

**Stockbridge Valley Central
School District
Family Handbook**



2025-2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Stockbridge Valley Elementary School. Our mission is to empower students through education. At Stockbridge Central School District, we embrace a culture of respect and support that allows every student to recognize their worth, realize their purpose, cultivate their passions, and achieve their ultimate potential. We are excited to begin another wonderful school year. The Stockbridge Valley Elementary teachers and staff work hard to provide an engaging and rigorous educational experience for all of our students.

We want to work as a team, with parents and families, to create the optimal learning environment for our students. Continuous communication between home and school is paramount to the success of our educational program. As parents and families, you are encouraged to be actively involved in your child's education by talking to your child about school, volunteering when possible, and participating in our SVCS Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO). This partnership will help contribute to the educational success for all of our students while shaping our young people into considerate and responsible adults. We look forward to celebrating the achievements of our students with you.

The Stockbridge Valley Elementary Family Handbook is intended to share important information, regarding school policies, programs and procedures. If you cannot locate an answer or need more information, please contact the elementary office at 315-495-4550.

We look forward to joining with each of you as we work to provide your child with the best possible education. Best wishes to you and your family for an enjoyable and successful school year.

Sincerely,

Julie Suber

K- 6 Principal

Stockbridge Valley Central School

6011 Williams Road
Munnsville, NY 13409

(315) 495-4400

(315) 495-1901 – FAX

www.stockbridgevalley.org

Board of Education:

Jon Strain, President

Kristin Guinto, Vice President

Members: Herb Bingel, Daniel Gilbert, Carol Marshall, Joe Monfileto, Jaime Renner

Central Office Staff:

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Mrs. Pam Dymes Secretary to the Superintendent, District Clerk

Mrs. Beth Lamb, Business Manager, 495-4446

Ms. Kelly Johnson, District Treasurer, 495-4445

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Committee on Special Education:

Mrs. Julie Suber, Director of Special Education, 495-1905

Mr. Christopher Wiehl, Psychologist, CSE Chairperson, 495-1825

Ms. Julianna Lillibridge, CSE Secretary,

Building Principals:

Mrs. Julie Suber, Elementary, 495-4550

Mrs. Natalie Reylea, Elementary Secretary

Mr. Dan Tucker, Secondary, 495-4450

Mrs. Heather Meehan, Secondary Secretary

Custodial Staff:

Jason Walters, Steve Ingle, Tom Walcek, Devin Smith, Amy White, Doug Hadlock

Food Service:

Kathy Carney, Manager, 495-1909

Sharon Jones - Cook, Fran Peckham, Sabrina Betsinger

Transportation:

Brian Leach, Head Bus Driver 495-4599

Bus Drivers:

Dave Commins, Constance Eastman, Elijah Hafelin, Paul Thompson, Karen Dailey, Michael

Moot, Tom Richmond, Ginger Kelsey-Engle, Rhonda Bravick, Michael A. Richards

Substitutes - Jona Snyder, Erin Smith

Elementary Staff Directory

Pre-Kindergarten

Valarie Hembach
Danielle Suydam

Grade 5

Erik Russell
Allyson Zangrilli

Special Education

Melissa McNamara
Brittney Woods
Michele Wright

Speech Therapist

Bernadette Chapman

Kindergarten

Angela Kramer
Marriah Gough

Grade 6

Thomas Eanniello
Jessica Smith

Teacher Assistants

Diana Ellerbruch
Kati-Jo Blackman

Occupational Therapist

Leigha Castilla

Physical Therapist

Tim Winchell

Grade 1

Nicole Thurston
Lindsey DeLand

Specialists

Barbara Holmes,reading

Teacher Assistants

Lacey Jones
Samantha Gaudin

Aides

Sabrina Betsinger
Kerri Enslow

Grade 2

Sarah Dunlay
Sara Getman

Physical Education

Mark Kiser
Malary Bingel

School Psychologist

Christopher Wiehl

Janet Griff

Elementary School Counselor

Bethany Rickard

Grade 3

Taylor Meeker
Chris Peto

Music

Lindsay Collela
Adriel Schoeck

Social Worker

Amanda Young

Grade 4

Erica Laraby
Samantha Stedman

Art/Computers

Kristin Lacy

School Nurse

Mattie Shea

Library Media Specialist

Michelle Bovalino

CURRICULAR & ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Philosophy

Stockbridge Valley Central School believes in a constructivist-based approach to learning. We believe learning takes place when students are actively involved in the construction of meaning and knowledge as opposed to passively receiving information. Teachers facilitate a process for learning where students gradually become responsible for the learning.

