
VCS

Volunteering & Philanthropy

A GUIDE FOR VCS PARENTS

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

For those of you who are new to Village Community School, welcome! You are joining an extended community of students, parents, grandparents, alumni, staff and friends who care deeply about this school — and each other. For returning families, welcome back! I look forward to another year of memorable events and activities with you and your children.

Many new parents are eager to learn how they can become meaningfully involved in the life of the school, and there are always myriad opportunities to contribute your time and talents at VCS. This year is no exception; I encourage you to review this guide to learn more about how you can support our vibrant, close-knit community in 2021-2022.

Your participation and generosity will make an important difference in your own family's VCS experience and that of so many others. On behalf of the entire VCS community, thank you for your interest in helping us be the very best we can be.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Connie Sopic". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Connie Sopic

Director of Advancement

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT VCS

Contributing to Our Community

VCS parents contribute to our school's vitality in three important ways:

- Serving as volunteers
- Supporting philanthropic efforts
- Attending social and fundraising events

Your active participation benefits our entire community and has a direct impact on the educational opportunities available to every VCS student, including your child.

Getting involved is also an excellent way to get to know other families, forge new friendships and deepen ongoing relationships.

We strive to make parent engagement a fun, rewarding and meaningful process. As you consider various options, please do not hesitate to reach out and ask questions. The VCS Office of Advancement is a great resource, as are fellow VCS parents. Together, we'll find the best fit for your interests, time and talents.

This brochure highlights some of the ways you can contribute to our community.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Ongoing Commitment

Class Parents

Class Parents are committed to a variety of significant responsibilities at VCS, giving them a unique view into the life of the school. Throughout the year, they effectively disseminate important information to their class, help coordinate volunteers and are active volunteers themselves. Class Parents support teachers as needed for classroom activities and work with the Director of Advancement to organize social events for their Cohorts, helping to strengthen existing relationships and creating a welcoming environment for families new to VCS. Class Parents also occasionally serve as a focus group for the administration.

At the beginning of the year, the Vice-Chair of the VCS Board of Trustees solicits parent volunteers from each Cohort to serve as Class Parents for the entire year. Once assembled, the group meets on a monthly basis; Class Parents representing the same Cohort may choose to alternate attendance at the meetings, but should report to each other the business conducted and share the necessary work.

Community Service Committee

The Community Service Committee is comprised of parent volunteers and generally meets on a monthly basis. As a volunteer committee, projects may change, but the goal is to support school-wide projects as needed and share resources and information to facilitate family volunteering outside of school. New participants are encouraged and welcome.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Diversity & Inclusion Committee

The Diversity & Inclusion Committee is comprised of VCS parents from all backgrounds who volunteer to come together in support of our Diversity Statement. They brainstorm parent events and activities designed to support families in their affirmation and development of ethnic, racial and social identity. The Committee has previously planned events such as book club discussions, speakers and listening sessions. The Committee generally meets monthly. We encourage all parents to join.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Fundraising Events

Phonathon/Annual Fund Giving Committee



On Phonathon night in November, parent volunteers use their “artful asking” talents to directly solicit Annual Fund contributions from fellow parents. This night may be held in person in the school or via Zoom.

Time commitment: up to one-hour volunteer training; two hours of telephone conversations during the Phonathon evening; and follow up emails the next week and once or twice later in the school year.

Qualities of a good Phonathon volunteer:

- Willing to make VCS a philanthropic priority
- Willing to ask for the gift and maintain confidentiality
- Willing to educate others about VCS's financial needs
- Enthusiastic, knowledgeable about VCS and our Mission

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

VCS Spring Soirée



A festive evening of food, drinks and fun for VCS parents. A paddle raise during the course of the evening raises funds for a particular VCS “wish list” item.

Volunteer opportunities may include:

- Creative ideas for future venues
 - Event planning skills
 - Enthusiasm for building relationships among parents
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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Social & Community Events

VCS Annual Fall Festival



This October, the Fall Festival will be a virtual evening of family fun with games, activities and much more! Our school’s treasured, memorable event goes on — wear a costume if you like and join us at this community-wide fall celebration.

