

November 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

November Newsletter Items Include:

- PTO Meeting Tuesday, November 11
- Direct Appeal
- November Events
- Updates from the School Social Worker
- Kinder Community Drive
- MMSD News
- Hedgie Gear
- Garden and Green Spaces
- After School Classes
- Upcoming Reminders: Direct Appeal + Chipotle + Shake Shack + Bucky Book + Minted



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** to get approved or check your current status.



2025-2026 Direct Appeal

Over the next month, the PTO will share our fundraising progress and remind the community of some of the ways in which the dollars raised have been and will be spent. Due to some uncertainties and new costs not accounted for in the operating budget the PTO approved in September, **our direct appeal may be our primary fundraising opportunity this year.**

The PTO puts every dollar raised back into the community.

- Supports new staff to help build classroom libraries - and we have one of the largest classes of new teachers this year!
- 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

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

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



Events at a Glance | NOVEMBER and DECEMBER

November 10

Chipotle Restaurant Night

November 11

Monthly PTO Meeting (6.30 PM)

VHE Library and **Zoom**

November 14

Picture Day Retake

Wear Purple - Homelessness Awareness Month

November 18

Shake Shack Fundraiser (11 AM - 9 PM)

November 26-28

NO SCHOOL - FALL BREAK

December 1

NO SCHOOL - STAFF ONLY

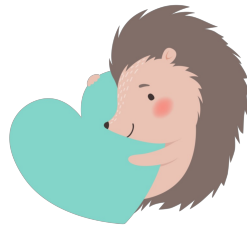
December 3

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

December 9

No 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

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.

November is Homelessness Awareness Month.

Homelessness does not discriminate, it can affect anyone from all walks of life, including various ages, race, gender or background due to a wide range of causes like increasing rent/housing costs, job loss, illness, etc. Last year, MMSD identified over 1400 students that were experiencing homelessness. At VHE, we will wear **PURPLE** on **11/14** to increase awareness.

Help the Kinders Help the Community!

The kindergarten classes at Van Hise are



sponsoring a community food drive to help our neighbors in the Madison area who are experiencing food insecurity. Items will be collected November 5th through November 21st.

More information can be found [here](#).

MMSD News

Recent updates and opportunities announced by MMSD include:

- ***MMSD Food Pantries***
- ***Volunteer Opportunities***
- ***Advanced Learning Advisory Committee***
- ***MSCR Feedback Opportunity***
- ***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 will be available to order December 1 through December 5, with deliveries expected to the school the week of December 8.

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

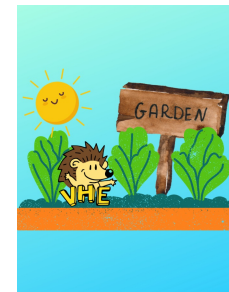


Garden and Green Spaces Team Updates

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to clean the gardens in October. There were a record number of families who showed up in the cold rain to help.

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

At this time, the school and district have confirmed that Fall After School Classes may continue through the end of 2025. The PTO is committed to working with the school and district to understand what may

be possible for 2026.

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.

DO GOOD
WITH CHIPOTLE



CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR
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.



Tuesday, November 18
11 AM - 9 PM

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



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!

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, 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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