

Dear Families,

Thank you for taking the time to attend Kindergarten Information Night!

In this packet you will find some recommendations and tips for helping your child prepare for kindergarten.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 585-924-3252 ext. 2600. We're looking forward to partnering with you!

Sincerely,

Victor Early Childhood School

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Victor Early Childhood School 585-924-3252 x2600

Kindergarten Information At-A-Glance

Countdown to Kindergarten!

April

- Kindergarten Information Night
- Kindergarten Registration continues

May – June

Kindergarten Screenings

July

"Popsicles, Playgrounds and Principals" Meet-n-Greet nights (Specific Dates TBD)

August

- Placement packet sent home in early August
- Teacher welcome letter and supply lists included

September

- Kindergarten Orientation for students
 - o Parent(s) bring their Kindergarten student(s) in to visit their classroom and meet their teacher and classmates (Supply List items may be brought in at this time)

School Day Information

Arrival: 8:50 am - 9:05 am (Students marked tardy after 9:05)

Instruction: 9:05 am - 2:50 pm
 Dismissal: 2:55 pm - 3:05 pm

Classroom/Building Visitation

- By invitation from Teacher
- As a pre-scheduled classroom volunteer
- All visitors must sign in at the main office and obtain a visitor's pass to gain entrance to the building
- When picking up your student, it is required that you present your photo ID

Specials

- 40 minutes daily
 - o Physical Education, Art, and Music (Library time also scheduled weekly)

Bus Transportation - Kelly Clink, Director ext. 7600

- Transportation Information Forms should be submitted ASAP
- We use this information to create bus tags for student backpacks, which helps us keep our kids safe during arrival and dismissal

Dismissal Changes

- We do not accept day-to-day bus changes
- ***ALL PICK UP REQUESTS MUST BE MADE BY 11:00 AM***

<u>Food Service</u> (Lunch and Breakfast) – Alix TePoel-DeWitt, Director, ext. 6470. WEBSITE: https://www.victorschools.org/ Under Parents Tab at Top of Page "Food Service"

- Breakfast and lunch served daily
- Families who qualify to receive free OR reduced meals also receive free breakfast
- School Lunch Consists of: hot lunch choice (per menu) or sandwich choice
 of the day (Peanut Butter & Jelly, Plain Peanut Butter & nut free bagel snack
 packs are always available), choice of 3 sides and milk (1%, nonfat, and
 nonfat chocolate)
- Accounts can be pre-paid via cash, check or online option (Information for online option will be provided in August Placement Packet)

Health Notes - Corinne Fox, School Nurse, ext. 2410

- All absences should be called/emailed first thing in the morning at ecsattendance@victorschools.org or ext. 2620
- A signed note should be sent in with your child on his/her first day back,
 explaining the absence
- When picking up a sick child, you will first present your photo ID, sign for your child and the office staff will call for your child to be brought to you
- Be sure to inform us of any allergies and/or health conditions
- Please direct any further health related questions to Mrs. Fox

Opportunities for Parent Participation

- ECS Building Council (meets monthly)
- Classroom Volunteers
 - Special Events
 - Centers
 - Parent Volunteer Organizer
 - Scholastic Book Orders
 - Field Trips
- PTSA
- Lunch Monitor
- Book Fairs
- Special Events



Building Level Services at ECS Frequently Asked Questions

What skills do the various building level services address?

- **Speech-Language:** Supports development of language, articulation, connected speech, social/interpersonal communication, speaking fluency, and/or voice based on speech-language development norms for a child's age.
- Occupational Therapy: Supports the development of the sensory and motor systems that allow students to learn and demonstrate their knowledge in school.
- Movement/Sensory Programs: Some students benefit from a 5-7 minute daily program to help develop and organize their sensory system; it consists of various sensory activities such as strengthening, jumping, spinning, tactile stimulation, and proprioceptive input.
- **Physical Therapy:** Supports the development of strength, endurance, balance, and coordination to help students navigate their environment and participate in their educational program.
- **Primary Project:** Designed to assist students who are beginning to show signs of difficulty in the classroom or are experiencing life stressors. Students engage in child directed play and conversations with a child associate.
- **Counseling:** Assists students with school engagement skills, pragmatic language, social skills, identifying and regulating emotions, and/or developing self-confidence.
- **Behavior Supports:** Supports students in developing positive behavior across school settings.
- **Academic Intervention Services:** Supplemental Literacy and/or Math Support to meet assist students in meeting grade level standards.

