

March 2024

NEXT PTO MEETING: Tuesday, March 12th at 6:30 pm. IN PERSON @ VHE in the library with Zoom option. 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



A Message from Principal Stein

State FORWARD Exam

Each year, Wisconsin students in grades 3-8, and 10, participate in the state's Forward Exam. Schools across the state must select a date from March 18 through April 26, 2024

to give the test. Our school is scheduled to take the Forward Exam beginning on March 19, 2024 (for some grade levels).

The Forward Exam measures knowledge and skills students should have for their grade level. The Exam tests students in the areas of English language arts (ELA); mathematics in grades 3-8; science in grades 4 and 8; and social studies in grades 4, 8, and 10. One or more subtests may be administered daily during our selected time frame. The results of these tests will be used to help school staff make determinations regarding curriculum, placement, and services to best support students.

Student performance on the assessment will not affect their grades. Please encourage students to take the test seriously, do the best they can, get a good night's rest prior to the exam, and eat breakfast at school. Students not in school on testing days will be scheduled for a make-up test prior to the close of the testing window. State assessments, including the Forward Exam, are required by both State (Wis. Stat. § 118.30) and Federal (ESSA-Every Student Succeeds Act) Law. Additionally, the Forward Exam is given in-person, with no virtual/remote options available. Students in Madison Promise will receive additional information about taking the test in-person.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has created a [Forward Exam Information for Families](#) brochure, which gives more information about the assessment. (*Spanish version of [brochure](#); Hmong version of [brochure](#)*). Additionally, if you have any questions regarding the state assessment system or specific assessments, please contact Tim Peterson, MMSD Director of Assessment, at tpeterson2@madison.k12.wi.us

As always, thank you for your ongoing support and partnership!



Read Your Heart Out a Huge Success

What a fantastic day! Thank you to everyone who joined us on February 14th to celebrate Black History Month. Having this day to lift our Black and African-American voices within our school through reading supports a welcoming school. This year we had our very own Hedgies join classrooms as well as continued the tradition to invite Hamilton scholars to join as well. Thank you to our VHE PTO & staff, MMSD Administration, and all who helped make this a special event. Shout out to Mr. Keegan Lynch and Ms. Chanel Thomas for the collaboration with me to organize the day's events as well!



Book Battle at VHE

During the last weeks of February, our students participated in the Battle of the Books competition. Thank you to all who joined in by reading many books and answering questions during the school's battle! This upcoming month our champions will compete at the District Level competition at Randall Elementary School.

Bus Driver Appreciation Day

This past month we celebrated our bus driver by thanking him for his important role in transporting some of our children to school. My 5th Grade PriniPALS led the day to recognize our 1 bus driver at VHE!



AM Supervision

Just a reminder that school supervision starts at 8:15AM. Students walking to school or being dropped off early are expected to follow school expectations and rules. Over the past months this is something that our VHE staff have noticed as being a concern. I ask that you remind our children to wait patiently and to make sure their behaviors align with caring for self, caring for others, and caring for our space. Thank you!

Family Conferences Sign-Up

On Thursday, Mar 21, 2024 the window to sign-up for family conferences will open. Our classroom teachers will provide you more information within their newsletters. Our Spring Family Conference dates are:

- April 11 (PM ONLY)
- April 12 (ALL DAY)



Opera for the Young

We welcomed Opera for the Young for our entire school to enjoy over the past month! This touring opera company is based in Madison, and gave some of our students a chance to join the production as well! Mr. Dyer, our 4th grade teacher, also debuted

his acting career!

Events at a Glance | MARCH

MARCH 12

PTO MEETING
6:30 in the VHE Library
Zoom Link [HERE](#)

MARCH 19

**SHAKE SHACK RESTAURANT
NIGHT**
11:00 am - 9:00 pm

MARCH 25-29

SPRING BREAK



We Welcome YOU!

Our monthly PTO Meeting is coming up on Tuesday, March 12th.

We will continue our process of having updates from the PTO and Principal Stein in the first 30 minutes, with a Zoom option. We will then move to in-person only discussion.

- Please send any questions by Monday, March 11.
- Let us know by Friday, March 8th if you may need child care at the meeting (PTO provides free of charge to families).
- Check out our agenda [HERE](#).

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

Remember to head to the Volunteering page on our website for a list of volunteer opportunities and links to sign up.

<https://www.vanhisepto.org/volunteering>

New Classes Starting After Spring Break

The registration window will open on March 11th and will close Saturday, March 30th at 5pm. Head to our website for tons of great information on our After School Class program and links to our registration platform, Popsicle.



It is important to us that classes are available to all who would like to participate. Scholarships are available. Please reach out to our VHE Social worker, Molly McNett at mmmcnett@madison.k12.wi.us.

Flag Rugby

Teacher: Bruce Hill

Mondays

4th, 5th

4/1-6/3

No Classes 4/8, 4/15, 5/27

Introduction to a non contact version of the global sport of rugby. High activity sport with an emphasis on fun and effort.

Meets at: Outdoor fields

Board Games Galore

Teacher: Drenk

Tuesdays

4th, 5th

4/2-5/21

Come play board games, card games and more

Meets at: Room 116

Dismissal Door #5

Steam fun

Teacher: Chanel

Wednesdays

K-2nd

4/3-5/29

We will be creating some fun models with Legos and other materials.

