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## VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2023-2024 VIKING CALENDAR/ DISTRICT GUIDE

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## VCSDNY.ORG



## Welcome ... to the 2023-24 School Year!



Our school year calendar and district guide is for our Valley Central Community. It contains days school is in session, holidays, school and district events, important information for families and contact information for schools and district departments. Families and community members are

Superintendent Families an

encouraged to thoroughly read the calendar.

We have included scheduled dates in the calendar, however, it should be noted that if any changes are necessary, it will be communicated as soon as possible. The most to up-to-date district calendar is posted on our website. We embrace our new year with much excitement and inspiration. We remain focused on creating innovative and engaging learning environments where students are at the center, challenged to think critically and nurtured to become responsible citizens who meaningfully contribute to this global society.

Community support is essential to our students' success. Deepening existing partnerships within our community and local organizations fosters collaboration and provides diverse resources for our students and families.

We believe in our students, our community and dedicated staff who strive to do what is best for our students in preparing them for a bright future.

We welcome our students and families to actively participate in the many extracurricular activities, athletic activities and other opportunities offered beyond the classroom.

I look forward to another successful school year for our students, staff and community. **Together we are Viking Strong and VC PROUD!** 

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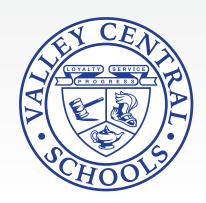
944 State Route 17K, Montgomery, NY 12549 Phone: (845) 457-2400 ext. 18505

Evette Avila, Superintendent, evette.avila@vcsdny.org

William Miller, Asst. Superintendent for Human Resources, william.miller@vcsdny.org

Ivelisse Mojica, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, ivelisse.mojica@vcsdny.org

Brad Conklin, School Business Official, brad.conklin@vcsdny.org Ellen McGoldrick, Assistant to the Superintendent/District Clerk, ellen.mcgoldrick@vcsdny.org



## **2023-2024** BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Joseph Bond, President

Fresident Katie McKnight, Vice President Frances Fox-Pizzonia Sarah Messing Diana Revoir Jane Samuelson Angela Terralavoro

## WE ARE ALWAYS READY TO HELP!

## Feel free to contact your child's school if you have questions or concerns.

## **Berea Elementary School**

946 State Route 17K, Montgomery, NY 12549 Phone: (845) 457-2400 ext. 11501 John Solimando, Principal, john.solimando@vcsdny.org Alicia Gannello, Assistant Principal, alicia.gannello@vcsdny.org

## East Coldenham Elementary School

286 State Route 17K, Newburgh, NY 12550 Phone: (845) 457-2400 ext. 12501 Dan McDonald, Principal, daniel.mcdonald@vcsdny.org

## **Montgomery Elementary School**

141 Union Street, Montgomery, NY 12549 Phone: (845) 457-2400 ext. 14501 Matthew Canino, Principal, matthew.canino@vcsdny.org Jane Malley, Assistant Principal, jane.malley@vcsdny.org

## **Walden Elementary School**

75 Orchard Street, Walden, NY 12549 Phone: (845) 457-2400 ext. 15501 Gregory Heidemann, Principal, gregory.heidemann@vcsdny.org Jedd Beukelman, Assistant Principal, jedd.beukelman@vcsdny.org

## ALC at Maybrook

120 Broadway, Maybrook, NY 12543 Phone: (845) 457-2400 ext. 13501 Georgia Patchen, Administrator, georgia.patchen@vcsdny.org

## Valley Central Middle School

1189 State Route 17K, Montgomery, NY 12549 Phone: (845) 457-2400 ext. 16501 Jayme Ginda-Baxter, Principal, jayme.baxter@vcsdny.org Thomas Balducci, Assistant Principal, thomas.balducci@vcsdny.org Philip Rodriguez, Assistant Principal, philip.rodriguez@vcsdny.org

## Valley Central High School

1175 State Route 17K, Montgomery, NY 12549 Phone: (845) 457-2400 ext. 17523 Russell Burns, Principal, russell.burns@vcsdny.org Allison Simoskevich, Assistant Principal, allison.simoskevich@vcsdny.org Janet Werner, Assistant Principal, janet.werner@vcsdny.org Cletus Witte, Assistant Principal, cletus.witte@vcsdny.org

## OUR MISSION

The mission of the Valley Central School community is to develop responsible and productive members of society in a safe and innovative environment, where students are motivated to think critically, communicate effectively, and achieve excellence in active partnership with the community and a knowledgeable and dedicated staff.

The four overarching goals of Valley Central are:

- To increase student achievement.
- To attract and retain a knowledgeable and dedicated staff.
- To serve as the cornerstone of the community.
- To maintain and improve facilities in order to support the previous goals listed.

The Board of Education of the Valley Central School District believes that both knowledge and understanding are necessary for the recognition and discharge of personal and social responsibilities in a democratic society. The Board also believes that education is the process which presents to students the opportunity to develop to the fullest extent their capabilities to meet these needs.



## ABOUT US

Valley Central is a school district of about 4,150 students and approximately 800 full and part-time staff situated mainly in the Town of Montgomery, New York with its three villages of Maybrook, Montgomery and Walden. Students also come from the adjacent areas of the towns of Newburgh, Crawford, Wallkill, Hamptonburgh, and New Windsor.

- Berea Elementary School K-5
- East Coldenham Elementary School: K-5
- Montgomery Elementary School: K-5
- Walden Elementary School: K-5
- Valley Central Middle School: 6-8
- Valley Central High School: 9-12
- Alternative Learning Center at Maybrook : All Levels

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Our curriculum and activities are aligned throughout the district. Our four elementary schools, middle school and high school benefit from active and supportive parent/ teacher organizations, educational opportunities and enrichment programs.

We have a variety of extracurricular activities available beginning in elementary school and continuing through our secondary schools. We have an active athletic department, and our high school has been recognized as a School of Distinction by NYSPHSAA with all of our varsity teams qualifying as Scholar-Athlete teams.

Our graduation rate is 92% and many of our graduates enroll in post-secondary education with many of the nation's highly competitive colleges and universities among their choices.



## **VISIT A SCHOOL**

VCSD uses the *Raptor Visitor Management System* in all of our schools to strengthen our program of campus safety for students and faculty. Part of keeping our students safe is knowing who is in our buildings at all times. The Raptor System allows us to screen visitors, contractors and volunteers and provide a safer environment. Upon entering a district building, visitors will be asked to provide an ID, such as driver's license or non-driver ID, which can be scanned into the system. If a parent or guardian does not possess a US government ID, the school staff member can use another approved form of identification and enter the information manually. Once entry is approved, the staff member will issue a lanyard with a badge that identifies the visitor, the date and destination (The visitor's ID will then be maintained until the visitor returns the lanyard and pass to the staff member). The visitor will then be escorted to and from their destination.

## **VC 21**

VC 21 is an open community conversation about the Valley Central School District and the educational future of our students. Residents of the district may attend any or all of the meetings. The dates and locations are as follows:

October 25, 2023 @ Berea Elementary School

December 6, 2023 @ East Coldenham Elementary School

January 31, 2024 @ Walden Elementary School

March 13, 2024 @ Montgomery Elementary School

All meetings are from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

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## FIND OUT **HOW TO...**

## **REGISTER A NEW STUDENT**

New students are registered by appointment at the Administration Building, 944 State Route 17K, Montgomery, NY. The process begins with a preregistration form which can be accessed through our website, www.vcsd.k12.ny.us/about-us/register-for-school/.

## **REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN**

Students must be 5 years old on or before Dec 1 of the year in which they enroll. UPK students are automatically enrolled in kindergarten. Registration for kindergarten students begins the spring before the child will attend. Information packets are mailed home in March, with registration occurring in late March through May. Kindergarten screening appointments are scheduled in late June. Please contact your elementary school to be added to the mailing list.

