

January 2026

**NEXT PTO MEETING: Tuesday, January 13th at 6:30pm.
IN PERSON @ VHE in the library. Zoom link [HERE](#)**

This is a long email! Make sure to expand your email to view the whole message. You'll see a singing hedgehog at the end!



www.VanHisePTO.org

January Newsletter Items Include:

- PTO Meeting Tuesday, January 13
- Direct Appeal
- Upcoming Events
- Updates from the School Social Worker
- Rollerblading
- After School Classes
- Glow Dance
- Carnival
- Hedgie Gear
- Garden and Green Spaces
- Upcoming Reminders: Trio Ramen + Shake Shack + Just Coffee + Forage + Minted



We Welcome YOU!

Our next PTO Meeting is Tuesday, January 13th.

Join us for our first **PTO meeting** of 2026!

Due to changes made this year regarding how the PTO is able to operate in the building, there will be a review of the 2025-2026 operating budget and request for approval of \$10,000 in new expenses to allow for after school programming to continue this year.

The VHE PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) is a volunteer-run organization that works to engage our school community and enhance classroom learning by providing volunteer and monetary support to a broad range of events and projects that benefit students, teachers and families. All are members.

Please send any questions or agenda items to prez@vanhisepto.org.

If you have any feedback or thoughts about how to engage this year - please use the **Hedgie Feedback Form**.

If you want to be contacted about opportunities to volunteer or have specific availability or interests, please consider submitting a **volunteer interest form**.

You can also visit the [VHE PTO sign-up genius page](#) to see what opportunities are available to support our school community.

If you plan to volunteer with VHE, MMSD requires volunteers at school-based events involving kids (including field trips) to be approved. Please work through the [MMSD volunteer page](#) to get approved or check your current status.



2025-2026 Direct Appeal

Our **annual direct appeal remains open** and we hope to continue to work towards our goal of raising \$50 for every student (\$20,000 total).

As we face new and unanticipated expenses including significant facility fees for community building events, we want to ensure we have the resources for the school community to access the building.

The PTO puts every dollar raised back into the community.

- Supports new staff to help build classroom libraries. With 4 new classroom teachers this semester alone, that requires significant resources from the PTO!
- Celebrates and supports all staff through stipends, grants, celebrations and recognitions throughout the school year.
- Builds community through events and programming.
- Provides scholarships, and spirit wear and yearbooks for all students.
- Invests in the gardens and green spaces across the campus.



Help us raise money to support Van Hise classrooms, teachers, & families!

Show your Hedgehog Pride and make a contribution. No donation is too small: all donations, at all levels, are greatly appreciated! If you are in a position to give more, please consider donating for a family who cannot. If you are unable to give this year, we hope you will join us in volunteering at events or in sharing your ideas with our community at our semi-monthly meetings.

Last year, your generous gifts made a huge impact:

- Over \$3,000 in scholarships for students to attend after school classes
- \$6,500 for teacher & staff stipends
- Books purchased and hand delivered to teachers
- More than \$3,500 for teacher & staff grants
- Free yearbooks for all, designed by the 5th grade!
- Free t-shirts for students & staff
- School events including: school dance, ice cream social & school carnival
- Staff appreciation activities such as food support during conferences
- Rooted urban agriculture education utilizing our school gardens
- Direct support for VHE families in need through our school social worker

5 ways your donation helps the Van Hise Community ensures everyone can engage!



Please help us reach our goal of raising \$50 per student!

We hope to reach our fundraising goal by Giving Tuesday on December 2. Your contribution is 100% tax-deductible & eligible for company matching programs.

Thank you for your support and for the many ways you contribute to ensuring our children can continue safely learning together!

SCAN ME



Events at a Glance | JANUARY and FEBRUARY

January 8

TRIO Ramen Restaurant Night

January 9 - 23

Just Coffee Fundraiser

January 13

Monthly PTO Meeting (6.30 PM)

VHE Library and **Zoom**

January 15

Learning Differences Affinity Group (6PM)

Zoom

January 19

NO SCHOOL

January 20 - February 6

Rollerblading Unit in PE

January 20

Shake Shack Fundraiser (11 AM - 9 PM)

January 30

NO SCHOOL

February 4

Garden and Green Spaces Team Meeting (5 - 6PM)

February 5

Forage Kitchen Fundraiser

February 6

Glow Dance

February 20

NO SCHOOL

In response to recommendations and requests from families, we have created a **public PTO calendar** ([click to subscribe](#)). Please let us know what you'd like to see included.



Updates from the School Social Worker

VHE RESOURCE ROOM

The VHE Resource Room was created to help our community alleviate any financial stressors that they are facing. We want all of our students to have access to some basic needs so they can engage in academic, social and play activities at school. This is available to the entire VHE community.

