

2025|2026

VIKING CALENDAR / DISTRICT GUIDE



VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT





Welcome... to the 2025-2026 School Year!



Evette Avila
Superintendent

Before embarking on an exciting new school year, we encourage you to take some time to review this calendar and district guide. You will find key dates when school is in session, holidays, important events, and essential information for families, guardians, students, and community members, including how to contact schools and district departments.

While the calendar includes currently scheduled dates, please note that changes may occur. Any updates will be shared through ParentSquare and

reflected on our online calendar. **For the most up-to-date calendar, visit: vcsd.k12.ny.us/calendar.**

Last year, thanks to the dedication of students, administrators, staff, and parents who served on the planning committee, we completed our five-year strategic plan. This plan introduced a new vision and mission, along with three key priorities that continue to guide our work.

Our Vision:

Valley Central School District empowers innovative, critical, and

collaborative thinkers in a learning community where all feel celebrated, confident, and ready to lead choice-filled lives.

Our Mission:

At Valley Central, we champion curiosity and set high expectations. Our mission is to empower every member to achieve at high levels and embrace the joy of continuous learning.

This year, we will continue our focus on our three strategic priorities:

Priority 1: Elevating Student Success and Engagement

Priority 2: Community Belonging and VC Pride

Priority 3: Clear and Transparent Communication

We deeply value the partnership of our families and community members. Your involvement in surveys, focus groups, and committees plays a vital role in shaping our policies and practices. We also hope to see you at plays, concerts, athletic events, and other school activities in support of our students.

Here's to a successful and inspiring school year for our students, staff, and community. Together, we are One Team, One District that remains Viking Strong and VC Proud!

DISTRICT OFFICE

944 State Route 17K, Montgomery, NY 12549

Phone: (845) 457-2400 ext. 18505

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

Ivan Tolentino, Asst. Superintendent for Human Resources, ivan.tolentino@vcsdny.org

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

Brad Conklin, Asst. Superintendent for Business/Deputy District Clerk, brad.conklin@vcsdny.org

Ellen McGoldrick, Assistant to the Superintendent/District Clerk, ellen.mcgoldrick@vcsdny.org



2025-2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Joseph Bond,
President

Katie McKnight,
Vice President

Frances Fox-Pizzonia

Robert Oakes

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

Kara Raap, Principal, kara.raap@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

Janet Werner, Assistant Principal, janet.werner@vcsdny.org

Walden Elementary School

75 Orchard Street, Walden, NY 12586

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

Mara Costagliola, Director of Pupil Personnel Services/Special Programs

mara.costagliola@vcsdny.org

Valley Central Middle School

1189 State Route 17K, Montgomery, NY 12549

Phone: (845) 457-2400 ext. 16501

Jayne Ginda-Baxter, Principal, jayne.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

Louis Adipietro, Interim Principal, louis.adipietro@vcsdny.org

Allison Simoskevich, Assistant Principal, allison.simoskevich@vcsdny.org

Iris Frazier, Assistant Principal, iris.frazier@vcsdny.org

Cletus Witte, Assistant Principal, cletus.witte@vcsdny.org



ABOUT US

Valley Central is a school district of about 4,190 students and approximately 1,000 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 : 6-12

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 86% 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



Here is what to expect when you visit:

Check-in: Bring a photo ID, such as a driver's license or non-driver ID, to be scanned at the main entrance.

To help keep every Valley Central campus safe and welcoming, we use a visitor management system in all of our schools. This system lets us know exactly who is in our buildings and ensures visitors go only where they are expected.

If you do not have a U.S. government ID, our staff can manually enter another approved form of identification.

Visitor badge: Once you are cleared, we will give you a lanyard with a badge that shows your name, the date, and your destination.

Escort: A staff member will guide you to and from your destination. Your ID is held at the desk until you return the lanyard and badge on your way out.

Thank you for helping us create a safe environment for all students and staff. If you have any questions about the process, just ask and we will be happy to help.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS

Family and Community Engagement (F.A.C.E.) Meetings are open community conversations 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 22nd @ Walden Elementary School
January 21st @ East Coldenham Elementary School
March 4th @ Montgomery Elementary School
April 29th @ Valley Central High School
May 18th @ Berea Elementary School

All meetings start at 6:30 p.m.

