



## VERNON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

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August 18, 2023

Dear Student/Parent:

*“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” – Eleanor Roosevelt*

We hope you are enjoying your summer and cherishing time with your friends and family. This letter is to inform you about important school information and some upcoming dates in September. Vernon Township High School administrators, faculty, and staff are presently working to ensure the 2023-2024 school year is a successful and memorable one. We are very excited to welcome you to the school and serve your educational needs. Below please find the information for the start of school:

**Thursday, August 24th, is our first open house** from 11am-1pm. You can tour the building independently. Staff and students will be available to answer any questions.

**Tuesday, August 29th** will be our first **Share the Keys** program at 6pm (available to all students). **Parents must attend, unless you have already attended a Share the Keys program within the last four years.** Although all eligible Juniors and Seniors may drive to school starting on the first day of school, all students must register their vehicles no later than Friday, September 22nd, 2023 to receive their parking decals to *continue* parking on campus. Parking applications will be sent out to eligible Senior and Junior drivers. All requirements must be met before this privilege will be granted. Students who have met all requirements or who had a tag last year may drive on the first day of school.

**Wednesday, August 30th, is our Freshman Orientation for all of our incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders.** All freshmen should follow their bus schedules that were sent through School Messenger. The information is also available on [www.vtsd.com](http://www.vtsd.com). Orientation will begin at 9:30. All students will receive a class t-shirt, explore their schedules and work with peer leaders. A light snack will be provided. The orientation will conclude at 12:00pm. Click here for bus info: [8-30-23 Bus Schedule](#)

**Thursday, August 31st, is our Freshman Student/Parent Informational.** Families new to the district are also invited to join us. We will have an open house from 4:45-5:30pm (you can arrive anytime between those hours), where you and your child can explore their schedule independently. We will have a keynote speaker from the Pass it Along Organization from 5:30-6:00pm followed by an administrative presentation from 6-6:45pm, and concluding with a Q&A session. **We encourage both parents and students to attend.**

**Prior to the first day of school, students should log into Genesis to view their updated schedule and 1st-period class. Schedules will be available to view by Monday, August 21st at 3pm.**

**Thursday, September 7th, is the first day of school for all students, and we will follow an “A DAY” schedule with an extended first block (early dismissal schedule enclosed).** Students will report directly to their first period class after breakfast. Block 1 will begin at 7:30 am and our early dismissal time is 11:15 am. During 1st period, all students will receive a new student ID. Students will be utilizing the same lockers as last year. Students should view their

schedule the night before, as it will reflect any last-minute changes due to staffing or room changes. **Please note that students will have extended time to eat breakfast in the morning, as there will not be a traditional lunch period on early dismissal days. Food will be accessible throughout the day.**

**Friday, September 8th** will follow the same schedule as September 7th (A DAY)

**Monday, September 11th** is our first full day. There will be class meetings during the first four blocks of the day. Students will follow their regular schedule and will be dismissed from class during their assigned class meeting time.

**Tuesday, September 12th** is our Back to School Night at 6pm

**Monday, September 18th** - Share the Keys at 6 pm (available to all students)

**Tues/Wed, September 26th & 27th**- Lora Studios Underclassmen photos

### **More Information:**

You may view your child's grades using the Genesis portal. Please refer to our website under Genesis resources. The best way to contact your student's teacher is via email. If you do not have an email account, you can call the main office to leave a message.

**Apptegy and Genesis are our main forms of communication for the Vernon Township School District. We have transitioned to nearly 100% online forms submitted through the parent portal. Please make sure you have completed the required forms through the portal prior to the first day of school. Forms need to be completed to access parent/student portal once the school year begins.**

**Parent portal:** <https://parents.c2.genesisedu.net/vtsd/sis/view?gohome=true>

**If you do not have internet access, please contact the main office at 973-764-2960.**

### **Updates/Reminders:**

All students must read and acknowledge our Parent/Student Handbook which outlines the expectations of the VTSD, including the student code of conduct and other district policies and procedures. Please review this with your child through the Genesis parent portal forms page before school begins.