## **GET SCHOOL TAX INFORMATION**

Valley Central School District tax payment information and receipts for the towns of Montgomery, Crawford, Hamptonburgh, New Windsor and Wallkill may be viewed or printed by logging on to the website shown below. Use the drop-down and choose the appropriate topic. You may then further sort by name, address, bill number, etc. www.egov.basny.com/montgomery

## **VISIT A BUILDING**

Any visitor to a district building must provide government photo identification, which can be scanned into the Raptor Visitor Management System. Visitors must wear a visitor's badge while on premises and will be escorted to and from their destination. The visitor's ID will be returned when the lanyard is returned to the greeter before the visitor leaves.

## REPORT CHILD ABUSE New York State Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-342-3720

If you believe a child is being abused or maltreated, you can help by making a call to the New York State Child Abuse Hotline. The hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. If you suspect a child is in immediate danger, you should call 911.

## ADDITIONAL **KEY CONTACTS**

## Academics

Ivelisse Mojica, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction (845) 457-2400 ext. 18142 ivelisse.mojica@vcsdny.org

### Athletics Department

Rich Steger, Athletic Director (845) 457-2400 ext. 17885 FAX: (845) 457-4418 richard.steger@vcsdny.org

### Business Office

Brad Conklin, School Business Official (845) 457-2400 ext. 18122 brad.conklin@vcsdny.org

## Facilities

Ryan Schmidt, Director of Facilities (845) 457-2400 ext. 16914 ryan.schmidt@vcsdny.org

## Food Service

Eleanore Mills, School Lunch Manager (845) 457-2400 ext. 16896 FAX: (845) 457-3003 eleanore.mills@vcsdny.org

## **Health Services**

Fax (845) 457-8594

Constance F. Griffin, BS, RN, AE-C, NCSN District School Nurse Coordinator (845) 457-2400 ext. 17700 constance.griffin@vcsdny.org



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## Pool

Thomas Plitsch, Aquatics Coordinator (845) 457-2400 ext. 17147 thomas.plitsch@vcsdny.org

## Registrar

Janine Maridou (845) 457-2400 ext. 18130 janine.maridou@vcsdny.org

### **Technology Department**

Christopher Mohr, Director (845) 457-2400 ext.16951 christopher.mohr@vcsdny@org

## **Special Education Department**

Barbara Butler, Director (845) 457-2400 ext. 18116 barbara.butler@vcsdny.org

### Special Programs/Pupil Personnel

Georgia Patchen, Director (845) 457-2400 ext. 18138 georgia.patchen@vcsdny.org

### **Transportation Department**

Renee Marchant (845) 457-2400 ext 18115 transportation@vcsdny.org

## **Universal Pre-Kindergarten**

Tammy Coleman, Director (845) 457-2400 ext. 18120 tammy.coleman@vcsdny.org

## Security Department

Stephen Ragni, Director (845) 457-2400 ext. 16965 stephen.ragni@vcsdny.org

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	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2023	3		5		7	1 Convocation Day - No School for Students 8	2 icts web page whenever possible.
BER	3	4 Labor Day	Superintendent's Conference Day - No School for Students	6 First Day of School for Students		ð	or times will be listed on the Dist
SEPTEMBER 2023	10	<b>11</b> BOE Meeting 6:30 PM	<b>12</b> EC Open House 6:30 PM	<b>13</b> Berea Open House 7:00 PM	<b>14</b> WES Open House 6:30 PM	15 First Evening of Rosh Hashanah Hispanic Heritage Month Begins Oth Grade Social 3:00 PM	9L we to be changed. Changes to event dates
AUGUST 2023 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5	17	18	<b>19</b> VCHS Senior Parent Night 5:30 PM VCHS Open House 7:00 PM	20	21 VCMS Open House 6:30 PM VCHS Underclass Photos	22	ES by a control, event dates and/or times may have to be changed. Changes to event dates and/or times will be listed on the District's web page whenever possible
6       7       8       9       10       11       12         13       14       15       16       17       18       19         20       21       22       23       24       25       26         27       28       29       30       31	24	25 Yom Kippur No School	26 Berea Picture Day EC Picture Day BOE Meeting 6:30 PM	27 ALC Open House 6:30 PM	28	29	0 Please Note: Due to circumstances beyond o

## SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM

The Valley Central School District believes one of the most important ways in which we can help our children perform better in their classrooms is to provide them with the nutrition necessary for the healthy growth of their minds and bodies. We provide breakfast and lunch in our elementary, middle and high schools.

Elementary School:Breakfast \$1.85 / Lunch \$2.85/Milk \$.75Middle/High School:Breakfast \$2.00/ Lunch \$3.00/Milk \$.75

A la carte items or other similar items must be paid/prepaid. No charging of a la carte items permitted.

## FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEALS

Everyone is encouraged to fill out the free and reduced-price application found in the center of this calendar/guide. Applications can be returned to your youngest child's building or faxed to (845) 457-3003. Only one application per household is needed. By filling out an application, your child could be eligible for other free and reduced-price programs, such as Summer EBT, that retrieve the information when an application is submitted.

An application for free and reduced-price school meals can be found as an insert in the center of the calendar and on the district website at **www.vcsd.k12.ny.us/departments/food-services/** 

## **TRANSPORTATION**

It is against the law to pass a stopped school bus when its red warning lights are flashing. During the hours of pupil transportation, it is important that parents who drop off and pick up their children to and from school take a back seat to the buses. Pupil safety is our primary concern.

- The pickup and drop off times allow a ten (10) minute window. Students should be outside waiting for the arrival of the bus at their designated bus stop.
- Parents must be at the stop waiting for Kindergarten through 2nd grade and special needs students or students will not be dropped off.
- Only VCSD has the right to add or change bus stops; if your child misses the bus at their stop they may not board the bus at a different stop.
- Students are expected to display safe and positive bus behavior at all times.

The deadline for Valley Central School District residents to file a transportation request form for the 2023-2024 school year to transport a child to a certified childcare provider (licensed pursuant to Social Services Law, Section 390), which is outside the school's attendance area is April 1st of the prior school year. This form may be requested and returned by email (transportation@vcsdny.org) or picked up from and returned to the Administration Office.

## form nd







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	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
023	1	2	3	4 Half Day Early Dismissal for Professional Development	5 VCMS School Photos	6 VCMS School Pictures MES School Photos County Wide Emergency Drill 15 min early dismissal Hall of Fame Induction 5:30 PM	2 Leb page whenever possible.
OCTOBER 2023	8	9 Columbus Day	10 BOE Meeting 6:30 PM	11 VCMS Career Fair VCHS College Fair Fire Prever	12 ntion Week	<b>13</b> Homecoming Game 7:00 PM	VCHS Homecoming Dance 7:00 PM
CTOB	15	16	17 Senior- Faculty Tea	18 Book Fair and MES Book Fa	19 ir	20 VCHS Shakespeare Performance 7:00 PM	VCHS Shakespeare Performance 7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 2023 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	22	23 BOE Meeting 5:30 PM	24	25 VC 21 at 6:30 PM Berea Red Ribbon Week	26	27	<ul> <li>14</li> <li>VCH2 Homecoming Dance 2:00 bW</li> <li>51</li> <li>51</li> <li>52</li> <li>53</li> <li>54</li> <li>54</li></ul>
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 NOVEMBER 2023 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	29	30 ALC School Pictures VCHS Halloween Concert 7PM	31				Please Note: Due to circumstances beyond or

## **DISTRICT POLICIES &** ANNUAL NOTIFICATIONS

## **ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students over 18 years of age and parents/guardians certain rights with respect to students' educational records, regarding district surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes and certain physical exams. **For more information, see our website:** 

www.veed k12 musc/about us/reports policies and ar

www.vcsd.k12.ny.us/about-us/reports-policies-and-procedures/ferpa/

## **ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN**

As required by the US EPA, the Valley Central School District maintains asbestos management plans for district buildings. The plans are on file in the school buildings, Administrative Office and available for review at the office of the Facilities Director. Currently, there are no projects scheduled that will disturb asbestos-containing building materials. For more information, contact Ryan Schmidt, Director of Facilities, at (845) 457-2400 ext. 16914 or ryan.schmidt@vcsdny.org.

