

# Shenandoah Valley School District



**TO:** Parent(s) / Guardian(s) of Shenandoah Valley School District (SVSD) Students

**FROM:** Brian Waite, Superintendent

**DATE:** August, 2025

**RE:** 2025-26 School Year Greetings

The first day of the 2025-26 school term for SVSD students is **Monday, August 25, 2025**. **If you attend Schuylkill Technology Center for the first semester, you begin on August 25, 2025.** Please take the time to review the enclosed information prior to that date. If you have questions, contact school officials for further information at the following phone numbers: Superintendent 462-1936; high school principal Mr. John Brennan 462-1957; elementary principal Mr. Shawn Welch at 462-2796.

There are also several other points I'd like to bring to your attention. If you have questions or comments on any of these, please contact the persons at the numbers listed or by calling Superintendent's office at 462-1936.

1. **Attendance Requirements** – Available for review on the district website @ [www.svbluedevels.org](http://www.svbluedevels.org) is the explicit policy approved by School Board for SVSD students. Any questions should be directed to truant officer Ms. Marion Zienkiewicz who can be reached by calling 462-1957 / Extension 4173.
2. **Bus Conduct Policy** – Available for review on the district website @ [www.svbluedevels.org](http://www.svbluedevels.org) is the bus conduct policy for SVSD students. Since bus drivers have the same authority on the bus as teachers in the classroom, drivers are expected to implement student bus discipline in a fair and consistent manner. Administrative action in carrying out Board policy is based on driver recommendation. Any questions should be directed to Transportation Supervisor Ms. Michele Bereschak who can be reached by calling 462-1936.
3. **Bus Transportation Schedule (Emergency)**- At times weather conditions *do not* allow for student pick-up along the *normal* route. If an emergency schedule is announced, please refer to the listed pick-up sites in on the district website @ [www.svbluedevels.org](http://www.svbluedevels.org) .
4. **Bus Transportation Schedule (Regular)** – For the beginning of the 2025-26 school year, all bus schedules will be available on the district's website @ [www.svbluedevels.org](http://www.svbluedevels.org). If you have questions, please contact Transportation Supervisor Ms. Michele Bereschak who can be reached by calling 462-1936.
5. **Cafeteria Services** - Cafeteria information, including concerns are available for review on the district website @ [www.svbluedevels.org](http://www.svbluedevels.org). Questions should be directed to cafeteria manager Theresa Knipe. Ms. Knipe can be reached by calling 462-1950.
6. **Coal Street Extension** – As a reminder, vehicular traffic will not be permitted to turn from Centre Street to the Little League parking area between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. each school day. Rather, the *ONE WAY* entrance to the Elementary Office for buses and private vehicles will be from the Coal Street Extension Road. Using the Coal Street Extension Road, students can be dropped off at the elementary school office entrance. **Information will be shared with parents regarding the drop off/pick up procedure for elementary families. Once received, please review the information and follow accordingly.** However, parking is not permitted along the elementary entrance road for drop-off or pick up of students since this area is restricted as a **24/7-FIRE LANE/NO PARKING/TOW AWAY ZONE!**
7. **Connect ED** - Available for review on the district website @ [www.svbluedevels.org](http://www.svbluedevels.org) is information explaining Connect Ed. Connect Ed will be again used this year as the *primary* way to announce delayed starts, early dismissals, school closings, and other changes to the normal school routine.

8. **Parking / Public-** SVSD Parking on Stadium Road, the oval approach to the high school and the elementary school loading/unloading area continues to be restricted as FIRE LANE/NO PARKING/TOW-AWAY ZONE and enforced 24/7. Also, there is no parking along W.Centre Street for parent pick up or drop off on both sides of the street. The area is marked with no parking signs. Persons choosing to park in these areas are subject to tickets being issued by Shenandoah Borough Police Department and/or towing (at owner's expense).
9. **Student Handbooks** – Each building level handbook will be available for review on the Shenandoah Valley School District website. This handbook will contain an alphabetical listing of those policies and procedures students are expected to follow. Please discuss the information found in the handbook with your child so both of you are familiar with what's listed there. Doing so will enhance your child's educational experience as a SVSD student.
10. **Student Dress Code** – The dress code policy for all students will continue to be enforced throughout the 2025-26 school year. Implementation of this policy will be consistent and begin the first day of school. Please refer to the Student Handbook for a copy of the policy. You may also access the quick reference guide on the website to review changes in the dress code.
11. **Cell Phone Policy** - To support secondary students' focus and well-being, cell phones, earbuds, headphones, and similar devices are not permitted during school hours except in the cafeteria. Research shows that limiting device use during the school day improves academic performance, reduces behavioral issues, and supports students' mental health. Cell phones, earbuds, headphones, and similar devices are not permitted for elementary students.
12. **Student Drug Testing** – The drug testing policy for all students participating in extracurricular activities at SVSD will continue to be enforced throughout the 2025-26 school year. Please refer to the Student Handbook for a copy of the policy.
13. **Student Parking** – Student parking will be restricted to the “Marina” and will be by permit only at no cost to the student(s). Students parking anywhere else on school grounds will be subject to civil prosecution/towing along with disciplinary sanctions provided for in the Student Handbook. [NOTE: Replacement of lost permits will be issued at a cost of \$5.00 each occurrence. Also, permits must be displayed from the inside mirror at all times the vehicle is parked in student “marina” lot.]
14. **School District Policy** – The Shenandoah Valley School District Policy Manual is available on the District website. Although it is difficult to review the entire policy manual, please review the following policies: 103 Nondiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices, 103.1 Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students With Disabilities, 104 Nondiscrimination in Employment Practices, 146.1 Trauma Informed, 204 Attendance, 215 Promotion/Retention, 218 Discipline, 218.1 Weapons, 218.2 Terroristic Threats, 222 Tobacco and Vaping Products, 226 Searches, 227 Controlled Substances, 233 Suspension/Expulsion, 236.1 Threat Assessment, 237 Electronic Devices, 247 Hazing, 248 Unlawful Harassment, 249 Bullying/Cyberbullying, 252 Dating Violence, 709.2 Metal Detectors, 805 Emergency Preparedness/Safe2Say Procedures, 805.2 School Security Personnel and 906 Public Complaints.
15. **Threat Assessment Team** – Threat Assessment is a fact-based process for the assessment of and intervention with students whose behaviors may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, or the community. The Threat Assessment team is activated upon receiving information of a threat to an individual, individuals or school site as a whole.
16. **Community Eligibility Provision- Included in this packet is the Household Information Survey along with an explanation of the survey. Please complete the survey and return it to school with your youngest child's homeroom teacher during the first week of school.** The Shenandoah Valley School District is once again participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2025-26 school year. This program through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program provides a healthy breakfast and lunch to ALL Shenandoah Valley students **FREE OF CHARGE**.
17. **Other** – Information is available on the District *website*.
- Integrated Pest Management - Maintenance Supervisor David Lukashunas (462-1936 / Ext. 4033)
  - Elementary school letter – Elementary Principal Shawn Welch (462-2796)
  - Secondary school letter – Secondary Principal John Brennan (462-1957)

Those of us associated with SVSD sincerely believe our collective efforts are providing District students with a sound educational background to compete in the global society. Your interest and cooperation in supporting and promoting these related issues can also serve to heighten this experience.



***"Blue Devils"***

***This school district is an equal opportunity provider and employer.***

***Educating today's learner .....for tomorrow's opportunities***