How will I receive confirmation of my child's building level services?

Providers will reach out directly to you to notify you of the services your child qualifies for. They may contact you by phone, parentsquare, email, or printed letter.

How can I communicate with service providers if needed?

You may call our office at 924-3252 x2600 or email the provider(s) below.

Speech-Language Therapy	Liz Nicholson Kim CanTyne Taylor Wygal	nicholsone@victorschools.org vantynek@victorschools.org taylor.wygal@victorschools.org		
Occupational Therapy	Beth Swartz Olivia Rickard	swartzb@victorschools.org olivia.iannone@victorschools.org		
Physical Therapy	Andrea Tait	taita@victorschools.org		
Social/Emotional/Behavioral Supports	Erin Black Abby Crimmins Alexus Lomack Emily Schosek Ashley Zahn	blacke@victorschools.org crimminsa@victorschools.org lomacka@victorschools.org schoseke@victorschools.org zahna@victorschools.org		
Academic Intervention Services	Various providers. Please contact your child's teacher the fall for more information.			

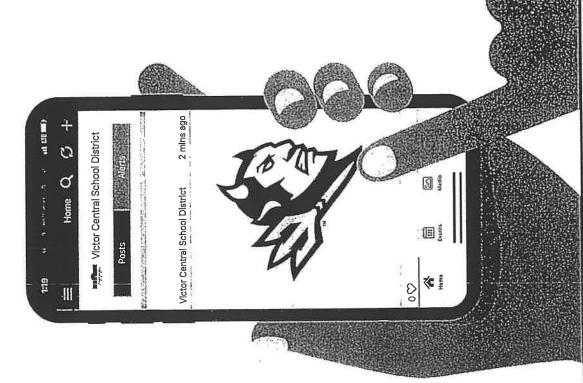
ParentSquare app today! Download the

Stay involved with your student's learning and activities at school. From anywhere.





ParentSquare



Victor Central School 2024-2025 School Calendar

BOE Approved 2/8/2024

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S			
July 2024									
	1	2	3	4	5	6			
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27			
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27	28	29	30	31						

	November 2024								
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30			

December 2024										
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29	30	31								

	January 2025									
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	February 2025									
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August 20-22	New Educator Orientation
Aug. 28-29 & Sept. 3	Superintendent Conference Days**
September 2	Labor Day
September 4	Classes Begin
October 11	Superintendent Conference Day**
October 14	Columbus Day
November 11	Veterans Day
November 27-29	Thanksgiving Recess
December 23-January 3	Winter Recess
January 20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 29	Lunar New Year
February 17-21	President's Recess
March 14	Superintendent Conference Day**
April 14-18	Spring Recess
May 26	Memorial Day
June 18-26	Regents Testing
June 19	Juneteenth
June 27	Regents Rating Day - VTA Must Report, No 10 /11 month CSEA^A

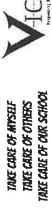
Month	Student Days	Teacher Days
August	0	2
September	19	20
October	21	22
November	17	17
December	15	15
January	18	18
February	15	15
March	20	21
April	17	17
May	21	21
June	18 ^^	19
TOTALS	181^^	187*

^{**} Conference Days Subject to NYSED Testing Schedules: VCSD 10 & 11 month non-teaching staff will be required to work on the Aug. and Sept. Conference Days. **

^{^^} Regents Rating Day can be considered a student day of attendance if necessary.^^

^{*} Includes Conference Days but not professional days for new teaching staff or the new-year preparation day for returning teachers.

AT ECS, I WILL ...