## **PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT**

New York State Education Law requires schools to provide written notification to all parents/guardians and staff members regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year. The district maintains a list of individuals who wish to receive 48-hour written notice of certain pesticide applications. To become part of that list, contact Ryan Schmidt, Director of Facilities, at 15 Middle School Lane, Montgomery, NY 12549. Some pesticide applications are not subject to notification requirements.

For more information on requirements contact Ryan Schmidt at (845) 457-2400 ext. 16914 or ryan.schmidt@vcsdny.org.

## **EDUCATOR EVALUATION PLAN**

New York State Education Law requires classroom teachers and principals to receive an annual professional performance review (APPR) that results in a composite effectiveness score and rating. All parents/guardians have the right to obtain the APPR quality ratings and composite effectiveness scores for their child's current teacher(s) and principal(s) once they are available.

To initiate this request, please contact lvelisse Mojica, Assistant Superintendent, at (845) 457-2400 ext 18142 or ivelisse.mojica@vcsdny.org.

## ATTENDANCE

All students must attend school daily and arrive on time. All absences, lateness and early departures (excused and unexcused) are counted on a student's attendance record. Written explanation is required whenever your child is absent, late or leaving early during a school day. You may contact the school's attendance office by telephone as well. Absences, tardiness and leaving early without a written excuse will result in disciplinary action. Legitimate reasons for absence include sickness, health treatments, death in the family, religious observance, military obligations, appearance in court and college/cooperative work visits. **A copy of the Valley Central School District Attendance policy is available in all school handbooks as well as the district website, www.vcsdny.org.** 

## **BODY MASS INDEX**

New York State requires schools to track each student's body mass index (BMI) and weight status category as part of school health examinations. Every year, the NYS Dept. of Health surveys some schools for the number of students in each weight status category. If VCSD is surveyed by the state, the district will share summary group data only and will not share summary group calculations. In order to opt out of the sharing of this data, parents must contact the child's school nurse.

## NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Valley Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, or other legally protected status in access to programs and/or employment by the district or any other activities. www.vcsd.k12.ny.us/about-us

## **RELEASE OF STUDENT DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

Valley Central has designated the student's name and photograph as personally identifiable information contained as "directory information" and it may disclose that information without prior written consent, at its discretion to publicly recognize an individual student or group accomplishments. Directory information is considered public information and may be distributed without obtaining prior parental consent. Parents or guardians who do not wish to have their child/ren included within the directory information as described above are to annually notify the Office of the Superintendent in writing within 14 days of the publication of this notice in the annual Calendar/VCSD Guide.



**Photo Permission:** If you do not want your child's photograph to be used on a District website or social media, please write a letter to that effect to your child's Principal within 14 days of the publication of this notice in the annual Calendar/VCSD Guide newsletter. This must be submitted annually.

## RELEASE OF STUDENT INFORMATION TO MILITARY RECRUITERS

Pursuant to federal law, VCSD must provide to military recruiters and institutions of higher education, upon request, access to secondary school students' names, addresses and telephone numbers, unless parents notify the District, in writing, at the commencement of the school year, that they do not wish such information to be provided to military recruiters without their prior written consent.

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	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 2023	5	6	7	1	2 9	3 WES School Pictures 10	4111111111111111111111213131415
BER			Conference Day		Elementary 1st Trimester Ends Secondary 1st Quarter Ends	Veterans Day (Observed)	Veterans Day
	12	13	14	15	16	17	at dates
		BOE Meeting 6:30 PM		VCHS Children's Theatre Performance 7:00 PM	VCMS Musical Revue 7:00 PM		Valley Central Scholarship Council Craft Fair
$\overline{}$					VCMS Book Fair		10:00 AM-3:00 PM
$\leq$				Berea Book Fair			have to b
N N	19	20 Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences 6:30-9:00 PM	21 Parent-Teacher	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	<b>25</b> es and/or times
OCTOBER 2023 Smtwtfs		Berea Book Fair	Conference Day				event dat
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14		Senior Portr	ait Retakes		Thanksgiving Recess		ur control,
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	26	27	28	29	30		beyond ot
DECEMBER 2023 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30				VCMS Student Recognition Night 6:00 PM	VCHS Student Recognition Night 7:00 PM		. Note: Due to circumstances
31							Please

## CODE OF **CONDUCT -** PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY**

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe and orderly school environment where students may receive, and District personnel may deliver, quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, parents, District personnel, and visitors is essential to achieving this goal. The complete Code of Conduct (Code) is available at all school sites, Central Office, and on the District webpage.

## **PUBLICATION, DISSEMINATION AND REVIEW**

## Dissemination of Valley Central's Code of Conduct Plain Language Summary

The Board will work to ensure that the community is aware of the District's Code of Conduct by including it in the annual VCSD Calendar and Guide, providing students with a copy at the beginning of each school year, providing teachers and staff members with a copy of the summary and posting it on the school website (www.vcsdny.org).

## **STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

Discipline is most effective when it deals directly with the problem at the time and place it occurs, and in a way that is viewed as fair and impartial by the student. Therefore, before seeking outside assistance, teachers will first use all their resources to create a change of behavior in the classroom. When the teacher has made every effort to bring about positive behavioral change, and has been unsuccessful, the student will be referred to the administration. At that point, the administration will decide what further action will be taken. See Board Policies 5311.5, 5312, 5313.1, 5313.2, 5313.3

## **Detention, Suspension, and Removal of Students**

Disciplinary action, when necessary, will be firm, fair, and consistent so as to be the most effective in changing student behavior. In determining the appropriate disciplinary action,

school personnel authorized to impose disciplinary penalties will consider the following:

- The student's age.
- The nature of the offense and the circumstances that led to the offense.
- The student's prior disciplinary record.
- The effectiveness of other forms of discipline.
- Information from parents, teachers and/or others, as appropriate.
- Other extenuating circumstances.

See Code of Conduct D page 7

## PROCEDURES AND PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE Procedures by which violations are reported and determined, and by which discipline measures are imposed and carried out

In Valley Central Schools, routine procedures exist for reporting and investigating violations of the Code. Depending upon the nature of the violation, it is the desire of the Board that student discipline be progressive. That is, a student's first violation should merit a lighter penalty than subsequent violations. However, individual behavior management plans or severe infractions may preclude a gradual process.

Further, an early return from suspension may be conditioned upon completion of approved counseling or special classes. See Board Policy 5313 and 5313.3R

See Code of Conduct D & E pages 7 & 10

### <u>Consequences for the possession and use of illegal</u> substances or weapons, the use of physical force, vandalism, violation of another student's civil rights and threats of violence

The Valley Central School District will not tolerate violence, threats, bullying, and substance abuse. Students who break the law; use, possess, sell, transfer or facilitate these activities with regard to alcohol and/or drugs, tobacco products, synthetic tobacco products/paraphernalia; e-cigarettes, vaporizers or other devices used to inhale nonprescribed substances; weapons or explosive devices; attend school or school functions under the influence of drugs or alcohol; or use vulgar language; or exhibit inappropriate behavior (including sexual misconduct and/or sexting) will be held accountable not only to the District Disciplinary Code, but may also be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. This includes students who fail to report threats of danger or physical violence to appropriate school personnel. See Code of Conduct E page 10

## Removal of individuals from classrooms, buses and school property

Removals from the classroom, buses or school property occur when an individual is substantially disruptive or violent at school or a school function, in the professional judgment of staff or administrators. For the purposes of this Code, the following definitions apply:

## **Disruptive Student**

"Disruptive Student" means an elementary or secondary student up to the age of 21 who:

- continuously interferes or substantially disrupts the educational process;
- continuously interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom;
- demonstrates a persistent unwillingness to comply with the teacher's instructions;
- intimidates, bullies or defames others in word, action or dress;
  - bullying is generally the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by threats, intimidation or abuse, including cyberbullying, as defined by the Dignity for All Students Act.
- harasses others on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, creed, gender, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, religious practice, weight, ethnic group, national origin, socio-economic status, or predisposing genetic characteristics; or
- makes an audio and/or video recording and/or transmittal,

## CODE OF CONDUCT

The Valley Central Code of Conduct applies to all students, school personnel, parents and visitors on school property including school buses and other school vehicles, when attending school-sponsored events or functions. Information on the Code of Conduct is shared with students at the beginning of every school year. It is available on the district website, **www.vcsdny.org** 

including photographs during any portion of the school day without the express authorization from appropriate school personnel; or fails to comply with school rules related to cell phones or other electronic devices.

