

# 2020–2021 Student Handbook & District Calendar



**Rigor, Relevance, Relationships;  
Educating a global community  
of innovative thinkers.**



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One District. Infinite Possibilities.



**A National School  
of Excellence Blue  
Ribbon School**

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# Welcome to Valley Middle School of STEM for the 2020-21 School Year

Please note the following dates:

**Wednesday, September 2 ..... Back to School Open House**  
Noon-7:00 p.m.

- Fall Sports Registration for 7th and 8th grade students on-line
- School pictures for all students
- Purchase yearbooks, clothing, Spanish workbooks
- Deposit money in school lunch and breakfast accounts
- 7th grade vision screening
- Calculator engraving
- Turn in immunization records
- Students receive their schedule and locker assignments
- Students and parents meet the teachers

**Tuesday, September 8..... First Day of School**  
Report to first hour at 7:40 am

We look forward to your continued support and involvement. We hope you will be able to take advantage of opportunities to become more personally involved in our total middle school program, through volunteering, conferencing or visiting our school. We will be communicating with you throughout the school year, and we welcome your input and involvement.

Starting a new year is always exciting as we anticipate the many opportunities and new challenges that await us. We look forward to working with you and your child. Together we will make this a productive, exciting and memorable school year at Valley Middle School of STEM.

Sincerely,  
VMSS Staff and Administration

## School Security and Safety

To insure the safety of students, staff and visitors, Valley Middle School of STEM has implemented the following security measures:

- All employees wear identification badges.
- All doors will remain locked during the school day (except for the front entry handicap door).
- All visitors must sign in at the main office and wear a visitor's nametag.
- Valley Middle School of STEM works closely with the local fire and police departments to form an effective response team in the event of an emergency situation.

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**VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL OF STEM CALENDAR IS LOCATED ON  
THE VMSS WEBSITE**

[www.district196.org/vms](http://www.district196.org/vms)

**Once on the VMSS website, click on “FAMILIES” at the top of the page and then click on “CALENDAR” for the most up-to-date information**

**Valley Middle School of STEM Staff**

Voice Mail Number (651-683-6969)

Individual Teacher E-mail Addresses: [firstname.lastname@district196.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@district196.org)

**Valley Middle School of STEM Administration**

Principal: David McKeag.....18787  
 Assistant Principal: Dr. Stacey Buchwald.....18786  
 Assistant Administrator: Stefanie Thomas.....18785  
 Athletic Director/Asst. Administrator: Jamell Tidwell.....18735

**Counselors:**

John Bronson – 8<sup>th</sup> grade Counselor.....18782  
 Megan Relson – 7<sup>th</sup> grade Counselor.....18783  
 Tracy Wahlberg – 6<sup>th</sup> grade Counselor.....18312

**School Psychologist:**

Cassandra David.....82513

# Valley Middle School of STEM Staff

Voice Mail Number (651-683-6969)

Individual Teacher E-mail Addresses: [firstname.lastname@district196.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@district196.org)

## Valley Middle School of STEM

### Staff Voice Mail Numbers

Adedeji, Toni.....	82510	Lee, Shannon.....	85608
<b>Barahona, Patricia, Food Service Mgr .....</b>	<b>18311</b>	Lindquist, Shaun.....	82598
Barth, Veronica.....	82562	Martin, Brian.....	82553
Bellows, Monica.....	85383	Martin, Jennifer.....	82623
Berens, Pam.....	83891	Martini, Domenic.....	83731
Bettini, Richard.....	82529	Mathews, Joey.....	84838
Blazek, Carla.....	82557	McElligot, Maria.....	82504
Calderon, Maria.....	82548	McKnight, Brenda.....	82512
Carlson, Tara.....	82609	McNeil, Anthony.....	82557
Carlton, Chastity.....	86418	Miller, David T.....	86435
Carruthers, Michelle.....	84792	Mills, Nancy.....	82552
Connell, Laura.....	82569	Morgan, Denise.....	86732
Crosby, Camilla.....	84833	Nelsen, Lauren.....	82545
Cross, Jakeb.....	82526	Newcomb, Ellen.....	85588
Curry Bradach, Dana.....	85509	Nunne, Sarah.....	82522
Delamarter, Renae.....	82577	Oikari, Darchel.....	84355
Delmedico, Mary.....	82607	Ostergard, Dave.....	85534
Dostal, Nancy.....	82237	Pederson, Jeffrey.....	82552
Dudley, Daniel.....	82217	Pelinka, Sarah.....	84786
Edmonds, Karla.....	82593	Pelinka, Travis.....	82571
Elias, Nicole.....	82531	Persons, Kevin.....	82614
Erickson, Ruth.....	85532	Peterson, Suzanne.....	82554
<b>Filippo, Bobbi, Attendance Secretary.....</b>	<b>65102</b>	Podmers, Luke.....	82324
Franz, Deanna.....	82560	Reuter, Stephanie.....	82536
Fredrickson, Toni.....	82452	Ritz-Buck, Ann.....	83457
Friberg, Jim.....	83567	Rogers, Kirsten.....	82547
Gagnon, Leslie.....	82527	Roseen, Ryan.....	82584
<b>Gallaher, Hilary, School Nurse .....</b>	<b>18784</b>	Sabot, Makena.....	82550
Gallaher, Tom.....	82521	Schendel, Katelyn.....	82556
Gartner, Lori.....	82517	Schletty, Kate.....	83713
Gedlinske, Sheri.....	86430	Schulz, Julie.....	86764
Goldman, Julie.....	84718	<b>Shoop, Will, Building Chief .....</b>	<b>18324</b>
Gootee, Luke.....	82520	Simonett, Connie.....	82576
Green, Jennifer.....	85520	Simser, Lisa.....	82628
Gunn, Amanda.....	82570	Slaby, Colin.....	82571
Haakenson, Colin.....	84735	Spiegelberg, Len.....	82559
<b>Hanson, Cindy, Principal's Secretary .....</b>	<b>65101</b>	<b>Spychalla, Mary,</b>	
Hanson, Lori.....	82617	<b>Enhanced Learning Program.....</b>	<b>18349</b>
Hersch, Gayleen.....	83632	Strop, Kahlan.....	84495
Hutcheson, Phillip.....	82561	Tarnawskyj, Christine.....	82511
Jovonovich, Leslie.....	85545	Trudeau, Sarah.....	82605
Kaspar, Michael (Andy).....	85349	<b>Tutewohl, Missy, Building Secretary.....</b>	<b>65000</b>
Keo, Christina.....	82515	Vaillancourt, Carson.....	82538
Klingelhut, Ross.....	82864	Vaillancourt, Jenni.....	82895
Kump, Sheri.....	83942	Warburton, Linda.....	83880
Kusch, Charlie.....	82567	Welter, Josh.....	82535
Largent, Jayne.....	82563	<b>Westbrook, Sally, Child Study Secretary .....</b>	<b>65113</b>
Latham, Brianna.....	82506	Wooten, Elisabeth.....	84734
Larsen, Reid.....	18293		