ELA Curriculum

Based upon the science of reading, we utilize HMH Into Reading in grades Kindergarten through Fifth Grade and Into Literature in Sixth Grade. This is a comprehensive literacy program with a strong emphasis on phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary.

Phonics instruction

Stockbridge Valley believes in an explicit approach to phonics instruction. This includes the Orton-Gillingham approach both in the classroom and as an intervention. Our staff has all received LETRS training and provide a systematic approach to reading instruction based upon this intensive reading course as well as our implemented curriculum resources. In combination, this is a multisensory and systematic approach to phonics, spelling and handwriting.

Eureka Math

Curriculum modules in mathematics are marked by in-depth focus on fewer topics. They integrate learning standards, rigorous classroom reasoning, extended classroom time devoted to practice and reflection through extensive problem sets, and high expectations for mastery. There is an emphasis on mathematical practices for understanding deep math content rather than relying on just mathematical procedures. We encourage students to apply mathematics to practical situations and to explain mathematics accurately, which aids in the transference of knowledge to real world application.

Science

Science is taught through active, hands-on lessons that allow students to think. Student's knowledge in science is advanced by observing objects and events and thinking about what they know (background knowledge), testing their new ideas (hypothesizing) and generating explanations that integrate all they have learned. Teachers use hands-on science learning kits to help students through this process.

Social Studies

Much of the Social Studies curriculum is embedded in our English Language Arts curriculum. In Social Studies students use informational text and media to produce writing and speaking products. Students gather and use evidence, use chronological reasoning, make comparisons and contextualize, use graphic reasoning, study economics and economic systems and demonstrate civic participation. Our curriculum follows the NYS Social Studies framework.

Innovation and Enrichment

Each student will have many opportunities to utilize innovation technology in meaningful, authentic, and engaging ways as an additional learning tool. We currently have 1:1 technology in grades K-6. Each learning opportunity is unique and will provide students with the skills needed to become global citizens. In learning activities across all subject areas we integrate 21st Century competencies which include critical thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity/innovation.

Special Areas

Stockbridge Valley educates the whole child. Students participate in physical education, music, art, library, and technology classes on a 4-day rotating schedule. Beginning in fourth grade, students have the opportunity to join band and begin to receive instrumental lessons. The core academic subject areas are integrated into these classes. In this way, students are able to explore the world through multiple modes and develop competencies in all areas. Students also have regular times to explore the library media center and check out materials.

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

Stockbridge Valley has developed an MTSS plan to fit the needs of our students. Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is a school-wide framework focused on closing achievement gaps for all students, including students with disabilities. The New York State Education Department has established guidelines to help districts create a multi-tiered system of instruction and interventions designed to meet the diverse needs of all learners. The Stockbridge Valley Central School District's MTSS Plan was developed to meet these requirements in order to effectively close achievement gaps in reading and mathematics and to help identify students whose learning difficulties may be the result of a specific learning disability. MTSS is a three-tier intervention plan for students in need of academic or behavioral support. It begins with appropriate instruction for all students in the general education classroom. Each tier involves specific goals, protocol, and interventions to provide necessary services to students to meet their individual needs. Below is a brief outline of the three tiers of MTSS:

Tier	Description	Educators Providing Services
1	The classroom teacher provides research-based, differentiated instruction for a student based on an academic or behavioral need	Classroom teachers consult with MTSS specialists
2	If modifications made in Tier 1 do not provide desired goals, MTSS specialists and classroom teachers provide small group, supplemental instruction to student	Classroom teachers, MTSS specialists, Counseling Staff, Speech Pathologist, Occupational Therapists, Etc.
3	If modifications made in Tier 1 & Tier 2 do not provide desired goals, MTSS specialists and classroom teachers provide intense individual or small group instruction for student	Classroom teachers, MTSS specialists, Counseling Staff, Speech Pathologist, Occupational Therapists, Etc.