## **Violent Student**

"Violent Student" means an elementary or secondary student up to the age of 21 who:

- commits, or attempts to commit, an act of violence upon a school employee;
- commits, or attempts to commit, while on school property, on buses or at a school function, an act of violence upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property, on buses or at a school function (including reckless behavior);
  - possesses, while on school property, on buses or at a school function, a weapon, or an object used as a weapon;
- displays, while on school property, on buses or at a school function, what appears to be a weapon;
- threatens, while on school property, on buses or at a school function, to use a weapon, or to inflict bodily harm, or communicates acts of violent intent;
- intimidates others in word, action or dress; or
   knowingly and intentionally damages or destroys personal or school property of any school employee or any person lawfully on school property or at a school function.

## See Code of Conduct D page 8

## (CODE OF CONDUCT CONTINUED IN JANUARY)





	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2023	3	4	5	6	7	1	5 Istrict's web page whenever possible.
SER		VCMS Winter Concert #1 7:00 PM	VCMS Winter Concert #2 7:00 PM	WES DARE Graduation 9:30 AM VC 21 6:30 PM @ EC Early Dismissal for Professional Development		Valley Central Education Foundation Tricky Tray 6:00 PM	and/or times will be listed on the D
DECEMBER 2	10	<b>11</b> BOE Meeting 6:30 PM	<b>12</b> MES Winter Concert 6:30 PM	<b>13</b> VCHS Pops Concert 7:00 PM	14	15	Please Note: Due to circumstances beyond our control, event dates and/or times may have to be chanced. Chances to event dates and/or times will be listed on the District's web page whenever possible
NOVEMBER 2023 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	17	18 VCHS Winter Concert 7:00 PM	19	20	21	22 Winter Rec	cess cess
12       13       14       15       16       17       18         19       20       21       22       23       24       25         26       27       28       29       30       30         JANUARY 2024         S       M       T       W       T       F       S         1       2       3       4       5       6         7       8       9       10       11       12       13         14       15       16       17       18       19       20         21       22       23       24       25       26       27	24 New Year's Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27 Winter Decos	28	29	30 Pueto circumstances bevond or
28 29 30 31				Winter Recess			Please

## VCSDNY.ORG

## C VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## CODE OF CONDUCT - PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY (CONTINUED FROM DECEMBER)

### **Minimum Suspension – Disruptive Student**

When a student engages in conduct which would define that student as "repeatedly, substantially disruptive" (i.e., engaging in conduct requiring removal from classroom on four or more occasions during a semester), a minimum suspension will be two days subject to modification on a case-by-case basis, based upon the particular circumstances present. **See Code of Conduct L page 14** 

### **Minimum Suspension – Violent Student**

Where a student engages in conduct which would define that student as "violent", a minimum suspension will be three days subject to modification on a case-by-case basis, based upon the particular circumstances present. **See Code of Conduct M page 14** 

### **Notification of Parent or Guardian**

Notification of parents/guardians in parental relation that a Code violation has occurred will be accomplished in accordance with the procedure for removal of disruptive students and the due process rights of students. See Board Policy 5311.1/ See Code of Conduct I page 13

## **Safety and Security**

The Valley Central School District considers school safety an essential priority. The District will not tolerate violence, threats, bullying, and substance abuse. Students who break the law; use, possess, sell, transfer or facilitate these activities with regard to alcohol and/or drugs or drug paraphernalia, tobacco products, synthetic tobacco products/paraphernalia; e-cigarettes, vaporizers or other devices used to inhale non-prescribed substances; weapons or explosive devices; attend school or school functions under the influence of drugs or alcohol; or use vulgar language; or exhibit inappropriate behavior (including sexual misconduct and/or sexting) will be held accountable not only to the District Disciplinary Code, but may also be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. This includes students who fail to report threats of danger or physical violence to appropriate school personnel. To promote a safe and healthy environment for all

students, the provisions of this section will be addressed through board policy. The safety of students shall be ensured through close supervision of students (including surveillance cameras) in all school buildings, on buses and on school grounds. Loitering and trespassing are prohibited. Students, parents, visitors and employees must comply with all security measures including signing into buildings with picture identification. In addition, off-campus misconduct will be dealt with according to the Code. See Board Policies 5311, 5450, 5450.1, 8111, 8115, 8120, 8414, 1240-R, 1500, 1520-R./See Code of Conduct B page 3; F page 12

### Harassment, Discrimination and Bullying

The Valley Central School District recognizes its responsibility to protect students from unlawful harassment, discrimination and bullying while on school property. Students or staff who wish to report harassment, including sexual harassment, should contact the District's Title IX coordinator. Students or staff who wish to report discrimination should contact the appropriate compliance officer. Students or staff wishing to report an incident of bullying should contact the appropriate building Dignity Act Coordinator. The Dignity Act Coordinators are as follows: Berea Elementary, Student Assistance Counselor Katherine Gusmano, 845-457-2400 x11647/ East Coldenham Elementary, Student Assistance Counselor Alexandra Riker, 845-457-2400 x12006/ Montgomery Elementary, Student Assistance Counselor Sarah Barringer, 845-457-2400 x14645/Walden Elementary, Student Assistance Counselor Lvdia Pabon-Genovez 845-457-2400 x15650/ Middle School, Student Assistance Counselor Catherine Heil, 845-457-2400 x16241/High School, Student Assistance Counselor Lacey Benjamin, 845-457-2400 x17647/ALC, Student Assistance Counselor Lisa Strassner 845-457-2400x13610 See Code of Conduct B6 page 6

## **Provisions for Students with Disabilities**

The Board recognizes that it may be necessary to suspend, remove, or otherwise discipline students with disabilities to address disruptive or problem behavior. The Board also recognizes that students with disabilities have certain procedural protections in disciplinary matters. The Board is committed to ensuring that the procedures followed for suspending, removing, or otherwise disciplining students with disabilities are consistent with the procedural safeguards required by applicable laws and regulations. See Board Policies 5310, 5311. /See Code of Conduct F & G page 12 & 13

## Provisions for Students, Parents, Employees and Visitors Conduct, Dress and Language

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Students, their parents, staff members and visitors have the primary responsibility for their own conduct and for acceptable student dress, conduct, and appearance as outlined in the Code. See Board Policies 5311.5, 5312, 5313, 5450, 5450.1, 8111, 8120, and 8414 / See Code of Conduct A & B pages 1 & 5

Each building principal or his or her designee shall provide information to all students and their parents of the student dress code at the beginning of the school year through the student handbook and/or an assembly.

### Involvement of Law Enforcement Agencies and Criminal Investigations

In consultation with local law enforcement, the District understands that the following types of conduct are generally considered criminal offenses and referable to law enforcement as crimes: disorderly conduct, forcible sexual offenses, use or possession of weapons, drug offenses, assaults resulting in serious physical injury, serious credible threats which a reasonable person would perceive as placing a person or persons in danger.

