

JUNIOR HIGH NEW STUDENT FAQ'S



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Introduction

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the guide the “Junior High New Student FAQ’s.” It has been created to answer many of the questions that you might have regarding your Junior High experience. (Yes, both parents and students experience Junior High.) As you are aware, there is a remarkable difference between students in their elementary years and those in their Junior High years. The students, who once were talkative and would come home to tell their parents about their day in detail, may now respond with very few details, leaving the parents in the dark. So, this publication was designed to help parents (and students) understand the program at Valley Christian Junior High School.

Sincerely,

Lauren Chaplin
Vice Principal
Valley Christian Junior High School

Start Here

Parent Portal

The Junior High Parent Portal is designed to help parents gain information that is specifically geared for the Junior High. The Junior High Parent Portal is located on our VCS website at JHPortal.vcs.net.

At this site you can easily access many items such as:

- Your Account - Update Contact Information
- Teacher Websites - learn.vcs.net
- PowerSchool - Grades, Attendance, and Discipline (Log Entries)
- Lunch Funds by MSA (My School Account)
- Announcements and News
- Busing Information
- Calendar and Schedule
- Club Information
- Forms
- Handbook and Publications

The Junior High Parent Portal will require login. The Junior High Parent Portal usernames and passwords stay the same for returning families each school year. The username/password for new families is the information created at the time of applying to VCS. For your convenience, the "Forgot Your Password" link is available on the logon page that will provide your username/password by simply verifying your email address. Please contact support@vcs.net for further assistance if necessary.

Newsletter

At the beginning of each month, the Junior High sends a newsletter by email to parents. This is one of the greatest sources of information regarding the calendar and activities going on at school. Parents are **STRONGLY** encouraged to read it in its entirety. An email will be sent notifying parents that the newsletter is available for viewing and downloading via the Internet. It is important for parents to make sure to keep their email address up to date, so that they do not miss any valuable information published by VCJH. Email address can be updated by logging on to the Parent Portal at www.vcs.net/Parents, or go to JHPortal.vcs.net then My Account. Current and previous newsletters are found there.

Warriorlife

Warriorlife is our students' personal Google account. Each student's account comes with a suite of tools including email, calendar, and documents. Students may use these tools to communicate with their teacher, subscribe to assignment deadlines from PowerSchool, and create documents. Students may find their tools from the "My Warriorlife" menu when they're logged in to learn.vcs.net. The username and password is the same for Warriorlife and learn.vcs.net. Note that everything created in Warriorlife is saved on the web, so students can access their tools and any work they've created from any computer with Internet access. The Warriorlife username and password should be used when creating the student's Apple ID for use on their iPad.

Important People

Academic Counselor

This person helps students and parents navigate the academic world at VCJH. They will help support students with placement and academic achievement.

Dean of Students

This person deals with discipline, daily activities, and calendar issues.

Department Heads

One staff member from each discipline is designated as a Department Head. Department Heads work directly with the Curriculum Director in choosing new curriculum when it becomes necessary, reporting to the Principal regarding the activities of their department, establishing guidelines for student placement in their discipline, and having overall responsibility for the curriculum in their department. This is the person to contact if there are questions remaining after a student or parent has first spoken with a teacher.

Principal

The person overall in charge of the school who deals with all facets of the operations of the Junior High.

Students

Young men and women who are gifts from God created to glorify Him. They are viewed through this light by all staff and faculty at the school. Training students in spiritual and academic areas is the primary reason for the school's existence.

Teachers

These are men and women who are partners in their student's educational endeavors and passionate about coming alongside them to help them to achieve their personal best. They work tirelessly to provide stimulating, comprehensive lessons, which both keep the interest of their students and meet and exceed the California State Standards, Common Core Standards, and ESLRs.

Vice Principal

This person deals with academic and curriculum issues.

Key Places on Campus

Amphitheater

The outdoor theater located at the end of the "Quad" by the Baseball Stadium.

Conservatory of the Arts Building

One of three large buildings located on the Skyway Campus. This is the first building to the north of the Football Stadium. It is located next to Visitor Parking.

Education Building

One of three large buildings located on the Skyway Campus. The Education Building is located on the east side of the campus and is the building on the right upon entering the Quad from the main parking lot.

Gym Building

The large building on the west side of the campus housing the athletic offices and two gyms on the upper level. The locker rooms are located on the lower level. It is the building on the immediate left when approaching the Quad from the main parking lot.

Office

The Junior High office is located at the furthestmost north end of the Quad on the right hand side. The Junior High office is separate from the High School office.

Main Gym

The larger gym located at the north end of the Gym Building.

Mall - (see Quad)

Parking Lot A/Blue

Staff Parking - the lower lot, closest to Baseball Stadium.

Parking Lot C/White

Visitor Parking - closest to school buildings. Parents are to park here when visiting the campus during school hours. Drop off and pick up is prohibited in the Visitor Lot both before and after school.

Parking Lot D/Green

Staff Parking - closest to Softball Field

Parking Lot E/Orange

Staff Parking - below Soccer Field

Parking Lot F/Yellow

Student Parking - below Lot E/Orange, the largest lot on the south end of campus

Parking Lot - Fehren Lot

Student Parking and Remote Drop Off- at the Park 'N Ride on Monterey Road (one mile north of Skyway Drive). Valley Christian Shuttle busses operate from 6:45-9:15am and 2:30-6:30pm daily.

