

This is a long email! We are working hard to be a thorough source of information and a connection for parents. Some email programs cut off long messages, so make sure to expand your email to see our whole message. You'll see a singing hedgehog at the end!



Zoom PTO Meeting This Tuesday!

***NOTE: This is a REVISED Zoom link from our PTO Meeting email. Apologies!**

We want to encourage everyone to join us for the August PTO meeting this coming

Tuesday, **August 11th at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Link [HERE](#).** It will be an opportunity to ask questions, speak directly to Principal Seidl, offer thoughts and ideas for the upcoming year, be involved in PTO efforts, or simply to listen.

**All Van Hise families are automatically members of the PTO.
Hope to see you there!**



A Message From Your PTO Presidents

We'd like to introduce ourselves as PTO Co-Presidents for the 2020-21 school year.

Many of us are feeling unsettled about the coming year, wondering what instruction will look like and how we will support our children through virtual learning. While the circumstances aren't ideal, it's important to recall the many strengths of our VHE school community and the connections that we share and hold dear.

Despite the uncertainty, we are very confident of the following:

Our highly skilled and passionate VHE educators are working hard to design a virtual classroom experience in which they can welcome students, learn their unique personalities, find out what excites and motivates them, and build a classroom community that supports and encourages each student to rise to their full potential.

With the competent and dedicated leadership of Principal Mary Seidl, staff will be supported in their goal to meet all of our children's needs; and to continually learn, build on and improve from their experience.

Our highly engaged and dedicated families will pull together to support each other, especially those in crisis; participate in finding solutions to the challenges we all face; and give generously of their time, talent and hearts.

Let's find ways to support each other through this difficult time and what's more, create joyful, memorable moments. Let's consider the ways that we can pull together to creatively pool our many assets and make this year positive in unexpected ways. That is our challenge to our VHE school community. Above all, remember that you are not alone. We'll make the best of a tough situation, TOGETHER. We look forward to working together over the next year!

-Kim Wheeler-Yates & Emily Cusic Putnam, VHE PTO Co-Presidents



Principal Seidl's Spotlight

Happy August! I have been enjoying my summer gladiola garden right now and hope that you are finding some time to enjoy the beauty that this month brings.

There have been many updates shared in the last two weeks as we gear up for virtual learning 2.0 set to launch September 8th. In addition to virtual learning updates, we have also welcomed Dr. Carlton Jenkins, our new MMSD Superintendent. I am excited to work with him as he continues to lead the work of our district's Strategic Framework and ensure that all of our schools are thriving schools.

**A reminder that this Monday, August 10,
begins the online enrollment process for MMSD.**

You may use this [link](#) to enroll your child as a Van Hise student. Once you complete the virtual enrollment, there are no additional steps to take unless your family has moved since you last enrolled your child/ren. If your family *has* moved, you will also be required to verify your address change. This can be done by emailing our new secretary, Amy Raymond, a picture of your MG&E bill or your lease. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Amy at amraymond@madison.k12.wi.us. She can assist you with completing the process.

**We understand that families are
overwhelmed.**

**We are partners in this process, and we are
here to work through the beginning of this
year's virtual learning together.**



Below is information about the fall as we know it now. There will be more to come, but this is a start for planning purposes.

Emergency Virtual Learning vs. Intentional Virtual Learning

The virtual learning practices that were put in place in the spring were emergency plans. Our staff partnered with families to support instruction to maintain learning for all. We used that experience to inform our plan for virtual learning 2.0 that will be launched this Fall. Our Fall learning plans are more rigorous, with the goal to accelerate learning for all students. Intentional planning will be done to include new content learning, increased face-time with teachers, differentiated learning opportunities with small group instruction, feedback for students around learning targets, and increased support for student engagement. I am currently working with my leadership team on a schedule that will be shared as soon as it is approved by the district.

Social-Emotional Wellness and Connection

Our most important responsibility is to keep children safe. Beyond physical safety, we care deeply about the social-emotional well being of our students and believe strong relationships with students and families are critical. Teachers will connect with each family on a regular basis to check in about how things are going, answer questions, and provide any necessary support. While your child will have a homeroom teacher, there will be many different Van Hise teachers connecting with families this Fall. A reminder that children are perceptive and often mirror the adults around them. You may have concerns and feelings about virtual learning and accompanying challenges; however, to support a successful school year, please try to be positive about this learning structure around your child. We want them to start this school year with excitement. Our leadership team will be defining multiple *Welcome Back Activities* in the week ahead - more to come! Our staff look forward to welcoming your child with enthusiasm, encouragement, and love!

Technology, Instructional Materials and Supplies

MMSD will make Chromebooks available for all students in grades K-5 if they need one. Continue to reach out to myself and/or Dana Prager, our library media technology specialist, if you need a device (drprager@madison.k12.wi.us). Similar to last year, there will be a district wide process for requesting and receiving a device. We will work to ensure that your child has a device prior to our start on September 8th.

In addition to technology, we are looking at how learning materials can be provided to students. Information regarding distribution of technology and materials will be sent to you soon. Here is the official MMSD Covid [Supply list](#), if you want to take advantage of sales now. MMSD is working with community partners and I am also discussing with our PTO a plan to deliver materials including the school supply kits sold by our PTO last Spring. More information to come.