The usual contact between the District and law enforcement agencies will be the School Resource Officer (SRO). The SRO program is a collaborative initiative between the District and local law enforcement agencies. An SRO is a police officer assigned to the school campus who helps to create a healthy and safe environment for the

### school community. See Board Policy 5313.

### **Objective of the School Resource Officer Program**

To maintain a safe campus environment that is conducive to learning; to create a unity between law enforcement and school officials; to improve relationships between youth, law enforcement and community, to serve as consultants to school, staff, parents and youth on safety matters, to serve as role models to students. See Code of Conduct H page 13

### **Referrals to Human Service Agencies**

When any student need is beyond the scope of the District's resources, a referral to appropriate human service agencies will be made. All administrators, faculty, pupil services personnel, and other support staff will serve as mandated reporters of child abuse or neglect. They will communicate these and other referrals through the principal or his/her designee. See Code of Conduct K page 13

### District Cooperation with Criminal Court, Juvenile Delinguency Petition, or "PINS" Petition

The District will observe all applicable procedures under the Family Court Act for the filing of PINS petitions, Juvenile Delinquency petitions. It will follow the appropriate sections of Penal Law and Criminal Procedure Law and other statutes for filing criminal complaints. See Board Policy 5161/See Code of Conduct J page 13

## **Dress Code**

Students are expected to attend school in appropriate type apparel. Standards for student dress are set forth in the Code of Conduct. The standards of dress will prevail at all times including examination periods and other activities planned for inside the building. Be advised that administration reserves the right to challenge any student's dress or appearance which, in the judgment of a school administrator, may cause a material or substantial disruption to the educational process and/or create a health and safety hazard. **See Code of Conduct N page 14** 

## VC PROUD · VIKING STRONG

Valley Central School District School Lunch Program c/o Valley Central Middle School 1189 Route 17K Montgomery, NY 12549	FOLD LINE
FIRST CLASS POSTAGE REQUIRED	

## **\*\*\*CONFIDENTIAL**\*\*\*

FOLD LINE

Date Withdrew

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# 2023-2024 Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals/Milk

To apply for free and reduced price meals for your children, read the instructions on the back, complete <u>only one</u> form for your household, sign your name and **return it to the address listed below, or Fax to 845-457-3003.** Call **845-457-2400 x16898** if you need help. Additional names may be listed on a separate paper.

## Return Completed Applications to: Valley Central Middle School

## Montgomery, NY 12549 1189 Route 17K

## \*\*Please keep a copy for your records

1. List all children in your household who attend school:

							Student Name	
							School	
							Grade/Teacher	
C	0	0	0	0	0	0	Foster Child	
C	0	0	0	0	0	0	Migrant, Runaway	

2. SNAP/TANF/FDPIR Benefits: If anyone in your household receives either SNAP, TANF or FDPIR benefits, list their name and CASE # here. Skip to Part 4 and sign the application.

Name:
CASE #:
.# 

Report all income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you completed step 2)

All Household Members (including yourself and all children that have income). List all Household members not listed in Step 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total income for each source in whole dollars only. If they do not receive income from any other source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

Name of household member	Earnings from work before deductions Amount / How Often	Child Support, Alimony Amount / How Often	Pensions, Retirement Payments Amount / How Often	Other Income, Social Security Amount / How Often	No Income
	\$/	\$/	\$/	\$/	0
	\$/	\$/	\$/	\$/	0
	\$/	\$/	\$/	\$/	0
	\$/	\$/	\$/	\$/	0
	\$/	\$/	\$/	\$/	0
Total Household Members (Children and Adults)	en and Adults)			I d	I do not have a

\*Last Four Digits of Social Security Number: XXX-XX-

have a SS#

"When completing section 3, an adult household member must provide the last four digits of their Social Security Number (SS#) or mark the "I do not have a SS# box" before the application can be approved.

4. Signature: An adult household member must sign this application before it can be approved. I certify (promise) that all the information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the information is being given so the school will get federal funds; the school officials may verify the information and if I purposely give false information, I may be prosecuted under applicable State and federal laws, and my children may lose meal benefits.

Signature:		Date:
Email Address:		
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	Home Address:

ŗ Ethnicity and Race are optional; responding to this section does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals

Ethnicity: OHispanic or Latino ONot Hispanic or Latino

Race (Check one or more): OAmerican Indian or Alaskan Native OAsian OBlack or African American ONative Hawaiian or Other Pacific Island

# DO

Owhite

## NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To apply for free and reduced price meals, complete only one application for your household using the instructions below. Sign the application and return the application to Valley Central Middle School, 1189 Route 17K, Montgomery, NY 12549 or Fax 845-457-3003. If you have a foster approving your application. child in your household, you may include them on your application. A separate application is not needed. Call the school if you need help: 457-2400 X16898. Ensure that all information is provided. Failure to do so may result in denial of benefits for your child or unnecessary delay in 845-

## PART 1 HOUSEHOLD. ALL HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE STUDENT INFORMATION. DO NOT FILL OUT MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION FOR YOUR

Ξ Print the names of the children, including foster children, for whom you are applying on one application

List their grade and school

(a school staff will confirm this eligibility). **ω** [2] Check the box to indicate a foster child living in your household, or if you believe any child meets the description for homeless, migrant, runaway

## PART 2 HOUSEHOLDS GETTING SNAP, TANF OR FDPIR SHOULD COMPLETE PART 2 AND SIGN PART 4.

Ξ

case number, TANF or FDPIR number. 2 List a current SNAP, TANF or FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) case number of anyone living in your household. The case number is provided on your benefit letter. An adult household member must sign the application in PART 4. SKIP PART 3. Do not list names of household members or income if you list a SNAP

## PART 3 ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE THESE PARTS AND ALL OF PART 4.

Ξ Write the names of everyone in your household, whether or not they get income. Include yourself, the children you are applying for, all other children, your

- 2 spouse, grandparents, and other related and unrelated people in your household. Use another piece of paper if you need more space. Write the amount of current income each household member receives, before taxes or anything else is taken out, and indicate where it came from, such as earnings, welfare, pensions and other income. If the current income was more or less than usual, write that person's usual income. **Specify how often this** income amount is received: weekly, every other week (bi-weekly), 2 x per month, monthly. If no income, check the box. The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care and
- ω Enter the total number of household members in the box provided. This number should include all adults and children in the household and should reflect the Development Block Grant, TANF and At Risk Child Care Programs should not be considered as income for this program.
- 4 The application must include the last four digits only of the social security number of the adult who signs PART 4 if Part 3 is completed. If the adult does not have a social security number, check the box. If you listed a SNAP, TANF or FDPIR number, a social security number is not needed. members listed in PART 1 and PART 3.
- ত An adult household member must sign the application in PART 4.

Please refer to the attached parent Disclosure Letter and Consent Statement for information about other benefits program officials need information from your free and reduced price meal application. Your written consent is required before any information may be released OTHER BENEFITS: Your child may be eligible for benefits such as Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). To determine if your child is eligible

## **USE OF INFORMATION STATEMENT**

Use of Information Statement: The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not submit all needed information, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the primary wage earner or other adult household member who signs the application. The social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member

for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

## DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice ar or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. .g., Braille, eand TTY)

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at <a href="https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf">https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf</a>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- <u>.</u>
- mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

- Ņ
- (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; 2
- ယ email
- program.intake@usda.gov
- 4 This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## Dear Parent/Guardian

## Letter to Parents for School Meal Programs

 Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals of for reduced price meals will receive breakfast and lunch meals at no cost. Below are common questions and answers to help you with the application process.
 IDO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. Complete one Application for Free and Reduced Price School MealsMilk to apply for free or reduced price meals for all students in your household attending this School Food Authority. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information as indicated on the application instructions. Return the completed application to: Valley Central Middle School or to your youngest child's school.
 WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS? Children need healthy meals to learn. Valley Central School district offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.85 for Elementary; \$2.00 for Secondary Schools. Lunch costs \$2.85 for Elementary; \$3.00 for Secondary Schools. Lunch costs \$2.85 for Elementary; \$3.00 for Secondary Schools. Lunch costs \$2.85 for Elementary; \$3.00 for Secondary Schools could be averaged by a contract of the second second and the second s

