

Dear VAIS Families,

Welcome to the '22-'23 school year! I look forward to starting my new role as principal of VAIS and welcoming students to school on September 1st. I appreciate all the staff members, families, and Mrs. Princl who have been welcoming me and helping me learn about VAIS. It has been a bit of a whirlwind.

Even during summer vacation, staff members are working hard to prepare for the school year. Kristie Kass, our secretary, has been preparing our office, purchasing many supplies, and answering my many questions. Our amazing custodial team, Jen Smith, Fred West, and Yanet Hernandez Tavarez have our halls sparkling. Teachers have been in and out throughout the summer working on curriculum, collaborating, and preparing their spaces. The week of August 1st, Ms. Shaw, Ms. Ms. Reiter, Ms. Shawl, and I attended the VASD Leadership Institute. This was a week of learning and planning for the new year.

Most of our staff members officially return to work on Thursday, August 25th. We will spend the time before September 1st in professional learning and preparing for the school year. We also look forward to greeting families on Tuesday, August 30th from 4:00-6:00 at supply drop off.

Welcome back!
Mrs. Parks, VAIS Principal

About Mrs. Parks

This will be my 23rd year in public education. I have taught 12 years in grades 1-4 and served as an elementary principal for ten years. When I'm not at school I enjoy spending time with my family, reading, playing games, and exploring places nearby and far away. My family includes my husband, Tim, my seven year old daughter, Lily, two crazy cats, Finn and Hazel, and a chihuahua mix, Tiger.

This summer I was fortunate to visit extended family in Phoenix and go to Disneyland. We also met more family at the beach in the Outer Banks. I'm looking forward to hearing about our students' summer experiences!



Additional New Staff

Ana Martinez, Secretary

Kisten Gillespie, School Psychologist

Tiffany Laxton, Art Teacher

Leilei Song, Educational Assistant

Alison Ruphard, Special Education Assistant

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 30	Supply Drop Off and Teacher Meet and Greet (4:00-6:00 pm)
Sept. 1	1st day of school (FULL day for ALL grades)
Sept. 5	NO SCHOOL in observance of Labor Day
Sept. 29	Picture Day
Sept. 29	Back to School Night (5:30-7:00 pm)
Oct. 14	Community Gathering (7:35-8:00 am)
Oct. 20-21	NO SCHOOL October Break
TBD	Picture Retake Day
Nov. 17	Community Gathering! (7:35-8:00 am)
Nov. 23-25	Thanksgiving Break

SEPT. 1 IS OUR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: FULL DAY FOR ALL GRADES

The Verona Area School District starts the 2021-22 school year on September 1. We look forward to welcoming our students back on September 1st, which will be a FULL day for ALL students, even our kindergarteners.

START TIMES:

Every Monday: Late Start at 9:25 am

Supervision outside begins at 9:10 am

Tuesday-Friday: School starts at 7:20 am

Supervision outside begins at 7:05 am

DISMISSAL TIME:

Monday-Friday: School dismisses at 2:20 pm.

When the bell rings in the morning, all students will be let into the building and walk to classrooms to start the school day. Students who enter after that time will be marked Tardy. Please do your best to have your child(ren) on time each day. This will help both teachers and students to start each day smoothly.

ATTENDANCE

If your student is ill, has an early morning appointment, or will be late arriving to school for another reason, please make sure that you one of the following **PRIOR TO THE START OF THE SCHOOL DAY:**

- 1) **EMAIL VAIS Attendance:** vais-attendance@verona.k12.wi.us
- 2) **CALL** the office at (608) 845-4500

When a call or email has not been received, for your child's safety, school staff will need to contact you to find out the status of the student. Your call or email will save us time and we will not have to disturb you when you're caring for a sick child or on your way to a medical appointment with your child.

SCHOOL DAY APPOINTMENTS

We understand that there are times when appointments during the school day are unavoidable. If your student is going to be picked up for an appointment we ask that in addition to notifying their teacher that 24 hours in advance when possible you also either:

- 1) **EMAIL VAIS Attendance:** vais-attendance@verona.k12.wi.us
- 2) **CALL** the office at (608) 845-4500

Please include the information on the date of the appointment, the time they will be picked up and whether they will be returning to school or not.

When you come to pick them up you will need to come into the office to sign them out. When you bring your student back to school you will also need to come into the office to sign them in.

ANY CHANGES TO WHAT YOUR STUDENT IS DOING AFTER SCHOOL?

If your student has a change to what they are doing after school (even just for a day) and they are NOT following the transportation instructions you submitted, then you MUST notify the school in one of the following ways:

- 1) EMAIL VAIS Attendance: vais-attendance@verona.k12.wi.us
- 2) CALL the office at (608) 845-4500

We want to work with you to make sure that your student gets safely to where they are supposed to be after school so we abide by your instructions unless we hear differently from you. Your student's words are not enough. We must hear from you.

REGISTRATION FOR VAIS

THANK YOU to so many of our families for completing your online registration so that our staff can have accurate information when communicating with you!!

If you haven't yet completed your online registration, please do so as soon as possible. It is very important.

Another quick reminder to go online to pay your registration fees if you haven't done so already.

CHECK OUT THE ONLINE VAIS GOOGLE PUBLIC CALENDAR

Here is the link to a Google Public Calendar with this year's updated VAIS events:

[VAIS Google Public Calendar](#)

This calendar will be updated continually throughout the year with school events, such as swim and gym days, library days, Picture Day, Back to School Night, field trips, parent/teacher conferences, days off of school, Governance Council meetings, and so much more! We hope that this will make things easier for you!

