

# Welcome to Kindergarten

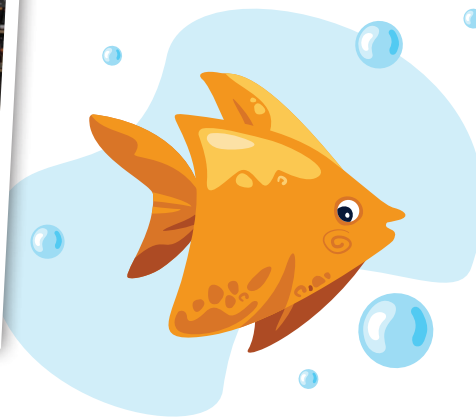
School Year 2026-2027







Welcome to Kindergarten	4
Enrolling Your Child in Kindergarten	6
Virginia Required Immunizations	7
What Parents Need to Know	8
Preparing for the First Day of School	12
School Transportation	14
Kindergarten Schools	17
Staying Connected with your Child's School	18
Elementary School Directory	19



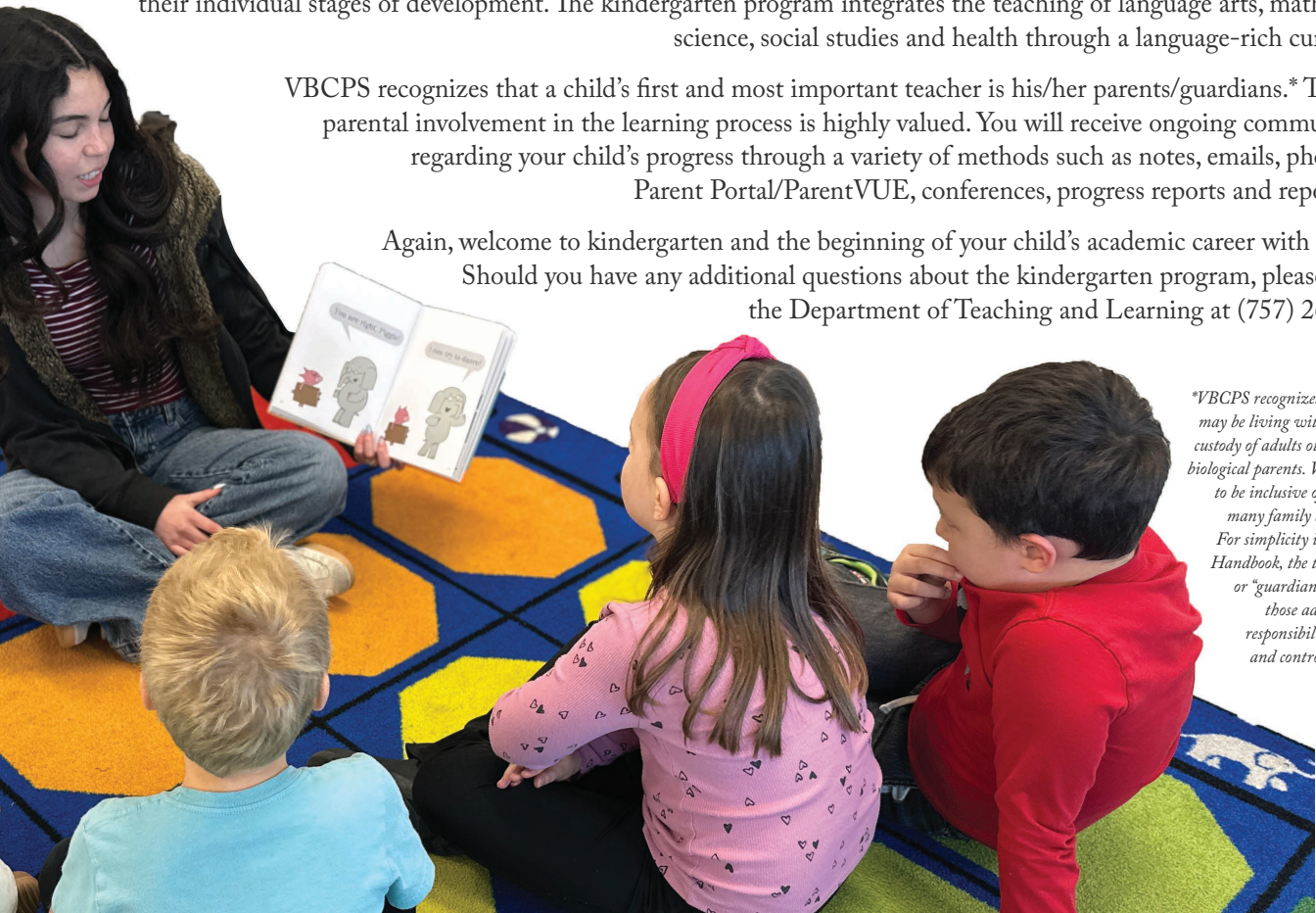
# Welcome to Kindergarten

Our kindergarten program is developmental; lessons and activities are designed to meet the needs of students based on their individual stages of development. The kindergarten program integrates the teaching of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies and health through a language-rich curriculum.

VBCPS recognizes that a child's first and most important teacher is his/her parents/guardians.\* Therefore, parental involvement in the learning process is highly valued. You will receive ongoing communication regarding your child's progress through a variety of methods such as notes, emails, phone calls, Parent Portal/ParentVUE, conferences, progress reports and report cards.

Again, welcome to kindergarten and the beginning of your child's academic career with VBCPS! Should you have any additional questions about the kindergarten program, please contact the Department of Teaching and Learning at (757) 263-1070.

*\*VBCPS recognizes that students may be living with or under the custody of adults other than their biological parents. VBCPS strives to be inclusive of our students' many family arrangements. For simplicity in reading this Handbook, the terms "parents" or "guardians" will refer to those adults who have responsibility for the care and control of a student.*



Kindergarten is an exciting time of new beginnings and of learning new things each and every day. In Virginia Beach City Public Schools, our primary focus is on teaching and assessing the skills our students need to thrive. Some of the skills your child will develop in kindergarten include:

- Developing awareness of sounds and letters in words (such as clapping syllables and naming/writing letters);
- Defining problems and developing questions;
- Generating ideas and unique solutions;
- Asking how and why questions and having students defend their answers and explain their thinking;