- • All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), are eligible for free meals. Categorical eligibility for free meal benefits is extended to all children in a household when the application lists an Assistance Program's case number for any household member. Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals. Children participanting in their school's Head Start Program are eligible for free meals. Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- ٠ Children may receive free meals if your household's gross income is within the free or reduced price limits on the Federal Income Eigibility Guidelines. breakfast and lunch meals and snacks served through the Afterschool Snack Program at no charge. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart: . Students in New York State that are approved for reduced price meals will receive

## 2023 -20024 REDUCED PRICE INCOME ELIGIRII ITY GUINEI NES

	2023-202	A REDUCED PRICE IN	2023-2024 REDUCED PRICE INCOME ELIGIBILIT GUIDELINES	ELINES	
Total Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$ 26,973	\$ 2,248	\$ 1,124	\$ 1,038	\$ 519
2	\$ 36,482	\$ 3,041	\$ 1,521	\$ 1,404	\$ 702
3	\$ 45,991	\$ 3,833	\$ 1,917	\$ 1,769	\$ 885
4	\$ 55,500	\$ 4,625	\$ 2,313	\$ 2,135	\$ 1,068
5	\$ 65,009	\$ 5,418	\$ 2,709	\$ 2,501	\$ 1,251
6	\$ 74,518	\$ 6,210	\$ 3,105	\$ 2,867	\$ 1,434
7	\$ 84,027	\$ 7,003	\$ 3,502	\$ 3,232	\$ 1,616
8	\$ 93,536	\$ 7,795	\$ 3,898	\$ 3,598	\$ 1,799
*Each add'l person, add	\$ 9,509	\$ 793	\$ 397	\$ 366	\$ 183

ω CAN FOSTER CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Yes, toster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income. Foster children may also be included as a member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for benefits for othe children. Including children in foster care as household members may help other children in the household qualify for benefits. If non-foster children in a foster family chooses to also apply for benefits for othe children. Including children in foster care as household members may help other children in the household qualify for benefits. RUWAWAY, AND MIGRANT CHILDRE MEILS? Yes, children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for fee meals. If you haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call Ms. Gravel, 845-457-2400 x16532 to see if they qualify. SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school x16550 content of IRECOVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school x16550 content on the formation of the

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mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or email: <u>program.inteke@usda.gov</u>. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2024		1 New Year's Day Winter Recess	2 Students Return to School	3	4	5	9 Brade video and and a state in trade video
	7	8 BOE Meeting 6:30 PM	9	10	11	12 VCMS Drama Production 7:00 PM	13 VCMS Drama Production 7:00 PM 20
JANUARY	14	15 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16	17 EC Winter Concert 6:30 PM	18	19	20 South the second (hand on the second change)
DECEMBER 2023 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	21	22 BOE Meeting 5:30 PM	23 Berea Winter Concert 6:30 PM	24 WES Winter Concert 6:30 PM NYS Rege	25 UPK Information Night/ Application Release 7:00 PM nts Exams	26 Secondary 2nd Quarter Ends	4 Vice and Article
17       18       19       20       21       22       23         24       25       26       27       28       29       30         FEBRUARY 2024         S       M       T       F       S         1       2       3       4       5       6       7       8       9       10         11       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       21       22       23       24         25       26       27       28       29       30       31	28	29	30 MES Book Fair	<b>31</b> VC 21 6:30 PM at WES			Place Mrter. Die to discrimet and and the sound and the so

## HOW DO I FIND OUT IF SCHOOLS **ARE CLOSED**, **DELAYED OR DISMISSING EARLY?**

The Valley Central School District uses several different measures to disseminate information to the community in relation to school closings, delays and early dismissals.

## District website

Information about school closings, delays and early dismissals will be posted in the Special Alert on the district website.



## SchoolMessenger

District families and employees will be notified of school closings, delays and early dismissals via recorded telephone messages, emails and text messages via the SchoolMessenger notification services.

• WPDH

WHUD



## Local radio and TV stations:

News 12
Spectrum News Hudson Valley



## **ATTENTION** PARENTS: **Make Plans for Early Dismissals**



Parents should make arrangements for child care if schools are dismissed when they are not at home.

Instructions for young children should be clearly spelled out on the emergency card filed with your child's school. Remember to tell your child's school if any of your information has changed.

Children should be aware of these alternative plans, no matter what grade level. Make sure your children know what to do if they arrive home unexpectedly and you're not there. For safety's sake, NOW is the time to create a plan.

## DO SNOW DAYS HAVE TO BE MADE UP?

The first three snow days do not have to be made up. The fourth through seventh days are banked in the calendar as part of school recess. During this school year:

- If a fourth snow day is used, school will be in session on May 23.
- If a fifth day is used, school will be in session on May 23 and May 24.
- If a sixth day is used, school will be in session May 23, May 24, and April 1
- If a seventh day is used, school will be in session May 23, 24, April 1 and March 25.

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	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
024					<b>1</b> Black History Month	2	Berea Drama Productions 4 PM/7 PM
					MES B	ook Fair	b page wh
N	4	5	6	7	8	9	listrictSwel
≿					MES Drama Production 7 PM	MES Drama Production 7 PM	Viking Cheerleading Viking Cheerleading Competition 9:30 AM
							s and/or tim
5	11	12	13	14	15	16	<b>17</b>
FEBRUARY		BOE Meeting 6:30 PM					Berea Drama Productions 4 PM/7 PM 10 Viking Cheerleading Competition 9:30 AM 17 17 24
	18	19	20	21	22	23	<b>24</b>
JANUARY 2024 Smtwtfs		Presidents Day					o, event dates and/or ti
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20				Presidents Week			d our cont
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 MARCH 2024 S M T W T F S	25	26	27	28	29		umstances beyond
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23							Please Note: Due to circumstances bevo
24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31			Senior	Week			Please

## **Notification of Equal Opportunity**

Students with disabilities residing in the District are provided the opportunity to participate in school district programs to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of the student including extracurricular activities and programs which are available to all other students enrolled in public schools in the District.

If a parent/guardian of a student, student, or employee feels that he or she is the victim of harassment based upon their disability, they should contact the Compliance Officer, Ivelisse Mojica, Asst. Superintendent, at (845) 457-2400 ext. 18142.

## **Pupil Personnel Services**

The Director of Pupil Personnel Services oversees English as a Second Language services, student assistance counselors, speech and language services, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. Georgia Patchen is the Director of Pupil Personnel Services

## **Guidance Counseling**

Guidance counselors help students achieve a better understanding of their abilities, goals, opportunities and social responsibilities. High school guidance counselor services include class scheduling, counseling, career exploration, and post-high school preparation. Middle school counselors assist with academic and personal issues.

## **Psychology and Student Assistance**

School psychologists work with students, parents, teachers and administrators to meet a student's needs. Services include diagnosis of learning difficulties as well as counseling.

Student assistance counselors, some of whom are social workers, help students when social and personal problems hinder learning. They are a liaison between the school and community working on programs that assist students with personal obstacles and programs that prevent at-risk behaviors and reinforce positive choices.

## Academic Intervention Services (AIS)

The goal of AIS is to diagnose and correct deficiencies in math and English language arts as well as social studies and science. Students are selected for this program based on test scores. classroom work and teacher recommendations. Students who utilize AIS receive individualized attention through small group instruction. They receive additional instruction on lessons they learn in their core classes and review basic skills that are key to comprehension and learning.

## **Special Education**

Children with physical, mental or emotional disabilities require special assistance and encouragement. These children are referred to the District's Committee on Special Education in order to evaluate the child, determine if a disability exists, and plan an individualized approach to educate the child. Barbara Butler is the Director of Special Education.

## Section 504

While all students identified as disabled under IDFA are considered disabled under Section 504, students not identified under IDEA may be considered to be disabled under Section 504 if they meet the definition of a "qualified handicapped person". This is a person who has or has had a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits major life activity or is regarded as handicapped by others. There is a Section 504 Coordinator at each school. www.vcsd.k12.ny.us/about-us/section-504/

## **Preschool Special Education**

Preschool special education is a system of specifically designed programs and services for younger children between ages three and five who have been deemed eligible for services and have been classified as "preschool student with a disability". Services are provided at no cost to parents/guardians. If you have a concern about a preschool child, contact the Special Education Office at (845) 457-2400 ext. 18117.