FREE AND REDUCED SCHOOL MEALS

The National School Lunch Program is a federally assisted meal program that provides nutritionally balanced, reduced-price or free meals each school day for children who qualify. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government provided additional assistance beyond the standard program to school districts so they could offer free meals to any student. The USDA has discontinued this extra support and meals will not be free for all students this year. VASD will continue to provide free breakfast for all elementary school students. **Free and reduced-price meals will continue to be available for those who qualify.**

Required Annual Notification of Free or Reduced Meals- The Department of Public Instruction requires school districts in the National School Lunch or Breakfast programs or special milk programs to provide annual notification of the availability of free and reduced-price meal applications. **Any family may apply to see if you qualify for free or reduced-price meals.** It is fastest to set up an account and apply online at [Wordware Account](#). You may also submit a paper application. Instructions and applications are available on our website [here](#). Submit the completed form(s) by scanning and emailing them to child.nutrition@verona.k12.wi.us or mail them to Child Nutrition Services, 234 Wildcat Way, Verona, WI 53593. Applications may be completed and submitted any time during the school year or when financial situations change. The submission and status of applications is confidential.

Meal Prices 2022-2023 (as of September 1 2022)

	Breakfast	Lunch
Elementary Students	\$0.00	\$2.45
Middle School Students	\$1.10	\$2.50
High School Students	\$1.10	\$2.60
Reduced price for qualified students	\$0.00	\$0.40
Staff	\$2.50	\$4.35

For more information about our student meal accounts, please visit: [Nutrition Services](#) .

WHAT'S FOR SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND SCHOOL LUNCH TODAY?

Our district has a long history of putting our families first when it comes to school food service. That's why we have online school menus which provide:

- More information about each food, including a photo and description. Here's a menu website for breakfast and lunch:

[Nutrislice Menus | Verona Area School District](#)

SUPPLY DROP OFF ON AUG. 30TH, 4:00-6:00 PM

Families may drop off their purchased classroom supplies on Thursday, August 30th from 4:00-6:00pm. **Teachers will also be available to meet during this time.**

Families that are unable to attend may also send their supplies the first day of school. Rather than having each student bring in their own supplies, our site has divided up by grade level the school supplies needed by the whole school. Here is a link to them:

[VAIS Family School Supply List 2022-2023](#)

Ms. Roltgen will also have a collection bin available to accept the return of your summer library books!

VAIS BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT ON SEPT. 29th, 5:30-7:00 PM

VAIS is inviting all of our families to our school for an opportunity to walk through our classrooms and Related Arts spaces at our Back-to-School Night on Thursday, Sept. 29th from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Classroom teachers will also give presentations during this time. A presentation schedule will be shared as we get closer to the event.

PERSONAL ITEMS NEEDED FOR EACH STUDENT TO SEND IN ON THE 1ST DAY OF SCHOOL

We ask all students to bring the following personal items on the 1st day of school:

- Backpack
- Lunch Box
- Gym Shoes (shoes to remain at school for Physical Education class)
- Art Smock (a shirt that fits over clothing to wear to art class)
- Water bottle (non-metal is preferred)
- **Headphones **NEW****

Please do not bring these personal items on Supply Drop Off on August 30th.

If your family needs assistance with school supplies, please reach out to Lauren Shawl, NCS Social Worker, at shawl@verona.k12.wi.us.

VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS 2022-2023 UPDATES

We appreciate our visitors and volunteers. You make it possible for things like field trips, class plays, and the many other activities that occur at our school. VASD volunteers and chaperones must complete a background check before they may begin. If there is a possibility that you will be a volunteer or chaperone for the 22-23 school year we strongly encourage you to start the background check process now. These processes and procedures are being enforced district wide.

Visitors

- Never will be alone/unsupervised with students
- Classroom assistant, drop off supplies, etc.
- Process
 - Raptor check, complete building based check-in/out form, wear temporary **red** visitor badge and return it at the end of the day

Volunteers

- Could be alone/unsupervised with students
- Chaperone, tutor, reading support, PTO volunteer, athletic support, student with disabilities support/assistant
- Does not include Police Department, CPS or other government agency
- Process
 - **MUST complete background check** and be active on approved

volunteer list, complete building based check-in/out form (RAPTOR), wear temporary **green** volunteer badge and return it at the end of the day. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS.

TRANSPORTATION

VASD provides bus transportation for K-5th grade students who live 1.25 miles or more from their school and 6th-12th grade students who live 2.0 miles or more from their school. Visit our [Infofinder transportation](#) application tool to confirm Badger Bus route information. The site has a link to detailed instructions and is updated daily, allowing you to find the most up-to-date bus route and stop information, including stop times. To enable us to provide accurate bus stop information, we request your help. Always inform your school secretaries of any address changes. **Routes and stops are subject to change. Please check [this site](#) before calling Badger Bus. Please note that this site will not display transportation information for 4K students or students with special needs.** Direct other questions to Badger Bus at 608-845-2255 or the [district transportation website](#).

PICTURE DAY WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 29

Picture Day is Wednesday, Sept. 29, in the morning.

Please keep an eye out for more information and for a sign up to volunteer to help on picture day.