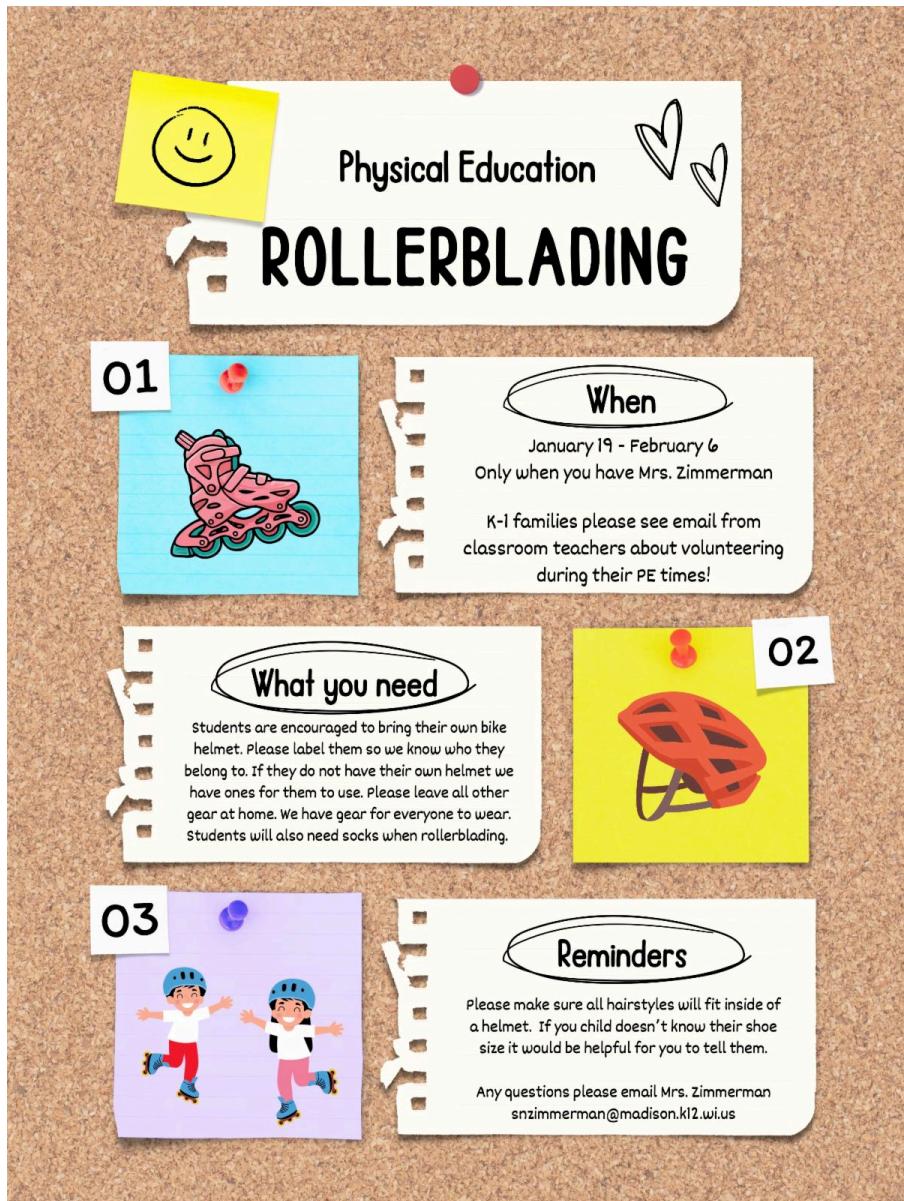
Families can put in one request per month using [this](#) form. Requests will be accepted until the school year ends or supplies run out. This program is made possible by the generosity of our community. Please request only what you need so we can support as many families as possible. There are no requirements or questions asked to access the resource room. Once you have completed the form, please allow one week to receive the supplies.

Information is confidential and not shared. School Social Worker, Amy Robel, manages the requests and the resource room.

Rollerblading in PE

Physical Education will begin its annual rollerblading unit when they return on January 20. See below for more information - including reminders about bike helmets, socks, and knowing shoe sizes!

Kinder and first grade families will receive additional information about volunteering opportunities.



Learning Differences Affinity Group

The 2026 Kick-off Meeting for the Learning Differences Affinity Group is Thursday, January 15 at 6pm via **Zoom**.

MMSD staff will share information, updates and answer questions at the beginning of the call and families can stay on after to connect and share resources after.

Families and Caregivers of Kids with Learning Differences

Parents and caregivers of kids with learning differences (ADHD, advanced learning, autism, dyslexia, or any other diagnosed learning disorders) face a specific, and sometimes isolating set of challenges to help our children succeed. All are welcome and we encourage those curious about resources and processes to attend as well.

