

March 2025

NEXT PTO MEETING: Tuesday, March 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



We Welcome YOU!

Our monthly PTO Meeting is coming up on Tuesday, March 11th.

We have a **full agenda** - including review and approval of spring grants. Based on discussions around Quarter 2 Pulse Survey comments and questions raised at PTO meetings this year, Principal Stein and Amy Sheridan will present about changes to classroom instruction and Advanced Learning.

- Please send any questions to prez@vanhisepto.org by Monday, March 10th.
- PTO provides child care free of charge to families. Email prez@vanhisepto.org if you plan to bring a child(ren) so we can plan accordingly.

As always, check out our website at www.vanhisepto.org for up to date news.



Thank you to everyone who participated in our evening with MMSD School Board Member Savion Castro last month.

We look forward to hosting him and other local leaders again in the future.

Events at a Glance | MARCH

March 11

March PTO Meeting
6.30PM in VHE Library

or **ZOOM**

March 18

Shake Shack Fundraiser (11am - 9pm)

March 18

Learning Differences Affinity Group
6.00PM in VHE Library

or **ZOOM**

March 24-28

NO SCHOOL - Spring Break

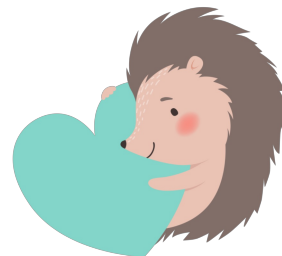
March 31

School Resumes

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.

*** [MMSD just released its calendar for the 2025-2026 school year](#) ***

A Note from The School Social Worker



RESOURCE ROOM: The resource room is a new addition to our school and 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 help 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.

Support Our School Carnival!

Our annual VHE Carnival is just around the corner, and we need your help to make it a success!



Raffle Donations Needed

We are seeking exciting raffle prizes to make this year's drawing the best one yet! Do you own/work for a business that might be interested in donating a raffle item? Do you have a close connection to someone who does? Help us make this a great event by donating a prize today!

Popular donation ideas include:

- Gift cards (restaurants, stores, entertainment)
- Event tickets (sports, concerts, museums)
- Unique experiences or services

If you or your business would like to contribute a raffle item, please contact Adam Gratch at adamjgratch@gmail.com by March 15.

Become a Carnival Sponsor!

Support our school while promoting your business! Sponsorships help fund carnival activities, prizes, and PTO programs. Choose a sponsorship level that works for you:

- Bronze Sponsor – \$250
- Silver Sponsor – \$500
- Gold Sponsor – \$1,000

Bronze - Silver - Gold sponsors will have their logo on day-of event signage with donation category listed

- Platinum Sponsor – \$2,000

Platinum Sponsors will receive their own day-of event thank you sign

To become a sponsor, please reach out to Adam Gratch by March 15. Thank you for supporting our students and community!



Carnival Volunteers Needed

The VHE Carnival is BACK! We are so excited to have this much loved event taking place. It takes a lot of volunteers to make it happen. We are currently looking volunteers to help out on the day of the event.

Pre-buy Your Tickets

**It is important that the Carnival is accessible to all. If needed, we encourage you to reach out to our VHE social worker, Amy Robel. Scholarship bracelets are available to families if needed.



Makers Fair Help Needed

We are looking for people to join our planning committee for the Makers Fair on April 26. Please email prez@vanhisepto.org for more information.

The second annual Makers Faire is an opportunity for Van Hise learners to make and create for free ... and to celebrate our staff!

We will have multiple creation stations throughout the gym to make gifts in preparation for staff appreciation. Join the committee to help pick the projects to make it a memorable and fun day!

Madison Forward FC Contest

Forward Madison FC is introducing its first-ever mascot, and they've invited VHE students to be part of the process.

Students had the opportunity to participate in designing and naming the mascot.

As a thank-you for their participation, Madison Forward FC is sending a free ticket voucher to an upcoming match.

Free tickets can be claimed *here*.



Families and Community Engagement

The Van Hise PTO hosted several meetings with the Families and Community Engagement (FACE) groups last year. This includes a series of teams, empowerment groups, open gyms and weekend events, adult clubs and classes, grade-level meet-ups, trainings and speakers.

We have an upcoming series of conversations scheduled for those interested to learn more about 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.