- Listening attentively and communicating ideas;
- Collaborating to solve a problem and develop a product;
- Searching for and using information from print and pictures to comprehend text;
- Retelling a story and identifying facts;
- Identifying and discussing characters, setting and events of a story;
- Using technology to leverage learning experiences;
- Writing and illustrating stories about learning experiences;
- Exploring numbers, quantities and relationships through problem-solving and reasoning; and
- Self-managing, making responsible decisions and becoming more socially aware while working with partners, in a group and individually.



# Enrolling Your Child in Kindergarten

## How do I find out what school my child/children will attend?

If you are planning on relocating to Virginia Beach or recently moved to the area, you can find your assigned elementary, middle or high school by visiting our School Locator/Map Center – found on [vbschools.com](http://vbschools.com), under *Families, Registration, School Locator*.

You may also call the Office of Facilities Services at (757) 263-1055 or email [vbschzones@vbschools.com](mailto:vbschzones@vbschools.com).

The office staff in every school is able to assist you with registering your child for kindergarten and answering questions you may have about your child's school. Elementary school office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday. During the summer months, office hours may vary.

## Have a question about shared housing, child custody or residency?

This information can be found by reading School Board Regulation 5-10.1 available on [vbschools.com](http://vbschools.com).

## Where do I register my child for school?

Registration for all students is conducted at the assigned school based on your current Virginia Beach address.

The first day of school is an exciting time for students and families. To help us prepare for your child's smooth transition into the school year, please complete registration before the first day of school. Students can begin attending as soon as their registration is finalized. Registration appointments may not be available during the first days of school, so we encourage families to complete the process ahead of time. Taking care of registration early helps ensure your child doesn't miss valuable school time and avoids any delays or attendance concerns.