- Due to safety and communication concerns, **hats and hoods are not allowed to be worn in the school building during the school day.**
- Earbuds/headphones will not be allowed to be worn during the school day. **One earbud will only be allowed to be worn during unit lunch** so students can hear communication and safety announcements.
- The **use of cellular devices** will be limited. Students may use them during non-instructional time only: during unit lunch and study hall. The only other time devices may be used is for learning purposes at the discretion of their teacher. During class, students will have access to place their cell phones in a designated area provided by the teacher.
- We will continue to refer to our school dress code policy with the expectation that students will adhere to its requirements. Students not in compliance with our school policy will be referred to administration. Please read through our Parent/Student Handbook for additional details.
- Safety is our priority. **Students are required to wear their school-issued ID at all times.** Their ID is utilized to purchase lunch, sign in and out of bathrooms, and for senior sign-out. Any student not wearing their school ID will be addressed by administration.

**Unit Lunch Update:** The VTHS schedule includes a unit lunch where the entire student body has lunch during the same block of time. Students will have the opportunity to meet with staff at any point during the lunch period, depending on staff availability. Science labs take place once during a four day rotation during the lunch block. There will be a warning bell for labs, as well as a lab bell. Specific locations will be restricted during lunchtime. The gym will be available for students to participate in playing basketball/volleyball. The bleachers will not be open.

The following locations will be available for eating:

- Cafeteria
- Senior Cafe
- The former school store (now the new Quiet Cafe)
- The lower library
- The center courtyard
- The outdoor space behind the senior cafe
- Classrooms (teacher discretion)

Upper library will be closed during unit lunch.

Open Campus for Seniors, which allows our students to leave campus during Unit Lunch will not begin until the middle of the marking period. We will be reviewing this program with our Seniors and send out separate correspondence to parents/guardians prior to beginning the program.

**Please note that there has been a change in some school counselor assignments.**

| Class of 2025-2027<br>9th-11th | Class of 2024<br>12th Seniors<br>(all seniors retain their counselor) |
|--------------------------------|---|
| A-D Alexis Pisco               | A-De Mary Jean Ryerson  |
| E-J Ray Loughren               | Df-K Ray Loughren   |
| K-Q Nancy Regan                | L-Riv Nancy Regan   |
| R-Z Mary Jean Ryerson          | Roc-Z Alexis Pisco  |

Student Attendance is crucial as there is a direct correlation between academic success and student attendance. Consistent communication will occur in regard to students accumulating excessive absences. Students exceeding our district policy of 18 absences (10% of the school year) will be required to complete an appeals process. After the appeal has been reviewed by administration, a determination will be made on whether or not a student will be required to participate in a seat-time program to avoid a loss of credit at the end of the school year. Opportunities to complete seat-time will be given during unit lunch, after school, or on Saturdays. This will only occur in classes where students are receiving a passing grade. **Please utilize the Genesis Portal to report all absences for your child.**

We look forward to the start of the new school year and to continuing our collaboration of providing your children with an effective and engaging educational experience. As always, we will look to our families to be positive partners in this year’s journey. The VTHS staff has always made a priority of working together as a caring and compassionate learning community with professionalism, teamwork, action, and expertise. We will always put the best interests of our students at the center of our purpose. Join us in ensuring the success of all of VTHS students. Stay healthy, stay positive, and stay connected.