B(K	I use a voice level 1-2	I walk in the bus loop	I use my manners	I follow directions	I stay in my seat		I say hello and	goodbye to the bus driver	I keep my hands, feet,	and objects to myselt	I wait my turn to get on and off the bus	I keep the bus clean	I take care of the bus	and the bus	equipment		
HALLIWAY D	evel 0-1	I walk I wo	I stay in line	I go where I am supposed to go			ids and		where I am going I ke	and smile or give a quiet			teet off of papers and hangings		I reil a grown up ir equ there is a problèm		
RATHROOM MA	I use a voice level 0-1	I ask a grown up before I use the		I flush the toilet	I wash and dry my hands	I return to class right away	e the bathroom	clean for the next person	I give my frie		- 20	I keep the bathroom	clean	I tell a grown up if	there is a problem		
PLENCHONIND (C)	I use a voice level 2-3	I stay with the group	I line up when my teacher calls me	I tell a arown up if	there is a problem		I use my manners	I wait my turn	I use gentle hands	and teet	I make others feel included	I use equipment the	right way	I take care of the	equipment	I keep wood chips on the ground	
CARTIREUM	I use a voice level 1-2	I follow directions	I eat my own food	I raise my hand if I need something	I walk		I treat others the way	they want to be treated	I keep my hands and	food to myself	I use my manners	I stay in my seat	I clean up after myself		I line up when it is time		
CI MOCODONI	I use a voice level 0-2	I use my whole body to	1 do my best	Tollow directions	plan		I treat others the way	they want to be treated.		I keep my hands, feet, and objects to myself		I use materials the	way my teacher asks	I clean up after myself			
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Bus Questions

What do I do if I want to request a transportation change?

We accept long-term bus dismissal changes only. Day-to-Day bus changes are not available. If you need to pick-up your child on a given day, you will need to fill out a dismissal change form and submit it to the VECS office. The form can be found on the district website at: www.victorschools.org under the Early Childhood School/Parent Handbook/Dismissal. Please note changes to dismissal must be made prior 11:00 am.

I want to bring my child to school. Where do I drop him/her off?

Children must be escorted to the building. Park in the first visitor parking lot on the right when you pull into to the VECS, cross at the crosswalkand escort your child to the front door of the building. All students in grades K & 1st enter through the West entrance at the front of the school.

When I drop my child off to school late, do I need to walk him into the school?

Yes, for the safety of our students, children must always be accompanied by an adult into the building. You will need to sign your child in at the main office.

How does my child know when it is safe to cross in front of the bus?

There is a universal sign that all bus drivers must use to signal children when it is safe to cross in front of the bus. This is called the Universal Crossing Signal (which is a sideways "L"). The driver will point to the child and then will give the Universal Crossing Signal to let the child know it is safe to cross. Children must cross 10 feet in front of the bus.

What happens if the bus arrives at my home and it appears no one is there?

The bus driver will beep 3 times and if they do not see an adult, they will continue on their route and radio the bus garage. The transportation department will attempt to contact someone in the home via the phone to confirm an adult is present. If the transportation department is unable to contact anyone the child is returned to his/her school. If there is more than one child in the family, then the children will all be returned to either VPS or ECS school to await parental pick-up.

How are children seated on the bus?

There is a graduated seating protocol in place. Kindergarten students are seated in the front of the bus with each successive grade seated sequentially behind them.

Can I request that my children be seated together on the bus?

Yes, the request must be in writing. Younger siblings would be moved seated in the section with their older sibling(s).

Does my child need to wear a seatbelt?

No, it is not legally required. If you would like your child to wear a seat belt, then they would need to be able to fasten it independently.



Victor Schools Food Services

BE SMART

The Food Services Department promotes healthful eating habits that lead to lifelong positive nutrition practices, by providing healthy school meals and snacks to the students of the Victor Central School District.

QUICK FACTS

- Self Supporting Program
- Operate as part of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs and abide by federal and state regulations.
- Breakfast and Lunch are available daily to all students.
- Free and/or Reduced Price meals are available to eligible students and those in need are urged to apply. Students who qualify for free or reduced meals will also receive free breakfast.
- Applications for the Free and Reduced Program can be found on the Victor Schools Website
 under the Parents tab at the top of the page. Families who are eligible for SNAP or a
 qualifying level of MEDICAID (NYS Health will not automatically qualify you), will
 automatically receive the free meal benefit.
- We accommodate special dietary needs. Our Food Service Director is available to help you navigate through our menu and develop options to accommodate.
- Fresh fruits and vegetables, 100 % whole grains, low fat and nonfat dairy products are offered on a daily basis.
- Meals are priced as a unit and are broken down into various components (i.e. Protein, Grains, Fruits, Vegetables and Milk) allowing the child to pick a minimum of 3 with one being a fruit or vegetable.
- Prices are extremely affordable! The value and convenience for a nutritious meal is unbeatable.
- Students have meal accounts tied to their student ID's. Sign up at <u>www.myschoolbucks.com</u> to view your child's account and make payments on line through a credit card if so desired.
- You are invited to learn more about our program by viewing <u>www.victorschools.org</u> and going to "Parents "Food Service". Or by calling the Food Service office at 924-3252 Ext. 6470 to speak with Alix the Food Service Director <u>tepoel-dewitta@victorschools.org</u> or Ext. 6471 to speak with Meghan Andol assistant to the Food Service Office <u>andolm@victorschools.org</u>.