MODES OF ASSESSMENT

Formative Assessments

This process provides teachers with information to adjust teaching and learning while it is still happening. Assessments guide teachers in making decisions about future instruction. Observations, individual conferences (conferring) graphic organizers, written responses, student work, and quizzes are all examples of the formative assessments used.

New York State Assessments

The New York State Board of Regents has set learning standards for all students. State assessments have been developed which challenge elementary students to demonstrate their ability to read, write, listen, and use mathematics. These tests not only reflect the learning outcomes but also help ensure students are prepared for the high school Regents examinations required for graduation. All of our NYS assessments are Computer-based assessments.

Elementary students participate in State testing in Grades 3-6. Students are required to demonstrate basic skills in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science (Grades 5 & 8 only) as well as apply the knowledge and skills they have learned. Traditionally, the first section of each test will have a familiar multiple-choice format, which measures the basic skills. In other

sections, students will demonstrate their ability to apply general knowledge and skills through tasks, which require them to write compositions or provide written explanations of the processes they used in determining their response.

AIMSweb PLUS Assessments

This computer adaptive benchmark assessment is given to students in grades K-6 and all students who are placed into our MTSS program. AIMSweb PLUS is given 3 times a year. Data is used to inform instructional practices for both individuals and groups of students. It creates a personalized assessment experience by adapting to each student's learning level.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are issued at regular, 10-week intervals throughout the school year. The first report card is issued at fall parent-teacher conferences. For all other marking periods, hard copies are sent home for each student. Each grade level has specific standards, benchmarks, and curriculum, which are reflected on the report card for that grade and reflect state learning standards. Report cards include academic (reading, writing, mathematics, social studies, science, etc.) and social and behavioral sections.. Each special area teacher also completes a section of a report card for their specialty area twice a year. The Stockbridge Valley Elementary K-5 report cards are all based on a four point scale:

- 4- Excels in grade level standards at this time
- 3- Is proficient in grade level standards at this time
- 2- Working toward grade level standards at this time
- 1- Well below grade level standards at this time
- X- Not assessed at this time

In sixth grade, students transition to a more traditional report card in which percentage grades are earned.

DROP-OFF & DISMISSAL PROCEDURES AND SCHEDULE

Morning Arrival

8:00 a.m. Buses Arrive: Elementary students transported by bus will remain on their respective buses until 8:00 a.m. Families will follow the car rider line and directions of staff for safe drop-off procedures. The parent drop-off/car rider line will begin unloading at approximately 8:00 a.m. Parent drop-off is located in the lower parking lot by the cafeteria/gym entrance. Cars will line up along the front sidewalk and wait for unloading directions from staff. Starting at 7:45 am busers and car riders that would like to have breakfast may go to the cafeteria.

Picking Up Early or Dropping Off Late

To ensure the safety of our students please do not drop-off, pick up, park, or use the bus loop in front of the school at any time during the school day (7:30 a.m. -3:30 p.m.)

Use the upper parking lot, park in an available space, and enter through the elementary tunnel if you need to pick up or drop-off your student anytime throughout the day. There will be sign-in/sign-out slips available for you to use; all students entering or exiting the building during the day must have a note.

Ill Students

If you receive a call from the school nurse requiring you to pick-up your child due to illness, please park in the lower lot and ring the buzzer at the door near the nurse's office. The school nurse will bring your child to you.

Dismissal

Parent pick-up will begin at 2:30 in the lower lot by the cafeteria. Families will be assigned a pick-up number. This number must be visible to staff members in an effort to get our students dismissed in a timely manner. Stay in your vehicle and follow the parent pick-up line. Staff will assist your child in getting to your car when your number is up.

Students begin loading their buses at 2:30. Elementary teachers take their students to the buses by class and load the students on the correct bus.