This year we will introduce a new online learning platform, Seesaw. Some schools with advanced technology in their schools used this tool last Spring and it was recommended particularly with younger students. Seesaw and Google Classroom will be used to support our students, and they will receive guided training and practice when we begin school. If you are interested in learning about Seesaw sooner, [this](#)

[site](#) offers an overview.

Weekly Schedule

You will receive detailed schedules as we get closer to the start of the year. In an effort to support your family in planning, here are some general schedule notes. Our goal is for weekly schedules to be consistent and predictable:

Students will engage in both synchronous and asynchronous learning throughout the week.

* Synchronous learning is live/on a Chromebook at a particular time (examples may include a whole class morning meeting, small reading or math group, or 1:1 writing conference).

* Asynchronous learning is not live (examples may include pre-recorded mini-lessons, collaborative work within shared documents, skill practice online (Lexia) or offline via tasks/activities (reading a book).

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays will include a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning for students each week.

Wednesdays are designated as asynchronous learning only (staff will be involved in all-day professional development and weekly planning as well as planning for hybrid and full in-person transition). While there will be no live teaching and learning on Wednesdays, students will continue to follow a schedule and engage in Wednesday's learning opportunities that teachers provide.

Students will receive synchronous learning opportunities for literacy and math, science and social studies, and within specials (art, music, physical education).

Efforts will be made to schedule common recess, lunch, and end of school day times across the school to support childcare for families with more than one student at Van Hise. We are building a schedule with classroom teachers that supports consistency and routine as much as possible with minimal amounts of time used for logging onto zoom.

Child Care Options

MSCR will be running programs throughout the city. Stay tuned for info on how to register. This is run by the school district through Madison Schools and Community Recreation.

Wisconsin Youth Company: [website](#) with specifics about these programs

7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. | Chavez, Crestwood, Franklin, Leopold

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Shorewood, **Van Hise**, Thoreau

There is still much to be planned and decided and we promise to communicate decisions to you as quickly as possible. Again, we thank you for your patience and support and look forward to partnering with you to make this a positive start to your child's school year. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at mseidl@madison.k12.wi.us.

I look forward to the PTO meeting on Tuesday, August 11 at 6:00-7:00 PM. As additional information is shared, I will hold another listening session. Until then, please feel free to reach out and [email](#) me with any questions or feedback.

Enjoy the summer and please take time to enjoy the gladiolas - it is a short season!

-Principal Seidl

ALL SUMMER

Please reach out if your family needs assistance.

Rachael Nachtwey, Social Worker
rlnachtwey@madison.k12.wi.us

Mary Seidl, Principal
mseidl@madison.k12.wi.us

AUGUST 10

Online Enrollment Begins
Enroll **HERE**

AUGUST 11

PTO MEETING via Zoom
6:00 - 7:00 pm
Zoom link: **HERE**
(REVISED Zoom link from
previous PTO meeting email!)



The PTO Needs YOU!

Want to learn more about what the PTO does? The activities may be different this year, but what we stand for remains the same.

The VHE PTO...

- Is committed to enhancing and enriching the education of our children and fostering a sense of community throughout the school.
- Is a place where everyone is welcome and supported, and where everyone's voice and perspective are heard and respected.
- Is committed to fostering a sense of unity among families, staff and our broader community.
- Seeks to keep parents connected and informed and to serve as the link between school and home.
- Strives to ensure the highest quality education possible for ALL students.
- Is dedicated to ensuring that every single child feels a sense of community, connection, and support from their school.

We are so grateful to have such a large body of parent and community volunteers. Without these volunteers, our work wouldn't be possible.

Thank you to our returning volunteers!

We welcome all new volunteers. If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to us at prez@vanhisepto.org.

If you want to learn more about the PTO, attend a PTO meeting! We meet by Zoom (for now) on the 2nd Tuesday of the month Aug-June at 6:00 PM. You can also follow us on Facebook at Van Hise Elementary PTO.

We are working to keep our website up to date at
www.vanhisepto.org.

LET US KNOW IF WE CAN HELP

We know some families in our community have



urgent needs. We are here with resources to help. By working through our Social Worker, family needs are kept private and confidential. Please reach out to let us know what your family might need during these difficult times. Over the summer, our school Social Worker, Rachael Nachtwey, has limited hours. We don't want to miss any requests, so if the need is urgent, please be in touch both with Ms.

Nachtwey and with Principal Seidl until school starts again.

Rachael Nachtwey, Social Worker
rlnachtwey@madison.k12.wi.us

Mary Seidl, Principal
mseidl@madison.k12.wi.us



Support the PTO Through Your Purchases!

Though we know these are tough times for many, some have asked how they can donate to the PTO. One way to donate is through Amazon Smile. By selecting the Van Hise Elementary Parent Teacher Organization as your chosen donation organization, a portion of your purchases are donated directly to our PTO. Check out more here:

<https://smile.amazon.com/>



You've reached the end. We hope to see you Tuesday at the PTO meeting!

Van Hise Elementary School
Madison, Wisconsin

VAN HISE PTO
ELEMENTARY



VHE SCHOOL WEBSITE * VHE PTO WEBSITE