## What do I bring to register my child?

- Two proofs of residence/address (lease agreement/mortgage statement and current gas, electric or water bill)
- Certified birth certificate
- Physical examination report (Virginia Form MCH-213G or similar physical form from your provider dated within 12 months prior to starting kindergarten)
- Current immunization records (verified on Virginia Form MCH-213G, public health department form or an immunization document from a qualified physician or licensed nurse practitioner)
- Two current emergency contact phone numbers

# Virginia Required Immunizations

DTap	A minimum of four properly spaced doses, with one dose administered on or after the child's fourth birthday.
Polio	A minimum of four properly spaced doses, with one dose administered on or after the child's fourth birthday.
Measles, Mumps, Rubella requirements	A minimum of two properly spaced measles, mumps, and one rubella (usually administered in the combination vaccine MMR). The first dose must be administered at age 12 months <u>or older</u> and the second dose prior to kindergarten.
Hepatitis B	A minimum of three properly spaced doses. The last dose must be completed after 24 <u>weeks</u> of age.
Varicella (Chickenpox)	Two properly spaced doses. The <u>first</u> dose must be administered at age 12 months <u>or older</u> . Acceptable evidence of disease and/or immunity to chicken pox can be accepted after review by the school nurse.
Hepatitis A	A minimum of two properly spaced doses. The first dose must be administered at age 12 months <u>or older</u> .

A student whose immunizations are incomplete may be admitted conditionally, if the student provides documentary proof at the time of enrollment of having received at least one dose of the required immunization(s) accompanied by a schedule from their healthcare provider for completion of the remaining required dosage(s). At the time of enrollment, ALL immunizations must be as current and as up-to-date as possible. Enrollment and attendance can be delayed if compliance with immunization requirements is not met.

Questions regarding immunization requirements may be directed to your school nurse or to the Student Health Services Office at (757) 263-2025.

## Immunization Clinics (Call for an appointment)

**Virginia Beach Department of Public Health**  
4452 Corporation Lane, Virginia Beach, VA 23462  
(757) 518-2700

### MILITARY FAMILIES

Hampton Roads Appointment Center: (866) 645-4584

**Boone Branch Health Clinic**  
Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek - Ft. Story  
1035 Nider Boulevard, Suite 100, Virginia Beach, VA 23459  
(757) 953-8262

**Oceana Branch Health Clinic**  
Naval Air Station Oceana  
1550 Tomcat Boulevard, Suite 150, Virginia Beach, VA 23460  
(757) 953-3805

Please have medical records, immunization records, military ID cards and Virginia Form MCH-213G (*Commonwealth of Virginia School Entrance Health Form*) with you.

# What Parents Need to Know

## Breakfast/Lunches

The Office of Food Services offers healthy, nutritious meals for breakfast and lunch every day. Information on menus, pricing and nutrition is included in the *Elementary School Parent/Student Handbook* distributed during the beginning of the school year and is posted on [vbschools.com](http://vbschools.com). Families are encouraged to complete free and reduced price meal applications as soon as possible so that eligibility can be confirmed before the school year begins. Applications can be submitted online through SchoolCafe at [www.schoolcafe.com](http://www.schoolcafe.com). Families will need the student's ID number to create an account in SchoolCafe. The ID number will be given to families once their child is enrolled at the school.

## Course Information

The Department of Teaching and Learning's *Kindergarten Parent/Student Course Guide* is available

online at [vbschools.com](http://vbschools.com) and provides insight into the instructional program and learning expectations for your child. The course guide highlights grade-level content and the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL).

## Health Insurance

Health insurance is available for children of families who qualify based on income, through Family Access to Medical Insurance Security FAMIS. For more information or to determine eligibility, call 1(855) 242-8282 or visit [coverva.org](http://coverva.org).

## Medication/Special Care Needs

All medication, prescribed (in original labeled container) and over-the-counter (in new sealed container), must be taken to school by parents, guardians or an adult designee. The following authorization forms completed by a physician, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant or

dentist are acceptable for medication administration in school and include the parent's signature: *Request for Administration of Medication in Hampton Roads Schools, Virginia Asthma Action Plan*, or *Life-Threatening Allergy Management Plan* and must be provided with the ordered medication. Forms can be obtained on [vbschools.com](http://vbschools.com), under *Families, Health Services for Students, Health Forms*. Contact your child's school for guidelines on administering medicine to children.

Parents are asked to contact the school nurse if a child has any special nursing care needs that must be provided during school hours. Examples of this include catheterization, blood sugar checking, seizure precautions and other medical needs.