HELP US KEEP OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY SAFE!!

Safety is our first priority and we need your help. By following the protocols below, you will help ensure the safety of our students, staff, and visitors on our campus. Thank you for your help.

Building Access: All visitors must have ID and sign in at the office window.

Parking: The first parking loop on the right as you approach the ECS is for visitor/PreK parking. Overflow parking is available adjacent to the district office wing. The center lot is reserved for buses during arrival and dismissal and therefore will be open for visitor parking between 9:30 am and 2:15 pm. The center lot will be closed on half days.

- Please ensure that unoccupied vehicles are turned off.
- Children should not be left unattended in vehicles at any time.
- Due to the large volume of traffic, please ensure that any children in your care are in close proximity to you.

Student Drop Off: If you are bringing your child to school during arrival, you must walk your child to the front doors as staff along the bus loop are monitoring students exiting buses. If you are bringing your child to school after arrival, you must walk your child into the front vestibule and sign your child in at the office window.

Pick up at Dismissal: YOU MUST HAVE ID in order to sign out your child. Parent pick-up times are 2:55-3:05. The location for picking up your child is based on the first letter of your child's last name, please refer to the table below.

Letters	Door	Location
A – C	E4	Side of building Pre-K entrance door
D – J	E3	First door on side of building
K-M	E2	Front right door nearest flag pool
N – S	E11	District office side, between Dist. Office & ECS
T-7	E1	Front center door (Main Office entrance)



Kindergarten Readiness Skills





Social

- 1. Encourage your child to use eye contact when someone is talking to them
- 2. Practice asking for help using words
- 3. Say please, thank you, and excuse me
- 4. Use "I feel ____ because ___ " language
- 5. Encourage your child to listen when others are speaking
- 6. Listen to and follow one and two step directions
- 7. Encourage imaginative play
- 8. Practice turn taking in games and conversations
- 9. Encourage your child to pick up his/her own toys after play
- 10.Limit the use of electronic devices

Self Help

- 1. Practice zipping (and other fasteners) on coats, clothing, and backpacks
- 2. Practice buttoning pants *I* snaps
- 3. Practice putting on own jacket and art smock (t-shirt)
- 4. Take off and put on boots and shoes independently (on correct feet) work on teaching your child to tie
- 5. Encourage your child to open snack / lunch items and clean up after eating
- 6. Practice blowing and wiping nose and then washing hands independently
- 7. Use bathroom independently, including washing and drying hands

Academic

- 1. Encourage your child to actively engage in looking at books
- 2. Encourage your child to listen attentively to stories
- 3. Encourage your child to talk about the books that he/she listens to
- 4. Read rhyming books & make up silly rhymes (pop/zop)
- 5. Practice saying words that begin with the same sound (bop, big, boo)
- 6. Practice saying the ABC's and recognizing capital letters
- 7. Practice recognizing and writing his/ her name
- 8. Practice writing and drawing frequently with crayons, markers, pencils
- 9. Practice cutting with child-sized scissors
- 10. Practice using glue sticks
- 11. Practice building fine motor strength and control by playing with small objects such as Matchbox Cars, Lincoln Logs, Legos, etc.
- 12. Practice counting out loud as high as your child can
- 13. Practice counting a group of objects by pointing and counting one object at a time (up to 10)



Building Early Number Sense

Children gain knowledge about numbers (Number sense) through experiences. Number sense cannot be taught, but rather develops over time. You can help your child develop this knowledge by providing them opportunities at home to engage with numbers. Below are the 3 mathematical skills children need as they enter kindergarten and some examples of ways you can support the development of these skills at home.

Subitizing

Subitizing is the ability to know how many without having to count. For example, if you hold up 4 fingers on one hand, does your child know it is 4 without having to count each finger? If so, that is subitizing. When you are playing with dice and a five gets rolled, does your child know that it is 5 without having to count all the dots? This idea of being able to subitize has future impact on students' ability to understand addition and subtraction.

