VADNAIS HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY

Sara Svir
Principal

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August 20, 2024

Dear Vadnais Heights Families,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! This letter contains information that will ensure your child's school year gets off to a great start. A very special welcome to our new students that will be attending Vadnais Heights for the first time this fall and a grand welcome back to all of our returning students.

As we prepare for the new year, please make sure that you're able to access Synergy - our online student support system. This is where you will go to see attendance, the gradebook and on 8/23 - your child's homeroom teacher assignment. If you need help, please contact our technology department at parenttechhelp@isd624.org or call 651-407-7637.

Welcome Back Conferences - Tuesday, 9/3, 11 AM - 6 PM

Teachers are anxious to meet their students and we anticipate that you're also anxious to meet your child's teacher. We are coordinating Welcome Back Conferences to allow each family time to conference with their child's homeroom teacher. You will be able to see who will be your child's teacher in Synergy on 8/23 and you may register for their conference on 8/26 after 3 PM.

At Welcome Back Conferences the following things will occur:

- Find your child's classroom
- Meet one to one with your child's teacher for 15 minutes
- Leave classroom items to be ready for the first day of school
- We are asking families for a $25 donation to support the expenses of school supplies and families may pay cash, if that's your preference, during Welcome Back Conferences
- Breakfast tags will be given to every student to be clipped on their backpack. Breakfast and lunch are free yet we still need you to let us know if your child will have breakfast.
- Complete or confirm completion of the Application for Educational Benefits - Our school receives additional funding to support all students in literacy and math and at our school it pays for three additional teachers. We need your help to complete this form to ensure that our school continues to receive this financial support. Please complete this form on the Online Family Update or we have paper copies in our school office and we're always happy to help. Thank you for helping us better meet the needs of your kids!
- Students in grades 1-5 will visit our Learning Commons for a short reading assessment - Thank you for having your child(ren) complete this step at Welcome Back Conferences!

Pictures -

School photos will be taken October 1st. More information will be provided soon.

First Week of School Schedule -

- **Wednesday, September 4th:** First day of school for all students in grades 1-5 and kindergarten students with their last name beginning with A-L.
- **Thursday, September 5th:** First day of school for Kindergarten students with their last name beginning with M-Z. Kindergarten students with their last name beginning with A-L do not attend school.
- **Friday, September 6th: All** kindergarten students attend school.

*The staggered start, for kindergarten, allows for one day to teach and practice school expectations and routines.

Morning Arrival/Parent Drop Off Information -

Students should arrive at school at 7:30 AM. Buses will open their doors and students will enter the building at 7:30 AM. If you will be driving your child, please see the chart below which shows the dropoff location based on your child's homeroom teacher.
It's our goal to keep students safe and keep the traffic moving. Please follow these important steps:

- Pull your car as far forward as traffic will allow - adults will direct you.
- Adult(s) remain in the car. Our staff will assist and if you need to exit your vehicle, please park your car in one of our parking lots.
- Have your child/children exit your vehicle on the passenger side of your car.
- Only right turns are allowed as you exit our parking lot during dropoff.

** If you have children for both drop-off locations, please have all of your students enter the building with your youngest child.

Grade Level & Teacher **Drop/Off & Pickup near Flagpole**	**Grade Level & Teacher** **Drop/Off & Pickup on north end - "Door N"**
Kindergarten - • Ms. Lapinski • Ms. Sandberg	Kindergarten • Mrs. Witt
1st Grade • Mrs. Gaddini • Mrs. Jensen • Mr. Theissen	3rd Grade • Mrs. Bliss • Mrs. Powers • Ms. Thimjon
2nd Grade • Ms. Aubin • Ms. Gerten • Ms. O'Donovan	4th Grade • Mrs. Mogren • Ms. Petrik
Pre-School • Ms. Setter	5th Grade • Mrs. Haley • Mrs. Red • Mrs. Rider

**If your student walks or bikes to school, they should arrive at 7:30 AM. A bike rack is available at the front of our school near Door B.

