



Valley New School

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WELCOME TO 2024-2025!

Happy August, VNS Parents/Guardians and Students!

We are excited to welcome students to the new school year later this month. Please read through this newsletter, mark your calendars, and get prepared as there are several important items to consider. We look forward to learning and celebrating together throughout the year!

Meet Our New Community Members!

A big welcome to our **incoming students**:

Danny Coloma Jr

Elena Green

Michaela Webber

Genevieve Gawlick

Cooper Garvin

James Schuelke

Adan Dixon

Liliana Huck

Annabeth Hintz

Dexter Dudgeon

Maple Reetz

Avril Welter

Emily Zeimet

Amari Brewington

Nikola Brisson

John Veley

Aja Van Handel

Maebe Sierra

Skylar Schnell

Max Medina Guillen

Lily Ebben

Important Dates

Keep up-to-date throughout the year with the [VNS Google Calendar](#)!

Click the hyperlink above, and then click the “+ Google Calendar” button in the lower right corner of the calendar screen to add it to your own calendar app. It is also available on the bottom left side of our [VNS webpage](#).

Here are a few important dates as we start the new school year (see below for details about each event):

- New Student Orientation/Boot Camp--August 21 and 22, 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
 - New students arrive at 9:00 a.m.
 - Mentors arrive at 11:00 a.m.
 - Parents of new students attend August 22, 9:00-11:30 a.m.
- First Day of School--August 28, 7:55 a.m.-3:10 p.m.
- Picture Day--September 3, 11:00 AM

- All-school Field Trip to Wisconsin Dells–September 19-20
- Fall Student-led Conferences–October 1-4
- Event Night #1 & Parent Orientation–October 24, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Getting Started

Hours of Operation: School doors open at 7:30 a.m. each day. Students must report by 7:55 a.m. School dismisses at 3:10 p.m. in support of students who utilize city buses. [Students should arrange to be out of VNS by 3:30 p.m.](#) Those getting late rides can wait outside.

Registration & Fees: [AASD registration must be completed online through the AASD Parent Portal before the first day of school.](#) School fees (see below) will be assigned shortly, and Mrs. R. will send an email to let you know when they are ready. Payment options are available through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal (Visa, MC, debit card or direct withdrawal from your checking account; \$2.00 convenience fee will apply), or check/cash payment may be made in person at VNS. If assistance is needed, please contact Mrs. R. to schedule an appointment.

School Fee List	Who Pays	How Much	Check Payable to:
Regular School Fees	Everyone	\$40.00	VNS
VNS Clothing Orders	Optional	Varies	See our online store!
PAC Performances	Optional	Varies	VNS
PSAT Test Fee	All Juniors	\$18.00	VNS
Cap/Gown/Tassel Purchase	Seniors Only	\$30.00	VNS
Cap/Gown Rental	Seniors Only	\$15.00	VNS
Tassel Purchase only	Seniors Only	\$8.00	VNS
Graduation Ceremony Fee	Seniors Only	\$125.00	VNS
School Pictures	Optional	Varies	Harmann Studios website
Yearbook Fee	Optional	\$14	Harmann Studios website
All-school Field Trip	Everyone	\$125.00	VNS

New Student Orientation (aka Boot Camp), is Wednesday & Thursday, August 21 & 22!

New students should plan to arrive by 9:00 a.m. with project topic ideas (complete the [Project Topic Driving Questions form](#), and bring it with you) and a pen/pencil. Lunch will be provided on Day 1; please bring your own lunch on Day 2.

Mentors, please help us welcome new students with your experience and enthusiasm! Arrive at Boot Camp at 11:00 a.m. both days. Lunch will be provided on Day 1; bring your lunch on Day 2.

Parents of New Students: You are warmly invited to join us on the second day of Boot Camp from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.! This is a great opportunity to connect with other new parents and students as well as ask questions of your child's Advisor and student mentors. (Please be advised that parking enforcement starts at 9:00 a.m. The East Ramp is an easy option).

First day of school is Wednesday, August 28!

All students must arrive by **7:55 a.m.** Bring school supplies, set up workstations, and convene as a community! **No hot lunch available until September. Pizza will be provided on the first day, but please bring lunch after that.** Students are dismissed at **3:10 p.m.** Please see [VNS Google Calendar](#) for subsequent days of school as we gradually ramp up to full weeks in session.

VNS is now a personal technological device-free school!

VNS students learn that practicing reflection, discernment, and critical thinking about our personal learning/life plans empowers us to become purposeful adults. Since 2019, our Governance Board, staff, students, parents, alumni, and community members have collected literature, analyzed data, documented observations, and conducted action research at VNS to examine our use of technology and its effects on us. The results of this ongoing study reveal that constant connectivity is unhelpful and even detrimental to academic and social learning, mental health, personal growth, and our school culture. Thus, starting at Boot Camp 2024, Valley New School will be a [personal technological device-free learning community](#).