Special Ed 101 - IDEA, Evaluation Process, Tips for IEP Meetings

Who: Anyone from the VHE community

Location: Van Hise Library Media Center and via Zoom

Day: Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Time: 6 pm

Mental Health Services - School and Community Supports

Who: Anyone from the VHE community

Location: Van Hise Library Media Center and via Zoom

Day: Tuesday, April 22, 2025

Time: 6 pm

If you are interested in any of these empowerment groups or forming additional groups, **please let us know**. The groups will begin meeting again in the next few weeks.



After School Classes

The PTO is thrilled to announce the spring classes for our After School Program. We have offerings for all ages and covering lots of topics and activities to meet the needs of any kids who might be interesting in trying out the program.

** It is important for classes to be possible for all in our community, and we offer scholarships to fill this need. Please contact our school social worker, Amy Robel, at arobel@madison.k12.wi.us for more information.

You can find more info about classes and lots of information about our program through our PTO website, www.vanhisepto.org/after-school-classes. We use an online platform called Popsicle for registration and for payment. You can find a link to the platform through our PTO website. Popsicle also shows up-to-date information about which classes have room and which are wait listed.

Registration will begin on March 10th at noon

Registration closes March 16th at midnight

REMINDER: If your student is attending after school classes, please send them with a snack.

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.

We are also looking for additional support! Please email prez@vanhisepto.org if you have capacity and interest to help with after school classes - including folks with legal or communications experience.

Please be in touch with prez@vanhisepto.org or afterschoolclasses@vanhisepto.org if you have any questions.



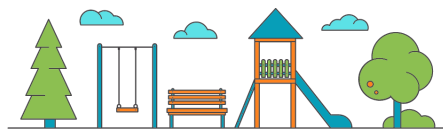
Volunteering

If you haven't already, don't forget to verify that **your volunteer status is current**. The initial screening process includes some web-based training that takes time. Once approved, you need to renew your status each year. You must be approved by MMSD to volunteer in classrooms and to chaperone field trips, among other things.

There is a **new process for signing in at the office** this year. If you have a government issued ID, you must bring it with you the first time you sign-in via the new system.

Do you have friends or family in the neighborhood who might have extra time to give to the school? Encourage them to work through the volunteer process and **check our website** for opportunities to support Van Hise.

Playground Volunteers



The PTO helps out with extra eyes and hands over the lunch period.

Consider volunteering for a 30-minute time slot. Volunteers check in at the office to receive a vest and volunteer badge.

Due to schedule changes this year, the lunch room volunteers are especially needed to help ease transition into and out of the lunch room - even just one shift makes a huge difference!

Find Volunteer Opportunities for Lunch, Recess, and Other Events Here



Our fifth Shake Shack restaurant night is coming up on **March 18!**

Head over to Shake Shack in Hilldale (558 N. Midvale Blvd.) all day. The PTO will receive 25% of all sales from 11AM to 9PM.

Save the Date

Van Hise Elementary Night at the Mallards Game

More information will be sent home in April

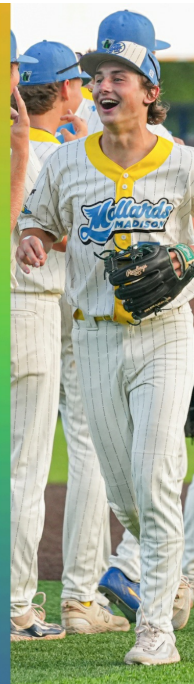
SAVE THE DATE

**Van Hise
Elementary School**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

**GATES OPEN: 5:05 PM
FIRST PITCH: 6:05 PM**

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW



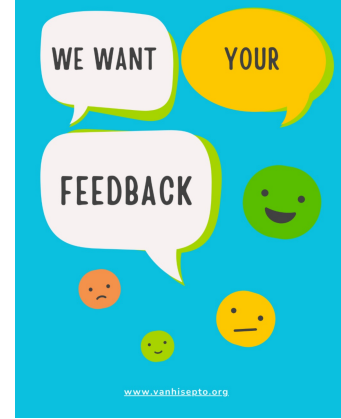
Ollie's Labels

We want to reduce the items in Lost and Found this year and ensure your student's items make it back to them. Consider getting name labels from Ollie's Labels and VHE PTO receives 20% of every sale. This fundraiser is ongoing, and we will send reminders throughout the year.

[Order Labels](#)

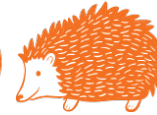
Look for the third quarter community pulse survey next week.

We are always looking for ways to celebrate our successes and learn how we can improve to be a better PTO. **Please share your feedback with us.**



You've reached the end. We hope to see you Tuesday, 3/11 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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