No transportation changes will be allowed for any students after 1:30 pm. This includes but is not limited to changing your child to pick-up that day, any bus changes, or allowing your child to be picked up by another family member.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Students in Grades K-6 eat lunch in the cafeteria. Each grade level is supervised by teacher assistants/aides during their lunch periods. Per USDA food eligibility program, breakfast and lunch will be provided free of charge for all students for the 2025-2026 school year. If double lunches are available, the second lunch would be provided at a cost to the student. Applications for free and reduced meal prices are available in the elementary office. They are sent home at the beginning of every year, but can be sent home at any time upon parent request.

ALL FAMILIES MUST FILL OUT A FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH APPLICATION REGARDLESS OF INCOME

RECESS

Recess time for all grade levels is typically conducted outdoors (weather permitting), and is supervised by grade level teachers. Students must have appropriate outdoor weather attire depending on the season. This includes sneakers, snow boots, snow pants, winter jacket, gloves, hat, etc. If you are unable to attain any of these items for your child, please call the office and let us know so that we may assist you.

Students will have indoor recess as a result of inclement weather or when the "feels like" temperature is below 20 degrees. Indoor recess will be held in one of the two gymnasiums or in classrooms when necessary.

PLAYGROUND PROCEDURE

The playground should only be used by students during regular school hours (8:00 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.). The playground is open to the community during non-school hours. Children using the playground after school (2:40 pm) **must be accompanied by an adult** at all times.

STUDENT MEDICATION

School personnel are not permitted to give medication of any kind without a completed medical authorization form signed by both a parent/guardian and a physician. This prohibition includes cough medicine, aspirin, or any over-the-counter medication, as well as prescription medication. We will not make any change in the dosage or time indicated on the form, so accuracy is important. If a change occurs, a new form must be completed. No medication, prescription, or non-prescription, may be transported by a student, or be in the student's possession while at school. All medications must be brought to school in the original container or prescription bottle and immediately taken to the health office by an adult. In addition, school personnel may not apply sunscreen to students.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost and found is located in the nurse's offices. Students should check the box frequently. Valuables, such as glasses, money or jewelry are turned in to the office. Please inquire with the office if valuables are lost. Periodically, the lost and found will be emptied and items displayed before being boxed for donation. Labeling children's belongings will help keep the items in the lost and found to a minimum.

ANIMALS AND PETS

Animals and pets are not allowed to be brought on campus. Animals/pets may be brought into the classroom for education purposes, or for "show and tell", providing prior permission has been granted by the classroom teacher and building principal. In such instances, animals should be appropriately housed and properly handled to ensure the safety of both the animal and the students. When planning the visit, please be sensitive to allergies and possible fears others may have toward particular animals. Please do not bring animals on campus when visiting, dropping off or picking up children, except as described above.

CLASS PARTIES

It has been customary to have approximately three classroom celebrations each year. These parties have typically been held to coincide with Halloween, winter break, and Valentine's Day. Classroom teachers and students organize and conduct parties. Please direct questions regarding party times, dates, etc. to classroom teachers first.

VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

Although we enjoy having approved visitors on campus, arrangements for visitations must be made in advance. Drop-in visits, even for a few minutes, can interrupt the flow of instruction and are unfair to the children and their planned educational program. Requests for visitation can be made at least 24 hours in advance and must be cleared through the classroom teacher and/or principal prior to the visit. For everyone's safety, all visitors must report directly to the business office and receive a visitor's badge, from there they will be directed to report to the elementary office before going to any other location in the building. Staff have been instructed to politely redirect all visitors without a badge to the office for a proper sign-in. The principal or his or her designee is responsible for all persons in the building and on the grounds. For these reasons, the following rules apply to visitors to the school:

1. Parents who wish to volunteer during school hours in the school and on field trips must be an approved volunteer as outlined in the district volunteer policy. This includes an application, training session, background check, and approval by the board before volunteering can occur.
2. Anyone who is not a regular staff member or student of the school will be considered a visitor.
3. Visitors to the elementary school must enter at the main entrance, sign in with the business office, receive and wear an identification badge signifying they are a visitor, and report to the elementary office before continuing to any other area in the building. The visitor must return the identification badge to the business office and sign out on the visitor's log, when they leave.
4. Visitors attending school functions that are open to the public, such as parent/teacher meetings or public gatherings, are not required to register.