Quad (Mall)

The concrete area at the entrance level between the two main buildings.

Shechem Oak

Located to the south of the football field on the small hill is a large oak tree referred to as Shechem Oak. This site was built as a remembrance of God's provision and blessings to Valley Christian Schools during the building of the Skyway Campus. It is also the site of the meeting in 2001 when all the teachers and staff vowed to pray for students each day - beginning what is now the Prayer Warrior Program. Parents and their children are encouraged to visit the site together and read the plaques telling of the faithfulness of our Lord and Savior.

Skyway Campus

The entirety of the Junior High and High School campus located on Skyway Drive.

Programs and Clubs

Applied Math, Science, and Engineering (AMSE)

The Applied Math, Science, and Engineering (AMSE) Institute, where students can experience unique learning and hands-on opportunities that introduce and expand students' knowledge in various technologies, fields, and professions. In this program, students may enroll in AMSE electives such as Investigative Science, the ISS Space Program, and Project Lead the Way classes. AMSE students participate in club and program opportunities like: Robotics, Science Club, Math Club (Mathletes), and Makerspace.

Students who apply to the VCJH AMSE program have a set goal to be prepared for the AMSE Institute in High School. For first time applicants to the JH AMSE program, please complete the on-line application at https://govcs.net/amse_app at the beginning of the school year.

Business and Entrepreneurship Initiative (BEI)

With BEI, students learn core business concepts in school-day courses and also apply what they learn through several dynamic business programs. These unique opportunities expose students to successful Silicon Valley business leaders who exemplify Christian principles as they mentor and spark innovation in the young entrepreneurs. Valley Christian Schools' BEI program is on the cutting edge of creating future leaders, giving Warriors another avenue to lead, serve, and impact as they follow their *Quest for Excellence*.

Clubs

VCJH offers a variety of clubs. These include but are not limited to: Aggies Club, Chess Club, Clay Club, Cube Club, Eighth Grade Young Men's Club, GEM ST (Girls love Engineering, Math, Science, and Technology), Homework Club, Lunch Bunch Reading Club, Makerspace, Math Club, and STAR/Radio Youth Club. Additional information can be found in the JH Parent Portal by going to JHPortal.vcs.net then Clubs.

Conservatory of the Arts

The Conservatory of the Arts is an example of our commitment at VCS to connect students' God-given talents with extraordinary opportunities for growth and service. This program offers VCJH students a full range of visual and performing arts classes in visual arts, dance arts, music, and theatre arts. Budding young artists have the opportunity to further develop their God-given

talents in a program of unmatched quality and breadth of offerings, while providing the necessary preparation for matriculation to the High School Conservatory of the Arts.

One to One Program (1:1 Program)

VCJH uses the Apple iPad for our One to One program. Paper and pencil will not be obsolete, but rather the foundation for learning will be found through technology. The iPad won't be another tool in the student's backpack; it will become the backpack - providing access to educational apps, textbooks, and teacher-driven curriculum. To learn more about the iPad, visit the iPad site on Learn.vcs.net - VCJH iPad Program Home page. If a student is having difficulty managing their time on the iPad, parents may want to consider adding "restrictions" to the iPad. Information on how to do this is also on the VCJH iPad Program Home page (<http://learn.vcs.net/course/view.php?id=550>).

Sports - Afterschool

Students are offered many opportunities to participate in afterschool sports at the Junior High. We currently belong to the SCCESJHCA League (Santa Clara County East Side Junior High Coaches Association). Most require students to try out for the sport. There are different seasons for sports. Academic success and citizenship will play a part in whether or not a student is allowed to play an afterschool sport. Also, in order to try out for an afterschool sport, the student must have on file a current Athletic Pre-Participation Medical Examination form that has been filled out by their doctor.

WEB - Where Everybody Belongs

WEB is a program designed to connect new students with current students in building a positive and supportive atmosphere on campus. Students will have opportunities to develop and build relationships through a variety of activities including Warrior Welcome (our New Student Orientation), ice cream socials, luncheons, as well as festive celebrations throughout the year. In order to have students recognize their importance as a part of the VCJH community, new students will be in a group with a WEB Leader. (These leaders are students selected from our Christian Ministry Training and Community Outreach Leadership class.) All sixth and "new-to-Valley" seventh and eighth graders are part of the WEB program.

Splash

An afterschool swimming program run by the Aquatics Department open to all students in the community. For more information, contact the Aquatics Director, at (408) 513-2450.

Events

How do parents find out about campus events?

Nearly all parent communication comes by email through our monthly newsletter. The newsletter will be emailed out on approximately the first school day of each month and will be jam-packed with information! Current and past newsletters are also housed on the junior high site. They can be found by logging in to the JH Parent Portal by going to JHPortal.vcs.net then Announcements and News.

Breakaway

The tradition known as "Breakaway" is for eighth grade students only! This is the yearly retreat for the entire eighth grade class that takes them to Missions Springs Camp in the Santa Cruz Mountains for two days of class bonding and spiritual reflection.