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## GST

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1	2
						Elementary 2nd Trimester Ends	ible
4						Senior Black and White Dance	ever poss
						7:00 PM Senior Week	age when
							ts web p
202	3	4	5	6 Early Dismissal for	7 Early Dismissal for	8	he Distric
N		BOE Meeting 6:30 PM	HS/MS Pops Concert 7:00 PM	Parent Teacher Conferences	Parent Teacher Conferences		isted on t
							swill be I
							d/or time
MARCH	10	11	12	13	14	15	dates and
							to event
<u> </u>				VC 21 6:30 PM at MES		VCHS Musical Production 7 PM	VCHS Musical Production 7 PM
$\triangleleft$							e changed
5					VCMS Book Fair		ave to be
<	17	18	19	20	21	22	<b>23</b>
				EC Drama Production 7:00 PM	MES DARE Graduation 1:30 PM	UPK Applications Due	and/or tin
	VCHS Musical Production 2 PM	BOE Meeting 6:30 PM			EC Drama Production 7:00 PM		int dates a
FEBRUARY 2024 S m t w t f s							ntrol, eve
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17				VCMS Book Fair			d our co
18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	24	25	26	27	28	29	30 beyon
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14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Easter			Spring Recess			Please Note: Due to circumstances beyond our control, event dates and/or times will be listed on the District's web page whenever possible.
							Be

## **DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT** (DASA)

New York State's Dignity For All Students Act took effect on July 1, 2012. Just as with the District's Code of Conduct, the law seeks to provide public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, bullying, including cyberbullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function. The Dignity Act includes but is not limited to, acts of discrimination and harassment based on a student's race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and expression) or sex.

Valley Central has programs and initiatives in place in our schools aimed at promoting tolerance and bullying prevention district-wide. These initiatives include the Board of Education District Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Character Education, Bucket Filling and PBIS at the elementary schools; cultural responsiveness training and small group work at the MS/HS, the Cultural Diversity Club and the Race, Identity and Justice course at the High School.

Our Dignity Act Coordinators are based at each building and are trained to address issues regarding bullying prevention and the implementation of consequences for violations of the Dignity For All Students Act.

## **Berea Elementary:**

Katherine Gusmano, ext. 11647 katherine.gusmano@vcsdny.org

## East Coldenham Elementary:

Alexandra Riker, ext. 12006 alexandra.riker@vcsdny.org

## **Montgomery Elementary:**

Sarah Barringer, ext. 14645 sarah.barringer@vcsdny.org

## Walden Elementary:

Lydia Pabon-Genovez, ext 15650 lydia.pabon-genovez@vcsdny.org

## Middle School:

Catherine Heil, ext 16241 catherine.heil@vcsdny.org

## High School:

Lacey Benjamin, ext. 17643 lacey.benjamin@vcsdny.org Abigail Wood, ext. 17647 abigail.wood@vcsdny.org

## ALC:

Lisa Strassner, ext. 13610 lisa.strassner@vcsdny.org

Any student or parent can go directly to the Dignity Act Coordinators should there be concerns. Children may also speak to any staff member if they feel that they are the victim of bullying. DASA forms are also available on every school's webpage.

The Valley Central School District official responsible for coordination of procedures related to compliance with Title IX, the statute which prohibits gender based discrimination is **Brad Conklin, SBO at brad.conklin@vcsdny.org.** 

## The Valley Central Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

Valley Central wants all children in our care to feel safe, valued and above all, heard. As a district, we must all be committed to identifying and resolving any differences in the experiences, education, and well-being of our students. Together, we must lead the change that will create lasting equity for all people in our community. We must support efforts that will give all of us the tools we need to combat racism, oppression, and hateful acts in all forms. Our staff and administrators continue to be trained in culturally responsive teaching in order for all of us to better understand and work with all of our children, especially our children of color. Every student in the Valley Central School District needs to know that they are valued, respected, and loved.

This is an advisory committee established by the Board of Education with the goal to drive accountability for our schools with respect to the fair and inclusive treatment of all students.

The initial charge of the committee is to:

- review district curriculum so that it reflects diversity and provides the ability to thrive in a multicultural society
- focus on staff diversity and inclusion
- promote cultural literacy among all staff members
- · assure fair and equal treatment of all students
- · evaluate the effectiveness of the District effort regarding equity

## **The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment**

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment provides parents/guardians with certain rights regarding the conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes and certain physical exams. In particular, if a survey is funded in whole or part by the US Department of Education, parents/guardians have the right to consent before students are required to complete a survey that asks about any of the following protected areas; political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parents/guardians; mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family; sexual behavior or attitudes; illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior; critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships; legally recognized privileged relationships, such as lawyers, doctors and ministers; religious practices, affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent; or income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

## VC PROUD • VIKING STRONG

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5	6
			Students Return from Spring Recess			EC DARE Graduation 2:00 PM	ever possible.
4						Secondary 3rd Quarter Ends	ge whene
		Spring Recess					swep pa
202	7	8	9	Early Dismissal <b>10</b> for Professional Development	11	12	Ed on the Districts
N					WES Drama Production 7:00 PM	WES Drama Production 7:00 PM	and/or times will be lis
	14	15	16	17	18	19	ad dates
APRIL		BOE Meeting 6:30 PM			BOE Meeting 5:30 PM	UPK Lottery Junior Prom	d our control, event dates and/or times may have to be changes to event dates and/or times will be listed on the District's web page whenever possible
$\triangleleft$							ive to be ch
	21	22	23	24	25	26	<b>52</b> Sr times may ha
MARCH 2024 Smtwtfs			Passover			All Night Grad Tricky Tray 5:30 PM	vent dates and/
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16							our control, e
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	28	29	30				
MAY 2024 Smtwtfs			VCHS Spring Band Concert 7:00 PM				ircumstanc
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18							Please Note: Due to circumstances beyo
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		Berea Bo	ook Fair				Please N

## VCSDNY.ORG



## ABOUT THE SCHOOL BUDGET



## Budget Vote is May 21, 2024

The annual school board election and budget vote for the following school year is held on the third Tuesday of May. This year's vote will be held on May 21, 2024, at the Valley Central High

School gymnasium.

## **Voter Eligibility**

You may vote if you are a United States citizen, age 18 or older and a district resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote and are registered to vote.

## **Voter Registration**

If you voted in a school district election or local general election in the past four years, you are registered to vote. If you are not registered, you may register for the school district annual election at our Administration Building, 944 State Route 17K, Montgomery on Voter Registration Day, May 14, 2024 or at the Board of Elections.

## **Absentee Ballots**

If you are unable to vote in person on the day of the vote, you may be eligible to vote by absentee ballot. An application of absentee ballot may be obtained from the District Clerk. Requests for an application must be made at least seven days prior to the vote. Absentee ballots must be received by 5:00 PM on voting day.

## **More Information**

The District mails annual budget documents to all district residents and posts information on its website. Visit www. vcsdny.org for more information or contact District Clerk Ellen McGoldrick at ext. 18511.

