VPE FAQs

Answers to Veterans Park Elementary School's most commonly asked questions

- **Are translation/interpretation services available to my family?**
  Fayette County Public Schools is a diverse district with more than 89 spoken languages. To meet these students' and families' needs, we have an in-house team of 70 to 75 interpreters representing more than 40 languages. You have the right to request interpreter services if you need them. The PTA will also work to interpret information when possible.

- **What is the PTA and why should I join?**
  The overall purpose of PTA is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. Our goal is to have one PTA member for each child enrolled in VPE. The PTA typically meets on the second Thursday of each month in the library & via Zoom at 7:45 am. All meetings are open to the public.

- **What is the SBDM Council?**
  SBDM Council stands for Site Based Decision Making Council. The Council is the governing body of the school that oversees and approves policies, budgets, and more. The Council consists of the principal, 3 elected teachers and 2 elected parents. The Council typically meets on the second Monday of each month in the conference room at 3:00 pm. All meetings are open to the public.

- **I hear the terms Lower Primary, Upper Primary and Intermediate used. What do they mean?**
  Lower Primary refers to children in Kindergarten and First Grade. Upper Primary refers to Second and Third graders. Intermediate are children in Fourth and Fifth Grades.

- **What are Specials Classes and how are they scheduled?**
  Each day students will have a "specials" class. Specials include PE, Culture, STEM, Art, and Music. We work on a 5-day rotation. You can always find out where we are in the rotation by checking the top of the VPE website. Students will also visit the library once a week.

- **I would like to volunteer at the school and chaperone on field trips. What do I need to do?**
  The first thing you will need to do before you can volunteer in the classroom or chaperone on a field trip is visit www.fcps.net/volunteer and complete the Volunteer Application. Once the criminal background check is complete, you will be added to the approved volunteer list. This must be renewed every 3 years. Next, contact your homeroom teacher and/or any PTA officer for volunteer opportunities.

- **Can I walk my child to his/her class?**
  Parents are welcome to walk their child to class the first two days of school- Wednesday, August 12th, and Thursday, August 13th. Beginning Friday the 14th, we ask that students begin to walk to class independently. Staff members will be stationed throughout the building to help students get to class on the first days of school as well. Teachers are also available to answer questions or for conferences from before 7:15 am, after 2:35 pm and during their planning times each day. All voicemails and emails will be answered within 24 hours to help protect instructional time.

- **My child woke up sick or we are going to be out of town. What do I need to do?**
  You will need to do two things. First, on the day of the absence (or each day of multiple-day absences), call the school prior to 8:00 am and leave a message on the absence line. All absent student's families will receive an email/phone call notification by 10:30 am to alert you of the absence. Second, upon your child's return we must have a handwritten note from a parent or doctor's note to excuse the absence. You may turn the notes in to the teacher, or submit them by filling out the electronic form on our website (you may attach doctor's notes on this form as well) Remember, vacations and family trips are unexcused absences unless approved prior to trip as an Educational Enhancement Opportunity. Please see VPE office staff for form and/or information surrounding the application process for Educational Enhancement Opportunities.

- **How many field trips will my child go on and how much will it cost?**
  The number and dates of the field trips vary from year to year and by grade. However, in a school year FCPS board policy says your total cost for all field trips, supplies, and other funds requested will NOT exceed $120 per child. If a field trip is scheduled and the cost poses a financial burden for your family, please contact Ms. Dabney. We will not allow cost to ever prohibit your child from attending a field trip. Please note that if your child qualifies for free or reduced lunch, there is a form that will need to be filled out to potentially waive the cost of field trips. Be sure to obtain and complete that form at your earliest convenience.

- **What is VPE Spirit Wear?**
  Each year (typically at the beginning of the year), clothing items featuring the VPE logo are made available to purchase for those who are interested.

- **What is Spirit & Hat Day and the Eagles Nest?**
  The first Friday of each month is designated as Spirit & Hat Day. Kids are encouraged to wear their VPE Spirit Wear or anything red, white, blue or patriotic (since we are the Patriots!) and their favorite hat. On Spirit & Hat Day we also celebrate our students' awesome behavior supporting our Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS). The Eagles Nest will be utilized for positive reinforcement on the first Friday of every month.

- **What if my child forgot something?**
  If your child forgot something, you may drop it off in the office by 10:00 am to be delivered by the staff. We don't allow for you to walk it down to keep distractions to a minimum.

- **What is the cost for breakfast and lunch, and how can I pay?**
  VPE is not a "Free" feeding site. Therefore, families who do not qualify for Free and/or Reduced Lunch will need to have money on student accounts to purchase breakfast/lunch. The current cost for breakfast is $2.00; the current cost for lunch is $2.75. Families can add funds to their child's meal account by cash or check (sent in a labeled envelope with name/ teacher/parent phone number/ amount enclosed) or online at www.myschoolbucks.com.

- **Can I have lunch with my child?**
  Outside visitors are welcome to eat lunch with their child. When visitors arrive, they must enter through the office to sign in, and there will be tables stationed outside of the cafeteria where their child can join them.

- **My child LOVES Chick-Fil-A. Can I bring any type of fast food for lunch?**
  No. Our school SBDM Council has a no fast food policy per our SBDM wellness policy. Fast food and soft drinks are not allowed in the cafeteria for the children or their guests. Thanks for your help in adhering to this policy.