Fifth Grade Visitation

A day during the school year when Valley Christian Elementary School's fifth graders come to the Junior High campus to experience "A Day in the Life of a Junior Higher."

Back to School Night

An evening within the first few weeks of the beginning of school where parents are invited to experience "A Day in the Life of a Junior High Student." To begin the evening, there is a group meeting in the Main Gym to introduce many of the staff members and give instructions for the rest of the evening. Following the meeting, parents attend each of their child's classes and hear a brief outline of the classroom expectancies and curriculum. This is an evening of group talks. Individual conferences regarding a student should be scheduled at a different time.

MAP Testing

A computerized adaptive test that measures student achievement and improvement with a high level of accuracy and precision throughout a given year. It is administered three times a year and provides feedback on a national percentile scale.

Open House

An event held where the campus is open for viewing by potential students and their families.

Picture Day

JH Orientation is the All-School Picture Day. Every student has their picture taken whether or not they are purchasing a package of pictures. Eighth grade students are expected to dress in "Dressy Attire." Boys must wear a shirt and tie, and girls should be wearing a nice sweater, dress, or blouse. All students must be dressed within the VCJH Dress Code (from the waist up!) to be included in the Yearbook. The picture resulting from this photo session will be in the Yearbook as well as on the VCJH Student ID Lunch Card. Additionally; graduation pictures will be taken of every eighth-grade student later in the year.

See You at the Pole

A day during the school year where the students meet before school at the flagpoles to pray for our country, school, and other students.

Spiritual Emphasis Week

A week typically during the fall and spring when chapel is held daily. A speaker is invited to speak at each of these chapels. An emphasis is placed on giving an opportunity for students to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

Washington DC trip

Each year the eighth-grade students are given the opportunity to tour the Washington DC area as a group in the spring or early summer. The trip typically lasts between seven and ten days and

covers many of the major attractions in Washington DC, Virginia, and the surrounding areas. It is the optimal time to visit as the students study our government and the Constitution during their eighth-grade year. All eighth-grade students are invited to go on the Washington DC trip. Students having received 15 or more demerits during their eighth-grade school year and students on a Behavior Contract may **not** go on the Washington DC trip.

Writing Proficiency Test

An assessment test given to all eighth graders where they are given a topic on which to write a five-paragraph essay. On the day of the test, eighth grade students do not meet with their regular classes. Instead, they meet in the gym, prepared with paper, pencils, thesaurus, dictionary, and any other items required by their English teacher. Students are given the entire school day to finish the test. The test grade is included in the fourth quarter grade report. If they finish earlier than the end of the school day, they attend their regular classes.

Day to Day Schedule

What do students do when they arrive to school early?

If students arrive on campus before 8:00am, they **MUST** report to an Early Bird Study Hall class. This is not optional.

What do students do when they need to leave early?

Students must bring a note into the Junior High office before school on the day that they will need to leave early. The office staff will write them a pass. Once a student leaves class, they **MUST** check out through the Junior High office. Parents are to call the Junior High office when they arrive on campus, and the office staff will send the student out to their waiting parent. Parents may also come into the office to pick up the child.

What do students do when they are absent due to an illness?

Parents are to call the attendance line before 9:00am, at (408) 513-2473, or email jhattendance@vcs.net each day a student is absent. If the student is absent for more than five days due to medical reasons, a note needs to be obtained from the doctor stating the reason for the absence and stating that the student is well enough to attend classes. If the student's absences amount to more than 10% of the school days, it is considered excessive. At that time, a doctor's note will be required for all future absences. This may also jeopardize promotion or graduation.

How are students supposed to know what was in the daily announcements if they were absent or didn't hear them when they were announced in class?

The announcements are emailed to each student's Warriorlife account and posted in written form on the bulletin board just outside the office. Students and parents may also view the announcements on PowerSchool from home. The school announcements may also be viewed by logging in to the JH Parent Portal by going to JHPortal.vcs.net then Announcements and News.

What do students do when they feel sick at school?

The student should tell the teacher about not feeling well. The teacher will send the student to the office with an escort. Once in the office, the office staff will assess the student. If it is necessary to have the student leave school, either the student or the office staff will call the parents.

How do students take medicine at school?

The ONLY way to take ANY medication on school grounds is to have the office dispense it (this includes cough drops, vitamins, aspirin, Midol, and Tylenol). If students need to take any medication on school grounds, they must obtain a Medication Consent Form from the office or online at JHPortal.vcs.net. The form needs to be filled it out with the appropriate signatures, and brought with the medication in its original container to the office. Students are responsible to come to the office at the appropriate time to take their medication.

What do students do when they will be absent due to a personal vacation?

A week before the event, the student must bring a note or have a parent call the Junior High office to notify them of the time that will be missed from school and the reason the student will be gone. The student is responsible for completing the work listed on the teacher websites (learn.vcs.net) by the day of their return. There are no extensions.

What if my child forgets something, may I bring it to them?

