



Valley Gardens Middle School

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We trust that you are as excited about the upcoming school year as we are at Valley Gardens Middle School! This letter will outline information that will be important for the start of another school year. This information has been provided so that our expectations are clear for both students and parents.

****The regular daily class start time is 8:40 a.m. and dismissal is at 3:25 p.m.**

SCHOOL STARTUP:

All students start school on **Wednesday, September 4, 2024**, which is **Day 2** on the school calendar.

- **Grade 6** students report to the gymnasium Wednesday, September 4, 2024 **at 8:40 a.m.**
- **Grade 7** students report to the gymnasium Wednesday, September 4, 2024 **at 10:30 a.m.**
- **Grade 8** students report to the gymnasium Wednesday, September 4, 2024 **at 12:30 p.m.**

***** Regular lunch @ 11:40 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. *****

***** All students will be dismissed at the regular time at 3:25 p.m. *****

IMPORTANT DATES:

***** Please continue to check our website at <https://www.retsd.mb.ca/vg> for the most up to date information *****

❖ August 26 – School office opens for new school year	❖ October 7 – Picture day. More information will be sent out in September.
❖ September 3 – Meet the Teacher 4:30 – 6:00 pm	❖ October 11 – No school for students
❖ September 4 – \$40.00 Student fees are due on the first day of regular classes.	❖ October 14 – No school for students (Thanksgiving)
Gr. 6 students to bring an add'l \$50.00 for school supplies	❖ October 16 – Gr. 6 Immunization (morning)
Gr. 7 students to bring an add'l \$25.00 for school supplies	❖ October 16 – PAC Meeting 6 – 7 pm
Gr. 8 students to bring an add'l \$25.00 for school supplies	❖ October 25 – No school for students
A yearbook (optional) is available for \$25.00 which can also be paid at this time or before Apr. 1, 2025.	
❖ September 18 – PAC Meeting 6 - 7 pm	❖ November 7 – Learning Expo/Visual Arts Expo
❖ September 20 – Terry Fox Activity afternoon	❖ November 8 – Remembrance Day Service a.m.
❖ September 27 – School celebration for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Day	❖ November 11 – No School (Remembrance Day)
❖ September 30 – No school (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation)	❖ November 13 – PAC Meeting 6 – 7 pm
	❖ November 21 – Picture re-takes pm
	❖ November 22 – No school for students
	❖ November 27 – Vision & Hearing – Gr. 7
	❖ November 29 – Report cards published

REMINDERS:

School SUPPLIES & Student FEES Posted on the school website <https://www.retsd.mb.ca/vg>

*** CASH OR CHEQUE WILL BE THE ONLY TWO FORMS OF PAYMENT FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR***

E-MAIL CONTACT INFORMATION – please ensure the school has your current e-mail address. Our **primary form of communication is by e-mail** as well as our school website. Please update, as necessary.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 - We are excited to invite you to our School Year's Eve Teacher Meet and Greet, a drop-in event on **September 3rd from 4:30 to 6:00 pm**. This event is designed to reduce anxiety for students by providing an opportunity to meet their teachers before the first full day of school. Students will also have the chance to learn where their classes are located and take a walk around the school to become familiar with their new surroundings. We look forward to seeing you there and starting the school year off on a positive note.

PARKING LOT – The parking lot is **off limits to VG student drop off and pick up** due to school buses, staff and daycare children entering the parking lot. Please drop your student off on Antrim Rd. near Louelda Street or London Street. Another ideal drop off location is on Reay Crescent. Thank you for considering the safety of our students.

STUDENT ARRIVAL and DEPARTURE - Unless students are involved in a planned activity with school staff, they should arrive at school no earlier than 8:30 a.m. The front doors of the school will be open at 8:40 a.m. with the opening bell. Dismissal is at 3:25pm and students should leave the school property within 10 minutes unless involved in a supervised extra-curricular activity after school.

If students have appointments that require dismissal prior to the end of the day, Parents or Guardians need to contact the school. **Text messages from student phones are not acceptable for dismissal.** Parents will be notified when it is necessary for a student to go home, for either illness or appointments. When leaving the school, it is important to sign out in the office.

CALLBACK SYSTEM – We will communicate absences to parents after the morning and afternoon attendance. We ask parents to contact the school prior to the start of the school day if your child will be absent. **There is a 24-hour answering machine** or you may contact us through email to vg@retd.mb.ca. We appreciate your cooperation in reporting your child's absence so that we can maintain accurate attendance, which has a direct impact on student safety.

LATES - We strongly encourage students to arrive at school on time to minimize the disruption to learning during the school day. Students are asked to be seated in their Den when the bell sounds at 8:50 a.m. and 12:40 p.m. Frequent late arrivals will result in a loss of privileges or communication with a parent/guardian.

LUNCH - It is strongly **recommended that grade 7 and 8 students stay on school grounds** during the lunch hour. Students that stay at school will be supervised by staff during this time. If students leave the building at lunch, they are expected to **be back at school on time for afternoon classes**. Expectations for behavior in the community remain in place over the lunch hour even if students choose to leave the school grounds.

Grade 6 students are expected to remain on school grounds, for the entire school year.

Cell Phones - Upon entering the school, students are required to **keep their cell phones in their lockers**. Cell phones may only be **used for educational purposes with teacher permission**. Social media use is strictly prohibited during school hours. After repeated warnings, a student's cell phone may be confiscated, and parents will be notified and may be required to pick it up from the office at the end of the day. We appreciate your cooperation in supporting our efforts to maintain an optimal educational environment.

MESSAGES – The office phone should only be used in an emergency. Please try to make all necessary arrangements before school. **Students cannot accept phone calls during class time**. Calls can be returned during lunch and after school. As per our technology policy, students will not be allowed to use their cell phones without teacher permission.

In closing, thank you for your anticipated support as we strive to create an excellent school experience for your child. Your attention to the information included in this letter will further enhance our ability to program in the best interest of all our students safely and effectively. We are looking forward to a great school year.

Sincerely,



Mr. K. Jacob, Principal



Mr. P. Barto, Vice-Principal