5. Parents who wish to observe a classroom while school is in session are required to arrange such visits in advance with the classroom teacher(s) and get prior approval, so that class disruption is kept to a minimum.
6. Any unauthorized person on school property will be reported to the principal or his designee. Unauthorized persons will be asked to leave. The police may be called if the situation warrants.
7. All visitors are expected to abide by the rules for public conduct on school property as per the SVCS code of conduct.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Elementary Open House

The Elementary Open House is an opportunity for parents to meet teachers, listen to brief curriculum overviews, see classrooms, and meet other parents. Volunteer training is also offered for families interested in volunteering during school hours and/or attending field trips. Parents should make every effort to attend.

Fire Prevention Week

All students in grades K-6 participate in fire safety education activities during Fire Prevention Week. These sessions are conducted by members of the Munnsville Volunteer Fire Department at our school. Some of the main topics covered include “Stop, Drop, and Roll”, the use of fire extinguishers, flammable substances, practicing an emergency evacuation procedure, and developing a home escape plan.

Picture Day

Children have their individual pictures taken early in the school year at a scheduled time with their classmates. Information and order forms are sent home in advance with the children.

Elementary School Physicals

The school physician conducts physicals on children who do not have physicals done by their family physician. Contact the school nurse for more information.

Halloween Parade

A midday costume parade for all elementary students and teachers is held on or around Halloween each year. Students enjoy showing off their costumes to visitors. This is a must-see for families!

Book Fair

Book fairs are held during the school year, usually once in the fall and once in the spring. The funds raised are returned to the school to pay for special events for the children (visits by authors, theater performances, field trips, etc.). Volunteers are always needed for the Book Fair. Let the library media specialist or the music department if you are interested in helping out.

Choral/Band Concerts

Choral and band concerts are held twice a year for grades 1-6 elementary students. These occur in December and May.

Stockbridge Valley Musical

Beginning in fifth grade, elementary students may participate in the Drama Club Musical production which occurs each year. Fourth through sixth graders who are interested in playing a part in the musical will have the opportunity to try out for parts (usually extras) on an as needed basis.

Elementary Picnic and Field Day

The entire elementary school celebrates the end of the school year with games and a picnic on school grounds. Events include relay races, games, and a variety of team activities.

PTSO Meetings

All interested parents are urged to join the Parent Teacher Student Organization and attend these monthly meetings. Our PTSO plans special events for our families each year. All profits go directly back to the students and classrooms to enrich the educational program of the school.

Art Club

Art club meets after school. Students participating in Art club use various mediums to create artistic works in addition to projects done in school.

Wellness Club

Beginning in third grade students may participate in Wellness club. This club meets during lunch and also after school. Students participating focus on ways to be healthy including running and yoga.

Intramurals

Students in fifth and sixth grades have the opportunity to participate in intramurals in four different after school sessions which each run for approximately five weeks. Students will be able to participate by having a permission slip signed by a parent. Students attending intramurals may either be picked up by a parent or ride the late bus home at 3:16.

Library Club

Students in fourth, fifth, and sixth grade can join the library club with parent permission. Library club meets monthly after school. Students are involved in multimedia and S.T.E.A.M projects during attendance. Students attending library club may either be picked up by a parent or ride the late bus home at 3:16.

Elementary Student Council

Students in fourth through sixth grade will have the opportunity to participate in the elementary student council. Members of the student council are selected to represent their grade level by their classmates and serve a one-year term. This is a civics-minded organization dedicated to improving the quality of our school and our community. They support school wide activities, volunteer at events, and organize community service projects.

Veterans Day Breakfast

We honor men and women who have served our country through the Armed Forces each year around Veterans Day with a breakfast and program run by our students. We encourage all current and past members of our military to participate in this wonderful community event. Flyers are sent home each year to reserve your seat and allow us to honor you.

Spelling Bee

Each fall, fifth and sixth grade students have the opportunity to participate in our school spelling bee. In order to participate, elementary students must attend a certain number of after school practices. The top winners in the spelling bee each year have a chance to move on to the next level of competition.

