

HELLO! from your Van Hise Parent Teacher Organization

With the onset of July, it seems the scales have tipped toward looking forward to the new school year instead of back to the one gone by. As your PTO, we are staying in touch over the summer with resources and reminders during this unprecedented time. Read on to find lots of good information, including how to be in touch if you need assistance during these difficult days.

To our new Van Hise families - we welcome you into our community. Look for this monthly emailed newsletter from the PTO full of information, dates, reminders, and always a message from our principal, Mary Seidl.



Principal Seidl's Spotlight

Welcome to Summer, 2020!

I hope this note finds you taking time to enjoy the sunshine. Please enjoy these beautiful days.

This update includes:

- summer days ... VHE teacher style
- thinking ahead to fall - instructional options and staff shifts
- how to best support our Hedgies' emotional well-being this summer

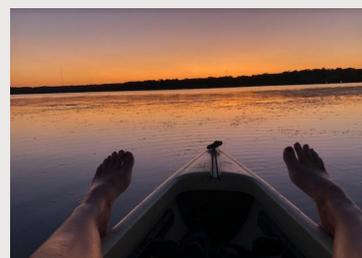
My summer has been marked with time with family - celebrating my younger daughter's high school graduation, picking strawberries with my older daughter and sneaking in some lake time while reading a good book at Governor Dodge. Water is very therapeutic for me - I look forward to more time near water in July.

Note: I will be working throughout the summer - please feel free to email if you would like to touch base or arrange a time to meet by phone or socially distanced. My email is: mseidl@madison.k12.wi.us

Here are how a few of our Hedgehog teachers are spending their summer...

I have been biking with my daughter, and she's almost ready to take her training wheels off. -Mrs. Savage, 2nd grade

This week I went strawberry picking and picked 13 pounds of strawberries just before getting stuck in a downpour. The same thing happened to me last year when I went strawberry picking so maybe I should work on checking the weather before I go



outside to pick fruit! Now I'm busy figuring out what to do with 13 pounds of strawberries and thinking of exciting, new cooking projects for the fall! I miss all of our little Hedgies and can't wait to see them soon! Take care **-Ms. McGuire, kindergarten**

Everyday in June I ran at least one mile solo, without my kids!**Mrs. Gamez, 3rd grade**

I've been enjoying going to my swimming pool and taking long walks with a friend.**-Mrs. Jimenez, 4th grade**



I have been keeping busy finding ways to have fun at home and in my neighborhood. Some of our favorite activities have been riding bikes, doing science experiments and sitting by our fire table in the backyard. I hope all of the kids at VHE are doing well and having fun with all the small adventures of summer! **-Mrs. Robbins, 1st grade**

And **Mrs. Mahr** shared these pictures with water, sand, smiles & butterflies!



Please enjoy your summer! Thinking ahead to the Fall...

The Madison Metropolitan School District is continuing to work on a specific plan for 2020-21. They have proposed three options: all in-person instruction, all virtual instruction, and a hybrid with some in-person and some virtual instruction. While we do not have the specifics yet, whatever September brings will be better served by our school's continued work to partner with families. We look forward to working together to best serve our learners (see "School" below for additional information on how to support your learner over the summer).

There has been a shift in our staffing for the coming year. Mrs. Emma Murphy, K/1 REACH teacher has decided to retire. Mrs. Hyman who is our current interventionist will be increasing her time at Van Hise and teaching REACH to our K/1/2 next year. We look forward to having Mrs. Hyman increased at our school and wish Mrs. Murphy the very best!

Our school staff will work this summer to review the survey and end of year conference data shared by students and families to develop and plan for continued success for 2020-21. We remind ourselves that whatever the plan will be for the coming year, it will be a shift from prior years as we continue to experience a global pandemic.

Supporting Student Emotional Well-Being

As we prepare for the Fall, our staff will ground ourselves in best practices put forth by the CDC. This includes supporting the emotional well-being of children. Please consider these guidelines as you prepare to partner with us in the months to come to support our Hedgies:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/talking-with-children.html>

Prepare for School: Discuss with your child that the school is working to develop a plan that will be aimed at keeping them and school staff safe. While we do not have specifics yet, the work of the school is to prioritize safety of everyone. As we get closer to the start of school we will know more and just like we worked together at the end of last year, we will work together next year to make it a great year of learning and growing together.

Remain calm. Remember that children will react to both what you say and how you say it. They will pick up cues from the conversations you have with them and with others.

Reassure children that they are safe. Let them know it is okay if they feel upset. Share with them how you deal with your own stress so that they can learn how to cope from you.

Be present: Make yourself available to listen and to talk. Let children know they can come to you when they have questions. Avoid language that might blame others and lead to stigma.

Pay attention to what children see or hear on television, radio, or online. Consider reducing the amount of screen time focused on COVID-19. Too much information on one topic can lead to anxiety.

Communication: Provide information that is truthful and appropriate for the age and developmental level of the child. Talk to children about how some stories on COVID-19 on the Internet and social media may be based on rumors and inaccurate information. Children may misinterpret what they hear and can be frightened about something they do not understand.

Healthy Habits: **Teach children everyday actions** to reduce the spread of germs. Remind children to wash their hands frequently and stay away from people who are coughing or sneezing or sick. Also, remind them to cough or sneeze into a tissue or their elbow, then throw the tissue into the trash. Be aware of local safe at home restrictions and adjust your activities to respect the safety of everyone.

Please enjoy a safe and healthy July!

Kindly, Mary

Events at a Glance | JULY & AUGUST

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

MID-AUGUST



LET US KNOW IF WE CAN HELP

We know some families in our community have urgent needs. We are available with resources to help. 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 very 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 over the summer months.

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

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



The VHE Garden

There are only a few weeks left on VHE garden signup genius! The gardens are growing really well this year! Volunteers are encouraged to cut and take gorgeous zinnia flowers, basil and kale as cutting helps improve growth! All of those are going to be in prime shape soon! Once you signup, Trina will send you an email with all the information and directions you need to enjoy your work week.

Trina - trinamuich@gmail.com

SIGN UP HERE!

A Message From Ms. Ann

So far, I'm not sure if I feel retired - it just feels like summer! But there is a little feeling of having no real responsibility that I've noticed. So far, we've had two family birthdays to celebrate, two more come in July, and we had a socially distanced small goodbye party for a friend moving to Seattle, so I've been very busy at the start of retirement, but in very fun ways!

-Miss Ann



Van Hise Elementary School
Madison, Wisconsin

VAN HISE PTO
ELEMENTARY