Yours Sincerely,

*Lindsay Young*  
Principal

*Nicholas Demsak*  
Assistant Principal

*Brian James*  
Assistant Principal

**WELCOME BACK/ SEPTEMBER 7TH & 8TH/ A DAY SCHEDULE  
(Early Dismissal)**

| <b>Block/Period</b>          | <b>7th- Thursday/<br/>8th-Friday</b> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Student Arrival/Breakfast    | 7:00                                 |
| Warning Bell                 | 7:25                                 |
| Extended Homeroom/Block<br>1 | 7:30-8:05                            |
| 2                            | 8:08-8:32                            |
| 3                            | 8:35-8:59                            |
| 4                            | 9:02-9:26                            |
| <b>NO UNIT LUNCH</b>         |                                      |
| 5                            | 9:29-9:53                            |
| 6                            | 9:56-10:20                           |
| 7                            | 10:23-10:47                          |
| 8                            | 10:50-11:15                          |
| Student Dismissal            | 11:15                                |
| Buses Depart                 | 11:20                                |

## 2023-2024 VTHS SCHOOL DAY SCHEDULES

*An Overview of a Day 1 Rotational Schedule\**

### REGULAR DAY\*

### EARLY DISMISSAL DAY

### DELAYED OPENING

| Block             |             |  | Block                     |             |  | Block             |              |
|-------------------|-------------|--|---------------------------|-------------|--|-------------------|--------------|
| Student Arrival   | 7:00        |  | Student Arrival/Breakfast | 7:00        |  | Bus Arrival       | 9:00         |
| Warning Bell      | 7:10        |  | Warning Bell              | 7:25        |  | Warning Bell      | 9:10         |
| Homeroom/Block 1  | 7:15-7:58   |  | Homeroom/Block 1          | 7:30-7:59   |  | Homeroom/Block 1  | 9:15-9:43    |
| 2                 | 8:01-8:41   |  | 2                         | 8:02-8:27   |  | 2                 | 9:46-10:11   |
| 3                 | 8:44-9:24   |  | 3                         | 8:30-8:55   |  | 3                 | 10:14-10:39  |
| 4                 | 9:27-10:07  |  | 4                         | 8:58-9:23   |  | 4                 | 10:42-11:07  |
| Science Lab A     | 10:10-10:35 |  | <b>NO UNIT LUNCH</b>      |             |  | Science Lab A     | 11:10- 11:35 |
| Flex/Lunch        | 10:10-11:03 |  |                           |             |  | Flex/Lunch        | 11:10-12:03  |
| Science Lab B     | 10:38-11:03 |  |                           |             |  | Science Lab B     | 11:38-12:03  |
| 5                 | 11:06-11:46 |  | 5                         | 9:26-9:51   |  | 5                 | 12:06-12:31  |
| 6                 | 11:49-12:29 |  | 6                         | 9:54-10:19  |  | 6                 | 12:34-12:59  |
| 7                 | 12:32-1:12  |  | 7                         | 10:22-10:47 |  | 7                 | 1:02-1:27    |
| 8                 | 1:15- 1:55  |  | 8                         | 10:50-11:15 |  | 8                 | 1:30-1:55    |
| Student Dismissal | 1:55        |  | Student Dismissal         | 11:15       |  | Student Dismissal | 1:55         |
| Buses Depart      | 2:00        |  | Buses Depart              | 11:20       |  | Buses Depart      | 2:00         |

- **Day A:** 1, 2, 3, 4, Unit Lunch, 5, 6, 7, 8
- **Day B:** 2, 3, 4, 1, Unit Lunch, 6, 7, 8, 5

- **Day C:** 3, 4, 1, 2, Unit Lunch, 7, 8, 5, 6
- **Day D:** 4, 1, 2, 3, Unit Lunch, 8, 5, 6, 7



# Vernon Township High School

## Student Food Pantry

Please help stock our student food pantry!

We are accepting nonperishable food items:

Examples:

Granola Bars

Chips

Macaroni and Cheese

Ramen Noodles Cups

Chef Boyardee

Juice Boxes/Bottled Water

Pop Tarts

Cookie/Crackers

Individual Cereal Cups



Please drop off items at the Main Office or Door Monitor!

Thank you for supporting our students!