



Valley Gardens Middle School

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Hello Valley Gardens Families,

We hope you are as excited about the upcoming school year as we are here at Valley Gardens Middle School! This letter includes important information to help everyone get off to a smooth start. Our goal is to keep you informed and supported as we work together to set students up for a successful year.

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 9, 2026**, which is **Day 2** on the school calendar.

- **Grade 6** students report to the gymnasium Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at **8:40 a.m.**
- **Grade 7** students report to the gymnasium Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at **10:30 a.m.**
- **Grade 8** students report to the gymnasium Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at **12:35 p.m.**

Regular lunch @ 11:40 a.m. – 12:35 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 31 – School office opens for new school year ❖ September 8 – Meet the Teacher 4:30 – 6:00 pm ❖ September 9 – First day of school! ❖ September 16 – PAC Meeting 5:30 – 6:30 pm ❖ September 18 – Terry Fox Activity ❖ September 30 – No school (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation) ❖ October 3 – Craft Sale 10:00 am – 3:00 pm ❖ October 5 – No school for students (VG) ❖ October 7 – Picture day. More information will be sent out in September.	❖ October 12 – No school for students (Thanksgiving) ❖ October 14 – PAC Meeting 5:30 – 6:30 pm ❖ October 21 – Gr. 6 Immunization (morning) ❖ October 23 – No school for students ❖ October 28 – No school for students ❖ November 10 – Remembrance Day Service a.m. ❖ November 10 – Picture re-takes pm ❖ November 11 – No School (Remembrance Day) ❖ November 18 – PAC Meeting 5:30 – 6:30 pm ❖ November 20 – Report cards published ❖ November 25 – Vision & Hearing – Gr. 7
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REMINDERS:

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 - We are excited to invite you to our **School Year's Eve Teacher Meet and Greet**, a drop-in event on **September 8th 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.

Student FEES – \$80.00 Student fees are due on the first day of regular classes. All supply lists are on the VGMS Website: <https://www.retsd.mb.ca/vg>

- **Cash, cheque, or credit card payments via SchoolCash are available for this school year.**

E-MAIL CONTACT INFORMATION – please ensure the school has your current e-mail address. Our **primary forms of communication are by e-mail** and our school website.

PARKING LOT – The parking lot is **off limits for 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 due to illness. When picking your child up from school, it is important to sign them 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@retsd.mb.ca. We appreciate your co-operation 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 (Homeroom) 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 behaviour in the community remain in place over the lunch hour even if students choose to leave the school grounds. Lunch hour is from 11:40 - 12:35.

Grade 6 students are expected to remain on school grounds for the entire school day – unless they go home for lunch. If they plan to go home for lunch on a regular basis, please let your child's homeroom teacher know.

CELL PHONES - Students are expected to store their cell phones in their lockers upon entering the school. Use of social media during school hours is strictly prohibited. Repeated violations may result in the phone being confiscated, with parents contacted and asked to retrieve it from the office at the end of the day. Thank you for supporting our efforts to create a focused and respectful learning environment.

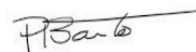
MESSAGES – The office phone should only be used in an emergency. Please try to make all necessary arrangements before school.

Thank you in advance for your support as we work together to create a positive and enriching school experience for your child. Your attention to the information in this letter helps us plan and provide the best possible learning environment for all students. We're excited for the year ahead and look forward to a wonderful school year together.

Sincerely,



B. Frith, Principal



Mr. P. Barto, Vice Principal