring craft fair, special holiday events, and many other programs.
 - By volunteering to help with these events, you can truly make a difference in the educational experience of your child.

2022-2023 Officers

President, Toni Auker – (570) 582-3303

Vice President, Claudine Kurtz – (570) 436-5743

2nd Vice President, Joliene Caparro – (570) 956-1659

Secretary, Kelly Lombardo – (570) 762-1690

Treasurer, Cindy Pick – (570) 751-6916

Elementary School Bell Schedule

Regular Schedule		2-Hour Delay Schedule	
Teachers Arrive	8:20	Teachers Arrive	10:20
Staff Development	8:20 – 8:50	Staff Development	10:20 – 10:50
Homeroom	8:50 – 9:00	Homeroom	10:50 – 11:00
1 st Period	9:00 – 9:40	1 st Period	11:00 – 11:26
2 nd Period	9:42 – 10:22	2 nd Period	11:26 – 11:52
3 rd Period	10:24 – 11:04	3 rd Period	11:54 – 12:20
4 th Period	11:06 – 11:46	4 th Period	12:22 – 12:52
5 th Period	11:48 – 12:28	5 th Period	12:54 – 1:24
6 th Period	12:30 – 1:10	6 th Period	1:26 – 1:56
7 th Period	1:12 – 1:52	7 th Period	1:58 – 2:24
8 th Period	1:54 – 2:34	8 th Period	2:24 – 2:50
9 th Period	2:36 – 3:16	9 th Period	2:50 – 3:16
Dismissal	3:16 – 3:50	Dismissal	3:16 – 3:50
Elementary Lunch		Elementary Lunch	
6 th & 4 th Grades	11:06 – 11:36	6 th & 4 th Grades	12:22 – 12:52
5 th & 3 rd Grades	11:48 – 12:18	5 th & 3 rd Grades	12:54 – 1:24
1 st & 2 nd Grades	12:30 – 1:00	1 st & 2 nd Grades	1:26 – 1:56
Kindergarten	1:12 – 1:42	Kindergarten	Pauline 4 th Pd. Blase 5 th Pd. Biever 6 th Pd.

Middle School Bell Schedule

Middle School Regular Schedule	
Teachers Arrive	7:30
Staff Development	7:30 – 8:00
Students Arrive	7:55 – 8:05
Homeroom	8:05 – 8:15
1 st Period	8:15 – 9:05
2 nd Period	9:07 – 9:57
LUNCH (3 rd Period)	10:02 – 10:32
4 th Period	10:37 – 11:27
5 th Period	11:29 – 12:19
6 th Period	12:21 – 1:11
7 th Period	1:13 – 2:03
8 th Period	2:05 – 2:55
<u>Dismissal:</u>	
Buses	2:55 – 2:57
Parent Pick-up	2:57 – 3:00

Middle School 2-Hour Delay Schedule	
Teachers Arrive	9:30
Staff Development	9:30 – 10:00
Students Arrive	9:55 – 10:05
Homeroom	10:05 – 10:15
1 st Period	10:15 – 10:48
2 nd Period	10:50 - 11:23
LUNCH (3 rd Period)	11:27 – 11:57
4 th Period	12:02 – 12:35
5 th Period	12:37 – 1:10
6 th Period	1:12 – 1:45
7 th Period	1:47 – 2:20
8 th Period	2:22 – 2:55
<u>Dismissal:</u>	
Buses	2:55 – 2:57
Parent Pick-up	2:57 – 3:00

Parent Drop Off Procedures (Elementary)

ARRIVAL - 8:50 AM

- All K-6th grade students who are dropped off by their parents or walk to school must enter the building using the main (front) doors.
- **No student should arrive at school before 8:30am.**
- **Students may be asked to pass through the metal detectors as a part of the daily arrival routine.**
- Breakfast is served starting at 8:30am daily.
 - Students eating breakfast will go directly to the café.
 - Students not eating breakfast will be held in the café and gym until the start of the school day.
- **Parents, please leave your child at the door.**
 - Parents are not allowed to walk children to their classroom since this creates unnecessary congestion and confusion and creates a security risk.