The nurse will facilitate and coordinate arrangements for meeting these needs, along with parent and physician collaboration and input.

## Out-of-Zone Attendance

The Virginia Beach School Board has established criteria for students to attend a school out-of-zone (a school other than the student's established attendance area). The criteria (School Board Regulation 5-14.1) to determine eligibility for attending an out-of-zone school, along with a Student Placement Request Form, are available in each school and on [vbschools.com](http://vbschools.com). To apply for an out-of-zone transfer, a Student Placement Request Form must be completed annually. For additional information, please contact your school principal.





## Toileting Expectations

Kindergarten students are expected to be able to take care of self-help tasks such as dressing, undressing and toilet needs. It is essential that students can independently undo/redo clothing and properly clean themselves so they can fully access their education. School staff work with students and families to support developmental milestones but do not provide “potty training” and are not expected to assist with changing of undergarments. Families are encouraged to contact your child’s school if additional resources and support are needed for toilet training.

### TOILET TRAINING (10 TIPS FOR FAMILIES)

#### 1) Set a routine

Have a consistent daily schedule. Potty training works best when life feels calm and predictable.

#### 2) Check for Medical Needs

Before starting, talk with your child’s doctor to make sure there are no health concerns that could delay toilet training.

#### 3) Make a Plan with All Caregivers

Everyone who helps your child should follow the same plan. Consistency helps your child learn faster and reduces confusion.

#### 4) Be Consistent

Once you begin, stick with it. Choose a time when you can follow the plan every day. Taking breaks or changing the routine can make training harder.

#### 5) Teach One Skill at a Time

Toileting has many steps (pulling pants down, sitting, wiping, washing hands). Pick the first skill to focus on, then add more as your child is ready. Every child learns at a different pace.

#### 6) Prepare the Bathroom

Make the bathroom a helpful, child-friendly space.

- Use picture schedules or visual reminders.
- Keep a hand-washing visual nearby.
- Have a visual card adults can point to when giving directions.

#### 7) Use Visual Prompts

Use pictures or gestures instead of lots of talking. Too much verbal prompting can overwhelm children.

#### 8) Give your Child a Way to Ask

Provide a “bathroom” picture or card your child can use to tell you they need to go, even if your child can speak. Respect every request, even if it seems frequent. Also, follow a schedule. Aim for six short toilet sits a day, using a small timer to show when the sit is over.

#### 9) Track Progress

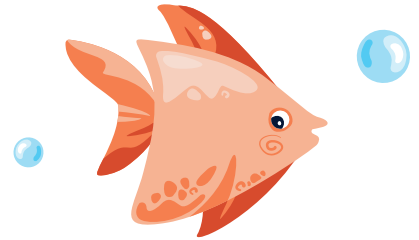
Keep notes on how things are going. If your child isn’t making progress after about a month, it may help to take a break and try again in a few days.

#### 10) Practice Skills Everywhere

Help your child practice steps outside the bathroom too, such as reviewing the order of steps. Talk through or show what to expect before scheduled toilet times.

## Books about potty training

- *Super Pooper!* by Monika Sloan
- *I'm a Potty Superhero: Get Ready for Big Girl Pants!* by Cottage Door Press
- *Potty Superhero: Get Ready for Big Boy Pants!* by Parragon Books
- *How Do You Know You Need to Go?* by Wendy Hayden
- *It Hurts When I Poop! A Story for Children Who are Scared to Use the Potty* by Howard J. Bennett, M.D.



# Preparing for the First Day of School

Did you know that there are many ways you can help prepare your child for kindergarten? Simple things like listening to stories and poems, talking to your child about his/her interests or identifying letters and numbers on street signs, storefronts and license plates make a big difference. Working with your child on listening and following directions, sharing and taking turns will help him/her with the transition into school.

**Our elementary school principals and kindergarten teachers offer these additional helpful tips to ensure your child starts kindergarten strong:**

- ✓ Help your child identify and write his or her full name.
- ✓ Help your child to communicate his or her full name, address, phone number and guardian's full name.
- ✓ Help your child practice identifying basic colors like red, yellow, orange, green, blue, purple, brown, black and pink.
- ✓ Read to your child for 10-15 minutes daily. Pause while reading and ask questions about the story.
- ✓ Listen to educational music songs in the car or at home.
- ✓ Encourage your child to perform self-care tasks independently, to include toileting, hand washing, zipping, buttoning, shoe tying and opening packages at mealtimes.
- ✓ Talk to your child about how you use reading, writing and math at your job or at home.
- ✓ Ask your child to help you with simple household chores (*e.g., cleaning up messes, sorting items into categories, measuring*).