# Parent/Teachers Conference Schedule

## Fall 2020

Wednesday, November 4th • 3:30-7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, November 5th • 11:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

## Winter 2021

Wednesday, February 10th • 3:30-7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, February 11th • 11:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

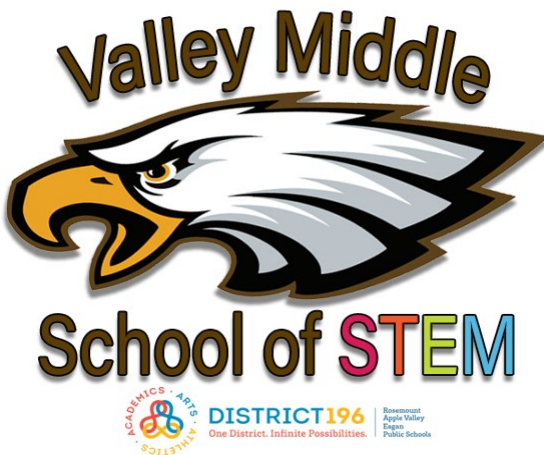
## Spring 2021 for 6th and 7th Graders ONLY

Thursday, April 22nd • 3:30-7:30  
p.m.

8th Graders - Capsule Showcase

## Important Phone Numbers

VMSS Attendance & General Information.... ( 7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.)	(952)431-8300
VMSS Attendance (non-business hours).....	(651) 683-6969 #82616
VMSS Fax .....	(952) 431-8313
Community Education .....	(952) 423-7758
District Office Switchboard.....	(651) 423-7700
District Transportation.....	(651) 423-7685
District Voice Mail .....	(651) 683-6969
District Information .....	(651) 423-7777
District Web page .....	<a href="http://www.district196.org">www.district196.org</a>



# Curriculum

## GRADE 6

1. English Language Arts (2 class periods)
2. Minnesota Studies
3. Mathematics
4. Science
5. Phy Ed/Health - ½ year
6. One Elective: Choir, General Music, Band - ½ year

## GRADE 7

1. English
2. History
3. Mathematics
4. Science
5. \* Phy Ed/Health - ½ year
6. Communications - ½ year
7. Electives

## GRADE 8

1. English
2. Global Studies
3. Mathematics
4. Science
5. Phy Ed/Health (2 trimesters required)
6. Pre-Engineering (1 trimester required)
7. Communications - ½ year
8. Electives

\* District 196 teaches students human growth and development curriculum and sexually transmitted infections and diseases prevention curriculum in seventh grade health classes. If you would like specific information about what is taught, please attend one of the meetings on these programs at your school or contact your school principal. Parents who are uncomfortable with either curriculum after talking with the principal may withhold their children from specific class sessions in which these curricula are taught.



# Attendance Procedures

Minnesota law requires that all children between the ages of 6 and 18 attend school every day that school is in session.

## ABSENCES

Each day a student will be absent from school, please report his/her absence to the attendance line at (651) 683-6969 #82616 prior to 7:15 a.m. State the student's name, grade and reason for their absence. Your telephone call eliminates the need to send a note with your child when he/she returns to school. You may give your message directly to the office staff after 7:15 a.m. at the school number (952) 431-8300. Should the parent/guardian neglect to call the school, the student is considered unexcused and the Attendance Secretary will attempt to reach someone at home or work.

## EXCUSED ABSENCES

Excused absences are for illness, appointments, funerals, and special events in the family. An absence from school must be verified by either a parent phone call or parent note to the main office. Please attempt to arrange appointments before and after school.

Arrangements are to be made in advance for family vacations, whether for one day or several weeks. A student must bring a note from a parent/guardian to the Attendance Secretary one week prior to the absence stating the reason for the absence and the dates the student will be gone. A make-up pass will be issued to the student from the Attendance Secretary to allow for the advanced excused absence and for advance homework. This pass notifies the teachers of your child's upcoming absence.

## UNEXCUSED ABSENCE

Unexcused absences are generally any absence from school not including illness, medical appointments or approved family vacations. Absences may be incurred with or without the knowledge of the parent or guardian and may require a parent conference upon the student's return to school. In addition, any absence from school is considered unexcused if a parent has not notified the school of his/her student's absence by either a phone call or a note the next day.

## ATTENDANCE PASSES

The Attendance Secretary writes passes each morning in the main office, prior to first period. Any notes from parents concerning absences must be brought to the Attendance Secretary at this time. Students should not give notes directly to their teachers.

## PERMIT TO LEAVE THE BUILDING PASSES (BLUE)

Appointments – Students must have a parent note if they need to leave during the school day. The note must be signed by a parent/guardian and state the

reason the student will be leaving early, the time he/she needs to leave, and who will be picking up the student. The student needs to bring the note to the Attendance Secretary in the main office prior to first period of that day to receive the pass. The student must show the teacher the pass to leave class to meet their parent in the office. Students are released only to parents unless the note specifies otherwise. Should a parent forget to send a note with their student for an appointment, etc., a phone call to school will allow the student to get a pass prior to the parent arriving for pick-up.

### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER**

Parent/guardian should make changes in the home, work, cell, and emergency phone numbers and/or addresses by contacting the school or on Parent Portal.

### **SIGN-IN PROCEDURES**

Students arriving to school tardy (at 7:39 a.m. or after the 7:40 a.m. bell), must sign in at the Attendance Secretary's desk in the main office before they go to class. The student will be given an admit slip to class. Parents do not need to accompany their tardy students to sign in at the office as long as they have notified the school that the student will be tardy or have sent a note with the student for the Attendance Secretary.

If students do not have an approved excuse, the tardy will be recorded as unexcused. Excessive tardiness to school may result in the student making up time in noontime or after school detention.

