

October 2025

## NEXT PTO MEETING: Tuesday, November 11th 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

#### October Newsletter Items Include:

- PTO Meeting Tuesday, November 11
- Grade Level Meet-ups
- October Events
- Updates from the School Social Worker
- MMSD News
- Hedgie Gear
- Garden and Green Spaces
- After School Classes
- Upcoming Reminders: Direct Appeal + Shake Shack + Chipotle + Bucky Book



#### We Welcome YOU!

Our next PTO Meeting is Tuesday, November 11th.

Join us for our second PTO meeting of the year! We will review and approve Fall 2025 grant applications.

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.

We are still looking for volunteers -

- At-large Board Members
- Carnival Coordinator
- Volunteer Coordinator
- After School Class Coordinator
- Playground Fund Committee Members

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** *t*o get approved or check your current status.

### **Grade-Level Meet-ups**

The PTO is pleased to support the grade-level meet-ups underway.

You should hear from your teachers and/or family reps in your class about meet-ups, hangouts, or playdates being scheduled around the neighborhood.

Building community and connections is important to the PTO and we encourage you to opt into communications from your class and grade-level representatives to stay connected and learn about future opportunities.

Thanks to this year's class representatives for organizing these great community-building events for our school!



## Events at a Glance | OCTOBER

#### October 14

Class Rep Meet-up NO PTO MEETING

#### October 16 and 17

NO SCHOOL

#### October 21

Shake Shack Fundraiser (11 AM - 9 PM)

#### October 25

Garden Clean-up (10 AM - 1 PM)

#### November 3 and 4

Fall Conferences NO SCHOOL

November 10

Chipotle Restaurant Night

**November 11** 

Monthly PTO Meeting

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**

#### **Goodman Center Food Baskets**

The Goodman Center will be supporting the community again this year with fall food baskets. *This link* is live for families to sign up to receive a basket. The link will close when they reach capacity or on 10/17. Families will receive a card/email regarding their pick-up time in the weeks prior to 11/27/25. Please only fill out **ONE** form for your family, even if you get this email from multiple schools.

#### **Toys for Tots**

If you would like to receive Toys for Tots this year, please fill out *this* form by **4:00 pm on 10/31**. Gifts will be delivered to VHE by the week before Winter Break.

## **MMSD News**

Recent updates and opportunities announced by MMSD include:

- Volunteer Opportunities
- Vaccine Clinics
- Advanced Learning Information Night
- Mad for Reading

The PTO looks forward to working with MMSD's Director of Family, Youth and Community Engagement. We are excited to explore opportunities to partner more with the West-feeding elementary schools this year and we anticipate the PTO-led work to support parent and family empowerment groups and meetings last year will

transition to be more school- and MMSD-led this year.

## Van Hise Spiritwear

**Hedgie gear** items will be delivered to school soon.

We anticipate the store will open again before winter break. Stay tuned for more information.

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





# Garden and Green Spaces Team Updates

#### **SAVE THE DATE**

Fall Garden Cleanup- Saturday October 25, 2025 from 10:00AM - 1:00PM **Sign Up Here** 

VHE PTO Garden and Green Spaces Team Meetings - all are welcome. The committee meets in the VHE library.

- Wednesday, December 3rd from 5:00PM 6:00PM
- Wednesday, February 4th from 5:00PM 6:00PM
- Wednesday, April 8th from 5:00PM 6:00PM



### **After School Classes**

Fall After School Classes are underway.

We are still in need of volunteer(s) to help coordinate the program. Please reach out to

prez@vanhisepto.org if you are interested in learning more.

**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.

## 2025-2026 Direct Appeal

Each year, the PTO makes a direct appeal to raise funds that support our mission.

Funds raised from this appeal will give us the

opportunity to continue supporting favorite events as well as the ability to introduce new ones.

We will share more when the direct appeal officially launches soon.





Tuesday, October 21st 11 AM - 9 PM

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





## VAN HISE PTO

25% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH | 4-8PM 4000 UNIVERSITY AVE, MADISON, WI, 53705

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **Z9WCRNL**OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT



For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.



## **Bucky Books**

We are excited to partner with Bucky Books again this year. The PTO receives \$10 for every book purchased. **Click here** to purchase your book today!



You've reached the end.

We hope to see you Tuesday, 11/11 at the PTO meeting!

Check www.vanhisepto.org for updates.





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

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