End of the Day Departure - Student Release and Parent Pick up Information

Our end of school day bell will ring at 2:15 PM. At this time all students will be released to either walk/bike home, attend Extended Day, go to parent pickup, or ride the bus home. You will be asked at Welcome Back Conferences the plan for your child. If it changes for 1 day or more, please call our school office and the information will be relayed to your child's teacher. We will not make a change based on information shared by your child.
Thank you for your help as we work to keep students safe.

Parent pickup locations are the same as the morning dropoff locations. Students will be supervised, on the sidewalk while they wait for the vehicle picking them up. Please stay in your car. The entire process takes roughly 10 minutes and it will keep moving if everyone stays in their car. If you'd rather meet your child on the sidewalk, you may park your car in the lot and meet your child on the sidewalk. Students are not allowed to walk alone to a car in the parking lot. This is a safety precaution.

Other Information about parent pickup:

- If a family arrives early, blocking traffic, you may be asked to exit the parking lot and re-enter at your child's pick up time.
- Drivers must not stop traffic on Centerville Road as you wait to enter our parking lots. Drivers may need to go down the street or drive around the block to allow buses to enter and traffic to flow on Centerville Road.
- Families may be asked to park if their child is delayed in the building to allow for a constant flow of traffic.
- If your student walks or bikes home, the expectation will be that they leave our school grounds immediately.
- If you have more than one child, all of your children will be at the location set for your youngest child.
- All students must be picked up by 2:25.

Breakfast -

Every student will be given a breakfast tag to attach to their backpack. It includes a scan code that your child will use if they choose to take breakfast upon arrival to school. Breakfast is free for all students yet we need to have an approximate number to know how much food to prepare. Our breakfast items change daily and include a variety including cereal, hot items, milk and juice.

Recess -

- Students will have a 20 minute supervised recess every day before lunch.
- Grade level students will be together during recess and lunch.
- Indoor recess - If it is raining or if the temperature is colder than 10 below, we will host indoor recess. Students will remain in their classroom and have activities before going to lunch.
- Closed-toed shoes are required for recess. Flip flops, Crocs and similar shoes are not allowed since slivers often occur from the wood chips around the play system.

Lunch -

- Students will eat with their grade level in the cafeteria.
- Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade classrooms will sit with classroom friends at designated tables.
- Students in grades 2-5 may choose where to sit.

- Tables will be designated for students with food allergies. Friends may join at these tables if they are eating a school lunch.
- Classroom teachers will pick up their class in the cafeteria and walk with them back to the classroom.
- Lunch is free for all students. There is a daily lunch choice with meat, we do not serve pork products, and there is a daily vegetarian option. Students will choose each morning.

Backpacks & School Supplies -

We are fortunate to have received many donations of student backpacks. If your child needs a backpack, they will be available at Welcome Back Conferences.

School supplies will be available in your child's classroom. Our school will have the supplies available and families are encouraged to make a $25 donation. If you'd like to donate, here are the directions to make an online payment or we will accept cash at Welcome Back Conferences.

Communication with Families -

Our school is excited to partner with you to provide the best education possible. Seesaw is a wonderful online tool that allows teachers to share classroom information and pictures as well as send and receive messages with individual families. The main page will also have links to other resources and information. Families will receive login information from your child's teacher for Seesaw.

The Vadnais Voice is our school newsletter. We send it to families electronically and it includes a variety of updates as well as pictures of events that have taken place at our school. Previous copies of the Vadnais Voice are available on our school website.

Parent Square is our new system that will be used to notify families through phone messages, emails and text messaging. It's a quick way to share information and keep everyone up to date.

Everyone at V.H.E.S. is available through email, phones and we're happy to meet in person, too.

I have provided a lot of content and I hope this helps to prepare you for the start of the new school year. At any time, if you have questions, concerns or suggestions please don't hesitate to contact me.

I can't wait to see you all and I'm so excited to kick off the
2024-2025 school year!

Sincerely,

Sara A. Svir
Principal

Hmong: LUS CEEB TOOM! Yog koj xav tautsev kawm ntawv cov ntawv txhais ua lus Hmoob, thov hu rau Mas Lias Xyooj los yog Xw Xyooj. (651) 407-7623

Spanish: ATENCIÓN: Si usted necesita hablar con una persona que hable Español, por favor, llame al (651) 407-7625.