### **TRUANCY AND TARDIES**

At Valley Middle School of STEM, we believe that attendance to school and being on time to all classes are important components of student success. Cases of suspected truancy and/or excessive tardies are handled by the administration.

Parents will be notified as soon as possible if their child is truant. Cases of habitual or extended periods of truancy and/or excessive tardiness will be documented and referred to the Dakota County Attorney. Parents and student will be involved initially in a diversion conference. Additional truant days may result in a court appearance.

### **VISITORS**

**No school-aged visitors are allowed to visit Valley Middle School of STEM.** All visitors coming for official business must sign in at the main office and obtain a visitor's nametag. Visitors are strongly encouraged to make appointments with staff members to ensure their availability. Only Parents/Guardians are allowed to come into school and have lunch with their student.

## **WITHDRAWING FROM SCHOOL**

Parents are asked to contact their child's counselor one week prior to moving to obtain a withdrawal card. Students should see that all school materials are returned and all personal items are removed from their assigned locker.

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE**

District 196 does not discriminate in employment or in any of its programs and activities, including vocational opportunities, on the basis of sex, race, religion, color, creed, national origin, marital status, familial status,\* disability, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, membership or activity in a local human rights commission,\* age or genetic information.\* District 196 provides equal access to designated youth groups.

The Director of Human Resources, Tom Pederstuen (651-423-7859 – tom.pederstuen@district196.org) has been designated to respond to employment-related inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies including Title IX. The Director of Elementary Education, Sally Soliday (651-423-7782 – sally.soliday@district196.org) and the Director of Secondary Education, Michael Bolsoni (651-423-7712 – michael.bolsoni@district196.org) have been designated to respond to student-related inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies including Title IX. The Director of Special Education, Janet Fimmen (651-423-7629 – janet.fimmen@district196.org) has been designated to respond to inquiries concerning the rights of a student with a disability. The mailing address for all directors is 3455 153rd Street W, Rosemount, MN 55068.

\*Asterisked categories are limited to employment-related discrimination and harassment.

## **General Information**

### **BOOKS, WORKBOOKS AND iPad's**

Textbooks and iPads are furnished by the district according to district curriculum adoption policies. However, each student is responsible for these items. Lost or damaged books are the financial responsibility of the student. Workbooks will be used in some classes. Replacement of lost books, workbooks or iPads may require payment at cost prior to the end of the school year. An insurance option is available for iPads.

### **CONTACTING TEACHERS**

Should you wish to talk to one of your child's teachers, e-mail them at: [firstname.lastname@district196.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@district196.org) if the staff member is not listed in this handbook, please check the VMSS website at [www.district196.org/vms](http://www.district196.org/vms) for more directory information. You may call the district voice mail number (651) 683-6969, dial the teacher's personal voice mail number (listed at the beginning of the handbook) and leave a phone number and time when you can be reached. The teacher will return your call at his/her earliest availability. You may also call the school at (952) 431-8300.

## **FIRE DRILLS, TORNADO DRILLS, LOCK-DOWN DRILLS**

According to Minnesota State Law, schools must have fire drills, tornado drills and lockdown drills. Emergency drills are held throughout the year. Instructors will explain the evacuation plan or shelter plan in each class. During fire drills, students will move quietly and orderly out of the building. The instructors will accompany students from the building to a safe area. During tornado drills, students will move quietly and orderly to a shelter area. The instructors will show students “how to sit”, to help avoid serious injury. If students are outside, the instructor will select a shelter area. During lock-down drills, students are to remain quiet and follow the direction of the adult giving instructions.

## **GRADES**

Grading is done on a letter basis, A, B, C, D, U (Unsatisfactory), I (Incomplete), P (Pass) and NG (No Grade). Each subject area has criteria for student grades. Grades will be as objective as possible, but such factors as ability, effort and participation in class will be considered. When a student is doing unsatisfactory work or is failing to work up to his/her potential, parents will be notified. Communication will come while there is still time to make changes in student progress. If the situation continues please notify the teacher, the counselor, or administration. Consequences for work refusal may be assigned.

## **HOME-BOUND INSTRUCTION**

If it becomes necessary for a student to be absent from school for an extended period because of serious illness or accident, arrangements may be made to provide instruction at home. It is the responsibility of the parent to call the school counselor and ask if such provision be made. Fifteen consecutive days of absence and/or a doctor’s note is a requirement for these services.

## **HOMEWORK**

Usually students will have homework every day. Most classes have work to be done outside of class and tests and projects will also result in home study time. A one hour study time each night is suggested to help each student develop good study habits. If your son or daughter does not have homework on a particular night, we strongly suggest using this hour for recreational reading. Check the teachers On-line Classroom pages for homework assignments missed while being out of school for illness, vacation, etc.

## **LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER**

The Library Media Center is a multi-purpose area where students are welcome to study, research, work on the computers, or find great books and magazines to read! The Library Media Center hours are from 7:25 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Students may check out two items at a time. Members of the READ Club receive extra checkout privileges. Books may be checked out for two weeks and magazines for overnight. Students must return overdue materials to the Library Media Center in order to check out new materials. Our goal is to meet the literacy and information needs of the students at Valley Middle School of STEM, and we are always eager to help.

## **LOCKERS**

All student are assigned a locker. **Students must not share lockers**, they must not give someone else their locker combination and they should make sure the door of the locker is completely closed. Students should turn the dial of the locker after closing the door. Students should not leave money or other valuables in lockers. Losses from lockers should be reported to the office immediately. Problems with locks should be reported to the office. No permanent writing or item may be adhered to the inside or outside of lockers. Students are also advised to bring a lock to secure their items during their physical education period.

## **LOST AND FOUND**

All items of jewelry, purses, wallets, watches, calculators, eyeglasses and dental appliances will be kept in the office lost and found area. Lost clothing, books and notebooks will be kept in the lost and found closet in the cafeteria. At the end of each trimester clothing not claimed by students will be donated to charity.

## **LUNCH INFORMATION**

VMSS has a computerized system for payment of school meals. Every student is assigned a four or five digit personal account identification number. Students may deposit pre-payments into their accounts at the cash registers or pay cash daily. If students prepay with a check, please include the student's lunch account number and name on the check, especially if the student's last name is different from the name on the check. The cashiers will notify students when their account balance is low. The price for lunch is \$2.55 and the price for breakfast is \$1.60.