We encourage parents to write their child's name on all personal items, including his/her book bag, coat, hat and gloves. If your child will be riding the bus, it is recommended that he/she rides the bus on the first day to familiarize him/her with the routine. Did you know that having your child practice sitting properly in the car will prepare him/her for riding the bus?



# School Transportation

School bus routes and bus stops are centralized, predetermined locations based on a school's student population. Bus and bus stop information for all students, including kindergarten students, will be available, via Parent Portal/ParentVue, prior to the start of the school year. Students who reside or receive daycare within the kindergarten school's "Non-Transportation Zone" will not be provided bus transportation. Bus transportation is provided to and from school for VBCPS students and is based on each school's transportation zone. All students residing in areas eligible for transportation who request bus service will be assigned to bus stops. Bus routes, bus stops and pick-up times will be posted to each student's Parent Portal/ParentVue account. Answers to common transportation FAQs can be found on [vbschools.com](http://vbschools.com)

As a parent, you can help ensure our students arrive to and from school safely each day. Be sure your child arrives at the bus stop five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive and remind your child to stand at least five giant steps (10 feet) away from the curb and line up away from the bus. Families are encouraged to have a responsible person waiting with children at the bus stop. Please consider sharing "watch" responsibilities with a neighbor, so your child has an adult overseeing safety at the bus stops. If possible, use the buddy system and have your child travel in a group or with fellow students. Bus drivers do their best to keep a timely schedule. Sometimes the bus may be early or late due to breakdowns, substitute drivers, traffic problems or other unforeseen circumstances. If a bus is late, please be patient. To help parents feel secure about their child's trip on the school bus, Zūm App for Parents, "Ride Zum" is available to all parents and may be downloaded from the [vbschools.com](http://vbschools.com) website under transportation. The app gives real-time bus location information and sends notifications when the bus enters a user-defined geographic area around the stop. Please visit [vbschools.com](http://vbschools.com) to learn more. Calls may be made to the Transportation Services Office at (757) 263-1545 with additional questions. All parents must fill out a Transportation Registration Request Form during the time they register their child, and thereafter, annually by the last day of school.



## Help your child practice the following school bus safety tips:

- ✓ Children should never run in front of or behind the school bus to pick up something that he or she dropped or forgot.
- ✓ Children should never run after the school bus if it has already left the bus stop.
- ✓ Make sure your child does not step onto the bus until it has completely stopped.
- ✓ Remind your child to take firm hold of the handrail after the bus stops and the door opens.
- ✓ Children should never push another student while getting on or off the bus.
- ✓ All students riding the bus should go directly to a seat, and quietly sit facing forward. This allows the bus driver to concentrate on driving safely.
- ✓ Students should never place any part of their body through the bus window.
- ✓ Make sure your child is aware of the **Danger Zone** and is always within sight of the bus driver. The **Danger Zone** is a 10-foot-wide area on all sides of a school bus — an area where children are in the most danger of being hit. Children should be taught to stay 10 feet away from the school bus and to never go behind it.



## Will your kindergartner be walking to school instead?

If possible, use the buddy system and have your child travel with a group. Parents are welcome to organize a “group walk” so that students who walk to school could meet at a certain time and place and walk together in a large group. Please teach your child the following when walking to school:

- ✓ Always walk on the sidewalk, or if there isn't one, on the road facing traffic.
- ✓ Only cross streets at corners or crosswalks.
- ✓ Look left, then right, then left again before stepping into the road.
- ✓ Run away if a stranger approaches and immediately report the incident to an adult.

Whenever possible, please try to get the license plate number of any suspicious vehicle in your neighborhood – particularly during the morning pick-up and afternoon delivery times. Please report this information to the police and the school.