Ways to practice:

- Play dice games
- Finger flash: Hold up fingers on one or both hands and have your child tell you how many.

Verbal Counting

Counting is more than just repeating the series of numbers. All of math is built on the structure and the patterns within the counting sequence. So, help your child notice the repetition of the 0-9 in the numbers as they count.

Ways to practice:

Count EVERYTHING and NOTHING. Have your child count collections of items, but
also just have them count without counting items. For example, ask them to count
to the highest number they can. Don't forget to have them start from 0 sometimes.

Object Counting and Cardinality

The true purpose for counting is to be able to count things and then tell how many. This is known as object counting and cardinality (being able to tell how many).

Object counting occurs when your child learns to attach the counting words to objects and they are able to count a set of items. Once they count the set of items, being able to answer the question "How many do you have?" is known as cardinality.

Ways to practice:

- When your child counts out a set of items, ask them "So, how many do you have?"
- Zero is a difficult concept for kids when learning to count items. So, when counting
 out items, ask them what it would look like if they had zero. For example, you could
 ask your child, "You got 3 goldfish, will you give me zero goldfish?"

Social-Emotional Prep Tips

Listening/Following Directions

- Practice freezing what you're doing to show you're listening with your body facing the speaker.
- Have your child repeat the directions back to you.
- Give clear & specific directions. Avoid asking questions.
 - o "It's time to leave" instead of "Are you ready to go?"
 - o "Put the matchbox cars back in the bin" instead of "clean up the playroom".

Playing with Peers

- Ask "can I have a turn when you're done?" and waiting to touch a toy until it's open.
- Provide children opportunities to share materials (blocks, play-doh, legos, markers) and normalize not getting your top choice first.
- Practice ways to wait (do something else until a toy is free, think "it's hard to wait, but I can do it.")
- Try using games to decide who goes first (rock-paper-scissors, flipping a coin)
- Allow children the opportunity to solve conflict independently. Redirect the problem solving ownership onto them ("You both want to use the bubbles. How are you going to solve this problem?")

Sitting for long periods of time

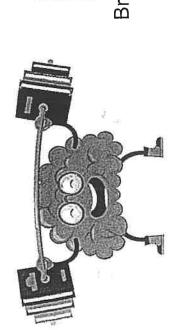
- Use a visual timer (sand timer, sticky note on a clock)
- Extend the expectation by 2 minute increments (sitting at the dinner table, sitting for a story, sitting for a coloring activity)

Following Routines

- Practice following a simple morning and evening routine
- Use limited prompting to transition to the next activity ("We just brushed teeth. What comes next?")

Communicating

- Practice conversational turn taking at the dinner table. Consider having a conversational prompt ("what's your favorite...") or sharing a good thing/bad thing about the day. Establish a "one voice" at a time rule.
- Encourage using manners, respectful tone of voice & body language ("instead of saying, 'you're in my way' next time you can say, 'excuse me please').
- Practice asking for help, stating needs, and sharing feelings.
 - o Can you help me please?
 - o I need to use the bathroom.
 - o I feel mad when you do that.



Brain Builders

Brain Builders are active, fun games designed to build children's ability to manage their thoughts, emotions, and behaviors; this is called

self-regulation.

Builders appear to be simple games, but they're actually helping build children's brains by developing the The ability to self-regulate is important for being ready to learn and for getting along with others. Brain following skills, sometimes known as executive-functioning skills:

- <u>Attention</u> by focusing on others and by listening and watching carefully
 - Working Memory by remembering what to do in the game
- Inhibitory Control by controlling how they move in the game and when to start and stop

Let's Play!

Can you play these Brain Builders and exercise your self-regulation skills?

Simon Says

Children perform an action only when the leader says "Simon Says...". For example, if the leader says "Simon says touch your toes" then all the players touch their toes. If the leader says "Touch your toes", no one should touch their toes.

Mixed-Up Rules

A tricky version of Simon Says! The leader teaches the players says "Touch your nose" everyone touches their toes. "Pat your new rules for different actions. For example, when the leader back" means pat your belly. Have the leader give different directions trying to catch the players off-guard.

Example directions and actions:

Action	Jump highSquat low	Turn aroundSit down	Wiggle your toesWiggle your fingers	Look downLook up	Hop backHop forward	Clap your hands Stomp your feet
Direction	Jump high	Turn arour	Wiggle you	Look dowr	Hop back	Clap your

Flip for more!