Milk is included with the meal and can also be purchased separately for \$.40. These prices are subject to change, pending changes made by the school board. Each day there are three choices available for "regular" lunch. There are also "ala carte" items for sale every day. These items can be purchased through the student's lunch account with a signed permission slip from the parent or guardian or they can be purchased with cash at the registers. Breakfast items are available daily from 7:20 to 7:35 a.m. Please feel free to call the VMSS food service office with any questions or concerns. The phone number is (952) 431-8311.

Online FeePay is available for parents to access academic and health information about their child. For information on how to set up a Parent Portal account, contact your child's school. If you have questions regarding your child's meal account balance contact the Food and Nutrition Services department at 651-683-6958.

## **LUNCHROOM BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS**

**Students are encouraged to wash their hands and or use hand sanitizer before eating lunch.**

- Students need to get their food and then be seated in their own seat.
- Students are expected to pick up after themselves in the lunchroom.
- Students must discard garbage in waste containers.
- Students must follow instructions from their lunchroom supervisor.
- Students will not be allowed to go to their lockers during lunch.

All students who use the lunchroom, whether or not they eat, are asked to

share responsibility for keeping the lunchroom clean. Inappropriate behavior or refusal to cooperate in cleaning when asked will result in the student being assigned a seat and/or additional consequences. Assigned seating may be mandated if students are non-compliant.

**\*\*Organized birthdays or celebrations are not allowed during lunch time. It is our experience that these parties are disruptive to the lunchroom environment. This includes ordering/bringing in food and providing a birthday cake for a group of students. Students are not allowed to order food from local restaurants and have it delivered to school. Balloons are not allowed at school.**

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH**

The physical education area (pool, gymnasium, stage area and locker rooms) is an area where students can participate in physical activity while learning basic performance and life skills.

Students are to wear suitable physical education attire, such as a T-shirt, shorts and athletic shoes and socks. **They are also required to provide a combination lock.** Be aware that items in unlocked lockers can disappear from the locker rooms. **VMSS IS NOT LIABLE FOR LOST, DAMAGED OR STOLEN ITEMS.**

**If a student is to be excused from a physical education class for a day, the student must bring a note from his/her parent. The student must present a physician's certificate to the school nurse to excuse him/her from physical education for any extended period of time.**

1. Students are not to enter the physical education area prior to school starting.
2. Students are to be in the locker room only during their own physical education period or after school if they are in an athletic activity.
3. Students are not permitted in the gym, on the stage, or in the pool area without teacher supervision (before, during, and after school).
4. Light switches, curtain switches and intercom switches should not be operated by students.
5. Running on pool deck, shower area and locker room is prohibited.
6. All locks in the locker room will be cut two days after the completion of each sport season.
7. No food or drinks are allowed in the gym or locker rooms with the exception of water.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Students will be invited to recite the Pledge of Allegiance each day during homeroom. If students choose not to participate, due to cultural or religious beliefs, we ask that they observe the time respectfully. The Pledge of Allegiance is intended to promote community and citizenship at VMSS.

## **REGISTRATION - SCHEDULE CHANGE**

All student programming is done in accordance with individual registrations completed in the spring or at the time a new student enrolls. In most cases, students are placed in the elective courses of their choice. In some cases, changes are necessary due to course enrollment, class availability, or placement into intervention classes.

## **REPORT CARDS**

Report cards will be available through your Parent Portal account within two weeks after the end of each trimester. If you don't have access to Parent Portal, contact our office for a hard copy of your child's report card.

## **SCHOOL CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT**

For information regarding the closing of school due to inclement weather, listen to station WCCO, or call the district weather number (651) 423-7777. Please do not call the school for this information. You may also check the district website at [www.district196.org](http://www.district196.org). An automated phone call is also being made to parents that have their correct phone numbers in Parent Portal.

## **STEM'S DAY WEDNESDAYS**

On periodic Wednesdays of the school year VMSS will operate on an altered schedule that will extend sixth period to allow for various student activities.

- STEMs Days = students participate in engineering challenges
- Checkmate Challenge Days = students playchess
- Progress Check Days = teachers work with students to ensure they are making academic progress
- Catch-up & Relish Days = students use this structured time to work individually or collaboratively on assignments
- Drop Everything & Read Days = students have protected time to read text of their choosing

## **STUDENT DROP OFF & PICKUP**

For the safety proposes, if you bring your student to school and pick them up at the end of the school day please follow these procedures:

- Only use the EAST entrance (the north entrance is for staff and bussing).
- Form ONE line of vehicles.
- Line cars up SINGLE-FILE and pull ahead in an orderly fashion.
- Students should be let out of their vehicles directly onto the sidewalk.
- DO NOT let your student out in the parking lot or in the street.

## **STUDENT PARTICIPATION - VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL OF STEM**

Over the course of the school year, your child will have the opportunity to be involved in activities which take place outside of the classroom (such as sports, music ensembles, field trips, after-school homework help, Advisory free-time,

dance/parties, end-of-year activities, Extended Day Program, etc.). For students to participate in these activities they must demonstrate good behavior and academic success. Students who are failing classes, have excessive absences or tardies, missing assignments and/or not participating in classes may not be allowed to participate in school activities. In addition, students may be removed from school activities as a consequence of misbehavior.

## **STUDENT PARTIES**

The parties held at Valley Middle School of STEM are sponsored solely by the Parent Communication Network. These parties are organized, supervised, and chaperoned by PCN parents. Any questions or concerns should be directed to the main office. Please call Valley Middle School of STEM at (952) 431-8300 for more information.

## **TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES - COMPUTER USE AT VMSS**

- It is a privilege to use computers at VMSS.
- Computers must be used in a responsible, ethical and legal manner.
- Students are NOT to share passwords.
- Gaining access to someone's personal folder, other than your own, is considered to be trespassing.
- NO food or drinks are allowed at computers.
- Damage to school computers is considered vandalism and students will lose their computer privileges.

## **VMSS CELL PHONE POLICY**

**Cellphones use is not allowed during the school day. Cell phones must be kept in the student's lockers or backpacks.**

All students will be issued an iPad with Internet access. We are confident that the 1:1 program will provide all of our student's appropriate access to Internet resources and we will be able to utilize that access in maximizing student engagement in the classroom. The 1:1 program will provide greater control over apps, access and the use of these devices will allow us to better educate our students about the appropriate use of this powerful technology. Our goal is to increase our students' engagement in their lessons, give them greater access to information, equip them with skills to identify good information and help them establish effective personal rules about their use of digital technology (Digital Citizenship).