VC PROUD • VIKING STRONG



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 that 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. 1st 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 Walkill may be viewed or printed by logging on to the website below. Use the drop-down menu and choose the appropriate topic. You may then further sort by name, address, bill number, etc.

www.egov.basny.com/montgomery

SIGN UP FOR/LOG IN TO SCHOOLTOL

SchoolTool is the student management system used by Valley Central. Parents/Guardians may access student information, such as emergency contacts, schedules, grades, and attendance through the SchoolTool Parent Portal. For Instructions on creating an account or logging into an existing account, visit www.vcsd.k12.ny.us/parent-portal/.

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

Theresa Uhelsky, Director of Health,
Physical Education and Athletics
(845) 457-2400 ext. 17885
FAX: (845) 457-4418
theresa.uhelsky@vcsdny.org

Business Office

Brad Conklin,
Asst. Superintendent for Business
(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, Food Service Director
(845) 457-2400 ext. 16896
FAX: (845) 457-3003
eleanore.mills@vcsdny.org

Pool

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

Registrar

Shannon Lisiewski
(845) 457-2400 ext. 18130
shannon.lisiewski@vcsdny.org

Technology Department

Vincent Brancato, Director
(845) 457-2400 ext. 16951
vincent.brancato@vcsdny.org

Special Education Department

Afiya Rowllins, Director
(845) 457-2400 ext. 18116
afiya.rowllins@vcsdny.org

Special Programs/Pupil Personnel

Mara Costagliola, Director
(845) 457-2400 ext. 18138
mara.costagliola@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


SEPTEMBER 2025

AUGUST 2025

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OCTOBER 2025

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Labor Day No School	2 Convocation/ Conference Day - No School for Students	3 Superintendent Conference Day - No School for Students	4 First Day of School for Students	5	6
7	8 BOE Meeting 6:30 PM	9 EC Open House 6:30 PM	10 Berea Open House 7:00 PM	11 WES Open House 6:30 PM	12	13
14	15 Hispanic Heritage Month Begins	16 VCHS Senior Parent Night 5:30 PM VCHS Open House 7:00 PM	17 MES Open House 7:00 PM	18 VCMS Open House 6:30 PM	19 VCMS 6th Grade Social 3:00 PM	20
21	22 BOE Meeting 6:30 PM	23 Rosh Hashanah No School	24 ALC Open House 6:30 PM	25	26 VCMS 7th-8th Social 6:30 PM	27
28	29 VCHS Senior Portraits by appt.	30 VCHS Senior Portraits by appt.				

Please Note: Due to circumstances beyond our 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.



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM

Free meals for every Viking! For the entire 2025-2026 school year, every Valley Central student can pick up one healthy breakfast and one healthy lunch, absolutely free, every day school is in session. Thanks to our Community Eligibility Provision funding from the New York State Education Department, no paperwork is required.

Looking for a little extra? Here's the cost for add-on meals:

- Elementary breakfast \$1.85 | Elementary lunch \$2.00
- Middle/High School breakfast \$2.00 | Middle/High School lunch \$3.00

Milk, bottled water, chips, "doubles," and other à la carte goodies are also available for a small additional cost.

We hope every student takes advantage of the free meals; they're balanced, delicious, and a great way to power up for learning!

TRANSPORTATION

At Valley Central, keeping our students safe is our top priority, and we do it best when families, drivers, and riders work together. Please remind your child to stand a full step back from the curb, wait for the driver's signal, then cross at least ten feet in front of the bus while looking left and right. New York State law says all vehicles must stop for a bus with flashing red lights on highways, neighborhood streets, and in parking lots, and remain stopped until those lights turn off and the stop arm folds in.

Once on board, students should find their seat quickly, keep the aisle clear, use an indoor voice, and follow the driver's directions so everyone enjoys a smooth ride. Buses follow a five-minute window before or after the scheduled time, and they may run a little late during the first week while routes settle in, so thank you for your patience. An adult must be visible at drop-off for kindergarten through grade two riders and any student with special transportation needs; if no adult is present, the driver will bring the child back to school.

Planning ahead makes everything smoother. If you need your child bused to a certified child-care provider (licensed under Social Services Law, Section 390) outside your school's attendance zone, remember that requests are due April 1 of the spring before the school year starts. For example:

Requests for the 2025-2026 school year (which begins July 1, 2025) were due April 1, 2025.

Requests for the 2026-2027 school year are due April 1, 2026.

The Transportation Request Form is available on the District's website. If you have any questions, we're here to help!