YMCA After School Program

SVCS will partner with the YMCA by hosting a free after-school program for elementary age students (K-6). The program will run daily while school is in session. The hours of operation will be 2:30pm until 6pm. Parents are welcome to pick up their child anytime during the allotted hours. Placement in the program will be determined based upon academic need first, as there is a limited number of spots available.

PRE KINDERGARTEN ELIGIBILITY

Pre-K at Stockbridge Valley Central School District is a Madison-Oneida BOCES run program. Children must be 4 years old on or before December 1st. Parents may register their child for Pre-K beginning in February for the program beginning in September of that year. Applications can be obtained through Madison-Oneida BOCES or from the elementary office. Pre-Kindergarten classes are limited to a total of 18 students per class. If more than 36 children enroll that meet the age requirements, students will be placed on a waiting list. If there is room (36 or less), all students will be accepted into our Pre-K program. Parents will be notified of their child's status as soon as it is made available. More information regarding our Pre-K program can be obtained from contacting the Department of Early Childhood Education at Madison-Oneida BOCES at 315-361-5902.

KINDERGARTEN ELIGIBILITY

Kindergarten registration begins in March. Children that are 5 years of age on or before December 1st are eligible to register. Enrollment packets will be sent home with your child in February if they attend the Pre-K program at Stockbridge Valley. All students who would like to attend kindergarten at Stockbridge Valley MUST register. Even if your child attends pre-k at Stockbridge Valley, kindergarten registration is still required. In order for registration to be complete, copies of the birth certificate, proof of residency (must be utility bill, tax receipt, or lease agreement), proof of custody (if applicable), immunization record, and most recent well child exam must be provided. For more information call Natalie Relyea, Elementary Secretary, at 315-495-4550.

PRE K & KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

Pre-K and Kindergarten students and their parents are invited to attend orientation sessions before school starts in September. Teachers meet with students and parents in their classrooms to provide a brief explanation of the instructional program, give the children an opportunity to experience their classroom environment, and answer questions. In addition to the classroom program, parents who have students that will be utilizing school district transportation attend a session with the Head of Transportation at this time. A volunteer training session will also be offered for parents who wish to volunteer during school hours or on field trips. A flyer with dates/times will be sent to parents in August.

CHARACTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

We have been honored for our work with Social-Emotional Learning and Character Education with our work with the Capturing Kids' Hearts Framework as a National Showcase School for the 2025-2026 school year for the third year in a row. The Elementary School has implemented a character education program covering many core principles and social and emotional skills. Topics include empathy, self-direct, teamwork, responsibility, respect, kindness, courage, perseverance and integrity.

Students are engaged in assemblies, lessons and/or activities, which address these themes. We believe that the promotion of these qualities will assist each student in becoming positive, influential leaders that make a difference in their communities. In addition, our counselor visits each classroom once a week and, along with the classroom teacher, is responsible for implementing the school-wide character education program. These weekly lessons help students learn about respect and empathy through modeling good behaviors.

We believe that the promotion of these qualities will assist each student in achieving our district standards and support our staff in fulfilling the Stockbridge Valley Central School District Mission and Vision.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING AND MENTAL HEALTH

Stockbridge Valley Elementary is committed to ensuring the well-being of all our students socially and emotionally. We utilize the Capturing Kids' Hearts framework to help us engage students and ensure that they feel a part of our school family. In addition, we have counselors and social workers available to work with all students, either in a group or individually. If you would like your child to see one of our mental health professionals, please contact the elementary office or your child's teacher.

HOMEWORK PHILOSOPHY

Homework is assigned as an extension of classroom lessons and provides an additional opportunity for students to develop fundamental skills in several core academic areas. The frequency and amount of homework assignments will vary in relation to the student's grade level and/or teacher.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-teacher conferences are an important and valuable part of pupil reporting procedures in our schools. At least one parent-teacher conference is scheduled yearly for each child in the elementary. This is done at the conclusion of the first marking period in November.

The value of a parent-teacher conference comes from a frank and honest exchange of information. This helps both parties have a better understanding of the child, his or her abilities and needs, the experiences that have formed the child's background to date, and the aspirations that will form their education in the future.

