

SEPT/OCTOBER 2020

The Vadnais Voice



Address - 3645 Centerville Rd., Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

Phone (651)653-2858 **Fax** (651) 653-2860

Attendance (651) 653-2859 -

attendancevadnais@isd624.org

Emergency School Closing (651)407-7540

Website - www.whitebear.k12.mn.us/Vadnaisheights

Principal - sara.svir@isd624.org

Dear Vadnais Heights Families:

When I think of October I think about hot cider, caramel apples, carving pumpkins, harvest moons and hayrides - this year I also think of social distancing, face masks, hybrid and distance learning models. This is definitely the most unique start to a school year than any of us have ever experienced yet it's going really well. As children arrive at school each day, either in person or online, it's wonderful to see them excited and anxious to connect with friends in their classroom family. If things aren't running smooth for your child, please know that we are here to help.

Every year we set academic goals for each and every student. We collect information at the start of the year to tell us where your child is performing. Most of our students have taken the two assessments yet some of our full-time distance learners have not completed the BAS (Benchmark Assessment System) and the FAST (Formative Assessment System for Teachers). Please contact our school to schedule a time that your child will work, one on one with an adult, to complete these assessments. As they learn new information and practice the skills, we will reassess the students to monitor their growth. We know that some students will excel with distance learning and others will need more support. These assessments help us determine the needs of each student and areas where we need to modify instruction to support each student at our school.



Attendance is extremely important for academic growth and to ensure everyone's safety. Teachers are collecting this information for all students Monday - Thursday. We are required to keep this data to ensure students are participating in daily instruction and to have detailed information in the event someone tests positive for Covid-19. Please communicate with your child's teacher and our health office if your child is unable to attend.



2020-2021 will go down in history as a year to remember because VHES students learned new technology skills, safe choices, flexible thinking and patience. Thank you for supporting your children and our school!

Sincerely,
Sara Svir

Hmong: LUS CEEB TOOM! Yog koj xav tau tsev kawm ntawv cov ntawv txhais ua lus Hmoob, thov hu rau Mas Lias Xyooj los yog Xw Xyooj. (651) 407-7623

Spanish: ATENCIÓN: Si usted necesita hablar con una persona que hable Español, por favor, llame al (651) 407-7625.

Important Dates

October 5 th -9 th	Fire Prevention Week
October 15 th & 16 th	NO SCHOOL - Education Minnesota
October 21 st	Unity Day - Wear Orange
<i>Looking ahead</i>	
November 2 nd and 3 rd	No School - Teacher Work Day
November 3 rd	Election Day 
November 2 nd and 10 th	Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30 - 7 PM
November 13 th	End of the 1 st quarter
November 19 th	PTO Virtual Meeting - 6:30 pm meet.google.com/meu-zrus-bfe
November 25 th - 27 th No School	



FREE Breakfast and Lunch

Due to a new USDA Meal Waiver, breakfast and lunch are now FREE for all children until further notice.

All of these meals are FREE to everyone regardless of income. However, we still need you to complete the Free/Reduced Lunch application to ensure that additional funds can be allocated towards our school for other services.

<https://www.schoolcafe.com/isd624>

School Year Meal information

Distance Learning Meal Pick-Up

- Weekly student meals will be available for pick up on Fridays between 9:30am-10:30am at WBLAHS-North Campus.
 - Additional Sites and pick-up times may be added in the coming weeks.
- Families are required to pre-order via this [Google Order Form](#) each week by 9:30am on the Monday before.
 - Orders for pick up on October 2nd are due September 28th at 9:30am
 - Families that do not pre-order may have to wait until all pre-orders are fulfilled before having the opportunity to receive their meals.
- Menus are available online at <https://isd624.nutrislice.com/>

Hybrid Take Home Meals

- Meals will be available on the days students are in-person learning to take home for the days students are at-home distance learning.
 - A Schedule - Monday take home for Tuesday, Wednesday take home for Thursday and Friday
 - B Schedule - Tuesday take home for Wednesday, Thursday take home for Friday and Monday
- Families are required to pre-order meals for take home via this [Google Order Form](#) each week by Monday at 9:30am. Families that do not pre-order may have to wait until all pre-orders are fulfilled before having the opportunity to receive their meals.
- Students will pick up meals at designated locations within their school building
- Menus are available online at <https://isd624.nutrislice.com/>

* Need more food? Check this out.

<https://www.isd12.org/district-news/curbside-meal-pick-information-announced>

Hello Vadnais Heights Families,

As we return to school we wanted to remind all families to review the school district and Minnesota Department of Health procedures for screening your child for illness and how to respond to symptoms. Keeping students home when they have symptoms, and for the appropriate quarantine time after exposure, is an essential part of managing Covid-19 in a school population.