OCTOBER 2025

SEPTEMBER 2025

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NOVEMBER 2025

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Yom Kippur No School	3 VCHS Homecoming Game 7:00 PM	4 VCHS Homecoming Dance 7:00 PM
5	6	7 Early Dismissal	8 VCHS College Fair 10:00 AM VCMS Career/College Fair	9	10 County Wide Dismissal Drill 15 mins early dismissal	11
12	13 Columbus Day No School	14 BOE Meeting 6:30 PM	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Family and Community Engagement Meeting 6:30 PM @ WES	23 VCHS Shakespeare 7:00 PM	24	25 VCHS Shakespeare 7:00 PM
26	27 BOE Meeting 5:30 PM	28 VCHS Halloween Concert 7:00 PM	29	30	31	

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DISTRICT POLICIES & ANNUAL NOTIFICATIONS

ELECTRONIC DEVICES/CELL PHONE POLICY - NEW!

In accordance with educational law to create distraction-free schools, VCSD revised Policy 5695, "Student and Personal Electronic Devices." Students are prohibited from using all personal electronic devices, including: smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, wireless earbuds, fitness trackers, and music players while on school grounds. These devices must be stored away in backpacks or lockers at all times. Exceptions are made for students with medical needs or special education plans, but even then, use must not be disruptive. Progressive steps to enforce district procedures will be shared and posted on our district website. The district is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.

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.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 Ivan Tolentino, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, at (845) 457-2400 ext 18885 or ivan.tolentino@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.

VCSD NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Valley Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, sex, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, disability, predisposing genetic characteristic, military work or status, domestic violence victim status, citizen/immigration status, use of a service dog 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 the District's website, print publications, 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 VCSD Calendar and Guide. This must be submitted every year.

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.

BOE NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Board of Education, its officers and employees, will not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of legally protected classes, such as, but not limited to: race (including traits historically associated with race, such as hair texture and protective hairstyles like braids, locks, and twists), color, national origin, creed, religion (including religious practices), marital status, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical condition), gender identity and expression (i.e., actual or perceived gender-related identity, appearance, behavior, expression, or other gender-related characteristic regardless of the sex assigned to that person at birth, including but not limited to the status of being transgender), age, sexual orientation, disability (physical or mental), predisposing genetic characteristic, military work or status, domestic violence victim status, citizenship/immigration status, or use of a guide dog, hearing dog, or service dog, as applicable.

NOVEMBER 2025

OCTOBER 2025

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DECEMBER 2025

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 Superintendent Conference Day No School	5	6	7	8
9	10 BOE Meeting 6:30 PM	11 Veterans Day No School	12	13	14 VCMS/VCHS 1st Quarter Ends Elementary 1st Trimester Ends VCHS Pops Concert 7:00 PM	15
16	17	18	19 VCHS Children's Theatre Performance 7:00 PM	20	21	22 VCHS Holiday Craft Fair 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
23	24 EVENING Parent/Teacher Conference 6:00 PM	25 Parent-Teacher Conference Day No School	26	27 Thanksgiving	28	29
30			Thanksgiving Recess - No School			

Please Note: Due to circumstances beyond our 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.



CODE OF CONDUCT - PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY

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. Visit the district website, www.vcsdny.org, for updates to the Code of Conduct coming in August 2025.

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 VCS D 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 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.

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 5313.3R**

Consequences for the possession and use of illegal 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 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.

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, 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.

(CODE OF CONDUCT CONTINUED IN JANUARY)

DECEMBER 2025

NOVEMBER 2025

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JANUARY 2026

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 WES Dare Graduation 9:30 AM VCHS Student Recognition Night 7:00 PM	3	4 VCMS Student Recognition Night 6:00 PM	5	6
7	8 BOE Meeting 6:30 PM	9 VCMS Winter Concert #1 7:00 PM	10 VCMS Winter Concert #2 7:00 PM	11	12	13
14	15	16 MES Winter Concert 6:30 PM	17 VCHS Winter Concert 7:00 PM	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26	27
	Winter Recess - No School					
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			
	Winter Recess - No School					

Please Note: Due to circumstances beyond our 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.



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.

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.

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**

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.**

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 can be found on the website and the Dignity For All Students Act (DASA) page of this calendar.

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.**

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 5312, 5450, 5450.1, 8111, 8120, and 8414**

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.

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.

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.

District Cooperation with Criminal Court, Juvenile Delinquency 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.

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.