Volunteer opportunities may include:

- Event planning
 - Promoting event with fellow parents
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VCS Annual Book Fair



The VCS Book Fair lets students and families revel in our shared love of reading. This year the Book Fair will be held the second week of December. A varied selection of classic novels, great new titles, librarian’s choices and more will be available — with a few surprise twists.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Support of the Chairs in creating the new vision for the event

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

VCS Dance Party for Lower School Families



We are always looking for inventive ways to shake off the winter blues. Our annual Dance Party for Lower School families in late January will do just that. This virtual evening of family fun will get your children moving to some of their favorite music and encourage you to join in too!

Volunteer opportunities may include:

- Creative ideas for virtual event formats
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Family Pop Up Events:



This year we are asking for suggestions for fun, family focused — and of course virtual — events. These could include scavenger hunts, bingo nights, cooking classes — you get the idea! We will send out a survey to see what interests our community the most and we encourage everyone to be imaginative! These are a great way to build relationships among and across Pods and Cohorts.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT VCS

Annual Fund Giving

VCS relies on families' philanthropic gifts for our continued strength and the success of our educational program.

Every member of the VCS community is expected to contribute each year to our Annual Fund. We seek 100% participation at whatever level is appropriate to your family's circumstances.

Why is Annual Fund giving so important?

As is typical in independent schools, tuition does not cover the full cost of educating each student. Annual Fund contributions enable us to cover these costs. Annual Fund gifts typically generate 7% to 9% of revenues necessary for the VCS operating budget every year.

Where are my Annual Fund gifts used?

As unrestricted gifts, Annual Fund giving benefits virtually every aspect of life at VCS. Examples of what last year's Annual Fund made possible are: additional funding for tuition assistance; equitable 1:1 laptop program for students; updating our physical plant to meet health and safety guidelines; additional staffing and faculty; and professional development for Virtual VCS. Our vision for this year is equally comprehensive.

Contributions are expended during the same school year they are raised: your child's VCS experience is directly impacted by the success of each year's Annual Fund giving.

What amount is an appropriate Annual Fund gift?

We ask each VCS family to make our school a philanthropic priority. Past gifts have ranged from \$50 to \$100,000. All financial gifts to VCS are tax-deductible contributions. Each gift is appreciated and helps us cover the cost of educating every student.

Who do I contact about Annual Fund giving?

Connie Sopic, Director of Advancement (csopic@vcs-nyc.org), or Joyce Doyle, Director of Annual Giving (jdoyle@vcs-nyc.org), are happy to answer any questions about the Annual Fund and other VCS philanthropy.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT VCS

Special Funds & Capital Giving

With a goal of 11.5 million, the VCS2020 Campaign was the most ambitious fundraising effort in the school's 50-year history. Our community rose to this challenge enthusiastically, allowing us to not only meet this goal but exceed it: we closed the Campaign with a total of \$11,800,000. These funds allowed us to fulfill our goal of expanding our campus with a state-of-the-art new wing and grow our Endowment, ensuring VCS is well-positioned to thrive for many years to come.

While the Campaign has concluded, our fundraising for the Eve K. Kleger Endowment for Financial Assistance continues as an ongoing special fund. Please contact Connie Sopic, Director of Advancement, for more information on making a contribution.

Stay Informed Online

There are many ways to keep up to date on the latest volunteer opportunities, events and fundraising efforts at Village Community School. VCS issues weekly emails and Monthly Postings to all families, which include calendar updates and important notices.

The Village Community School [website](#) is also a great source of information — and don't forget to keep up with the daily life of the school by following us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)!

Questions?

For more information on volunteering and giving, please email Director of Advancement Connie Sopic at csopic@vcs-nyc.org or Director of Annual Giving Joyce Doyle at jdoyle@vcs-nyc.org.

Thank You!

Village Community School

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