The White Bear Lake district is required Minnesota Dept. of Health guidance for exclusion for illness or exposure to Covid-19: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf>

Please make yourself familiar with the following guidelines for parents:

Minnesota Department of Health Family Attendance Guide:
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/attendance.pdf>

Minnesota Department of Health Home Screening Guide:
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/homescreen.pdf>

As a reminder, students who have been tested for Covid-19 MUST stay home while waiting for test results, even if they feel better:

What to do if you are waiting for Covid-19 test results?
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/waiting.pdf>

Other Resources for Parents:

Minnesota Department of Health Educational Videos on Covid-19:
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/materials/videos.html>

Preparing your student for school tool-kit (this has social stories to help explain things to your student and prepare them for next week):
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gWEKGEIEbTN7m6Zu9ytuOWD5xnX3T1ajUkl252peKD8/edit?ts=5f58e5b8>

White Bear Lake Fall 2020 & Covid-19 Information Page:
<https://www.isd624.org/departments/communications/fall-2020>

Please contact your school health office if your student has symptoms and for any questions you have!

Molly Miller, School Nurse (molly.miller2@isd624.org) 651-653-2864
Amy Jents, Health Aide (amy.jents@isd624.org) 651-653-2695

Lifetouch Pictures

Lifetouch will be taking pictures on Monday, September 28th for students who attend Hybrid learning on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Students who attend Hybrid learning on Tuesdays and Thursdays will have their pictures taken on Tuesday, September 29th.

Distance Learners are able to come at the following times to have their pictures taken according to the first letter of their last name:

A-D Monday between 1 and 2 pm

E-K Monday between 2 and 3 pm

L- Monday between 3 and 3:30 pm

M-S Tuesday between 1 and 2 pm

T-V Tuesday between 2 and 3 pm

W-Z Tuesday between 3 and 3:30 pm



Lifetouch.

PICTURE DAY IS COMING



Order your school pictures
today on mylifetouch.com



Monday, September 28th & Tuesday, September 29th
Vadnais Heights Elementary School



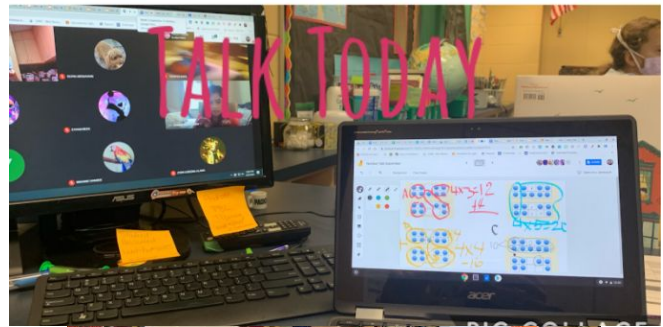
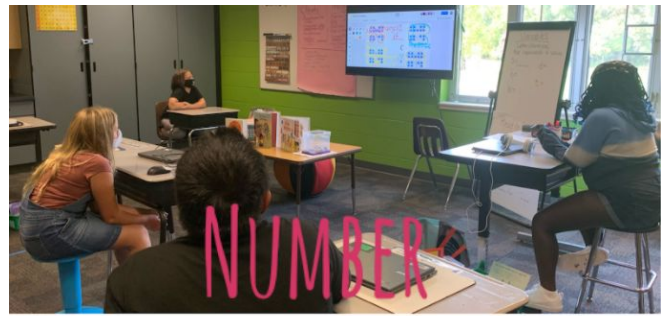
- ① Visit mylifetouch.com
- ② Enter your Picture Day ID
EVTW27CWD
- ③ Order your perfect package—
and don't worry about returning
anything on Picture Day!

Lifetouch
REWARDS™

Earn exclusive offers for your
online picture purchases.

Portrait Dates Subject to Change. Please watch for more information from your school on exact dates and times.

Back to School



School Readiness

Early Childhood is looking for families with 4-year-olds that might want to take advantage of free or reduced price preschool programming at Willow, Birch and Vadnais elementary schools. These are half day programs that will run 5 days a week (in-spite of the hybrid model), either in the morning (9-11:45 am) or in the afternoon (1-3:40 pm). There is also transportation available.

Please contact the Early Childhood Program at 651-653-3105 if you have questions or want to complete registration for your child.

CUB SCOUTS OPEN TO BOYS & GIRLS GRADES K-5

Sign up at joincubs.org

Questions?
Contact Craig
florx003@umn.edu
612-282-4610



PACK 212 VADNAIS HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY

Updates to Drop-off and Pick-up Students at VHES

- New or changed information is highlighted in yellow.
- Changes will begin on Monday, 9/21.

Morning Drop-off

Location #1 for Parent Drop-off - Front of School/Near Flag Pole on East Side		
Kindergarten (Ms. Lapinski)	9:00 - 9:05	Enter the building @ Door C
1st Grade (Mr. Theissen, Mrs. Loch & Mrs. Gaddini)	9:05 - 9:10	Enter the building @ Door B or D

Location #2 for Parent Drop-off - North Parking Lot/Near Learning Commons (Media Ctr.)		
Kindergarten (includes students originally assigned to Mrs. Jones) (Mrs. Lane)	9:00 - 9:05	Enter the building @ Door N
2nd Grade - Dropping @ North End (Ms. Aubin, Mr. Allen & Mrs. Przybylski)	9:00 - 9:05 *New Time	Enter the building @ Door O
3rd Grade (Mrs. Bliss, Ms. Thimjon, Ms. Petrik)	9:00 - 9:05	Enter the building @ Door N
4th Grade (Ms. O'Donovan, Mrs. Jensen, Mrs. Haley)	9:05-9:10	Enter the building @ Door N or O
5th Grade (Mrs. Rider, Ms. Sawtell, Ms. Ludens)	9:05-9:10	Enter the building @ Door N or O

** If you have children for both drop-off locations, drop off with your youngest child. All children enter the building together and go to classrooms from that location.