Brain Builders

Red Light, Green Light

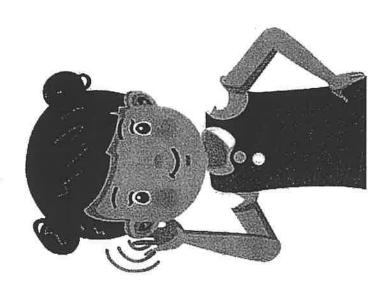
One person is the leader and turns away from the players. The others start at the other side of the room—or if outdoors, at a starting line. When the leader shouts "Green!" the players run forward. If the leader shouts "Red!" the players stop. The leader turns around to see if everyone stopped. If the leader catches any player still moving the player gets sent back to the starting line. Yellow Light! Variation — add "Yellow light!" where players have to walk, skip, or gallop.

Body Part Mix Up

The leader calls out body parts for the players to touch. For example, the leader calls out "knees" and the children touch their knees. Create one rule to start. Each time the leader says "head" touch your toes instead of your head. So when the leader calls out "knees, head, elbow", the players should touch their knees, TOES, and elbow. Continue practicing and adding other rules to change body parts.

Freeze Dance

Have a dance party with a small group of kids or family members and tell everyone that when the music stops everyone must hold



Multiage Information

Multiage is a program that is offered at Victor Central Schools for students in Kindergarten-Grade 5. Multiage classrooms are broken into Kindergarten/Grade 1, Grades 2 and 3, and Grades 4 and 5. Our K/1 and 2/3 classes are located at Victor Primary School. Our 4/5 classes are at Victor Intermediate School. To learn more about the multiage program, please join us on April 24, 2023 at 6:30pm in the Victor Primary School Auditorium.

Additional Information about Multi-Age Classrooms:

- Multi-age classrooms utilize the same standards as single grade classrooms.
- There are two grades in each classroom.
- Numbers are balanced between Olders and Youngers.
- There is a lottery to get into the program You can opt into the lottery using the form below and/or on each grade level placement form, Kindergarten-4th grade.
- Learners stay with the same teacher for two years. Once your child enters the multi-age program, they will have a spot K-3 unless families choose to opt out.
- Families will be notified if their child has been placed in a multiage class at the beginning of August through the placement packet communication. If your child is not placed in multiage, they are automatically placed on the waiting list.

If you would like to opt into the lottery for the multiage program, please fill in the form below and drop it off at the ECS or VPS Main Office. The forms can also be sent to VPS Main Office, 953 High Street, Victor, NY 14564.

2023-2024 Multiage Lottery

Student Name
Parent/Guardian(s) Name
Student's Grade Level for the 2023-2024 School Year
I would like to enter my child into the multiage lottery.
Signature

HEALTH NOTES

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s):

We want to take this opportunity to remind you of important health requirements for the upcoming school year. Please review the information below and contact us if you have any questions.

☐ Health Examinations (physicals):

- New York State law requires a health examination* for all new entrants and students in grades Pre-K or K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 & 11;
- Every year for students participating in athletics (sports);
- For working papers as needed; or
- When required by the Committee on Special Education (CSE) or Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE).

*A dental exam form is also requested at the same time a grade-level health examination is required.

☐ Immunizations (shots/vaccines):

- New York State law requires all students entering or attending (including remotely) any New York State school (public, nonpublic, and charter schools) must receive all doses of immunizations required for their grade level in order to attend school. The immunization requirements for each grade level are outlined on NYSDOH Immunization Requirements for School Entrance/Attendance Chart. Students who do not have the required immunizations may not attend school.
- A request for medical exemption to immunization must be completed on this form: Medical Exemption Statement for Children 0-18 Years of Age (ny.gov).

□ Prescribed & Over-The-Counter Medications

If your child needs to take medications during the school day the school must have the following:

- A written healthcare provider order, (Attestation is also required for independent students)
- Written parent/guardian consent, and
- The medication must be brought to the school by an adult. The medications must be in their original labeled prescription or over-the-counter bottles/packaging. Any special supplies or equipment for the nurse to administer the medication must also be provided to the school.

Please refer to the VCS website for the New York State Required Health Examination Form or ask your healthcare provider.

If you have any questions please reach out to your school nurse at the contact information below.

Sincerely, Corinne Fox

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