While a parent may bring forgotten items to their child during the school day, we advise against it. VCJH subscribes to the Love and Logic philosophy of discipline. Students at this age are expected to make mistakes. It is our job as the adults in their life to help them cope with the mistake or oversight and help them problem solve the situation. If the item is the child's lunch, the Junior High office can "loan" Cup Noodles to the student just for the asking. Following this process will help the child to develop self-responsibility, encourage respect for their parent, and help prepare them for high school.

Do the High School and Junior High students see each other during the day?

The High School and Junior High have gone to great lengths to run separate programs where the students rarely see each other during the day.

How do students/parents keep up-to-date with changes in the schedule?

Days that we have rallies or special events on campus call for a special schedule. Special schedules are announced in the morning announcements. The school announcements may be viewed on PowerSchool and by logging in to the JH Parent Portal by going to JHPortal.vcs.net then Announcements and News. To view the calendar and any special schedules, log on to the JH Parent Portal by going to JHPortal.vcs.net then Calendar and Schedules.

What is chapel like and who speaks?

Chapel is like a church service. It typically begins with student-led music and worship time followed by a speaker. Speakers may be youth leaders from our local churches, national speakers, speakers from our own staff, and others who have a heart for junior high students. Occasionally, students from our own school will speak or perform for the student body during chapel. Parents may view a list of the chapel speakers in the JH Parent Portal by going to JHPortal.vcs.net then Chapel.

How do I connect to the school's Wi-Fi?

Student iPads are connected automatically. Guests to the campus are able to access Wi-Fi through VCS Guest. Username: guest Password: gowarriors

Academics

What is an A/B Block schedule?

A schedule allowing students to take eight classes, four of which meet each day. Periods 1A, 2A, 3A, and 4A meet on 'A' Days, while periods 1B, 2B, 3B, and 4B meet on 'B' Days.

How do students and parents find current grades?

Parents and students may sign-on to PowerSchool to view the student's current grade in each of their classes.

What qualifies as Honor Roll?

Students that receive a 3.5 GPA at the close of each quarter qualify for Honor Roll. Certificates are calculated and issued by mail with their final Report Card in June.

How much homework will a student have?

On average students will need to spend about one to one and one half hours on homework each evening. Remember that typically they will not have homework in their elective classes and PE, and not every teacher will assign homework every evening. Keep up with larger projects by spending a small amount of time (30 minutes) each evening on the project over a long period of time rather than saving it all up for the night before it is due.

How do parents find out about their child's homework?

Parents may view daily lesson plans and homework on the teacher websites located at learn.vcs.net. Parents of sixth and seventh graders are also welcome to subscribe to their child's Homework Calendar.

Where do students purchase textbooks?

ALL student textbooks (including workbooks and ALEKS fee) will be supplied by the Junior High school for a purchase price of \$350, due by mid July. All student eBooks and workbooks will be supplied through the Junior High school once school begins.

What kind of an iPad do I need to have for school and how do I set it up?

Requirements and directions for setting up the student iPad can be found at learn.vcs.net in the VCJH iPad Program Home page.

Should a parent put restrictions on their child's iPad?

This is truly a family choice. We recommend that instead of putting restrictions on the iPad right away, the parent should have frequent communication with their child about the importance of good digital citizenship. A fantastic resource for this can be found at Common Sense Media (www.commonsensemedia.org). Additionally, parents should frequently view their child's history on the iPad knowing that if it has been erased, there is a problem. If a parent determines that restrictions on the iPad are a necessity, information and directions on how to do this are located on the VCJH iPad Program Home page. If restrictions are placed on the iPad, be sure to email Miss Lauren Chaplin at lchaplin@vcs.net with the restriction code. He will keep the code in the Junior High office in the event that the student needs iPad assistance during the school day.

What is Turnitin?

An Internet-based software program used to train students in the area of literary integrity. It compares students' papers to Internet sites, published books, other publications, and other students' papers. Periodically, students will be asked to submit their work using Turnitin. Teachers will provide detailed instructions for the students.

What is MLA format?

The MLA (Modern Language Association) format is the format most high schools, colleges, and universities require students to use in writing research and other papers. VCS teaches this format from the junior high level on to assure that every student is proficient in using the format by the time they graduate.

Are there prerequisites for any classes?

Yes, many of the elective classes and Honors classes require prerequisites; some of the electives and math classes have several prerequisites. Math prerequisites can be found on our "Math Map" that shows the different courses available at each grade level in order to meet the needs of each individual learner and their level of competency for math. You can find this map with your child's Academic Counselor. For elective prerequisites, be sure to thoroughly read the elective descriptions. All prerequisites will be listed in the description.

How are students placed in Honors versus grade level classes?

Each department offering Honors classes uses a set of criteria to place students at the level where the student will have the greatest chance of success coupled with a reasonable challenge. Some of the criteria used are: assessment on final tests, letter grade in the subject, standardized test scores, teacher recommendation, and, if required, the placement exam to VCJH. They are required complete more class work and homework than in a grade level class. Also, if the student misses a certain number of homework assignments or performs poorly on tests and quizzes, they will be moved to a grade level class during the school year.

Will students be able to be in Honors Math or English next year?

If being in an Honors class the next year is a priority for the student, they should let the current teacher know this. This teacher will help the student know which areas they need to work on and will encourage them in meeting those goals.

Why is there such an emphasis on critical thinking in all the subjects?