Parent Pick-up Procedures (Elementary)

Dismissal Times and Procedures

- Students being picked up by parents will exit the building using the South 2 Door (“parent-pickup” doors).
 - All adults picking up children should be prompt.
- Students assigned to a bus MUST ride that bus home unless a note indicating that the student is to walk or will be picked up is signed by the parent and submitted to the homeroom teacher.
- **Written notifications must be provided to the teacher when there is a change in a student’s dismissal arrangements.**

Grade	Student Dismissal Time	Student Pickup Location
Brookhill Walkers	3:16 PM	Bottom of Brookhill Path
Meadows Walkers	3:16 PM	South 2 Doors
Kindergarten, 1st Grade, 2 nd Grade (Parent Pickup)	3:16 PM	South 2 Doors
3 rd & 4 th Grade (Parent Pickup)	3:20 PM	South 2 Doors
5 th & 6 th Grade (Parent Pickup)	3:25 PM	South 2 Doors
All Bus Students	3:20-3:50 PM	Main (Front) Doors

Parent Drop Off Procedures (Middle)

ARRIVAL – 7:55 AM

- All 7th and 8th grade students who are dropped off by their parents or walk to school must enter the building using the main (front) doors.
- **No student should arrive at school before 7:30am.**
- **Students may be asked to pass through the metal detectors as a part of the daily arrival routine.**
- Breakfast is served starting at 7:30am daily.
 - Students eating breakfast will go directly to the café.
 - Students not eating breakfast will wait in the café until the start of the school day.
- **Parents, please leave your child at the door.**
 - Parents are not allowed to walk children to their classroom since this creates unnecessary congestion and confusion and creates a security risk.

Parent Pick-up Procedures (Middle)

Dismissal Times and Procedures

- Students being picked up by parents will exit the building using the South 2 Door (“parent pickup” doors).
 - All adults picking up children should be prompt.
- Students assigned to a bus **MUST** ride that bus home unless a note indicating that the student is to walk or will be picked up is signed by the parent and submitted to the homeroom teacher.
- **Written notifications must be provided to the teacher when there is a change in a student’s dismissal arrangements.**

Grade	Student Dismissal Time	Student Exit Location
All Bus Students	2:55-3:10 PM	Main (Front) Doors
Brookhill/Meadows Walkers	2:57-3:00 PM	South 2 Door
7th & 8th Grade Parent Pick-up	2:57-3:00 PM	South 2 Door

Procedures for Students Leaving School Early

- Parents **MUST** come into the main office and sign a student out of the building anytime a student needs to be excused early.
- Anyone picking up a child from school **MUST** be listed in Skyward and/or on the emergency AND crisis cards.
 - **No one will be allowed to take a child unless they are listed.**
 - **PHOTO ID REQUIRED**
- Parents who are picking up students early must do so by the following cut-off times:

Early Parent Pick Up Cut-Off Times:

Middle School 2:30pm

Elementary School 2:30pm

Breakfast & Lunch

- Breakfast and lunch for all students in the Hazleton Area School District is provided free of charge.
- Students are provided one free breakfast and one free lunch daily.
 - Students will need to pay for any additional servings of breakfast or lunch.
 - Students can purchase snack items as well at an additional cost.
- All students will utilize the finger scanner in order to receive breakfast and lunch.
- On two-hour delays breakfast is served in a “grab and go” format.

Attendance Policy

- A parent/guardian must call Valley Elementary/Middle School when a student will not be attending school.
 - A PHONE CALL SHOULD BE MADE FOR EVERY DAY A STUDENT IS ABSENT.
 - If there is no answer, PLEASE LEAVE A VOICE MAIL.
 - No phone calls from students will be accepted.
 - Anyone not called off by a parent/guardian will receive a call from the school to verify an absence.
- A student is to bring legal excuses (doctor, dental, court, or funeral) the day he/she returns from absence(s).
 - All students need to submit excuses to the secretary in the main office.
 - All doctor's notes are to be brought to the office within 3 days of the student's return.
 - Parent Notes: Parent can write up to ten (10) excuse notes.

Policy #204 – Attendance

<http://www.boarddocs.com/pa/hazl/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=ATQQPG6A440F>

STUDENT ABSENCES

Please use this phone number to report an absence.

(570) 459-3221 Ext. 26500

Change of Address & Phone Numbers

- **If you have a change of address at any time, you must notify Child Registration at the Administration Building immediately.**
 - You must provide three (3) proofs of address and phone number change (i.e.: billing statement, Internal Revenue statement, voter registration card, property tax bill, state ID card, vehicle registration, utility statement, W2 form, property deed, driver's license, insurance statement, current pay stub, bank statement).
- **For the safety of your child, we need to have current phone numbers and addresses at all times.**
- **Please contact our main office for assistance with changing address and phone numbers.**

Dress Code Policy

- Unacceptable Items:
 - **No camouflage.**
 - **No ripped/torn or jeans with holes in them that expose skin.**
 - **No Hoodies/Jackets during school hours.**
 - **No open-toe shoes, sliders, Crocs, or platform shoes.**
 - **No sleeveless shirts or tank tops.**
 - **No clothing with inappropriate language or graphics.**
 - **No underwear exposed or showing.**
 - **All pants must be worn around the waist.**
 - **All backpacks must be clear-plastic or mesh.**

The entire dress code can be view on the school district website.
Policy # 221 Dress and Grooming.

