



# Verona Area First Five Year February Newsletter



Pyramid Model

## Social/Emotional Tip of the Month

Has your child ever had trouble settling after having a big feeling or a lot of energy? The turtle technique is a set of steps to help children calm down when they have big emotions. Tucker Turtle is the character that teaches children all

about the turtle technique. The basic steps are: recognize your feelings, stop, go into your shell (yoga-child pose) and take 3 deep breaths, and come out of your shell when you are calm and try a solution. Below you will find links for the Tucker Turtle story in

English and Spanish as well as a Tucker Turtle Song and Fingerplay which is helpful for younger children.

[Tucker Turtle \(English\)](#)

[Tucker Turtle \(Spanish\)](#)

Preschoolers should be able to understand every step of the Turtle Technique with your help. Start by reading the story with them. They need to practice the technique when their bodies are calm. You can do this by brainstorming things that might make them feel mad or sad, like wanting something they can't have or getting bumped. Then roleplay what they should do when these things happen. When a problem really happens, walk them through the steps with words or a visual reminder. Here is a one page visual of each step of the Turtle Technique in English and Spanish.

[Turtle Technique English](#)

[Turtle Technique Spanish](#)

If your child needs a little more support, you can use some key visuals that match with each step:

Turtle Technique Steps	Visual Reminder
Step 1: Recognize your feeling	<a href="#">Feeling chart</a>
Step 2: Stop	<a href="#">Stop sign</a>
Step 3: Go into your shell (yoga-child pose), take 3 deep breaths and think calming thoughts	A picture of your child in the child's pose
Step 4: Come out of your shell when you are calm and try a solution	<a href="#">Solution tool kit</a>

Remember that preschoolers are going to be more capable to follow the turtle technique steps independently than younger children but will still need your help. For instance, a preschooler wants the red shovel that a friend has in the sandbox and starts yelling at the friend to give the shovel. Your reaction may sound like this, "I hear that you want that shovel. How does that make you feel?" If the child labels the feeling, say, "Sad is a big feeling. What do we need to do to calm down like Tucker?" The family member may show the sign language for "stop" or show a picture of a stop sign. When the child stops or pauses, say, "What comes after you stop?" Take a big breath after you say it to remind the child. "Wow! Look at you, tucking in your shell like Tucker and taking three big breaths." When the child sits up or stands, ask if they are calm and ready to solve the problem together. Think of ways he or she can solve the problem and ask which solution the child wants to try first.

## Family Engagement



### [Bring on Spring Concert](#)

**Saturday, February 7th 10-11am at the Performing Arts Center  
at Badger Ridge Middle School  
300 Richard St, Verona, WI 53593**

Enjoy a family friendly musical performance by David Landau. The kids will sing some, move some, act some, dance some, shout just a little bit, and laugh a bunch.

**At this event we will also be sharing information about:  
Upcoming Pre-K/4K Events and Incoming Pre-K/4K Registration.**



### **Kindergarten Information 2026-2027**

For information about our schools and Kindergarten enrollment, refer to [this page](#) on our VASD district website. All students will be pointed to the neighborhood school aligned with their home address unless they wish to apply for our Spanish Two Way Immersion (TWI)/Charter lottery. There is an additional step to take if your family is interested in one of VASD's charter schools or TWI.

- To indicate your interest in your child attending a charter school, you must submit an online application between January 5, 2026, and February 15, 2026
- To indicate your interest in your child participating in a TWI program, you must submit an online application between January 5, 2026, and March 6, 2026.
- You must submit the online application for your incoming Kindergarten student to be considered, even if you already have an older student enrolled in one of these programs.

Completing the application does not guarantee admittance to a charter school or the TWI program. Placements are determined by a lottery. Additional information is available on the [Charter School and Two-Way Immersion Placement page](#) (or load this into your browser:

<https://www.verona.k12.wi.us/registration/charter-twi> )

### **Pre-K/4K Registration 2026-2027**

#### [Pre-K Registration Timeline 2026-2027](#)

Pre-K/4K Informational Meetings In-Person with Registrars available to submit documents after meeting	Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at Boys and Girls Club, 4619 Jenwein Rd., Fitchburg, WI 53711 - 6:00-7:00 pm (6:45-7:15 submit paperwork) <b>Presented in English and Spanish</b>	
Pre-K/4K Information Meeting virtually on Google Meet	Thursday, February 26, 2026, from 7:30-8:30 pm <b>Presented in English</b>	

Open House Schedule	March 2 - 13, 2026	
<b>Step 1 - New Student Registration</b>		
Families set up a PowerSchool Enrollment account and provide documents to VASD, including legacy students, using the link on the VASD Registration Webpage	Monday, February 2, 2026	By Friday, April 24, 2026 for first round of placement then continuous
Legacy students must have step 1 completed	Friday, April 24, 2026	
<b>Step 2 - Pre-K/4K Enrollment</b>		
Families will receive an email within 2 weeks after completing Step 1 to gather more information about Pre-K/4K site preferences, transportation, and if your child needs extended care during the day at an additional cost.	Monday, February 23, 2026	Continuous

**Open Enrollment**

The open enrollment application period is from February 2, 2026 to April 30, 2026 by 4pm. Additional Information is available on the [VASD website](#). If you are a legacy family but not a VASD resident at a Pre-K/4K site, you must complete an open enrollment application to participate in the Pre-K/4K program. You need to apply on the [Department of Public Instruction website](#).

**Have you set up your PowerSchool Parent Portal account?**



Through the PowerSchool Parent Portal you can: See your student's attendance. Access report cards from previous years and sign up for Summer School!! Fun Fact: ***It's the only way to sign up for Summer School!!!*** View assignments & schedule - for students in 6 - 12 grade. If you are new to the Parent Portal, or if you have a child newly entering the district and have never used the Parent Portal before, an was sent out on February 2nd with your student's Access information and steps on

how to create an account. If you already have a Parent Portal account because your student has an older sibling, you only need to log in with your existing account and add your additional student to your account. You do not need to create a new account. Once you are logged in, click on Account Preferences, then Click Students, and click the Add Button. You'll be prompted to add your new student's name, Access ID, and Access Password.