Critical thinking is the ability to take thoroughly understood information and make projections based on this knowledge. The ability to think critically about any given subject demonstrates the level at which a student understands the subject. If a student is able to use critical thinking in any subject, it reveals that they not only know the facts and understand the information, but they are also able to use the information in a practical way.

Does VCJH meet the California State Standards?

Valley Christian Schools' standards and curriculum are uniquely developed to support the VCS mission, vision, and Philosophy of Christian Education. These standards exceed, meet, or modify

state, national, and subject specific association standards to achieve the highest academic quality. Fortunately, as a private school, Valley Christian Schools has the unique opportunity to select and develop K-12 standards and curriculum. While state and national common core standards mandate the skills students are taught in public schools, Valley Christian Schools is not compelled to adopt government curriculum standards.

How do parents contact a teacher?

There are several ways to contact teachers:

Email them - This is the teachers' preferred method, as the time available for them to contact parents is limited. Typically, they are able to quickly respond to an email during the school day. For the half hour after school has ended, teachers are available to meet with parents and students. Please email the teacher to set up a time to meet. Parents are to check in with the office for a Visitor's Pass, and then will be able go to the teacher's classroom. Students are to let their teacher know during the day that they will be stopping by during this time so that he/she isn't out of the classroom making copies or doing other office work.

How long before a parent can expect an email/phone call back from an administrator or teacher?

Teachers and staff are obligated to return a parent's call or email within a 24-hour business day. Sometimes in the rush of the academic schedule, a phone call or an email to a teacher or a staff member from a parent may go unnoticed. If we do not respond within a 24-hour business day, please contact the Junior High office at (408) 513-2460.

Athletics

How does a student try out for a play?

Students wishing to participate in a production at Valley Christian Junior High should listen to the announcements to see when the tryouts will be for parts in the play. Keep in mind that there are academic and citizenship qualifications that must be met in order to participate.

How does a student become a cheerleader at VCJH?

Cheerleading is an afterschool sport open to all eighth grade students. Tryouts are held in the spring for the next year's cheerleaders. Watch the announcements for tryout dates.

What does a student need in order to tryout for an afterschool sport?

All students need an Athletic Pre-Participation Physical exam with their doctor prior to trying out for an afterschool sport. Students must first submit the Athletic Pre-Participation Physical Examination form to the Athletics office before participating in sports. This form can be found by visiting gowarriors.net, hover over RESOURCES and then click on Forms.

Is there a cost to participate in an afterschool sport?

Yes, the participation fee is per sport for the first two sports and the third sport is free in any given year.

Are there sign-ups for competing in an afterschool sport?

Yes, during the fall season all sign-ups take place by sending an email to Mr. Adam Gill, at agill@vcs.net with the student(s) name, grade level, and fall sport they wish to try out for. After the fall season, there are mandatory lunch meetings prior to the first day of tryouts that each student needs to attend. Tryout dates will be posted on our website and announced through the Daily Bulletin. Athletes will sign up at the meeting and report to tryouts for the days listed.

When do tryouts begin, and where is that information posted?

Tryout dates are posted at gowarriors.net, hover over Junior High and then click on Tryouts.

Where can parents get a copy of game schedules?

Athletic schedules are posted on the Athletic website at gowarriors.net. Keep in mind that schedules DO change, so when in doubt, confirm it with the coach.

When is practice, and how long is it?

Practice is typically Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3:15-5:00pm. Some practices may end at 4:30pm or 5:30pm. Each coach will provide a complete practice schedule at the start of the season with practice days and times.

Where can parent get directions to AWAY games?

Maps are available on the Junior High athletic website at gowarriors.net, hover or Junior High and then click on Directions.

Where can parents find information regarding athletic philosophy, academic requirements, and athletic offerings?

There is a "Students and Parents" Handbook that is available on the Junior High athletic website gowarriors.net, hover over Junior High and then click on Athletic Handbook.

Is there an opportunity for parents to meet the coaches?

Yes! At the start of each season, there is a parents' meeting for each team. This is a great opportunity to meet the coach, learn about their expectations, and ask questions. Dates and times for these meetings are distributed to the players at the end of tryouts.

How are players selected for a particular team?

Each sport takes a minimum of two days of tryouts to assess each student's skill level and overall character traits. The coaches then maximize their team roster by choosing the best players based on their evaluation from tryouts.

How many players make each team?

It is our goal to keep as many players as possible. Listed below is the average number of players that typically make each team offered by VCJH.

6th, 7th, and 8th Girls Volleyball: 10-12 per team

6th, 7th, and 8th Flag Football: 18-25 per team

Softball: 12-15 per team

Cross Country: Unlimited

6th, 7th, and 8th Girls Basketball: 10-15 per team
6th, 7th, and 8th Boys Basketball: 10-15 per team
Wrestling: Unlimited
Girls Soccer: 18-25 per team
Boys Soccer: 18-25 per team
Spring Girls Volleyball: 12-15 per team
Spring Boys Volleyball: 12-15 per team
Track and Field: Unlimited
Tennis: Unlimited
Golf: Roughly 30 make the practice squad and the top 10 players play in matches.

Does VCJH offer any non-cut sports?