To help realize this value, we offer the following suggestions for conferencing:

- Please plan to keep the conference schedule.
- If you are unable to keep your appointment, kindly notify the school as soon as possible. Another appointment will be arranged.
- If at all possible, please make arrangements to come to the conference without the child or other children.

Parents have the opportunity to select their scheduled conference time via ParentSquare. Directions on how to schedule your conference will be provided during open house.

Should you need assistance scheduling your conference, please contact the elementary office at 315-495-4550.

STUDENT DRESS CODE & CLOTHING CONSIDERATIONS

As a general principle, students have the right to determine their own dress as it relates to taste and appearance. However, all students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Students may be required to wear appropriate protective gear in applicable classes. Students shall not be permitted to wear apparel that:

- a. Is profane, lewd, or offensive
- b. Constitutes a substantial disruption or material interference with the mission, work or discipline of the school community
- c. Constitutes a health or safety hazard (including clothing that promotes the sale or use of alcohol, tobacco, vaping, and or controlled substances); or
- d. Otherwise infringes upon the rights of others.

Additionally, students are not to wear hats or headwear (this includes hoods) in the school building from their arrival through 3:16. Sunglasses are not to be worn in the building unless the student has a documented visual impairment from a medical professional stating these must be worn.

School personnel have the right to determine whether or not a student's attire is appropriate for school. Refusal to comply with staff in replacing inappropriate dress could result in disciplinary action.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular attendance is essential to school achievement. The law requires that all children in NYS between the ages of 6 and 16 years of age receive full-time instruction in public, private or parochial school.

- Legal excuses for absence are: personal illness, serious illness or death in family, impassable roads, religious observance, court appearance, attendance at health clinics, district approved educational field trips, approved work programs, approved college visits, military obligations, disciplinary detention of an incarcerated youth, and any other reason approved by the Commissioner.
- Any other absence is considered unexcused. Examples of illegal absences include: vacation, shopping, babysitting, hunting, work, oversleeping, missing the bus, car trouble, or road tests.
- The district will support and encourage a student's efforts to maintain or improve school attendance. Unexcused student absences will be treated according to the provisions set forth in the district's code of conduct.
- A written excuse is required by State Education Law each time a child is absent or tardy. This excuse should be sent with the child when he/she returns to school or on the day of tardiness. Students failing to present an excuse prior to an early departure or upon returning back to school following an absence or tardiness within three days of the absence will be subject to the absence being recorded as unexcused. The note, signed by the parent or guardian, should be clear as to the reason and contain the date(s) and time(s) of absence or tardiness.
- If your child is going to be absent, please call the elementary office at 315-495-4550 or the school nurse at 315-495-4500 This allows school personnel to know that the child is safely at home and that the parent is aware of the absence.

CELL PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students are discouraged from bringing cell phones and electronic gaming devices to school. Any cell phones or devices that are brought should remain in students' backpacks in their lockers during school hours or collected by the teacher in the beginning of the day and must remain off for the duration of the school day. This includes all wearable devices.

Students using cell phones or electronic devices during other times of the day will receive consequences as outlined in the SVCS code of conduct. Cell phones, electronic devices and cameras are forbidden to be in any New York State classroom during state testing.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Stockbridge Valley Central School District is committed to providing a safe and orderly learning environment in which students may receive quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, personnel, parents and other visitors is essential to achieving this goal.

The Board of Education has adopted a district Code of Conduct. The code applies to all students, school personnel, parents and other visitors when on Stockbridge Valley Central School District property. The code of Conduct policy can be found on our website at www.stockbridgevalley.org

Reporting Violations

All students are expected to promptly report violations of the code of conduct to a teacher, the building principal or his or her designee. The principal or his/her designee must notify the appropriate local law enforcement agency of those code violations that constitute a crime and substantially affect the order of security of a school.

Disciplinary Penalties, Procedures and Referrals

Disciplinary action, when necessary, will be firm, fair and consistent so as to be the most effective in changing student behavior. In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, school personnel authorized to impose disciplinary penalties will consider the following:

1. The student's age
2. The nature of the offense and the circumstances which led to the offense
3. The student's prior disciplinary record
4. The effectiveness of other forms of discipline
5. Information from parents, teachers and/or others, as appropriate
6. Other extenuating circumstances

As a general rule, discipline will be progressive.