There is an immense amount of knowledge, experience, and support that we can provide for one another, so... let's get together and chat about it!

This will be a great opportunity for parents and caregivers to share community resources, specific supports that have helped their children in and out of the classroom, and provide support to one another. We will also discuss alternative ways to support one another and the school throughout the year.

The meeting will begin with an MMSD leadership presentation and transition to a families and caregivers-only meeting to discuss, reflect, and engage with one another.

2026 Kick-off Meeting

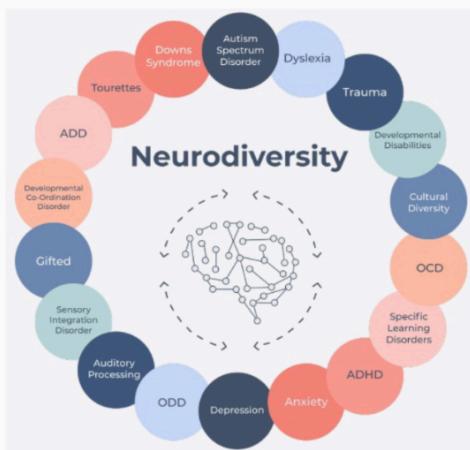
Who: Anyone from the VHE and Hamilton communities

Location: [Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88226277145) (Meeting ID: 882 2627 7145 // Passcode: VHEHam26)

Day: Thursday, January 15, 2026

Time: 6 pm

With best regards,
MMSD and the VHE and Hamilton Communities



After School Classes

Thank you to everyone's ongoing support of the VHE After School Program. At this time, and with generous support from volunteers, we will continue to run after school classes through Spring Break.

In addition to needing approval to spend an additional \$10,000 to support insurance and facilities fees, we also need to secure more volunteers before we can commit to Spring (April - June) classes. If you are able to provide 20-30 minutes of supervisory support Monday-Thursday at dismissal, please complete [**this form**](#).

The PTO remains committed to working with the school and district to understand what may be possible for 2026 and beyond. We anticipate holding

brainstorming sessions and seeking feedback in the coming weeks and months.

Please share your feedback here so that we can continue to build upon what works and find ways to improve and make the program even better.



Van Hise Glow Dance

Friday February 6th 6-8pm

All Van Hise families/siblings are invited to a fun and FREE dance sponsored by the PTO.

We need volunteers and supplies!

A few other reminders:

- an adult needs to stay and supervise during the event (this is not a drop-off event)
- the dance will be in the half gym closest to the main entrance; coat drop off, water and a few quiet activities will be in the cafeteria
- for the safety of dancers, running/playing tag will be in the half gym farthest from the main entrance



We are looking for Carnival committee co-leads, raffle items and other volunteers.

Please reach out to Adam Gratch with any questions at events@vanhisepto.org.

Are you interested in helping design spiritwear for VHE? If so, please contact communications@vanhisepto.org.



Garden and Green Spaces Team Updates

The next VHE PTO Garden and Green Spaces Team Meeting is Wednesday, February 4th from 5:00PM - 6:00PM in the VHE library.



TRIO RAMEN

RESTAURANT NIGHT

JANUARY 8TH 4-8PM



SUPPORTS VAN HISE ELEMENTARY PTO

Dine In or Carry Out, no code needed (608) 824-6703

2831 Parmenter St. Suite 140, Middleton

*does not include Doordash/Grubhub/Uber Eats orders



SHAKE  SHACK®

DONATION DAY

Tuesday, January 20

11 AM - 9 PM

The PTO receives 25% of total meal purchases throughout the day.

Just Coffee

Purchase fair trade & certified organic coffee and cocoa January 9th-23rd.

FUNDRAISER

VAN HISE ELEMENTARY PTO

HEDGIE BREW MEDIUM ROAST

Hedgie Brew Medium Roast will get you ready to conquer whatever the day throws at you. A medium roast, single origin coffee from Guatemala. This rich roast has notes of vanilla and citrus. This coffee is Fair Trade and certified organic.

\$ 14



DREAM BIG DECAF

This ever-so-slightly smoky decaf coffee packs big flavor without the big dose of caffeine. This coffee is Fair Trade, certified organic, and was naturally decaffeinated without chemicals.