Meets at: Room 125

Dismissal Door #6

Mindfulness in Nature

Teacher: Koval

Thursdays

2nd-5th

4/4-5/30

No Class 4/11

Each class, we will spend a portion outside, journaling, walking, noticing and wondering, finding artifacts and art projects

Meets at: Room 110

Dismissal Door #5



Shake Shack Restaurant Night

Our monthly restaurant night at Shake Shack is coming up on **March 19th**. Head over to Shake Shack at 558 N. Midvale in Hilldale Mall for dine-in or carry out between 11:00 am and 9:00 pm. 25% of proceeds go directly to the PTO!



Have something to share?

The Van Hise PTO is looking for ways to celebrate successes and identify opportunities for improvement. While the PTO is not a policy making body and does not have authority over the school or district, we can help facilitate conversation around issues and are here to support our whole school community.

For those wishing to voice and navigate concerns outside of the purview of the PTO, families are encouraged to utilize **MMSD resources** to navigate concerns. One option for quick feedback is the **Let's Talk app**.

[Feedback Survey](#)

[Garden Survey](#)



The PTO has a Garden Committee that is working to form a plan for our VHE green spaces. They have put together a survey as an opportunity for families to give input on the future of the school gardens. (We sent this survey out with a March 1st deadline, but we have extended it so that we can hear from more families!)

The Garden Committee would love to know more about how our VHE families perceive the gardens and what our priorities should be for improving our outdoor education spaces. Please consider sharing your thoughts!

Please also consider joining the VHE Garden Committee. Meetings occur on the second Monday of each month at 3:10 pm in Ms. Ford's classroom (room 109). If you can't attend this meeting time, you are still welcome to join (**sign up [here](#)** or email **garden@vanhisepto.org** for more information). We can make sure you still receive updates and meeting notes and can share feedback with us.

Garden Survey

Needs in the Health & Social Work Offices

The health office always appreciates donations. The health office has identified the following needs:

- Snacks
- Small underwear
- Pants in all sizes (joggers and leggings preferred)
- T-shirts
- Socks



Our social worker has identified the following needs:

- Small bagels and other snacks

Items may be dropped off in the VHE office. Thanks to all who have donated in the past!



The PTO has a tradition of providing teachers and staff with a potluck during conferences. Spring conferences are coming up on April 11th and 12th. The potluck will be on Thursday, April 11th. Friday breakfast and lunch will be catered by the PTO.

Meal items and treats give the staff a chance to get some much needed sustenance and are also a kind token of our appreciation for all they do! Please consider

volunteering to donate a food item(s). We are also looking for folks to set up and clean up!

Sign Up for the Potluck [HERE](#)



Playground and Lunch Volunteers

The PTO helps out with extra eyes and hands on the playground and in the lunch room. Consider volunteering for a time slot or two. Volunteers check in at the office and receive a vest. Remember: to volunteer, you must have completed the MMSD steps to become an "Approved Volunteer" ([see the MMSD volunteer page for information](#)).

Head to the Volunteering page on our website to find the sign up links!

**PTO Volunteer
Page**

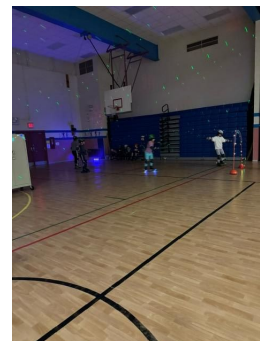


News From the Gym

Rollerblading with K-5 was a success! Every single student was able to put on their protective gear and learn how to stand/skate on rollerblades. In our last week of the unit we got to turn our very own gym into a roller rink. I want to thank everyone that helped out with rollerblading because I wouldn't be able to do it without you!

We have students that forget their gym shoes everyday. I have some extra shoes that students can borrow but if you have shoes at home that you'd be willing to donate I'd love to have them (especially sizes 3-6).

Thanks,
Ms. Sorensen



Summer Football Camp

Check out the opportunity to have your child participate in the West Regent Football Camp through

MMSD this summer! Click on the flyer image for a printable version or use the QR code for more info and a registration form.

Register
HERE



PLAY WHERE THE REGENTS PLAY: MANSFIELD STADIUM

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER:

West Regent
FOOTBALL
CAMP MONDAYS
JULY 15 + 22

5:00-7:30 PM • **FOR 3RD-8TH GRADE**

CHOOSE 1 OR 2 DAYS **REGISTER BY JUNE 14 FOR FREE T-SHIRT**

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
EMAIL HEAD COACH:
MWOLF@RAMS.MADISON.K12.WI.US
WITH QUESTIONS

\$25 REGISTRATION FEE
FOR ONE DAY OR
\$40 FOR BOTH



SAVE
THE
DATE
Monday,
June 3rd

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

Van Hise Elementary
at the Duck Pond!
More Details To Follow!

VHE Kids Have the Opportunity to See a Mallard's Game

Mark your calendars for June 3rd! Van Hise students will receive FREE tickets to this game. It promises to be a fun event. Keep your eyes out for more details!

Coming Up..

Just to get you ready, here are some important things coming up this spring. We will send details as we get closer to the events!

April:
Carnival

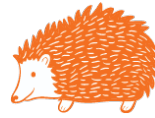
May:
Maker Fair, Teacher Appreciation Week, Hedgiestock, Field Day

June:
5K graduation, 5th grade graduation, Last day of school



You've reached the end. We hope to see you Tuesday, 3/12 at the PTO meeting! Check www.vanhisepto.org for updates.

VAN HISE PTO
ELEMENTARY



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

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