

Dear Parents and Guardians of Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten Students,

Welcome to Valhalla Elementary School, home of the Vikings! I am Theodora Pappas and am honored to be the Principal of a school vested in tradition and academic excellence. Valhalla is beloved by all who have benefited from the hard work and dedication of our exceptional staff and families. We are excited to have your students join us for our 2024/2025 school year.

At Valhalla we rely on Standards-based instruction and practices supporting the academic growth and emotional well-being of all our learners. Our Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten teaching team has over 100 years of combined experience facilitating a love of learning in our youngest students. They work diligently to provide academic experiences that are fun, enriching and relevant, while helping our students build relationships and make real-world connections.

Our Valhalla Parent Faculty Association, VPFA, works hand in hand with our staff to support and strengthen our school. As a parent or legal guardian, you are a part of the VPFA and by actively participating and volunteering, you will not only become better informed about the school but also contribute positively to your children's learning and development.

Together, we will ALL work as partners in education to ensure your child's success.

There are several ways in which we will provide and distribute important information to our Valhalla families.

- Our Valhalla website (<https://ves-mdusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>) is designed to support and assist you. It contains important information regarding attendance, staff, district and educational links and provides an excellent communication/participation resource for you and your student. Please take a moment to browse the website and familiarize yourself with Valhalla.
- The VPFA website (<https://valhallavpfa.com/>) contains valuable information to help navigate as you start your journey at Valhalla and is continually updated with meeting notes, enrichment programs and event information.
- The "Viking Pride" is a newsletter delivered every other Thursday directly to the provided emails of our enrolled families. It is intended to keep families up to date on the happenings at Valhalla and current information. It will highlight events, holidays, books of the month, and even include special messages from our faculty.
- ParentSquare is our district wide communication platform. It is an online site, as well as an app for your smartphone, from which you will receive information and updates and can submit emergency and absence information for your child. You will receive a personalized code from the office to log into this platform.
- In addition, you can expect to receive communication via classroom newsletters and notices from your student's teacher, as well as by telephone message as needed.

If you have additional questions, we are here for you! Feel free to call the office at (925) 687-1700, email me at [pappast@mdusd.org](mailto:pappast@mdusd.org) or reach out to the VPFA President at [vpfapresident@gmail.com](mailto:vpfapresident@gmail.com).

On behalf of the faculty, staff and current families of Valhalla, we are excited to welcome you and your students on August 8, 2024 and hope we can help make the transition into the Elementary School chapter of your lives a wonderful experience.

Sincerely,

Theodora Pappas, Principal