# Kindergarten Schools

## Group “A” Elementary Schools

Arrowhead	Ocean Lakes
Bayside	Pembroke
Birdneck	Providence
Centerville	Red Mill
Christopher Farms	Rosemont
College Park	Shelton Park
John B. Dey	Thalia
Fairfield	Three Oaks
Glenwood	Trantwood
Holland	Windsor Woods
Landstown	
Luxford	
Lynnhaven	

## Group “B” Elementary Schools

Alanton	New Castle
Brookwood	North Landing
Cooke	Parkway
Corporate Landing	Pembroke Meadows
Creeds	Point O’View
Diamond Springs	Princess Anne
Green Run	Rosemont Forest
Hermitage	Salem
Indian Lakes	Seatack
Kempsville	Strawbridge
Kempsville Meadows	Tallwood
King’s Grant	Thoroughgood
Kingston	White Oaks
Linkhorn Park	Windsor Oaks
Malibu	Woodstock

Check with your school for kindergarten school hours.

## Notification Process of School Emergencies, Closings or Cancellations

Should there be a school emergency, delay, closing or cancellation due to inclement weather, or any other condition that may affect the safety of our students, parents will be notified via phone and/or email, using the *AlertNow/Parent Square* parent notification system. An official notice will also be posted on [vbschools.com](http://vbschools.com).

Parents are automatically subscribed to *AlertNow/Parent Square*, which uses the contact information parents supply to their child’s school.

If you do not have access to [vbschools.com](http://vbschools.com), call (757) 263-1000 for the most current information on school openings or closings.

# Staying Connected with Your Child's School

VBCPS encourages parents and families to play an active role in their child's academic career — starting in kindergarten! There are many ways you can stay connected, from participating in back-to-school and orientation programs, to arranging a meeting at the school to monitor your child's progress or calling or emailing your child's teachers.

*AlertNow/Parent Square*, a rapid notification system, is used by every school to contact parents about important school information and events, testing schedules, report card distribution, open houses, field trips, emergency situations and more. Messages can be delivered to your home phone, cell phone and/or e-mail.

Plus, all parents have access to the *VBCPS Parent Portal/ParentVUE*, an online tool that allows you to monitor your child's progress in school. The *VBCPS Parent Portal/ParentVUE* can be accessed from the home page of every school's website.

Parents are encouraged to sign up for *SchoolCafé*, an online school meal service app where parents can make cafeteria payments, view school menus and apply for Free & Reduced Meal benefits.

Family Connection is a resource intended to link Virginia Beach families to classes, training, resources and other opportunities to help with all facets of parenting. Visit the *Family and Community Engagement* page on [vbschools.com](http://vbschools.com) and check out the calendar of events updated on a regular basis.

Did you know that VBCPS has its own news blog? Follow The Core, at [www.vbcpsblogs.com/core](http://www.vbcpsblogs.com/core) for the latest information, stories and pictures from schools as well as a more in-depth look into the day-to-day work of students, partners, volunteers and staff.

For even more news about Virginia Beach City Public Schools



Like us on Facebook at  
[Facebook.com/VBSchools](https://www.facebook.com/VBSchools)



Follow us on X (formerly Twitter)  
[@VBSchools](https://twitter.com/VBSchools)



Follow us on Instagram  
[@VBSchools](https://www.instagram.com/VBSchools)

# Elementary School Directory

Alanton	(757) 648-2000
Arrowhead	(757) 648-2040
Bayside	(757) 648-2080
Birdneck	(757) 648-2120
Brookwood	(757) 648-2160
Centerville	(757) 648-2200
Christopher Farms	(757) 648-2240
College Park	(757) 648-2280
Cooke	(757) 648-2320
Corporate Landing	(757) 648-2360
Creeds	(757) 648-2400
Diamond Springs	(757) 648-4240
Fairfield	(757) 648-2480
Glenwood	(757) 648-2520
Green Run	(757) 648-2560
Hermitage	(757) 648-2600
Holland	(757) 648-2640
Indian Lakes	(757) 648-2680
John B. Dey	(757) 648-2440
Kempsville	(757) 648-2720
Kempsville Meadows	(757) 648-2760
King's Grant	(757) 648-2800
Kingston	(757) 648-2840
Landstown	(757) 648-2880
Linkhorn Park	(757) 648-2920
Luxford	(757) 648-2960
Lynnhaven	(757) 648-3000