Yes! Cross Country, Wrestling, Tennis, and Track and Field are all non-cut sports.

Whom can parents call with additional questions regarding afterschool sports?

Call the Athletic Office at (408) 513-2522 or check out the Athletic Handbook located at gowarriors.net.

Discipline

Where do students and parent read about school discipline?

There is a large section in the Student Handbook about discipline. It is a good idea to read that section and the Student Handbook in its entirety.

What happens if a student gets a Referral?

Any staff member or teacher may write a student a Referral for breaking school rules. Students receiving a Referral will first visit with an administrator to discuss the reason for the Referral. At the time of that visit, the administrator will determine the consequence using the guidelines outlined in the Student Handbook. The consequence is determined by the offense. Students who receive numerous Referrals will be placed on a Behavior Contract.

What is the criterion for any student to participate in an overnight trip?

Students must have less than 15 demerits in any given year to participate in an overnight field trip in the Junior High. A list of demerits may be viewed in the Student Handbook. A parent may view their child's discipline record on PowerSchool by clicking on the blue "View Log Entries" at the top of the screen once they have signed in.

Demerit Point System:

Referrals = 5 demerits

Pink Slips = 1 demerit

Why can't students use phones in the classroom?

Actually, with the iPad utilizing iMessage, there is no need for a student to have a phone while on campus. Phones are a major distraction in the classroom. When they ring, they bring the class to an abrupt halt. Also, text messaging and other forms of silent communication on cell phones facilitate cheating in the classroom. If a phone is in the classroom, it is to be powered OFF and in the student's backpack at all times.

Get Connected

All parents who have a child at VCJH are considered members of the Parent Teacher Prayer Fellowship (PTPF). The PTPF Board is composed of strong Christian parents of current Valley Christian Junior High School students.

The purpose of the fellowship is to provide an organizational structure through which parents, teachers, and administrators of Valley Christian Schools can work together in prayer and in fellowship to strengthen the spiritual and educational objectives of the school. At the beginning of the school year, opportunities to serve can be found by logging in to the JH Parent Portal by going to JHPortal.vcs.net then Announcements and News, then clicking the July Newsletter on the page that opens. Information about opportunities to serve can be found here.

There are also many opportunities for parents to meet other VCJH families. These include: New Parent Orientation, Student Orientation, and the Pancake Breakfast to name just a few. Be sure to read the monthly newsletter to keep up to date with opportunities.

How are the PTPF Board nominations made?

“The nomination and election process shall be as follows: The principal shall submit the names of potential candidates for elected offices and standing committee chairmanships to the Board of Directors of Valley Christian Schools for approval. From the list of approved candidates, nominees will be selected by the principal in consultation with the current board members and the elected officers of the fellowship. These officers shall be elected annually by the members of the fellowship at a regular meeting during the fourth quarter of the school year and will assume office effective July 1.” (PTPF Constitution, VC017 rev. 6/01)

Traffic

Why must students only be picked up in front of the Football Stadium and Soccer Field?

Students are picked up in this area for safety reasons. When students were allowed to be picked up outside this area, many crossed the pickup lane and entered the passing lane, nearly getting hit by passing cars in the process. There was also a lot of “shenanigans” by students in non-supervised areas causing real danger to themselves and others. So, students are now required to stay in the supervised area in front of the Football Stadium and Soccer Field. We also have an agreement with the city that does not allow for students to be picked up in the neighborhoods. Students also may not be dropped off or picked up in the Visitor Lot.

What is the best way to avoid traffic when picking up a student from school?

Because the Junior High and High School share the same campus but have different dismissal times, it is important for parents to pick up during the particular campus’ dismissal time. This means that junior high parents should arrive on campus no sooner than 3:15pm. This will allow the High School, which has been dismissed at 2:35pm, enough time to clear their students and cars from the area before the Junior High parents arrive. Students may not be picked up or dropped off in the Visitor Lot or in the neighborhood.

May students walk out into the outer parking lot to be picked up by a high school sibling who drives to school?

For the few junior high students who have a senior (twelfth grade) sibling who drives to school, they may obtain a “Walking Pass” from the Junior High office. This will allow the student to cross WITH their high school sibling to walk out to the car. Students may not go out by themselves nor go out without a pass.

May students walk home from school?

