COUNTRY VIEW-NOVEMBER EDITION

# NEWSLETTER




## MESSAGE FROM MRS. BEEM

**Greetings Country View families!**

Our staff have been engaging in learning this year about standards-based teaching and learning. Standards-based teaching ensures every lesson is focused on the specific knowledge and skills your child needs to master for their grade level.

**Moving Toward Standards-Based Teaching and Learning in VASD**

The Verona Area School District is in the midst of a multi-year journey toward Standards-Based Teaching and Learning, a shift designed to ensure every student has clear learning targets, meaningful feedback, and multiple opportunities to demonstrate understanding.

This approach helps teachers align instruction, assessment, and feedback directly to grade-level standards, creating a more accurate, transparent, and student-centered system for reporting learning. Students are supported to set goals, reflect on their progress, and take ownership of their growth, while families gain clearer insight into what their child knows and can do.

To learn more about why and how VASD is making this shift, please view our Standards-Based Teaching and Learning Overview [English - link here] [Spanish - link here]

As always, please reach out to teachers or myself with questions or supports you or your child have!

In Service,
Ms. Beem

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **November 3rd:** Swim Unit Starts (1st-5th grades)
- **November 12th:** VAHS Food Drive starts with donation location at Country View
- **November 13th:** Picture Re-Take Day
- **November 19th:** Family Safety Event at VAHS 6:30-8:00 (Flyer Below)
- **November 26th-28th:** NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving)

## CHANGE OF AFTER SCHOOL PLANS?

Things happen and sometimes you need to change your child's after school plan. You need to let the office know by 1:15pm!

If we don't have a written note or call by 1:15pm, your child will follow their original after school plan.

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## FOOD RESOURCES

**WEEKEND FOOD PROGRAM:**

- FREE and confidential program that provides healthy snacks and some small, easy to prepare meals sent home in your child's backpack on Friday's.
- Sign-up **HERE** or use the QR code

**FREE/REDUCED PRICED SCHOOL MEALS**

- VASD participates in the federal free/reduced lunch program.
- Families are welcome to apply throughout the year if there are changes in income.
- To learn about eligibility please find information **HERE**.

**LOCAL FOOD RESOURCES**

- **CLICK HERE** to access local food pantries, free meals and support.

**FOOD SUPPORT DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON**

- **CLICK HERE** to access food programs available

## FOOD DRIVE TO BENEFIT BADGER PRAIRIE NEEDS NETWORK!




## HOLIDAY SUPPORT

In need of support with holiday gifts this season? Consider these opportunities!

**VASD HELPING HANDS:** Open to VASD students and their families up to age 18.
Register **HERE** or using the QR code until **December 5th**

**Empty Stocking Club:** Open to anyone in Dane County up to age 16.
Register **HERE** or using the QR code until **December 1st**

## OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE




**Interested in supporting this program?**
Please bring new toys/gifts or gift cards to any VASD school by December 12th. Gifts should be $25-$30 and unwrapped. Gifts for middle and high school aged children are especially needed.

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# BULLY PREVENTION

## HIGHLIGHTS

Help your learner distinguish between **mean moments, conflict,** and **bullying**, and proactively discussing appropriate responses to experiencing or witnessing bullying.

## HOW TO HELP

If your child has been victim of bullying, you can support them by:

- listening and validating their feelings and letting them know it's not their fault
- Reassuring them that you are there for them and will help find a solution
- Encourage open communication
- Document incidents, dates and details
- Stay engaged with school

## WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying is described as **unwanted behavior** that is used to **harm or control** another person. This behavior occurs **repeatedly** and involves real or perceived **power imbalance** between the bully and the victim.

Types of Bullying:

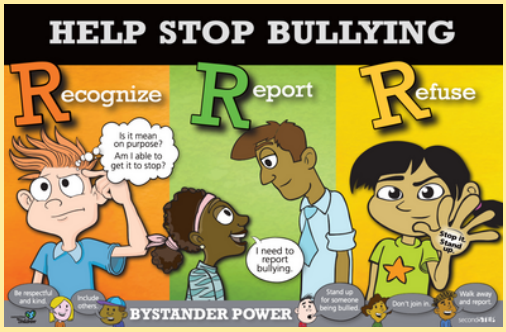
1. **Physical** (hitting, pushing, kicking)
2. **Verbal** (name-calling, teasing)
3. **Social** (spreading rumors, exclusion)
4. **Mental/Emotional** (harming mental well-being)
5. **Cyber** (online harassment)

Children can often use their problem solving skills to cope with conflicts and mean moments on their own. Bullying, on the other hand, almost always requires adult intervention.

## STUDENTS ARE LEARNING...

Second Step Bullying Prevention Unit is evidence based and teaches kids to:

1. **Recognize** when bullying is happening
2. **Report** bullying to a trusted adult
3. **Refuse** to let bullying happen to themselves or others
4. Be a **bystander** who stands up and is part of the solution to bullying.