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Electronic devices are defined as internet enabled devices such as any smartphone, tablet, smartwatch, or other device capable of connecting to the internet and enabling the user to access content on the internet, including social media applications. It also includes other personal electronic devices which are not capable of connecting to the internet or accessing content on the internet such as: cell phones without internet, fitness trackers, wireless headphones and earbuds, e-readers, voice recorders, cameras, music devices. It does not include any such device supplied by the district for educational purposes. These devices must be turned off and stowed away in the student's bookbag or locker the moment students enter the building until the instructional day ends—including passing time, study halls, lunch, recess, and restrooms. See **Board Policy 5695/updated Code of Conduct**

JANUARY 2026

DECEMBER 2025

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FEBRUARY 2026

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 New Year's Day	2 Winter Recess - No School	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 BOE Meeting 6:30 PM	13 VCHS Pops Concert 7:00 PM	14 WES Winter Concert 6:30 PM	15 EC Winter Concert 6:00 PM	16 VCMS Musical Performance - MS Drama Club 7:00 PM	17 VCMS Musical Performance - MS Drama Club 2:00 PM VCMS Musical Performance - MS Drama Club 7:00 PM
18	19 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day No School	20	21 Family and Community Engagement Meeting 6:30 PM @ EC	22 UPK Information Night/ Application Release 7:00 PM	23	24
25	26 BOE Meeting 5:30 PM	27 Berea Winter Concert 6:30 PM	28	29	30 VCMS/VCHS 2nd Quarter Ends VCMS 7th-8th Social 6:30 -8:30 PM	31 Berea Drama Production 4:00/7:00 PM

NYS Regents Exams

Please Note: Due to circumstances beyond our 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.



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

www.vcsdny.org

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



ParentSquare

ParentSquare

District families and employees will be notified of school closings, delays and early dismissals via recorded telephone messages, emails and text messages via the ParentSquare notification services. **Please be sure we have the most up-to-date contact information to ensure you receive important messages.**

Community members who are not families or employees of the district can sign up to receive weather alerts by scanning the QR code.



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 explained 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 22nd.
- If a fifth day is used, school will be in session on March 30th.
- If a sixth day is used, school will be in session March 31st.
- If a seventh day is used, school will be in session April 1st.

FEBRUARY 2026

JANUARY 2026

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MARCH 2026

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Black History Month Begins	2	3	4	5 EC Drama Production 6:00 PM MES Drama Production 7:00 PM	6 EC Drama Production 6:00 PM MES Drama Production 7 PM	7 VCHS Viking Cheerleading Competition 9:30 AM
8	9 BOE Meeting 6:30 PM	10 Early Dismissal	11	12	13	14
15	16 Presidents' Day	17 Lunar New Year	18	19	20	21
Presidents' Week - No School						
22	23	24	25	26	27 VCHS Black & White Dance 7:00 PM	28
 						

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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, 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 student assistance counselors, speech and language services, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. Mara Costagliola is the Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

School Counseling

School counselors help students achieve a better understanding of their abilities, goals, opportunities and social responsibilities. Secondary school counselor services include class scheduling, career exploration, and assisting 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, English language arts, 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. Afya Rowllins is the Director of Special Education.

Section 504

While all students identified as disabled under IDEA 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.



MARCH 2026

FEBRUARY 2026

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APRIL 2026

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 Family and Community Engagement Meeting 6:30 PM @ MES	5	6 Elementary 2nd Trimester Ends	7
8	9 BOE Meeting 6:30 PM	10	11	12 VCMS/HS Pops Concert 7:00 PM	13	14
15	16	17	18 Evening Parent Teacher Conferences 6:30 PM Early Dismissal for Parent Teacher Conferences	19 Early Dismissal for Parent Teacher Conferences	20 UPK Lottery VCHS Spring Musical 7:00 PM	21 VCHS Spring Musical 2:00 PM VCHS Spring Musical 7:00 PM
22 VCHS Spring Musical 2:00 PM	23 BOE Meeting 6:30 PM	24	25	26 MES DARE Graduation 1:30 PM	27 EC DARE Graduation 2:00 PM	28
29	30 Spring Recess - No School	31				

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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 School District 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, Asst. Supt. for Business at brad.conklin@vcsdny.org.**

The Valley Central Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Valley Central School District wants all children in our care to feel safe, valued, and 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.