## **VMSS AND DISTRICT 196 GUIDELINES FOR INTERNET USE**

All Internet use at Valley Middle School of STEM will take place in teacher supervised settings. The following are District 196 Student Responsibilities for Internet use.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

The Internet, an international network of networks, allows people access to hundreds of thousands of networks and computers. Access to the Internet via the District 196 wide area network is governed by the same guidelines that govern use of any computer or computer network in the district: Computers must be used in a responsible, ethical and legal manner. Failure to adhere to the guidelines of the use of computers, networks and Internet in District 196 will result in revocation of access privileges. The following are student guidelines for Internet use:

- It is a privilege to access local area networks and the Internet in our school district. Only students who have completed their school's requirements for Internet access and have a teacher log them onto the Internet, may go on-line.
- Our policy is to access the Internet for specific educational purposes only, such as researching a specific topic for a classroom project. While on the Internet, students should stay focused on the topic they are researching, and log out when done.
- Any information downloaded from the Internet should be classroom related. Downloading of software/computer applications is NOT allowed.
- Students may not use impolite or abusive language via electronic mail or list serves.
- Students must never give out any personal information such as their address, telephone number, parent's name, etc.
- Students must always tell a teacher if they come across any information that makes them feel uncomfortable.
- No review or downloading of material that is obscene, vulgar, sexually explicit or offensive in terms of race, sex or religion will be tolerated.
- Only district/VMS purchased applications are allowed to be used on VMS computers.

### **TELEPHONE**

Students are not allowed to miss class to place phone calls. Students may use the student phones outside the office for emergency calls only with permission. Calls must be limited to two minutes. **Personal cell phones ARE NOT permitted out during the school day and should be kept in student's backpacks or locker.**

### **TOBACCO FREE STATEMENT**

District 196 and Valley Middle School of STEM support the growing national movement toward a tobacco-free environment. Use of tobacco in district buildings or on district grounds is prohibited. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **VOLUNTEER PROGRAM FOR PARENTS**

Our community contains a wealth of untapped resources which can enrich the educational program at Valley Middle School of STEM. The Volunteer Program is looking for parent volunteers. There are many ways in which you can help us. Here are some of the opportunities available.

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Back-to-School Open House - August

- Calculator Engravers – Engrave student’s name on calculators, September
- School Pictures – Assist the photographer with paperwork and student organization – September, October
- Assist with 7th grade vision screening at the Back-to-School Jamboree
- Library Media Center – Shelve books, cover new books, 2-3 hours once a week or occasionally for special projects.
- Lunchroom Supervisor
- Music/Band – Catalog music, piano accompanist for choir concerts or musicals, miscellaneous jobs. Help clean instruments at end of year.
- Nurse Clerical – September, 2 hours a day, 2 days a week. After September, 2 hours per week. RN or LPN helpful, but not necessary.
- Planning or chaperoning parties for students
- PCN Communication Table – A parent communication network information table is set up during school events, such as open house nights and conferences. One-hour shifts desired so many volunteers needed.
- Sewing Assistant – Assist students with sewing and answering questions. One or more days.
- Staff Appreciation Dinner – Parents provide a potluck supper for teachers during first and second trimester conferences. Parents donate a dish or dessert or help set up or clean up.
- Math and reading assistance.
- Assist in the Fab Lab - lots of opportunities to help with engineering and coding projects.

More information and sign-up sheets will be coming out at the Back-to-School Jamboree.

# Co-Curricular Activities

## ACTIVITIES OFFERED FOR VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL OF STEM STUDENTS

### Fall

READ Club  
Drama Production  
Cross Country (boys/girls)  
Soccer (boys/girls)  
Volleyball  
Tennis (girls)

### Winter I

READ Club  
Declam  
Basketball (girls)  
Wrestling

### Winter II

READ Club  
Drama Production  
Declam  
Downhill Ski Club  
Basketball (boys)

### Winter III

READ Club  
Swimming (boys/girls)  
Chess Club

### Spring

READ Club  
Tennis (boys)  
Track (boys/girls)  
Golf Club

- The following sports are no longer available at the middle school but are available to 7th & 8th graders at the high school: gymnastics, softball, baseball. For football contact the Valley Athletic Association.
- 6th Graders are NOT eligible for interscholastic sports with the exception of Boys/Girls Cross Country, Wrestling, and Boys and Girls Tennis; however, they can participate in Declam, Ski Club, Drama, READ Club (The Library Club), VMSS Press EAGLES CALL (school newspaper) and academic clubs.

## ATHLETICS

All boys and girls are invited to participate in athletics. Sports physical examinations are required (this is different from 7th grade immunization). The following athletic department regulations will be in force throughout the entire year and shall govern all students participating in any sport sanctioned as part of the school program.

- A. Every student will have access to any co-curricular programs in which he/she wishes to participate.
- B. Grades - All athletes must maintain passing grades in school work, according to the Minnesota State High School League rules, to be eligible.
- C. Drugs, tobacco and/or alcohol - We will follow guidelines of the Minnesota State High School League.
- D. Students must be in attendance the entire afternoon of the day of activity to be eligible to participate in that activity.

Sign up online on your child's Parent Portal account through MyPaymentPlus.

## **ATHLETIC/FINE ARTS PARTICIPATION FEE**

The \$110.00 per sport, per student fee required by the district for the 2020-21 school year should be considered as a participation fee, payable online through MyPaymentPlus. The fee will be non-refundable. Drama and Declam will have a \$44.00 fee per activity. Each student will have a maximum payment of \$385.00 per school year for participation in all co-curricular activities including drama, Declam, and sports. You must sign up and pay online through MyPaymentPlus before participation in co-curricular activities is permitted. A valid sports physical signed by a doctor is needed in the main office and is valid for 3 years. Immunization records do not qualify for a sports physical.

## **BUSES TO OUT-OF-TOWN ACTIVITIES**

Students riding on a school bus to an out-of-town activity must also return on the school bus, unless the parents sign and submit a release form to the advisor/head coach before leaving with their child. Students can be released to their parents only.