## WHAT IF YOUR CHILD IS THE ONE BULLYING OTHERS?

Set clear consequences and encourage making amends, like writing an apology or doing something kind for the person they hurt. Firmly express that bullying is never okay, while also letting them know that you will be there to love and support them as they develop more positive relationships.

## RESOURCES

- Stopbullying.gov
- PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center - pacer.org

## BOOKS

- The Juice Box Bully by Bob Soronson and Maria Dismondy
- My Secret Bully by Trudy Ludwig
- One by Kathryn Otoshi

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# PROTECTIVE BEHAVIORS

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Teaching students to recognize and respond to dangerous situations is an important and required component of the curriculum in all Wisconsin Public Schools (State Statue 118.01.2.d.8)
- Lily Hlavacek, School Social Worker, will deliver safety and protective behaviors lessons during Counselor Connection in November and December

## HOW IS IT TAUGHT?

Students will engage with content in a variety of ways including...

- Short videos
- Read Alouds
- Scenarios
- Group Work
- Songs and Visuals

## QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

We recognize that these can be sensitive topics to discuss and learn about. If you have questions or would like to review the content, please reach out!


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Jess Beem
Principal
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## WHAT IS TAUGHT?

Second Step Child Protection Unit is an evidence based curriculum that will teach students...

- **Lesson 1:** Ways to Stay Safe and the Always Ask First Rule
  - **Recognize, Refuse and Report** in combination with environmental safety rules (Same language that is learned in Bullying Prevention)
  - Asking permission before going somewhere, doing something or accepting something from someone
- **Lesson 2:** Safe/Unsafe/Unwanted and “The Touching Rule”
  - Safe touches help us feel safe and loved (ex. hugs, high-fives, fist-bumps, etc.)
  - Unsafe touches hurt our body and are not okay (ex. hits, kicks, punches, etc.)
  - Unwanted touches are touches you do not want. You can refuse any unwanted touch even if it is a safe touch.
  - The Touching Rule: Another person should not look or touch your private body parts except to keep you healthy.
  - Students also learn that it is unsafe to keep secrets if the Touching Rule is broken.

## INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

Visit **earlyopenoften.org** to get additional information about how to have these conversations with your student(s).

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# RELATED ARTS

## MEET OUR PE TEACHERS



MR. DUNKLEBERGER



MR. DRESEN

Mr. Dunkleberger will be at the pool during swim classes. Mr. Dresen will be teaching PE at Country View on Mondays and Thursdays.



## THINGS TO BRING FOR SWIM 1ST-5TH

- Bathing suit
- Towel
- Plastic bag for wet items

You can bring goggles if you have them.

Presentations from our PE teachers about swimming:

**First Day of Swim Presentation**

**General Overview of PE Swim Lessons**

## SWIM SCHEDULE 1ST - 5TH GRADE

**Swim Dates: 11/3/25 - 12/19/25**

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Curtis (1st)<br>Doyle (4th) | Wenten (3rd)<br>Onyancha (5th)<br>Lawry (1st)<br>Crowe (2nd)<br>Holznecht (4th) | Shellhause (5th)<br>Sippola (1st)<br>Passini (2nd) | Flogel (3rd)<br>Thoman (5th)<br>Lauer-Jones (1st)<br>Schroeder (2nd)<br>Morelli (4th) | Wersal (3rd) |

# FAMILY SAFETY EVENT

## Navigating Today'sChanging Drug Landscape

**Verona Area High School presents**
**THE NEW DRUG TALK: CONNECT TO PROTECT**
A criticalconversationfor allparents and guardians

**DATE:**
Wednesday, November 19, 2026
**TIME**:
6:30-8pm
**LOCATION:**
Performing Arts Center (PAC) at VAHS
234 Wildcat Way, Verona, WI
Enter Door 10

**Join us to learn:**

- How today's drug landscape has changed with the emergence of fake prescription pills made with fentanyl
- Practical strategies to start effective conversations with your children
- Protective factors every family should understand
- Resources to help your family navigate these challenges together

**Featuring:**

- An educational short film from Song for Charlie
- Presentation by experts who understand what families are facing
- Q&A session to address your specific concerns

**Learn more about The New Drug Talk at** [thenewdrugtalk.org](thenewdrugtalk.org)

SONG FOR CHARLIE'S THE NEW DRUG TALK
CONNECT TO PROTECT

### WHY ATTEND?

Theemergenceof fentanyl in fake prescription pills has created unprecedented risks for young people. This isn't just about "drugs"—it's about equipping your family with the knowledge to stay safe in a rapidly changing world. Research shows that 83% of teens are less likely to misuse pills after learning about these dangers.

### FREE ADMISSION

Appropriate for caregivers of middle and high school students

### QUESTIONS?

Contact: Tamara Sutor 608-653-1272 or Teresa Nicholas or Shawn Harris