What does this mean? Here are a few guidelines:

- Use of personal devices (smartphones, tablets, gaming consoles, laptops, smartwatches, etc.) will not be allowed during the school day.
- Each student will store their mobile phone in an assigned slot in a new storage case at the front as they enter school each day. Mrs. R will lock the case until 3:10 p.m. Students can retrieve their phones as they leave school for the day.
- Personal devices other than mobile phones should be left at home.
- Students whose phone is not in the case when school starts will be subject to disciplinary action. Please see the [Valley New School Policy Handbook](#) for details.
- Parents should notify Mrs. Rosenbaum if a student will not be bringing their phone.
- VNS will have 4 flip phones that students may use when they leave the building for activities such as service learning commitments (e.g. Riverview Gardens), fitness time at the YMCA, or an interview with a community expert.
- Exceptions: In rare cases where a student needs to utilize a cell phone for a specific reason (e.g., health-related issue), a written request must be submitted to and approved by the school/AASD administration in advance. Some exceptions for certain projects

may apply; a written request form will be completed and approved as part of the project proposal process.

- Advisors' smartphones will be away. If you need to speak with them during the school day, please call the VNS main number and/or their extension (see below).
- In case of emergency, Advisors will carry their smartphones on field trips.
- Students and staff will continue to utilize AASD Chromebooks, desktops, and numerous other tools and resources for school work, growing our purposefulness of time and task.

VNS remains committed to learning about and how to use new technologies to improve our effectiveness and quality of life. This commitment includes discontinuing resources or changing their use when it no longer serves us. Let's work together to support this commitment!

All-school Field Trip, Thursday, September 19-Friday, September 20: Get excited! Our overnight culture-building field trip filled with learning and fun is in the works--more info coming soon! We need a few adult chaperones. Please reach out if you are able to join us!

Parents as Partners: All VNS parents are invited to join in learning more about how to support your child's personalized project-based education and actively create a positive, inspired culture at VNS. Opportunities to network with other parents, ask questions of Advisors, and build skills together will take place throughout the year. More information to come!

Parents of 12th-grade students: Senior year is exciting! Learn how to support your child by attending (in person or via Zoom) the introductory Senior Meeting on Wed., Sept. 11, 10:45-11:30 a.m. We will discuss Senior Project expectations, graduation requirements, and college application/post-high school planning processes.

Blended Learning Days: As a lab school, we can flex our learning environment. Blended Learning Days are held one or two days each month. On these Wednesdays, students will report to Advisory virtually at 8:15 a.m. and then implement learning opportunities in the field or at home from 9:00 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. These are school days, and students are expected to attend, work all day long (i.e., log at least 5 hours), and have their cameras ON while in Zoom meetings. See school calendar for exact Blended Learning dates.

School Pictures: Harmann Studios will be at VNS on September 3 at 11:00 AM to take school pictures. Picture retakes will be held on Monday, October 7th. Information about packages and prices will be shared as soon as it becomes available.

Medications: If your student requires administration of prescription or over-the-counter medications at school, please review the requirements and fill out the correct forms found at this link: <https://www.aasd.k12.wi.us/families/family-resources/student-health/medication-forms>

Immunization updates: Please review AASD immunization updates to assure compliance with AASD requirements.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/reqs.htm>

Medical forms can be found on the AASD website under Families.

All 7th graders must review immunization information using this link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/14EEoRdG37NaLTdj3oii607zvlqjsGinU/edit>

PAC Performances: The Fox Cities Performing Arts Center is again offering school-day Education Series performances. Tickets are \$5. Purchase tickets for interested students and family members on the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

- 1) Joshua Kane Performs Edgar Allan Poe's Tales of Terror, Wed, Oct 23, 12:30 pm
- 2) Sons of Mystro, Wed, Oct 30, 12:30 pm
- 3) Cirque Kalabante's Afrique en Cirque, Fir, Jan 31, 13:30 pm
- 4) DRUMLine Live, Thur, Feb 13, 12:30 pm
- 5) Songs and Stories of Black Wolf, Wed, March 19, 12:30 pm (grades 7-8)
- 6) The Latehomecomer, Wed, April 16, 12:30 pm

For more info on the shows, click the link: <https://foxcitiespac.com/education/performances/>

Please use the form below to select which shows your student will be interested in seeing. If you are interested in attending/ chaperoning any of these shows, please email Mrs. R and let her know.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfOEVB3Vlz0KJjv3t2PUI3EabEJaKME6FceKVWAdc7uR2IRGA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Pro-Tips for VNS Success

- 1) School IDs are necessities at VNS.** They allow students to access the printer and ride Valley Transit for free. IDs will be issued shortly after school photos are taken.
- 2) YMCA Passes:** Students will receive a YMCA pass through VNS. Personal fitness and/or classes can be a great part of an individual Wellness project. Passes will also be used when we visit the Y for Advisory or all-school activities. Even if you already have a Y membership through your family, it is still a good idea to have the VNS Y pass too. Lost cards can be replaced for a fee at the YMCA registration desk.
- 3) Please read All-school Meeting Minutes each week!** All parents (and students) receive meeting minutes/announcements via email from Dr. Wallace at the beginning of each week. These are designed to keep every VNS community member in the loop. It is the responsibility of parents to read and be aware of all district/VNS policy content.
- 4) Connect via social media!** Please follow/like our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages to further stay up-to-date about VNS. Feel free to share often and connect others to our community! Parents, don't forget to connect with the [Parents of VNS Students](#) Facebook group, too!

