

# Valley Middle School of STEM

Welcome to the 2025 - 2026 School Year

WWW.VMSS.District196.org

Rigor - Relevance - Relationships



## Racing into 2025 - 2026!

### EVERY DAY MATTERS

#### Attendance Today, Achievement Tomorrow

At VMSS, we want to partner with you to ensure your child is ready to reach their full potential. To meet this goal we need your child to attend school on time each day they are physically well. We strongly believe in the power of learning from and with our students. If a student is not in school then we miss that opportunity.

Furthermore, being absent leads to lower grades, higher dropout rates, and poor social skills. Students who miss school, miss out on forming friendships, gaining face-to-face academic support and developing strong communication skills.

Help your student succeed by maintaining healthy daily routines, limit technology and ensure good sleeping and eating habits.

If your student has struggled in this past year or begins to struggle with their attendance, you will be contacted by VMSS for support by a School Counselor or Behavior Specialist.

Students should be absent from school no more than nine days each school year. Talk with your child's school counselor to learn about support options:

- 6th Grade
  - Tracy Walberg
- 7th Grade
  - Niki Johnson
- 8th Grade
  - John Bronson

#### \*ARRIVE EARLY

- 7:40 Doors Open
- 7:40 Breakfast Served
- 7:51 Breakfast Ends
- 7:55 First Class Begins

## KINDLY

Be ready to learn by getting your back to school supplies early. The list is on the VMSS website under MENU / FAMILIES. Cell phones & wired headphones/earbuds are not allowed during school hours so please consider leaving them at home.

## Up Next

- August 21
  - 6th Grade WEB 3:30 - 5:30
- August 25
  - VMSS Back to School Open House 12:00 - 7:00
  - 6th Grade Orientation 1:00 - 2:00 & 5:00 - 6:00
- August 27
  - 1st Day of School
- September 4
  - Picture Day
- September 25
  - STEM Fitness Night 5 - 7:00
- October 29
  - Conferences 3 - 5:00

## Back to School Open House

August 25th 12 - 7:00pm

\*Students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

## Conferences

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Sept. 24; 3 - 5pm
- Oct. 29; 3 - 5pm
- Oct. 30; 12 - 7pm
- Dec. 10; 3 - 5pm
- Feb 4, 3 - 5pm
- Feb 5; 12 - 7pm
- April 8; 3 - 5pm

*\*Please note that Wednesday conferences are reserved for supporting identified students.*

## Family Nights

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Sept. 25  
STEM Fitness Night
- Oct. 24  
Truck or Treat
- Dec. 4  
STEM Math & Science Night
- Dec. 10  
High School Prep Night
- April 9  
Culture Night
- May 29  
Student Leadership Banquet

## Cell Phone & Wireless Earbuds/Head phones

District 196 middle schools require students to leave their devices at home or turned off and put away in their backpacks during school hours. Students struggling with this practice will be required to have a parent pick up their technology from school.

\*SEE INSERT FOR MORE INFORMATION

## Taking your student to and from school each day?

There are many students who are dropped off and picked up from school each day. For that reason we encourage you to plan ahead as our lines are quite long and we need to keep

### SAFETY AS PRIORITY #1.

Please only use the east parking lot (by the flagpole) for students. The north lot is reserved for buses and the parking lot to the south of the east lot is reserved for buses and deliveries.

Period 1 starts at 7:55am and breakfast is not served past 7:51 to ensure that students have enough time to travel to class.

Because learning starts promptly at 7:55, students regularly arriving late to school (without valid excuse) will meet with a School Counselor or Behavior Specialist to develop a support plan.

### HELPFUL TIPS

- Leave Early
- Be Patient
- Drive with Care
- Stop for Students in the Crosswalks
- Pull Forward in the Line
- Only Use the Center Lane to Exit the Line

\*PLEASE FIND THE MAP IN THIS MAILING FOR A VISUAL DIAGRAM

## The Parent Teacher Organization Needs YOU!

The Valley Middle School of STEM Parent Teacher Organization is a nonprofit, volunteer parent/teacher organization whose membership includes parents, legal guardians, and staff. Parent volunteers are crucial to the success of our organization and each year, we look to add new members to support our partnership with Valley Middle. Contact us at [vmsspto@gmail.com](mailto:vmsspto@gmail.com) or visit the PTO link under MENU/COMMUNITY on the VMSS webpage. We look forward to working with you and seeing you at our first meeting on Sept 10th at 6:30pm in the Fab Lab across from the main office.

### THE PTO IS HERE TO:

- ★ Provide support to families, students and staff.
- ★ Encourage an overall positive learning environment.
- ★ Facilitate open communication.
- ★ Offer a variety of activities, grade-level parties, fundraisers and volunteer opportunities.



### CALLING ALL 6TH GRADERS

VMSS will welcome 6th grade students on August 21st to participate in WEB programming from 3:30 - 5:30pm. If your student needs transportation they can catch a shuttle bus at 3:15pm at one of these elementary sites: Cedar Park, Westview, Echo Park, or Parkview. On this day, students will build community and learn all things Valley to help them have a strong transition to middle school.

### Before Day 1

#### On Our Website

#### Under -

#### MENU/FAMILIES

- Select School Supplies to Purchase
- Pay for Food Service Breakfast & Lunch Meals
- Apply for Educational Benefits
- Review the Daily Schedule
- Sign up for Schoology & Infinite Campus for Parents
- Review How to Report an Absence