Penalties

Students who are found to have violated the district's code of conduct may be subject to the following penalties, either alone or in combination. The school personnel identified after each penalty are authorized to impose that penalty, consistent with the student's right to due process.

1. Oral warning – any member of the district staff
2. Written warning – Bus Drivers, Lunch Monitors, Psychologist, Teachers, Teacher Assistants
3. Detention – Teachers, Principal
4. Suspension from transportation – Director of Transportation, Principal, Superintendent
5. Suspension from social or extracurricular activities – Principal
6. Suspension of other privileges – Principal
7. In-school suspension or alternative classroom – Principal
8. Removal from classroom by teacher – Teachers, Principal
9. Short-term (five days or less) suspension from school – Principal
10. Long-term suspension (more than five days) - Superintendent (Superintendent's hearing)

Teacher Disciplinary Removal of Disruptive Students

If the student poses a danger or ongoing threat of disruption, the teacher may ask the student to be removed from the classroom immediately.

The principal may have an informal conference with the teacher and student. The principal will decide on the appropriate consequence for the student and a parent/guardian will be notified.

PINS Petitions

The district may file a PINS (Person in Need of Supervision) petition in Family Court on any student under the age of 18 who demonstrates that he or she requires supervision and treatment.

Alternative Instruction

When a student of any age is removed from class by a teacher or a student of compulsory attendance age is suspended from school pursuant to Education Law 3214, the district will take immediate steps to provide alternative means of instruction for the student.

Discipline of Students with Disabilities

It may be necessary to suspend, remove or otherwise discipline students with disabilities to address disruptive behavior. We are committed to ensuring that the procedures followed for suspending, removing or otherwise disciplining students with disabilities are consistent with the procedural safeguards required by applicable laws and regulations.

Student Interrogations

We are committed to ensuring an atmosphere on school property and at school functions that is safe and orderly. To achieve this kind of environment, any school official authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty on a student may question a student about an alleged violation of law or the district code of conduct. Students are not entitled to any sort of “Miranda” type warning before being questioned by school officials, nor are school officials required to contact a student’s parent before questioning the student. However, school officials will tell all students why they are being questioned.

Student Searches

For the safety of all students, teachers, and staff at SVCS, an authorized school official may search a student and/or his/her possessions (pockets, backpacks, book bags, etc.) if there is a reasonable suspicion that the search would result in evidence that a student has violated or is violating a law or school rule.

Child Protective Services Investigations

Consistent with the district’s commitment to keep students safe from harm and the obligation of school officials to report to child protective services when they have reasonable cause to suspect that a student has been abused or maltreated, the district will cooperate with local child protective services workers who wish to conduct interviews of students on school property relating to allegations of suspected child abuse, and/or neglect, or custody investigations.

BULLYING

Bullying is defined as intentional, repeated, harmful acts, words or other behavior such as name calling, threatening or shunning committed by one or more children against another. Bullying will not be tolerated at Stockbridge Valley Central School. Students who bully other students can expect serious disciplinary action to be taken by the staff and administration. It is recommended that any/all bullying incidents be reported immediately to ensure proper Administrative follow-up.

DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT

The Dignity for All Students act, or DASA, was enacted by the New York State Assembly and went into effect in 2012. It protects students in New York public schools from harassment, discrimination and bullying by other students or school employees. It provided that no student shall be subjected to discrimination based on his or her actual or perceived race, color, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, weight, sexual orientation, sexual identity, or sex. DASA was amended in July 2013 to include Cyberbullying, which is defined as harassment or bullying by any form of electronic communication, and includes incidents occurring off school property that create, or would foreseeably create, a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment. DASA explicitly states that bullying, taunting, and intimidation on these protected grounds are all forms of harassment. DASA forms to report incidences of bullying can be obtained from the elementary office and are also located on our website at www.stockbridgevalley.org

Dignity Act Coordinator: Mrs. Julie Suber is the Building DASA Coordinator.