## **GIFTED ATHLETIC PROGRAM**

A seventh or eighth grade student may participate in a high school varsity athletic activity in which he or she demonstrates exceptional and superior ability in a particular sport. A gifted athlete is one whose needs cannot be adequately met by the middle school program because he or she has the ability to be a consistent starter at the high school varsity level. A request is initiated by the parents by contacting the athletic director of the high school. These students, if accepted onto the high school teams will have to pay the high school fee for that sport ranging from \$140.00 to \$175.00. Middle school students are not allowed to leave school early for practice at the high school. High school coaches will notify the VMSS office for early dismissal on game days.

## **INSURANCE**

Students wishing to participate in athletics should be covered by insurance provided by the parent(s). The school district does not have insurance for participants in the school athletic programs, any school activities, or for accidents that occur at school.

# General Conduct Rules

Students and staff share responsibility for developing a school climate that fosters learning and provides an opportunity for the free expression of ideas. As citizens of a school, students have certain rights and privileges and they are responsible for their own actions. All discipline will be handled on an individual basis when the need arises. The main goal in our school is education; everyone has an equal opportunity to work toward achieving this goal.

The district “Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook” is distributed to all District 196 families in August by U.S. Mail. This publication explains district behavior expectations and the consequences of misbehavior, and due process requirements as defined in state and federal law, board policy and district regulations. We urge each parent or guardian and each student to review the material carefully and refer any questions to school administrators. A review of the handbook with students will occur during the first week of school. Individual school policies not addressed in the district handbook will be established by the needs of the school and the students.

## SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE MINNESOTA SCHOOLS

Students have the right to be safe and free from threatening situations on school property, at school activities and in district vehicles. Bullying interferes with students’ ability to learn and teachers’ ability to educate students in a safe environment. To the extent bullying affects the educational environment of the schools, it is the school district’s intent to prevent bullying from occurring, and to investigate and respond to bullying that has not been prevented.

The Safe and Supportive Minnesota Schools Act defines bullying as intimidating, threatening, abusive or harming conduct that is objectively offensive and there is an actual or perceived imbalance of power between the student engaging in prohibited conduct and the target of the behavior and the conduct is repeated or forms a pattern; or materially and substantially interferes with a student’s educational opportunities or performance or ability to participate in school functions or activities or receive school benefits, services or privileges.

The Act defines cyberbullying as using technology or other electronic communication, including, but not limited to, a transfer of a sign, signal, writing, image, sound or data, including a post on a social network Internet website or forum, transmitted through a computer, cell phone or other electronic device.

Bullying behavior should be reported to a staff member. The district’s processes for reporting and responding to bullying behavior can be found on the district website. For Administrative Regulation 503.8AR, Bullying Prohibition, go to <http://www.district196.org/District/schoolboard/policies/500/503.8AR.pdf>. For Procedure 503.8P, Report of Bullying Behavior, go to <http://www.district196.org/District/schoolboard/policies/500/503.8P.pdf>.

## DETENTION

Detention may be assigned by teachers or administrators for general infractions of classroom, school rules and/or failure to meet academic standards. Detention may occur before or after school or during lunch and possibly on Saturdays. Transportation arrangements must be made by parents. Students assigned Lunch Detention will receive a school issued bag lunch.

## SUSPENSION

Suspension is usually a result of more serious offenses such as insolence, insubordination, fighting, use of tobacco products, use of alcohol or drugs on school property, willful destruction or defacing of school property, or over-all behavior, which is detrimental to others. A possible alternative to suspension may involve parents attending school with their child or in-school suspension (ISS) when appropriate. If suspension occurs, it includes school activities, such as athletics, plays, concerts, etc. as students are not allowed on District 196 property during their Out of School Suspension (OSS).

## IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

Students whose actions warrant an In School Suspension (ISS) will meet with an administrator or counselor to work on a behavior resolution plan. Students that have (ISS) will receive a bag lunch.

## DISRUPTIVE/DISTRACTIVE ITEMS

Items that distract and/or interfere with the learning process **ARE not to be brought to school**. If students bring such items to school, they do so **at their own risk**. **Valley Middle School of STEM is not liable for such items.**

Our staff members are permitted to confiscate any device (electronic or otherwise) if they are being used in class without the permission of the teacher. Items confiscated will be turned into the front office. The student may be able to pick it up from the office at the end of the day. If there is a second violation the device is held until a parent comes to the school and picks it up. Repeated violations will result in a loss of privilege for the students to bring these items to school or they will be kept until the end of the school year.

## GUM POLICY

Valley Middle School of STEM students are **not** permitted to chew gum at school. The intent of the "gum-free" policy is to decrease money spent for cleaning supplies and to eliminate custodial time spent removing gum from carpet and furniture.

## SKATEBOARDS/LONGBOARDS

Skateboards may be used to travel to school, however, they should not be used in the building. Skateboards should be picked up or removed upon entering school grounds. If a student uses a skateboard inappropriately on school property it will be taken away and kept in the office. Students can obtain their skateboards at 2:40 p.m. the same day. Parents will be

requested to collect skateboards from the office for repeated offenders.

## **STUDENT DRESS**

School is a place of work. Maintaining the proper learning climate is a shared responsibility between students, parents and VMSS staff.

Please be aware that because middle school students come in all shapes and sizes, what might be appropriate attire for one child may leave another child over-exposed.

Therefore, in the interest of maintaining the proper learning environment, students should choose attire that is modest and appropriate for the education setting.

### Specific Items:

- Sweatshirt hoods may not be worn in the building.
- No heavy chains, gloves, wallet chains, spiked necklaces or wrist bands, dog collars or any other accessory not suitable for a place of work.
- No clothing with words or visuals which are obscene, abusive or discriminatory, or which advertise, alcohol, tobacco, firearms, narcotics or dangerous drugs.
- Shoes must be worn at all times.

When a student's dress is deemed inappropriate by a staff member, the student will be offered an opportunity to change or call a parent or guardian for more clothes. Repeated violations may result in disciplinary action.

## **STUDENT TRANSPORTATION**

The safety of all students is of primary importance. To help ensure safety, students are required to abide by all behavior rules included in the district Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. Students are not allowed to change buses or bus stops (i.e. going home with a friend) without prior approval. Parents must write a note explaining the circumstances of the change and the student must obtain an administrator's signature before presenting the pass to the appropriate bus driver.