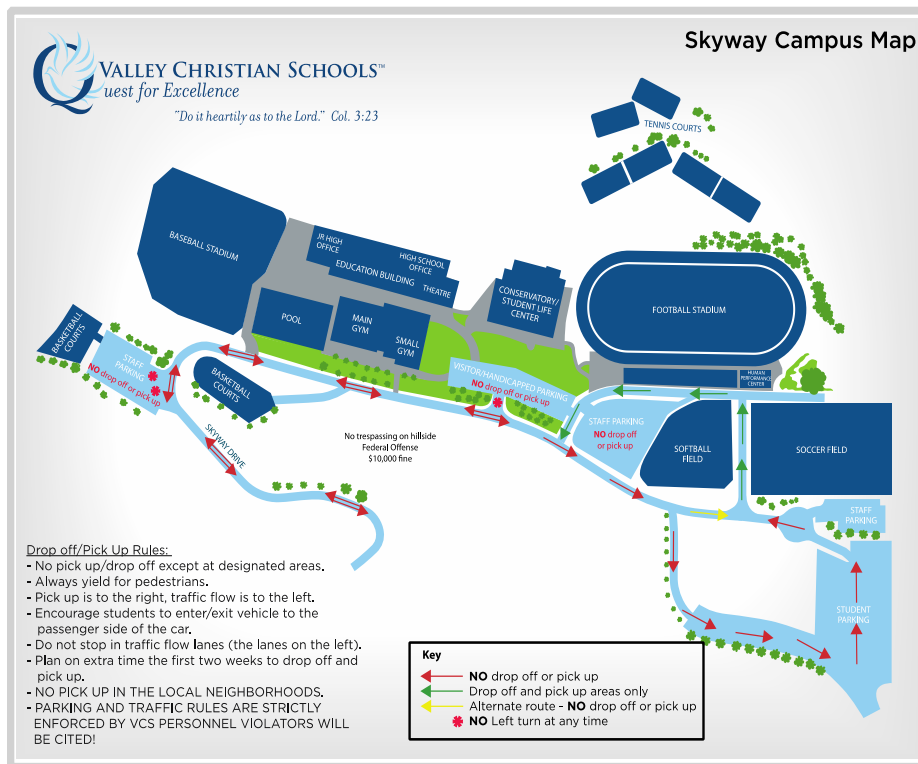
Yes. If the student’s parent has signed the Walking Home Permission Slip AND the student has come to the office to pick up a “Walking Pass,” then the student may walk home from school. Students must follow all pedestrian laws as they walk home so that they are safe!

What if the student’s parents can’t pick them up right away?

If a student’s ride does not pick up immediately after school, the student may wait in the Quad area, on the grassy area by the Small Gym, in the Learning Commons between 4:00 and 6:00pm, or in the library (Monday through Thursday until 5:00). All other areas are off limits. Students may enter the pick up area just before their ride arrives but may not wait in that area for an extended period of time.

Where can information about busing be found?

Information about buses can be found by logging in to the JH Parent Portal by going to JHPortal.vcs.net then Transportation.



How To's

Food Service Account Information

Instead of using cash, students will now make their on-campus food purchases digitally! Students will be assigned a Valley Christian Food Services Student Lunch ID Number to use when purchasing from VCS Food Services (the Lunch Line). This 5-Digit ID will be located on the student body card and may alternatively be keyed in as a PIN number. Please note that cash will no longer be accepted at the Lunch Line.

In order to take advantage of this service, a parent account will need to be created.

1. Open a browser and go to www.myschoolaccount.com
2. Click "Create Account" on the top menu bar
3. Fill in the required information on the "Parent Account Sign-Up" page
4. Create a User Name ID and Password
5. From the "School District" drop down menu, choose Valley Christian Schools
6. Accept the terms of the user agreement and click Next
7. Review the information and click Finish
8. Read the information and then click Continue. The system will send a verification code by email. Use that verification code on the first login.

Go to <http://www.myschoolaccount.com> and login using the newly created User Name ID and Password (keep this info secure, VCS staff will not be able to recover it should it be lost or forgotten). Enter the verification code to verify the account and email address. Parents may then begin adding their child's information according to the guidelines provided. For more than one child, parents will need each of their children's Food Services Student Lunch ID Numbers in order to add each separately. After the accounts are created, parents will be able to load an account balance to the student lunch account, and eventually be able to view lunch account activity.

How much money should a student bring for lunch?

The only reason that a student will need cash on campus is to purchase a snack from one of our vending machines.

PowerSchool

PowerSchool is a program that provides access to a student's grades, attendance records, and the school announcements. It is an Internet-based system that provides for real-time management of student data within a user-friendly environment. It allows parents and students to access up-to-date information such as grades, attendance, assignments, discipline records, and more. Access to PowerSchool is gained through the Parent Portal at JHPortal.vcs.net or directly through powerschool.vcs.net.

As parents and students view grades and assignments, they should keep in mind that the available information will vary from course to course depending on the curriculum. Click on any percentages, letter grades, or assignments, which are blue, to reveal more information. The Valley Christian Junior High Grading and Posting Policy will be:

POWERSCHOOL GRADING AND POSTING POLICY

Grading Student Work:

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS, WORKBOOKS, and QUIZZES will be graded and returned the next day the class meets or no more than two class days later. *

MAJOR TESTS and ASSIGNMENTS will be graded and returned within one week. *

Posting to PowerSchool:

After an assignment has been graded within the above guidelines, the assignment will be posted to PowerSchool. All graded student work for the week (Monday through Friday) will be posted to PowerSchool no later than the following Monday by 5:00pm.

Note:

* Given the nature of the assignment, some assignments may take longer to grade and post than others. Teachers will post in the "assignment description" detail on PowerSchool information regarding extra time needed for individual assignments.

Parents also have the opportunity to sign up for automatic email alerts, which provide such information as grades, assignments, and/or attendance information sent to them via email at user-specified intervals. They must provide a current email address in the field provided. It is important for parents to remember that all email replies must be directed to the faculty member or administrator who can best serve them. The auto-generated email will not process direct replies.

