



Incoming 9th Grade Registration Timeline 2026-2027

Registration consists of four parts:

September-October	Pre-registration: Parents/Guardians provide basic demographic information to VHHS.
December	PowerSchool: Parents/Guardians create their D128/VHHS PowerSchool account.
January-February	8th grade orientation & course selection: Students and parents/guardians learn about VHHS, its academic offerings, and life as a 9th grader. After orientation, they complete the course selection process.
June	Registration: Parents/Guardians complete online registration June 1-25, 2026.

SEPTEMBER 2025

- **Pre-Registration Begins:** [8th grade newsletter #1](#) sent to families and includes name and address verification, a save-the-date for the 8th Grade Orientation in January 2026. This "pre-registration" data allows VHHS to communicate with incoming students.
- **Choice Zone:** Students with a Libertyville address who attend Hawthorn schools are typically assigned to VHHS. However, those who wish to attend LHS can declare their preference when updating their information in Registration Gateway in addition to completing the [Choice Zone declaration form](#). The deadline to declare is January 26, 2026.

OCTOBER 2025

- **PreACT** - This year the PreACT will be given to all 8th graders residing in the Hawthorn District at Vernon Hills High School on Saturday, October 18th. Several details, including the purpose of the PreACT are noted in [this District 128 communication](#).
- October 14th- Deadline to complete the pre-registration and name/address verification. Please enter contact information for each parent/guardian contact.

DECEMBER 2025

- 8th grade newsletter #2 sent to all families on the 8th grade mailing list on Dec. 1st.
- 8th Grade Winter Reminders newsletter sent to all families and includes:
 - an invitation to 8th grade orientation on January 15th at 6:00pm
 - information about students' PreACT scores

- directions to create a D128 PowerSchool account for registration
-  **D128 is a different district from Hawthorn; therefore, a new PowerSchool account must be created.** If you already have a D128/VHHS PowerSchool account, you will be directed to add your rising 9th grader.

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2026

- **VHHS 8th Grade Orientation - Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 6:00 pm**

This in-person evening event helps students explore course options at VHHS before course selection begins. 8th Grade Orientation will include a formal course selection presentation, opportunities to meet our academic department chairs and parent group leaders, and also the activity & athletic fair where 8th graders will have a chance to interact with the leaders of our 50 student activity clubs, fine arts organizations, and athletic teams.

- Choice Zone families are encouraged to attend both LHS and VHHS's 8th Grade orientation nights. The LHS orientation is on January 8th at 6:00pm. Choice Zone declarations are due January 26, 2026.

- **Course Selection for 8th Graders - January 20 - February 9, 2026**

Families will receive a newsletter with course guidance, resources and links to begin online course selection. Information will also be included on how to access the online curriculum guide via SchoolLinks.

- **Steps for Parents/Guardians:**

1. **Review** the course guidance for your student. Discuss course options at home and create an academic plan for next school year.
 2. **Explore** SchoolLinks Resources: Access the curriculum guide and other tools for planning.
 3. **Submit** course requests on the pink sheet mailed home. Return the completed document to the school via mail, email, or in person by **February 9, 2026**.
- On January 28th and February 4th, VHHS counselors will offer optional academic planning and course selection meetings. Instructions to schedule appointments will be provided at 8th grade orientation.
 - **Final Deadline:** all course requests for the 2026–2027 school year must be submitted by **Tuesday, February 9, 2026**. No changes can be made from Feb. 9th - through early May.

MARCH - APRIL 2026

- VHHS and D128 administration review course request data to plan sections and staffing. Upon Board approval, VHHS administration begins to build the master schedule.
- Staffing and sectioning decisions may affect some students. Counselors first contact students whose courses were canceled due to low enrollment to help them select alternatives.

MAY 2026

- Counselors contact students to address schedule conflicts, which are most common for those taking a class with only one or two sections.
- In early May, a course request change request form becomes available. Requests will be reviewed based on course availability. If a class is full, students will be added to a waitlist.

JUNE 2026

VHHS summer hours are Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. The school is closed on Fridays and on June 19.

The annual online registration window runs June 1st-June 25th. Families must complete online registration and make payment of basic fees.

In June, a counselor is available twice a week for new student registrations and course changes, depending on space availability. To schedule an appointment with the counselor on duty, please call the main office at 847-932-2000.

JULY 2026

A counselor is on staff twice a week for new student registrations and course changes, depending on space availability. To schedule an appointment with the counselor on duty, please call the main office at 847-932-2000.

At the end of July, counselors and Department Chairs review the course waitlist. Students will only be notified if they are placed into courses from the waitlist.

If you have any questions about the registration process, please contact:

Shannon Garcia

Assistant Principal for Student Services

shannon.garcia@d128.org