APRIL 2026

MARCH 2026

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MAY 2026

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			Spring Recess - No School			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 BOE Meeting 6:30 PM	14 MES Student Recognition Night 6:00 PM	15	16 VCHS Drama Classes Production 7:00 PM	17 VCMS/VCHS 3rd Quarter Ends VCHS Junior Prom 6:00 PM	18
19	20	21	22 VCHS Career Opportunities Fair WES Drama Production 6:30 PM	23 BOE Meeting 5:30 PM	24 Berea DARE Graduation 11:00 AM VCMS 6th Grade Social 3:00 PM WES Drama Production 6:30 PM	25
26	27 VCHS Student Recognition Night 7:00 PM	28 VCHS Band and Choral Concert 7:00 PM	29 Family and Community Engagement Meeting 6:30 PM @ VCHS	30 VCMS Student Recognition Night 6:00 PM		

Please Note: Due to circumstances beyond our 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.



ABOUT THE SCHOOL BUDGET



Budget Vote is May 19, 2026

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 19, 2026, 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 12, 2026 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/



MAY 2026

APRIL 2026

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JUNE 2026

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 VCHS Senior Ball 7:00 PM	2
3	4	5 VCMS Spring Concert #1 7:00 PM	6 VCMS Spring Concert #2 7:00 PM	7 WES Spring Concert 6:30 PM	8 VCMS 7th-8th Social 6:30 PM VCHS Freshmen Class Dance 7:00 PM	9
10	11 BOE Meeting 6:30 PM	12 Voter Registration 3:00-7:00 PM Early Dismissal	13 Berea Spring Concert 6:30 PM	14 EC Spring Concert 6:30 PM	15 MES Spring Concert 6:30 PM	16
17	18 Family and Community Engagement Meeting 6:30 PM @ Berea JROTC Awards 7:00 PM	19 BOE Election/ Budget Vote 5th Grade All District Concert 7:00 PM	20 BOE Meeting 5:30 PM	21 VCHS JROTC Military Ball 6:00 PM	22 Memorial Day Holiday - No School	23
24 Memorial Day Holiday - No School	25 Memorial Day	26	27 VCHS Science Research Symposium 6:30 PM	28	29 MES Kindergarten Moving Up 1:30 PM VCHS Festival of the Arts 6:30 PM	30
31						

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JUNE 2026

MAY 2026

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31						

JULY 2026

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 VCMS Night of Specials - 5th Grade Open House 5:30 PM VCMS Senior Dinner 6:00 PM	3 VCHS Senior Athletic Awards Ceremony 6:00 PM	4 EC Student Recognition 5:30 PM VCHS Spring Pops Concert and Music Awards Ceremony 7:00 PM	5 ALC Senior Brunch 11:40 AM	6
		WES Kindergarten Screening				
7	8 Employee Recognition 6:00 PM BOE Meeting 6:30 PM	9	10 ALC 8th Grade Moving Up Day 2:00 PM NYS Regents Exams	11 VCHS NCAA Signing 2:30 PM VCHS Children's Theater 7:00 PM	12 VCMS 8th Grade Dance 6:00 PM	13
		NYS Regents Exams	BES Kindergarten Screening			
14	15 VCHS Senior Awards Night 7:00 PM	16	17 EC Kindergarten Moving Up 1:45 PM NYS Regents Exams	18	19 Juneteenth No School	20
21	22 Berea 5th Grade Moving Up 9:45 AM MES 5th Grade Moving Up 9:45 AM	23 EC 5th Grade Moving Up 1:45 PM WES 5th Grade Moving Up 9:30 AM	24 VCMS 8th Grade Moving Up 9:00 AM	25 VCMS/VCHS 4th Quarter Ends	26 Elementary 3rd Trimester Ends Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Last Day of School Regents Rating Day	27 VCHS Graduation 10:00 AM
28	29	30				

Please Note: Due to circumstances beyond our 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.



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: vcmiddle.schoolpta@gmail.com

High School: vchigh.schoolpts@gmail.com

PTA Council: vcptacouncil@gmail.com

Get Involved and Share Your Voice

Interested in shaping the future of our district? Watch for opportunities as they arise throughout the year to participate on committees, join focus groups, attend Family and Community Engagement Meetings, or take surveys. Participating in one or more of these activities gives you an opportunity to share your perspectives, ideas and concerns directly with members of the District. Your ideas and feedback will be used to guide key initiatives and enhance the VC Community. For more information, email communications@vcsdny.org.

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 at: 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.



VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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STAY CONNECTED to your district!

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.



School Calendar for Events

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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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,

<https://st10.schooltool.com/valleycentral>



ParentSquare

Primary student contacts are automatically part of our automated ParentSquare system. Through ParentSquare, parents/guardians will receive emails and phone calls from their building and the district. To learn how to update your notification and language preferences, please visit

www.vcsd.k12.ny.us/about-us/communications-at-valley-central/parentsquare.



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