- 5) **Access your student's VNS Academic Report.** Parents can follow their child's academic progress in real time by accessing their VNS Academic Report (a Google spreadsheet). Students will create and share their 2024-2025 reports with Advisors and parents during the first week of school. We request that all parents set up a Google Account (if they don't already have one) and accept the invitation to be a partner in their child's academic progress.
- 6) **Be proactive with lunch plans!** Students can either bring cold lunches or use the VNS kitchen facilities to prepare lunches (microwave popcorn is not allowed). Hot breakfast and lunch from Central High School continues to be available for the cost of \$1.25 and \$2.95, respectively. Students must place their order with Mrs. R. immediately upon arrival at school at 7:55 a.m. Meal fees can be paid through the Parent Portal or by cash or check at Central (unfortunately, we are not able to accept payments for lunch at VNS). Students will be allowed to go to local restaurants on our block: Brewed Awakening, Toppers, Bonafide, Bowl 91, Legendary and Josef's Gyros. Restaurant orders should also be placed at the beginning of the school day to ensure speedy pick-up and time to finish food before the lunch period ends.
- 7) **Attendance Reminders:** Please contact Mrs. R. (via phone or email) before 8:15 a.m. if your child will be absent from school that day. A pre-excused absence requires at least 24-hour notice and a completed [Excused Absence & Student Activity](#) form submitted to Mrs. R. Parents/guardians can also use the Absence Request found on [Campus Parent/Parent Portal](#) to submit a request that informs the office in advance when their student is not going to be in school. This new feature can be used as an alternative to the traditional phone calls to the school office. Please see the instructions, found [here](#), on how to submit an Absence Request via the Campus Portal.
- 8) **Contact info:** As partners in your child's education, we believe in keeping open lines of communication. Zoom rooms will be used on Blended Learning Days and may sometimes be used for conferences. Staff do not have cell phone access during the school day. Contact them at the school number (920-852-5605) and their extension.

Mrs. Luedtke's Zoom Room: [350 563 0790](#)

Extension: 54020

luedtkenicole@aasd.k12.wi.us

Dr. Wallace's Zoom Room: [783 103 4684](#)

Extension: 54021

wallaceburke@aasd.k12.wi.us

Mrs. Fourness' Zoom Room: [444 783 5761](#)

Extension: 54022

fournessandrea@aasd.k12.wi.us

Ms. Kosloski's Zoom Room: [527 989 4261](#)

Extension: 54023

kosloskijennif@aasd.k12.wi.us

Mrs. R./Main VNS Phone #: 920-852-5605

Extension: 54000

rosenbaumtanya@asds.k12.wi.us

9) Donations for Community Use: Please consider donating one or more of the following items to help keep VNS running smoothly. Thank you in advance!

- Disinfecting wipes
- Tissues
- Pencils
- Pens
- Dry Erase Markers
- Permanent Markers
- Lined Index Cards
- Post-it Notes (assorted sizes)
- Artist's paint brushes
- Dishwashing liquid
- Dish sponges
- Dish cloths and towels
- Disposable hot-beverage cups, plates, plastic flatware, and/or napkins (for school events)
- Amazon Gift Card
- Purchase something from our Amazon Wishlist:
<https://a.co/eZKAaXv>

10) School supplies: VNS students design and implement their own education, so they must essentially build their own office space—a place where they can work efficiently, be creative, and stay organized! **Be prepared to work productively whether at school or at home on Blended Learning Days. Consider the supply list below as you plan your *home workspace* as well as your *VNS workstation*.**

Supply costs for new students might seem high, but veteran students know that reusing materials keeps costs down in later years! Start with the items on this list. As students reflect on their own learning styles and develop their productivity, they will find what works best for them.

Personal Equipment

- Reusable water bottle
- Hand sanitizer
- Tissues

Organizational Tools

- Personal planner/calendar (can be digital, accessible on Chromebook)
- 3-ring binder for Math
- Post-it Notes (assorted sizes)
- Desk supply organizers/containers
- Notecard box/index

Production Tools

- Earbuds (corded/compatible with Chromebooks)
- Scientific calculator (capable of higher math)
- 2 notebooks and/or loose-leaf paper
- Graph paper

- 3" x 5" notecards (minimum 500)
- Pens
- Pencils (no. 2)
- Eraser
- Black Sharpie markers (fine and ultrafine)
- Highlighters
- Stapler with staples
- Glue sticks
- Tape (invisible, double-sided, & masking)
- Scissors
- Ruler
- White-out tape