> FIND BUDGET INFORMATION AT: www.vcsd.k12.ny.us/budget/

## VC PROUD • VIKING STRONG

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Month VCMS Student Recognition 7:00 PM	2	3	4 Menewer possible
					Berea Book Fair		eb bage
MAY 2024	5	6 VCHS Student Recognition 7:00 PM	<b>7</b> VCMS Spring Concert #1 7:00 PM	<b>8</b> VCMS Spring Concert #2 7:00 PM	9 EC Spring Concert 6:30 PM	10	Plase Note: Due to circumstances beyond our control event dates and/or times may have to be channed. Channes to event dates and/or times will be listed on the District's web nade whenever nossible
A	12	<b>13</b> BOE Meeting 6:30 PM	14 Voter Registration 1:00 PM- 8:00 PM	<b>15</b> WES Spring Concert 6:30 PM	<b>16</b> MES Spring Concert 6:30 PM	<b>17</b> JROTC Military Ball	18 Inters to event dates and/
Σ			Berea Spring Concert 6:30 PM				av have to be channed.
APRIL 2024 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6	19	20 VCHS Spring Choral Concert 7:00 PM	21 BOE Election/ Budget Vote Sth Grade All District Concert 7:00 PM	22 BOE Meeting 5:30 PM	23 Senior Ball	24	<b>52</b> trol event dates and/or times may
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27						Memorial Day Holiday	
28 29 30 JUNE 2024 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30 Sth Grade Field Day VCHS Science Research Symposium 6:30 PM	31 VCHS Festival of Arts 6:00 PM	ote: Due to circumstances bevon
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Memor	al Day Holiday					Please N

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
24	2	3	4 VCMS 5th Grade Open House	5	<b>6</b> ALC 5th/8th Moving Up 2:00 PM	7	1 8 aur control, event dates and/or times will be listed on the District's web page whenever possible.
2024			Night of Specials 5:30 PM NYS Regents Exams EC	VCHS Athletic Awards 7:00 PM	Senior Dinner 6:00 PM <b>ir</b>		and/or times will be listed on
JUNE	9	<b>10</b> Employee Recognition 6:00 PM BOE Meeting 6:30 PM	<b>11</b> Senior Awards 7:00 PM	12	13	14	12 be changed. Changes to event dates.
MAY 2024	16	<b>17</b> Regents Rating Day	18	<b>19</b> Juneteenth	<b>20</b> Berea Moving Up 9:45 AM EC Moving Up 9:45 am	NYS Regents Exams 21 Elementary 3rd Trimester Ends MES Moving Up 9:45 AM	<b>55</b> ent dates and/or times may have to
S         M         T         W         T         F         S           1         2         3         4         5         6         7         8         9         10         11           12         13         14         15         16         17         18           19         20         21         22         23         24         25	23	24	NYS Regents Exams	26	NYS Rege	nts Exams	2
19       20       21       22       23       24       25         26       27       28       29       30       31         JULY 2024         S       M       T       W       T       F       S         1       2       3       4       5       6         7       8       9       10       11       12       13         14       15       16       17       18       19       20         21       22       23       24       25       26       27         28       29       30       31	30	24 WES Moving Up 9:30 AM NYS Reger	8th Grade Moving Up 9:00 AM	26 Last Day of School Rating Day Secondary 4th Quarter Ends	21	28	VCHS Graduation 10:00 AM

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

## **Parent Involvement is Vital**

Research shows that greater involvement in a child's education can lead to greater student achievement. When parents are actively involved, students tend to have higher grades, better attendance and fewer behavioral problems.

Valley Central has PTA/PTO groups throughout the district who are united by a PTA Council. They provide a vital link between school and home. By becoming involved with your school's PTA/PTO, you are able to become a partner in advancing the educational goals of the school district while at the same time enhancing the welfare of our children. Each school webpage has a link to its PTA/PTO and PTA Council:

www.vcsd.k12.ny.us/about-us/parent-teacher-association

## **PTO/PTA Emails**

Berea: bereapto@gmail.com EC: eastcoldenhampta@gmail.com Montgomery: mepta12549@gmail.com Walden: waldenptopres@gmail.com Middle School: vcmiddleschoolpta@gmail.com High School: vchighschoolptsa@gmail.com PTA Council: vcptacouncil@gmail.com

## **Parent Resources**

Parent Resources is a digital collection of resources for parents of all grade levels located on our website: https://www.vcsd.k12.ny.us/about-us/parent-resources/. Parents will find resources for academics, behavior management, social and emotional resources and wellness there.

## **Health Services and Immunizations**

All children entering VC Schools and/or starting kindergarten, first, third, fifth, seventh, ninth and eleventh grades are required to submit proof of medical examinations within 30 days of enrollment. Parents may have their children examined by a family physician or have physicals completed in school.

State Education Law also mandates immunizations for all children entering and attending school. The mandates are found: www.health.ny.gov/publications/2370.pdf

School nurses implement the health service program through counseling, first aid, annual screens and assisting with exams and maintaining student health records. All of VC's school nurses are RNs. More information can be found at: www.vcsd.k12.ny.us/departments/health-services/

## Sports Health Concerns Concussion

## When a student is injured during a school-sponsored activity or outside of school and symptoms of concussion are present protocols are followed. The student is immediately removed from the activity, and may not return until medically cleared to do so. If the student is injured outside of school, it is expected that the parent will inform the school nurse in their child's building of the injury, and the school nurse will provide the parent/guardian with the "Post-Concussion Forms" to be completed by the child's private health care professional. The school nurse will also complete a concussion evaluation if one has not already been completed. Whether injured at school or off school grounds, the school nurse will provide the parent/guardian with concussion management information. In order for the student diagnosed with a concussion to return to physical education and/or athletics, they must be medically cleared by their private healthcare provider and by the school physician. For more information please visit https://www. vcsd.k12.ny.us/athletics/sports-health-concern/

## Sudden Cardiac Arrest- Dominic Murray Law

The Dominic Murray Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act became law as of July 1, 2022. Please note that sudden cardiac arrest in children and youth is rare. The incidence of sudden cardiac death (SCD) on the playing field is 0.61 in 100,000. Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is an emergency that happens when the heart suddenly stops working. Immediate treatment is cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and use of an automatic external defibrillator (AED). VC Nurses, PE Staff, Coaching staff and our Athletic Trainer have been trained in the use of CPR and AED.

To decrease any chance of SCA in a student, the Interval Health History for Athletics must be completed and signed by a parent/guardian before each sports season unless a physical examination has been conducted within 30 days before the start of the season. This form has questions to help identify changes since the last physical examination or health history was completed.

The law requires any student who has signs and symptoms of pending SCA be removed from athletic activity until seen by a physician. The physician must provide written clearance to the school for the student to be able to return to athletics. For more information please visit https:// www.vcsd.k12.ny.us/athletics/sports-health-concern/

## **Medication**

## If a child must receive medication at school:

Forms are available from the school nurse to be provided proper written authorization from a medical professional and authorization by the parent/guardian.

Medication must be brought to the nurse's office in its original labeled container with the student's name, date, route, dose, and name of the medication. The medication and required forms should be brought to the health office by the parent(s), guardian(s), or designated adult.

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## STAY CONNECTED to your district!

For a large portion of the day, you leave your kids in our care. The education of the students in our community is a responsibility we don't take lightly, and something we know doesn't stop when students leave school. Working together has always been a huge part of our process, so please stay connected!

## District Website Have you visited the VCSD website?

Visit www.vcsdny.org to access all kinds of information about district activities, programs and announcements.



## Calendar for Events Would you like to know the up-to-date eve

School

Would you like to know the up-to-date event information about your school's and district events? Or would you like to print your own customized calendar for your family's needs? Find all you need to know about our calendar at www.vcsd.k12.ny.us/calendar

## **Finding Faculty**

If you need to contact any administrator or faculty member, visit our website contact page, www.vcsd.k12.ny.us/contact-us. You can look up email addresses and voicemail extensions with our staff directory.

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## VCSD on Social Media Become a fan on Facebook! www.facebook.com/valleycentralschooldistrict

View photos of what's going on in our schools and receive updates on event and district happenings.

## Visit our YouTube Channel Become a subscriber!

www.youtube.com/?gl=US&tab=w1 Find videos from our schools and recordings of

ivestream presentations.

## SchoolTool Parent Portal

The SchoolTool Parent Portal is a web-based portal that enables parents to access to their student's profile via the internet anytime, anywhere. Parents can find progress reports, report cards, and assignments on the Parent Portal. If you need help with Parent Portal, please consult our website,

## www.vcsd.k12.ny.us/about-us/ parent-university/parent-portal/.

## SchoolMessenger

Primary student contacts are automatically part of our automated SchoolMessenger system. Through SchoolMessenger, parents/guardians will receive emails and phone calls from their building and the district.

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