Malibu	(757) 648-3040
New Castle	(757) 648-3080
North Landing	(757) 648-3160
Ocean Lakes	(757) 648-3200
Parkway	(757) 648-3280
Pembroke	(757) 648-3320
Pembroke Meadows	(757) 648-3360
Point O'View	(757) 648-3440
Princess Anne	(757) 648-3480
Providence	(757) 648-3520
Red Mill	(757) 648-3560
Rosemont	(757) 648-3600
Rosemont Forest	(757) 648-3640
Salem	(757) 648-3680
Seatack	(757) 648-3720
Shelton Park	(757) 648-3760
Strawbridge	(757) 648-3800
Tallwood	(757) 648-3840
Thalia	(757) 648-3880
Thoroughgood	(757) 648-3920
Three Oaks	(757) 648-3960
Trantwood	(757) 648-4000
White Oaks	(757) 648-4040
Windsor Oaks	(757) 648-4120
Windsor Woods	(757) 648-4160
Woodstock	(757) 648-4200



Donald E. Robertson Jr., Ph.D., *Superintendent*  
Virginia Beach City Public Schools  
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For further information, please call (757) 263-1088.

### Notice of Non-Discrimination Policy

Virginia Beach City Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation/gender identity, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, disability, marital status, age, genetic information or military status in its programs and activities, employment, or enrollment and provides equal access to the Boy or Girl Scouts and other designated youth groups. School Board policies and regulations (including but not limited to, Policies 2-33, 4-4, 5-4, 5-7, 5-19, 5-20, 5-31, 5-44, 6-7, 6-33, 7-48, 7-49, 7-57 and Regulations 2-33.1, 4-4.1, 4-4.2, 4-4.3, 5-7.1, 5-44.1, 5-44.2, 7-11.1 and 7-57.1) provide equal access to courses, programs, enrollment, counseling services, physical education and athletic, vocational education, instructional materials, extracurricular activities, and employment.

Title IX Notice: Complaints or concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of sex or sexual harassment should be addressed to the Title IX Coordinator, Robin Reese, Ed.D., at the VBCPS Office of Student Leadership, 641 Carriage Hill Road, Suite 200, Virginia Beach, VA 23452, (757) 263-2020, [Robin.Reese@vbschools.com](mailto:Robin.Reese@vbschools.com). Additional information regarding Virginia Beach City Public Schools' policies regarding discrimination on the basis of sex and sexual harassment, as well as the procedures for filing a formal complaint and related grievance processes, can be found in School Board Policies 5-31, 5-44 and School Board Regulations 5-44.1, 5-44.2 (students), School Board Policy 4-4 and School Board Regulation 4-4.3 (employees) and on the School Division's website <https://www.vbschools.com/about/titleix>. Concerns about the application of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act should be addressed to the Section 504 Coordinator/Executive Director of Student Support Services at (757) 263-1980, 641 Carriage Hill Road, Suite 100, Virginia Beach, VA 23452, or the Section 504 Coordinator at the student's school. For students who are eligible or suspected of being eligible for special education or related services under IDEA, please contact the Office of Programs for Exceptional Children at (757) 263-2400, Plaza Annex/Family and Community Engagement Center, 641 Carriage Hill Road, Suite 200, Virginia Beach, VA 23452.

The School Division is committed to providing educational environments that are free of discrimination, harassment, and bullying. Students, staff, parents/legal guardians who have concerns about discrimination, harassment, or bullying should contact the school administration at their school. Promptly reporting concerns will allow the school to take appropriate actions to investigate and resolve issues. School Board Policy 5-7 addresses non-discrimination and anti-harassment, Policy 5-44 addresses sexual harassment and discrimination based on sex or gender. Policy 5-36 and its supporting regulations address other forms of harassment.

Alternative formats of this publication which may include taped, Braille, or large print materials are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Call or write the Department of School Leadership, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, 2512 George Mason Drive, P.O. Box 6038, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038. Telephone (757) 263-1088 (voice); fax (757) 263-1260; (757) 263-1240 (TDD) or email [DeptofSchoolLeadership@vbschools.com](mailto:DeptofSchoolLeadership@vbschools.com)

[vbschools.com](http://vbschools.com)

*your virtual link to Hampton Roads' largest school system*

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