

Village
Community
School

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 wonderful people 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 our vibrant school, and there are a myriad opportunities to contribute your time and talents at VCS. Feel free to review this guide to learn more about how you can support our close-knit community this year.

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.

If you have any questions please call, email, or even drop by my office on the 2nd Floor. I'm looking forward to connecting with you!

Dean Kripalani
dkripalani@vcs-nyc.org
(212) 691-5146 ext. 609
Room 2E

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.

We strive to make parent engagement a fun, rewarding, and meaningful process. Getting involved is also an excellent way to get to know other families, forge new friendships, and deepen existing relationships.

This brochure highlights some of the ways you can contribute to our community. As you consider various options, please do not hesitate to reach out and ask questions. The VCS Office of Advancement is a great resource. Together, we'll find the best fit for your interests, time, and talents.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Ongoing Commitment

Class Parents

Class Parents hold 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 Advancement Office to organize social events for their Homerooms, 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 Homeroom to serve as Class Parents for the entire year. Once assembled, the group meets on a monthly basis; Class Parents are encouraged to attend these short but informative meetings.

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.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee

The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee is comprised of VCS parents from all backgrounds who 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.

Fundraising Events

Annual Fund Giving Committee



For this vital committee we ask our parent volunteers to use their “artful asking” talents to directly solicit Annual Fund contributions from fellow parents. Each volunteer is assigned a handful of families to approach for a tax-deductible donation to VCS.

Time commitment is minimal. You may choose to solicit your small group of parents via telephone chats, personal conversations, or email. Once contributions are submitted, we ask our volunteers to follow up with hand-written thank you notes. That’s it!

Qualities of a good Annual Fund 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 and knowledgeable about VCS and our Mission

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
-

Social & Community Events

VCS Annual Fall Festival



This October, the Fall Festival will be an evening of family fun with games, activities, and much more! Wear a costume if you like and join us at this community-wide fall celebration.

Volunteer opportunities may include:

- Set-up, breakdown
 - Guest check-in
 - Leading games and activities
-

VCS Annual Book Fair



The VCS Book Fair lets students and families revel in our shared love of reading. 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:

- Set-up, breakdown
 - Book sorting and packing
 - Room decoration
-

Social & Community Events

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 early February does just that. This evening of family fun gets your children (and you!) moving to some of their favorite music.

Volunteer opportunities may include:

- Set-up, breakdown
 - Guest check-in
 - Guiding participation
-

VCS Summer Send-Off



As our final get-together in June, the VCS Summer Send-Off is a chance to reminisce, wind down, and honor a memorable year while enjoying refreshments and activities.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Set-up, break-down
 - Guest check-in
 - Leading games and activities
-

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT VCS

Annual Fund Giving

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

How 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 include: additional funding for tuition assistance; 1:1 tech device program for students; and professional development workshops and retreats. Our vision for this year is equally comprehensive.

Contributions are expended during the same school year they are raised, meaning 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?

Joyce Doyle, Director of Annual Giving (jdoyle@vcs-nyc.org), is happy to answer any questions about the Annual Fund and other VCS philanthropy. (Joyce is also a great baker. Ask her about her famous chocolate chip cookies!)

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 \$11.8 million. 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 special funds such as the VCS Staff Venture Grant Fund and the Eve K. Kleger Endowment for Financial Assistance continue as ongoing fundraising drives. Please contact Dean Kripalani, 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 regular communications to all families, which include calendar updates and important notices.

The Village Community School [website](http://vcsnyc.org) (vcsnyc.org) 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](#) (@vcsnyc) and [Facebook](#) (Village Community School - NYC)!

Questions?

For more information on volunteering and giving, please email Dean Kripalani at dkripalani@vcs-nyc.org.

Thank You!

Village Community School

Village Community School
272-278 West Tenth Street | New York, NY 10014
Telephone 212.691.5146 • www.vcsnyc.org

2023-2024