# **Student Services**

## **ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

The testing program is an aspect of the student services department. A number of standardized and statewide tests will be administered at various grade levels throughout the year. Results of these tests can be found on Parent Portal and any questions from parents or students may be shared with the counselors or the academic coordinator.

## **CHILD STUDY PROCESS**

IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) is a federal special education law intended to ensure that every student with special education needs receives access to a high quality education.

The process by which student needs, eligibility and potential program options is determined, is referred to as Child Study. This is a clearly defined and comprehensive process, which the school must pursue in order for a student to be designated as handicapped, and therefore in need of special education services. For more information regarding special education, contact your student's counselor, or the school psychologist.

## **GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM**

Valley Middle School of STEM believes that every student should be provided with appropriate learning opportunities in an environment that supports their academic and affective needs. Because Gifted Services are an integral part of the school, a continuum of programming options is offered for high achieving students. Gifted students may be placed in advanced math courses as well as being clustered in other classes. Valley staff work diligently to engage these students in increased rigor, complexity, depth of curriculum and self-directed learning.

In addition, students are encouraged to explore a variety of enrichments offered before, during and after the school day. Examples include Art, READ, Math and Chess Clubs, essay, math and poetry competitions, Thinking Cap, Scholastic Scrimmage, Future City, LEGO and FTC Robotics, Destination Imagination, Declam, WordMasters, theater productions, Stock Market Game, STEM trips, Young Authors Conference, and Battle of the Books. Exceptionally high math students may take the ACT or SAT.

The Gifted Services coordinator meets with gifted students periodically to discuss relevant topics and communicates with parents of these students throughout the year.

## **GUIDANCE SERVICES**

The goal of the guidance program is to help students succeed in their academic and personal lives. This support may include helping students form good study habits, make sound educational decisions, resolve conflicts, and develop effective interpersonal skills. These topics can be explored individually or with small groups of peers in the confidential setting available in the counselors' offices.

Academic Monitoring - Parents are encouraged to use our on-line services and set up a plan to monitor their child's academic progress. If the student falls behind in their schoolwork, a parent may contact their child's counselor or the academic coordinator for assistance.

Schedule for Counseling Interviews - Students or parents may schedule confidential appointments with a school counselor during the school day.



## HEALTH SERVICES

The nurse's office is located inside the main office. The nurse assists students who are ill, injured or require medication administration, or need help with medical problems. Office hours are 7:20 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.

Students MUST obtain a pass from their classroom teacher before reporting to the nurse's office. Students will not be admitted to the nurse's office without a pass except in emergency situations. Students may not leave school for illness without first reporting to the nurse's office and obtaining a permit to leave the building. Students who take daily medication are expected to report to the nurse's office at their assigned time to receive their medication. A health record is kept for each student. This contains immunization records, health history, vision and hearing screening results, and a sports physical for athletic participants. When a student transfers to another school, a copy of the student's health folder will be sent with their records. An emergency card is to be completed by parent/guardian for each student each school year on Parent Portal. Changes of address, phone numbers, or new health information should be reported to the school and/or changed on Parent Portal. This is vital to have accurate emergency contact information. All medication (prescription and non-prescription) must be kept in the nurse's office.

## ILLNESS AND INJURY

In cases of illness or significant injury at school, a parent or guardian will be contacted by the Health Office. If a parent or guardian cannot be reached, the emergency contact will be called. The emergency contact must be willing and able to provide transportation and supervision of the student. It is important the parent/guardian and emergency contact information is current for all students.

If no one can be reached, 911 will be contacted as necessary. Please keep your contact and emergency contact information up to date.

## GUIDELINES FOR WHETHER OR NOT TO SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL

We want children in school and ready to learn. The following guidelines have been established to help determine when children should remain at home. They may need to rest at home if they have:

- Fever
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Any rash, of which you do not know the cause
- Or they are not physically feeling well enough to participate in the school day.

When your child is feeling ill please don't hesitate to call your school nurse with questions or concerns. We would prefer your child remain at home for 24 hours after the above symptoms have subsided. This helps prevent the spread of communicable diseases and allows the opportunity to rest and recover fully from the illness.

The school district will follow the guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health for recommended exclusion and notification for vaccine-preventable diseases (mumps, measles, rubella, pertussis, diphtheria, viral hepatitis, chickenpox and meningitis). There will be no other classroom or grade level notification for communicable diseases.

## **IMMUNIZATIONS**

In order for students to enroll or remain enrolled in elementary or secondary school, MN state law requires documentation of required immunizations, written proof of exemption, or conscientious objection. Students will not be allowed to start school until this information is returned to the Health Office. Your child can meet the immunization requirements through being fully immunized, providing a signed medical exemption letter or through a notarized conscientious objection. <http://www.district196.org/student-services/health-services/immunization-requirements/>

## **MEDICATIONS**

To ensure students receive needed medication and that it is not misused, the school district has developed rules for the administration of medication in school. Please note the following points:

- All medication must be kept in the office of the school nurse and must be administered by the school nurse or other appropriate school personnel unless there is authorization for self-carry/self-administration on file with the health office
- Medication guidelines:
  1. A completed Prescription Medication Authorization Form from a student's parent or guardian and
  2. Medication in a prescription bottle or original container is required before a school nurse will give a student prescription or non-prescription medication
  3. Only FDA approved medications will be administered by school personnel
  4. Parent consent for non-prescription medications is required
- If medication is to be given for more than two weeks, a written order from a physician or dentist must be provided to the school
- If prescription medication remains in the nurse's office after the end of a school year or when the student is no longer attending the school, the nurse will contact the student's parent or guardian to pick up the medication. If the medication is not picked up within one month, it will be destroyed. With parent permission, epi pens, inhalers and insulin can be sent home with the student at the end of the school year
- Questions should be discussed with your school nurse.

<http://www.district196.org/student-services/health-services/rules-for-taking-medication/>

## **HEALTH SCREENINGS**

Each year students participate in screening. Students also receive hearing and/or vision screening upon request from a parent/guardian or if the teacher suspects a hearing or vision concern that is affecting the student's ability to learn. If you do not wish to have your child screened please contact the School Nurse.