- **I want to do something special for my child on his/her birthday. Can I bring treats for the whole class?**
  No. We do not allow food treats (cupcakes, cakes, candy, etc.) at school for birthdays per our Wellness Policy and due to the many different food allergies. Instead of bringing cupcakes or treats to share, you are welcome to donate a book to the library. Every book donated will have a sticker placed on the inside front cover with the child's name, birthdate, and grade. Each student will receive a birthday pencil for their donation and have their photo displayed in the hallway to recognize their donation. Please donate new, hardback books only. If you have questions, contact Ms. Ault, our school librarian.

- **My child has non-school aged siblings. What am I allowed to bring them to?**
  Siblings are always welcome to come to our evening events. They are not allowed when you are volunteering, chaperoning field trips or at school functions during the instructional day like classroom parties, field trips, Fun Day, etc.

- **Can we use the playground after school hours?**
  You may use the playground immediately following school until 3:00 pm with adult supervision. From 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm on school days it is reserved for our after school program, Patriot Place. Feel free to come play after that time or on non-school days unless otherwise posted.

- **What is Wellness Wednesday?**
  Each Wednesday VPE celebrates Wellness Wednesday to help promote a healthy, active lifestyle. Wellness Wednesdays include some or all of the following: everyone wears exercise/active clothing and gym shoes, extra exercise breaks during the day, walk laps as a class, take the long way to lunch and specials, power walks between classes, and celebrate being active.

- **How can I keep in touch with VPE?**
  Our website (www.veterans.fcps.net) is always full of relevant and current information. Be sure to bookmark the website and sign up today! You can also follow us on the VPE PTA Facebook Page (Veterans Park Elementary PTA), on Instagram (@vpeinaction) on Twitter (@vpepatriot). Each Friday afternoon weekly "VPE Flash" updates will be sent out via Parent Square to parents email address on record. Therefore, please make sure your email address is up to date in Infinite Campus or contact the VPE office.

- **I signed my child up to walk home but would like to pick them up in my car on rainy/snowy days. How do I do that?**
  Each time you deviate from your indicated transportation mode, you will need to provide written communication to your child's teacher alerting them of the change and it must be either handwritten or directly emailed to our transportation email. It helps eliminate confusion and allows staff to get your child to the correct dismissal area if you make the decision before school each morning. If you have an emergency and must make a change during the day, it needs to be in the office before 1:15 pm. You may do this by emailing vpetransportation@fayette.kyschools.us or stopping by the office and making the written request there.

- **I pick my child up in the car line. Is there anything special I need to know?**
  Car riders are dismissed after the bus riders and are expected to load carefully on the sidewalk side of the cars only.
  EVERY car must have a yellow number tag displayed on the rear view mirror, visor or dashboard. Parents are asked to remain in their cars and pull around with the flow of traffic. Please work with your child to be able to buckle themselves thus resulting in not having an adult get out of the car. Remember not to stop for your child, instead pull all the way down and someone will bring your child to you to enter the car on the passenger side. Parents **may not** park in the aisles or on Clearwater Way and cross the traffic to pick up students. To keep all our students safe, no child may walk into the parking lot during dismissal. At the beginning of dismissal, we leave space for our special needs students to be picked up at the last door in the right turn lane.
  As a reminder, cars are only allowed to turn right into the bus loop (coming from Waterford/Pinnacle) and only allowed to turn left into the parking lot loop (coming from Saron Dr./Cumberland) during both arrival and dismissal as this helps with traffic flow and safety of all.

- **What fundraisers do the VPE PTA participate in?**
  Parents are NEVER required to participate in VPE's fundraisers. Our primary fundraiser is Boosterthon which is typically held just after the start of the school year. The PTA's working budget is based on the funds raised through Boosterthon. We also hold a Homeroom Basket raffle in the spring. We participate in two book fairs, which provide literary resources for families as well as money to support the VPE library.

- **What is the PTA Homeroom Raffle basket?**
  In the spring each class will come up with a basket theme. Families will be asked to donate requested items to be a part of the basket for their class. Donations are always optional. The baskets will be on display prior to the raffle on Celebrate the Arts Night each April. Raffle tickets may be purchased for $1 each and then entered into the drawing for the particular basket(s) they would like.

- **What does the money that PTA raises pay for at VPE?**
  Here is a list of some of the items/programs the PTA donations have covered: Playground Equipment, Chromebooks, Interactive Flat Panel Instructional Computers, iPads for each teacher, sets of iPads for classes to check out (one for each student), guitars, an allowance for each teacher and special area to use on classroom supplies; playground; walking track; landscaping; after school clubs, COSI, active learning garden, Kentucky Kids Day, staff appreciation, student phone book, technology, voice enhancement systems in every classroom and much more!

- **Who do I contact for information or if I have other questions?**
  Start with your homeroom teacher, then you can also always call the office (859)-422-0025 and speak to any of the following people:

  Molly Dabney, Principal
  Janet Bertrand, Assistant Principal
  Shelly Pugel, Assistant Principal
  Kayla Moon, Child Guidance Specialist
  Paul Barth, District Mental Health Specialist
  Allie Campbell, District Mental Health Specialist
  Nicole Love, Family Resource Center Director
  Leslie Sheets, Registrar
  Katie Cecil, Attendance
  Hannah Jones and Janet Jones, Patriot Place, After School Child Care Program
  Stephanie Maskos, Bookkeeper
  Sierra Shoemaker, School Nurse
  Jessica Ault, Librarian, & Webmaster
  Trisha Atcher, PTA President