Tough Situations

How will VCJH protect my child in the event of an intruder on campus?

In addition to fire and earthquake drills, VCS practices Lockdown and Shelter in Place drills, which prepare students to take cover in the unlikely event that an unwanted intruder enters the campus. The staff at VCS has received specific training regarding protecting and calming the students. VCS employs and maintains 24/7 on-campus armed security staff.

What if I am running late?

Step 1: Look at the time.

Step 2: If it is 5 minutes before the last bell then go to class, if it is after, then go to the office.

Step 3: Look inside the door at the class.

Step 4: If people are praying, pray with them at the door. If they aren't, then quietly enter.

Step 5: Enter the classroom quietly and go to your seat.

Step 6: During break ask a classmate, "Did I miss anything at the beginning of class?"

Step 7: Stay after class and tell the teacher, "I am sorry for being late."

Help! I went to the wrong class!

Tell your teacher, "I'm sorry, I went to the wrong class. Will you please do me a favor and iMessage Mrs. _____ to let her know I am on my way. Thanks so much."

- Re-read the schedule and memorize it.
- Set the image of your schedule as your iPad's screen saver.

Help! I don't know what class to go to. I am lost!

Our schedule changes, and if you're like me, it is hard to always know where I should go when the bell rings.

Step 1: Find out if it is an A Day, or a B Day. (It will be posted in the office window and can be found on your iPad's calendar.)

Step 2: Remember Wednesdays are weird.

Step 3: If you are still lost, then go to the office or ask an eighth grader for help.

Helpful tricks to not get lost:

- Read the schedule and memorize it.
- Listen to the announcements closely, there are rallies and other special schedules.

I do not have anybody to sit with at lunch!?

Step 1: Make a friend in each class.

Step 2: Ask them to meet you near the office at lunch.

Step 3: If you are feeling bold, sit next to them... Or say.... "May I please sit next to you?"

Step 4: If they say no, then repeat, until you have a friend.

- Remember, the first weeks of school, many people are nervous about this. You are not alone.

How in the world is this "eight-different-teachers" thing going to work?

Step 1: Bring an iPad and pencil and paper.

Step 2: When you sit down in class on the first day, take notes on what the teacher likes.

Step 3: Talk to peers after class about how this teacher likes work turned in and assignments finished.

Step 4: Read the Syllabus; it is your map and your guide.

Step 5: Follow the rules as best you can.

Step 6: If something is not clear, email the teacher, or stay after class and ask.

I feel anxious with all of this change! Help!!!

Step 1: Ask God for help.

Step 2: Look out over the view, and take a couple of deep breaths.

Step 3: Tell yourself, "I am going to be ok. This is stressful, but I will make it home today safely and will be alright."

Step 4: Find Mrs. Cunningham or Mr. Clark to talk about your feelings.

Uh.... I didn't know that was a rule here!

Step 1: Read the Student Handbook cover to cover.

Step 2: Say, "I am sorry."

Step 3: If there are consequences, accept them. Say, "I am sorry and I am still learning the rules."

My iPhone is going off in the middle of class, what do I do?

Step 1: Silence your phone as calmly and quickly as possible.

Step 2: If appropriate, then apologize to the class; say something like, "I am sorry my phone went off in class, it will not happen again."

Step 3: Allow the teacher to take it.

Step 4: You will meet Mr. Parmenter (he seems scary, but he is actually nice). He will return your phone to you.

- Make sure to turn off or put your phone in Airplane Mode, every morning before school starts.

Getting called on in class

Step 1: Say, "Thanks" to the teacher or classmate who called on you. You just bought yourself time to come up with an answer.

Step 2: Then cover your mouth with your left hand. Take your hand off your mouth when you are ready to speak.

Step 3: Answer the question, or ask a clarifying question like, "What do you mean?"

Step 4: Use as few words as possible to satisfy the answer.

- If you are nervous about reading in front of the class, or something else like this, then practice at home. Next time you have to read for English, read part of it in front of the mirror or an adult and ask them how you did.

How do I stay in dress code?

Step 1: Read and know the Handbook policies.

Step 2: If unsure, then bring it to the front office to ask if it is in dress code.

Step 3: If still unsure, bring a second clothing item that you are sure is safe.

Which bus do I get on?

Step 1: Find the number bus you need to ride on.

- If you know your number, look at the front of the bus where they should have that number posted.
- If you are out **by the pick-up line**: find a teacher to figure out what number bus you need to get on.
- If you are **by the office**: go to the office to find the Bus Routes paper.

Step 2: When stepping on the bus ask or confirm with the bus driver. They are nice.

A student is bugging me in class...

Step 1: Tell the student: "Please stop."

Step 2: Ask the teacher to move seats. Tell them it is hard to learn next to this student due to his or her actions.

Step 3: Email the teacher explaining what has happened, asking them for further help.

A student is bugging me outside of class...

Step 1: Tell the student: "Please stop."

Step 2: Find a teacher who is on duty or go to the office. Hang out near them for a bit of time, even talk to them about their day.

Step 3: If the student persists, tell the teacher or office staff member this person's name and what they are doing.

Step 4: Email the Dean of Students, Mr. Parmenter, asking for help on how to address the student who keeps doing this.