Health Services

The Health Services in our schools are planned to help your child achieve and maintain their best possible physical, psychological, and social well-being so they may learn at their highest level of ability.

Emergency Cards (Cards will be sent home with students on the first day of school.)

- Emergency Cards: Please fill out and return to school within first week of school.
- **Throughout the school year, please update phone numbers EVERY TIME you change your phone number. THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT!**
- Please list alternate people who can pick up your child if you are not available to do so.

Mandated Health Screenings

- Mandated screenings per Department of Health will be completed with your child.
 - Mandated screenings include height, weight, BMI, vision, and hearing.
- You will be notified if your child's results fall outside set parameters.
 - A referral will be sent home with your child recommending an evaluation by a health care provider.
 - Please return these notices to ensure your child has received care.

Health Services

Student Physicals

- School Law requires all children in grades (K, 6, 11) to have a medical examination.
- These grades levels represent critical periods of growth & development in a child's life.

Immunizations

- There are required immunizations upon entry into school. You must provide valid proof of immunizations. Children cannot start school unless they are up-to-date!
- Due to new immunization laws students who are not fully immunized will not be allowed to start school .
- Any questions on immunization status and if your child is not eligible to start school or requires further immunizations, please call or make an appointment to speak to the school nurse.

Health Services

Injury & Illness

- **Nurses can not diagnose.**
 - We will recommend referrals to a healthcare provider.
- Care in school is limited to first aid.
 - This includes a nursing assessment, observation and vital signs.
 - Treatment modalities consist of rest, OTC medication, sent back to class, or excluded from school.
- School Exclusions: fever > 100 degrees, vomiting/diarrhea, suspected contagious diseases (lice, chicken pox, pink eye, impetigo), serious injury/illnesses requiring medical attention, and a rash of unknown origin.
 - Please keep your child home if they exhibit these symptoms. All rashes must have a doctor's note stating the rash is NOT CONTAGIOUS for the student to be in school.
- Parents are not routinely notified of student health room visits for minor issues such as: headaches, stomachaches, or abrasions.
- If your child is sick and needs to stay home, please use one of your parent notes or get a doctor's note to keep your child home.

Health Services

Medical Conditions

- Please make the nurse aware of any medical conditions your child may have such as allergies, food allergies, diabetes, asthma, or seizures.
- Please set up an appointment to come in to talk with the school nurse.

Prescription Medications

- There is a specific policy concerning medication.
- Parental permission forms must be completed.
- **Students are not allowed to carry any type of medication into the school!**
- **The medication must be brought into the nurse by a parent/guardian.**
- **The medication must be in its original container with the student's name on it clearly labeled.**
- There must be an order from a physician to dispense medication at school.

COVID-19 Guidelines Update

Guidelines

- Masks are optional.
- Any student who displays symptoms will be excluded from school and asked to see a physician.
- Exposure Notification Letters will be sent home as needed if exposure occurs at school.
- For information about exposure, quarantine, and travel, please contact the school nurse due to varying circumstances.
- Nurse Warner can be reached via email warnerh@hasdk12.org or by contacting the school main office (570)-459-3221 ext. 26500.

SOAR Program

- The SOAR program is a school-wide positive behavior program used in our school to promote a positive learning environment.
 - The program is based on students' expectations, acknowledgement of student behavior and a reward system that appeals to learners of all ages.
- Students will be rewarded for expected positive behaviors on a daily basis by all faculty and staff and in all areas of the school building.
 - Students will be recognized for good behavior that is aligned to school expectations by receiving an Eagle Buck.
 - The Eagle Buck is redeemable for a variety of prizes/experiences that reinforce student's good behavior.

School Clubs

- Students are encouraged to join clubs and participate in our school community.
- Some examples of clubs offered at VEMS include but are not limited to the following:
 - Yearbook
 - SADD
 - Student Council
 - NJHS
 - PJAS
 - Ecology



Thank You For Attending

First Day of School is Tuesday, September 6th!

Middle School Arrival: 7:55am

(7:30am if eating breakfast)

Elementary Arrival Time: 8:50am

(8:30am if eating breakfast)