## **HEALTH PLANS**

If your student has a health condition that could result in an emergency (for example, serious allergy with epi pen, diabetes, seizure disorder or asthma) or has a health condition requiring accommodations (for example, medication administration, treatments, or restrictions) contact the School Nurse before the school year starts or as soon as the condition develops. Our school and district websites have the necessary forms for you and your child's physician to complete. <http://www.district196.org/student-services/health-services/>

## **7TH GRADE STUDENTS - TWO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

7th grade students are required by Minnesota state law to have a Td or Tdap booster after age 11, 2 Varicella vaccines (or have had the Chicken Pox), a 2nd MMR Vaccine, the Hepatitis B series of three vaccine(s) AND 1 Meningococcal prior to entering 7th grade. Please report any vaccine updates to the nurse so the student's health record and computer can be accurate and up to date.

If you have questions call the VMSS nurse at (952) 431-8784 or via voice mail, (651) 683-6969, mail box #18784.

## **EXTENDED DAY**

After school academic assistance is available to students from mid-November through mid-May. Extended Day is held after school Tuesday, and Thursday afternoons from 2:50 to 4:45 p.m. Students may sign up in the main office, or contact Stefanie Thomas, (651) 683-6969, #18785

## **POLICE LIAISON OFFICER**

A police liaison officer has been assigned to the school to accomplish the following objectives:

- To establish positive attitudes of understanding, respect, and trust of police officers and the system of law enforcement.
- To assist students and their parents/guardians, along with school staff members, with problems and questions about the criminal justice system.

Parents/guardians and students should feel free to contact the school to speak to the liaison officer concerning school or community problems.

# Student Recognition

## **ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS AWARD**

To encourage maximum learning and promote positive academic achievement, students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade who have earned high grades will be recognized with an Academic Achiever Award. A student must achieve a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 (which is equivalent to an “A-” average on a 4.0 scale) or better for any given year in order to receive the award.

## **EAGLE PRIDE AWARD**

Each trimester students are selected by grade level to receive “Eagle Pride Award” honors. Eagle Pride Awards are given to students on the basis of the following criteria: 1) has shown ability to take responsibility; 2) has demonstrated a positive attitude toward the school and fellow students; 3) has demonstrated academic achievement in all subject areas; or 4) has demonstrated academic improvement. All students receiving this award will be recognized in a ceremony held on the dates indicated in the school calendar.

## **8TH GRADE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

The Presidential Award for Educational Excellence honors eighth grade students who have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 (which is equivalent to an “A-” average on a 4.0 scale) or better during all three years of middle school and have scored at or above the 85th percentile on a national test during the 8th grade year. This national award is presented to students during a ceremony at Valley Middle School of STEM at the end of the school year.

## **NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY**

National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is an organization of students who pride themselves on the virtues of academic achievement, leadership, character and service to others. Students that exemplify these qualities are selected for the program through an application process. Students inducted into NJHS are expected to maintain their commitment to the ideals of the program throughout their middle school career. Those that qualify based on GPA will receive applications in the spring and the induction ceremony will also take place in the spring.



# DISTRICT196

One District. Infinite Possibilities.

# Revised 2020-21 School Year Calendar

## Start and End Dates

### JULY 2020

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	

### AUGUST 2020

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					

### SEPTEMBER 2020

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		

### OCTOBER 2020

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

### NOVEMBER 2020

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					

### DECEMBER 2020

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		

### JANUARY 2021

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						

### FEBRUARY 2021

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						

### MARCH 2021

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			

### APRIL 2021

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	

### MAY 2021

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					

### JUNE 2021

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			

Sept. 8-11 ..... Scheduled student-teacher connection and orientation

Sept. 14 ..... First day of school

June 8 ..... Last day of school (elementary)

June 11 ..... Last day of school (middle and high)

**No-School Dates**   = No school for all students   = No school for some students

Oct. 7 ..... Districtwide staff development for middle and elementary (*no school grades K-8*)

Oct. 9 ..... Conferences for high schools (*no school grades 9-12*)

Oct. 15-16 ..... State teachers' conference (*no school*)

Nov. 4 ..... Districtwide staff development for high school (*no school 9-12*)

Nov. 6 ..... Conferences for elementary and middle schools (*no school grades K-8*)

Nov. 26-27 ..... Thanksgiving break (*no school*)

Dec. 2 ..... Teachers workshop (*no school*)

Dec. 4 ..... End of Trimester 1

Dec. 23-Jan. 1 ..... Winter break (*no school*)

Jan. 13 ..... Districtwide staff development for high school (*no school grades 9-12*)

Jan. 18 ..... Martin Luther King Day (*no school*)

Jan. 20 ..... Districtwide staff development day (*no school grades K-8*)

Jan. 22 ..... Conferences for high schools (*no school grades 9-12*)

Feb. 10 ..... Teachers workshop for high school (*no school grades 9-12*)

Feb. 12 ..... Conferences for elementary and middle schools (*no school grades K-8*)

Feb. 15 ..... Presidents' Day (*no school*)

Mar. 10 ..... Teachers workshop (*no school*)

Mar. 12 ..... End of Trimester 2

Mar. 22-26 ..... Spring break (*no school grades K-12*)

April 21 ..... Districtwide staff development

May 28 ..... Conferences for middle schools (*no school grades 6-8*)

May 31 ..... Memorial Day (*no school*)

### Other Dates for Employees

Aug. 21, 24, 27, 28.. New teacher workshops for Elem schools (4 half days)

Aug. 24-27 ..... New teacher workshops for middle and high schools (4 half days)

Aug. 25-26 ..... Elementary teacher workshop

Aug. 31-Sept. 1 .. K-12 Teacher workshops (2.0 days)

Sept. 2-3 ..... EL Student Assessment Days (3.0)

Sept. 2-4 ..... Staff Development Days (MS/HS 2.5, EL .5)

Sept. 7 ..... Labor Day

Sept. 8-11 ..... Teacher & Student Connection & Orientation

June 9 ..... Teacher workshop for elem. schools (half day)

June 12 ..... Teacher workshop for middle and high schools (half day)

**District 196 School Board**

Jackie Magnuson, Chairperson

Joel Albright, Vice Chairperson

Sachin Isaacs, Clerk

Art Coulson, Treasurer

Craig Angrimson, Director

Mike Roseen, Director

Cory Johnson, Director

**Administration**

Mary M. Kreger, Superintendent

David McKeag, Principal

Dr. Stacey Buchwald, Assistant Principal

Stefanie Thomas, Assistant Administrator

Jamell Tidwell, Assistant Administrator



**DISTRICT196**

One District. Infinite Possibilities.