**Absolutely no parents/guardians or other adult family members will be allowed into the school building during our morning arrivals. We will have extra staff in the building to assist students getting to their classrooms.

**If your student walks or bikes to school, they should arrive at the time mentioned above and enter through the appropriate door.

End of the Day Departure -

In order to adequately social distance our students during departure, we must stagger the pick-up times and ask that families strictly adhere to these times.

Location #1 for Parent Pick-up - Front of School/Near Flag Pole on East Side		
Kindergarten (Ms. Lapinski & Mrs. Jones)	2:40-2:45	Exit the building through Door C
1st Grade (Mr. Theissen, Mrs. Loch & Mrs. Gaddini)	2:40-2:45	Exit the building through Door D

Location #2 for Parent Pick-up - North Parking Lot/Near Learning Commons (Media Ctr.)		
Kindergarten (includes students originally assigned to Nancy Jones) (Mrs. Lane)	2:40	Exit the building through Door N
2nd Grade (Ms. Aubin, Mr. Allen & Mrs. Przybylski)	2:40	Exit the building through Door N
3rd Grade (Mrs. Bliss, Ms. Thimjon, Ms. Petrik)	2:43	Exit the building through Door N
4th Grade (Ms. O'Donovan, Mrs. Jensen, Mrs. Haley)	2:45-	Exit the building through Door N
5th Grade (Mrs. Rider, Ms. Sawtell, Ms. Ludens)	2:45	Exit the building through Door N

****Absolutely** no parents/guardians or other adult family members will be allowed into the school building during our afternoon departure. Students will be escorted out to the sidewalk to meet the adult waiting in the vehicle. Adults - please stay in your car.

******If a family arrives early, blocking traffic, you will be asked to exit the parking lot and re-enter at your child's pick up time.

******Families may also be asked to park if their child is delayed in the building to allow for a constant flow of traffic.

******If your student walks or bikes home, they will be dismissed at 2:40 PM. All bikers & walkers should go to Door B and they will be dismissed or assisted across Centerville Rd. by Heather Sandberg.

News from PTO

Welcome Parents!

The VHES PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) is so happy you've chosen to join us at Vadnais Heights Elementary. If you have a child at Vadnais Heights Elementary, you're already a part of the PTO! This year will be different, but our mission remains the same: we are a group of parents working together with the teachers and administration of our school to help provide additional opportunities.

-There are NO fees, dues, or initiations to participate in PTO.

-We host meetings every other month on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm (September, November, January, March, and May.) All meetings will be virtual and everyone is welcome. Links to join us are available on our [Facebook page](#). We respect everyone's time so meetings generally last less than an hour. We promise: coming

to a meeting won't get you sucked into any volunteer jobs (unless you want to!)

-If you can't make it to a meeting, agendas and minutes are posted on our [website](#).

-We also publish a monthly newsletter to keep families up to speed on what's going on. Sign up for the newsletter/mailling list [here](#).

-There is lots of great information on our website, but please [email](#) if you have questions or suggestions.

-Typically we have plenty of events throughout the year and our hope is that every family will find at least one option to volunteer their time. It's a great way to help the kids and get to know other families! Unfortunately, this year most of our social events are canceled or virtual, but our commitment to support our students and teachers remains strong and we will reinstate events if we are able.

We understand that most people don't like fundraising or getting asked for money all the time, but we are able to provide so many great opportunities for the kids that they wouldn't otherwise get because of our community's generosity. Your support provides scholarships for all students, funds field trips and art instruction, replaces technology so our kids have up to date devices, and adds safety enhancements to our campus. Your donations also provide our teachers money for supplies in their classrooms, and expand our media center and classroom book collections. We have many committed families, but the reality is that we need more families to get involved. We are asking that every family will find at least one option to help out. Please take a look at the calendar and see what will work for your family to give of your time, talent, or treasure. We thank the [volunteer leads](#) who have already committed to helping out this year, however that may look.

Every year we publish a student directory to keep families connected. Please fill out [this form](#) by Friday, October 2. It is optional to share your information. It is not to be used for soliciting purposes.

Look for information on our school's fall fundraiser, the 2020 Fit-athon, coming soon!

Cheers to a great 2020-2021 school year!

Your VHES PTO Board

Shelby, Lisa, Cassie & June

Follow us on [Facebook](#)

Visit our [website](#)

[Email us](#)

Check out our [calendar](#)

No School:

October 15th -16th

November 2nd-3rd

November 25th- 27th