\$ 14



HOT COCOA

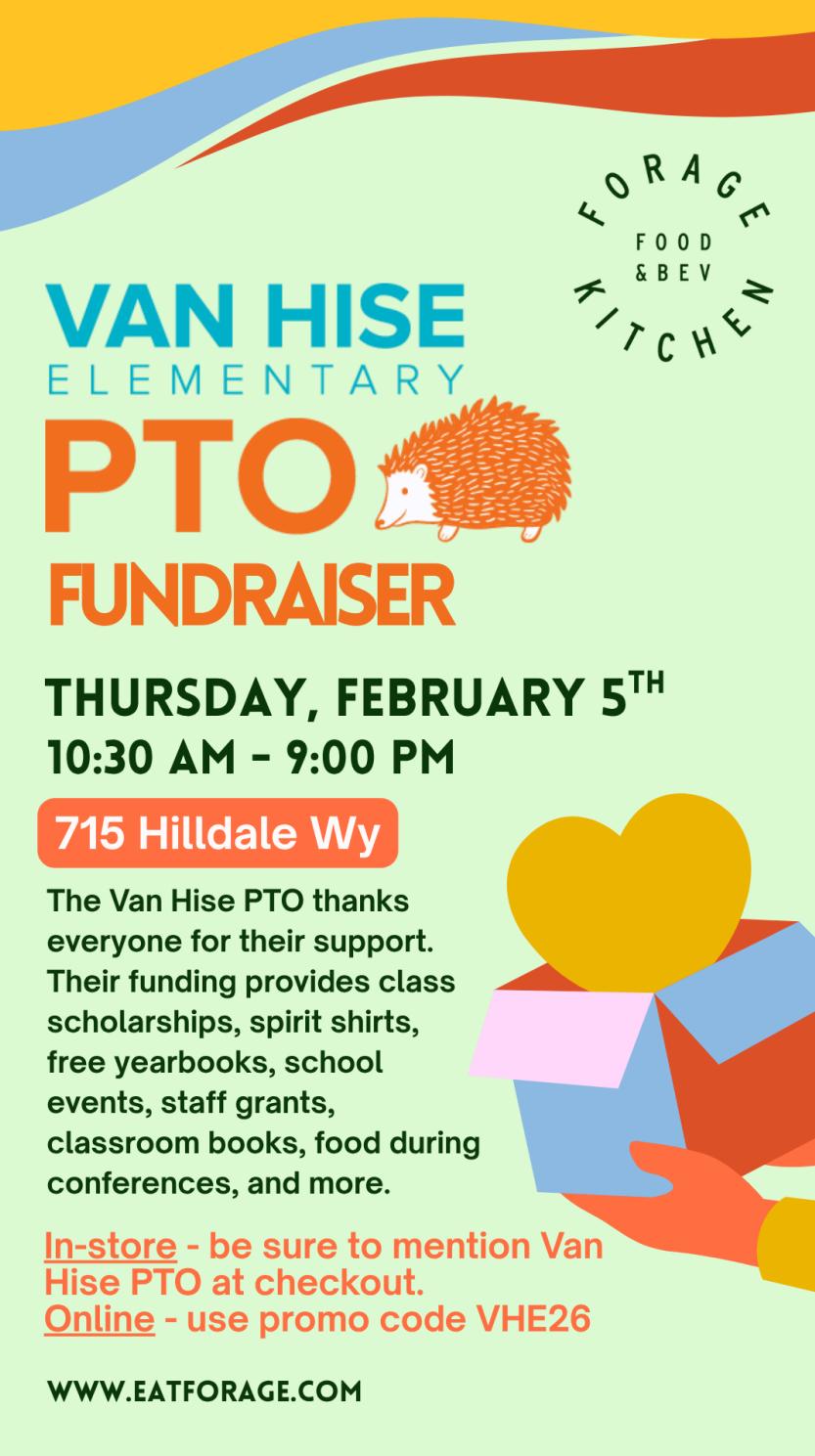
Cocoa from Ghana. Processed by Omanhene, exclusively for Just Coffee. Add to your choice of milk for delicious hot cocoa, or add to your coffee for a mocha! Approximately 14 servings in each 12oz. tin. Ingredients: Cocoa & sugar.

\$ 11



**FOR QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL-
SECRETARY@VANHISEPTO.ORG
PLACE AN ORDER AT
[HTTPS://GIVEBUTTER.COM/26VHECOFFEE](https://givebutter.com/26VHECOFFEE)**





VAN HISE ELEMENTARY PTO FUNDRAISER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH
10:30 AM - 9:00 PM

715 Hilldale Wy

The Van Hise PTO thanks everyone for their support. Their funding provides class scholarships, spirit shirts, free yearbooks, school events, staff grants, classroom books, food during conferences, and more.

In-store - be sure to mention Van Hise PTO at checkout.
Online - use promo code VHE26

WWW.EATFORAGE.COM



Minted

Shop & Support Van Hise: Every stationery and gift purchase helps our school!

Purchase items from **Minted** year-round with promo code FUNDRAISEVHPTO to get 20% off your order and 10% will be donated back to the VHE PTO.



You've reached the end.

We hope to see you Tuesday, 1/13 at the PTO meeting!

Check www.vanhisepto.org for updates.

VAN HISE PTO
ELEMENTARY



Van Hise Elementary | 246 South Segoe Road | Madison, WI 53705 US

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