

NEXT PTO MEETING: Tuesday, October 12 at 6:30 pm via [Zoom](#)

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!



A Message from Interim Principal Costello

Being at Van Hise has been delightful. I really enjoy working with the staff and students! I hope the information below is helpful. Please feel free to ask me any questions you might have.

I am looking forward to getting to know you! Here's some information about me:

I was born and raised in Madison and graduated from the UW Madison with my BS degree in elementary education and Masters in Child Development. I have a Masters from Marian College in Educational Leadership and a Masters from Cardinal Stritch University in Curriculum and Instruction.

I was a principal for 24 years before retiring in 2019 as the principal of Thoreau Elementary in MMSD. I was principal at Thoreau for 9 years and before that time, I was the principal at Annie Jackson Elementary School in Green Bay, WI. Annie Jackson is also a Blue Ribbon School! I was also an elementary education teacher and taught in both high school and at community colleges.

During my retirement, I have spent a lot of time in my garden and being with my 2 grandchildren. My granddaughter is at Hamilton and my grandson attends West High School. Two of the best things I left in MMSD are my 2 daughters. My youngest daughter is a teacher at Memorial High School and my oldest has been the school nurse at Stephens School for twelve years. Our son lives in Milwaukee and is an electrical engineer. My husband and I lived in Fargo, North Dakota, Escanaba, Michigan before moving to Green Bay, where we lived for 22 years. Both my school and our home were close to Lambeau Field. In fact, my school was the only school allowed in the Don Hudson Center as we were the Packers' school.

Speaking of sports, my parents and aunts and uncles all went to the Badger football games for over 60 years. My own family now has their seats and my 3 children and their spouses, my brother and his wife and my 2 nephews and their wives all sit next to each other during the home games. My other cousins sit nearby. I love that for me, it's a family affair. I come from a large family with 7 brothers and sisters and multiple first cousins. My father and his brothers were born in Greece so you can imagine all the Greek food and traditions I was raised with!

As an educator, my passion is reading and writing. I feel reading is the most important

subject we can teach our children. I have always promoted the research that states that if a student reads 20 minutes each day, they will be proficient readers and I give that advice to both parents and students. Every school I have worked at I made sure reading was the most important goal we had.

I am enjoying getting to know your students! I have never been with a group of students who have so much empathy for others and care about both their friends and teachers. The students come to school every day ready to learn and enjoy each other's company. It is my pleasure to fill in for Mrs. Seidl during her leave.

-Kathy Costello

kjcostello@madison.k12.wi.us

Events at a Glance | OCTOBER

OCT 12

PTO MEETING via ZOOM

6:30 - 7:30 pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

OCT 18

**DAMAGED CHROMEBOOK
FEES BEGIN**

OCT 22

NO SCHOOL

OCT 28

PICTURE DAY



BUCKY BOOKS

Interested in great discounts to local establishments? The Bucky Book is a local favorite resource for great opportunities to have fun and save some money throughout the year.

Purchase a book [HERE](#) through the Van Hise PTO page and we get \$10 of the cost per book as a donation to the PTO. The book is shipped right to you - we pay the shipping cost.

The fundraiser goes through January, so keep this in mind as a gift through the holiday months!



**COMING
OCTOBER 18TH**

STUDENT CHROME BOOKS

We want all families to be aware of a new policy going into effect for lost and damaged Chrome books.

The fine structure for lost and damaged devices will go into effect on **October 18th** and will follow these [guidelines](#).

Technical Services Helpline for FAMILIES:



A KIND REQUEST FROM THE OFFICE

As everyone settles into the routines of the new school year, the office has asked us to remind families to work to be prompt in picking up your students at dismissal. Understanding that unexpected circumstances arrive from time to time, teachers also need to use after school time for professional development and preparation. Thank you for your continued help in putting together all of the pieces of this unique school year!



SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

School pictures are coming up on **October 28th**. Retake day will be on December 2nd.

ORDER YOUR PICTURES [HERE!](#)



DONATION REQUEST

Our school social worker, Rachael Nachtwey, is looking to fulfill some needs in our community. Specifically, she is looking for:

- Girl's clothing, sizes 6-12; size 5 shoe
- Boy's clothing, sizes 8-16; sizes 2.5 and 5 shoes
- A small bike for a 6-year-old girl would be much appreciated!

Items may be dropped off at the VHE office or email prez@vanhisepto.org to arrange for items to be picked up. As always, we urge families who have any specific needs to contact Ms. Nachtwey at rlnachtwey@madison.k12.wi.us.



SCHOLASTIC ONLINE BOOK FAIR

Mark your calendars - the Scholastic Book Fair is coming up. This year, it will be online to observe COVID-19 precautions. **It will be held November 1 - 14th**. There is free shipping with book orders of \$25 or more to your home address. Van Hise receives a portion of the sales to use toward buying more books!



FROM MS. JENKS -

As we get back to in person music, I thought I should take the opportunity to share my perspective on music education and the start of our school year.

Back when I taught only middle school students, I remember an incoming student who had the following note in their file: "Jane (not real name) loves music, but unfortunately is not musical and is basically tone deaf." It was true that Jane's pitch matching skill as a 6th grader was imperfect, but it became quickly clear that she understood advanced musical concepts and made connections

between music, her own reflections on life and the other subjects that she was curious about with extreme wisdom. In all ways—except for this one skill—Jane was one of the most “musical” individuals I had ever met. She showed great depth of thinking, analytical ability and would often be the catalyst of for ideas that would lead us to things I had never thought of doing with a middle school choir.

I share this story because so often being “musical” is so narrowly defined as having great skill as a performer. And though performing is one thing a musical human can do, it is not the main reason to have a strong music education. When listening to and singing ideas that have been passed on through song, we explore a variety of perspectives and see ways in which humans—though they may have different experiences—share a lot of similarities. We take an abstract thing (like sound) and turn it into concrete symbolic notation (mathematical thinking). We study patterns in lengths of sounds, silence, and frequency and speculate on why the composer made the choices that they did and the aesthetic impact of their choice (literary and critical thinking).

In the end, “Jane” actually acquired that skill that she was missing early on. Actually, she went to college as a performance major and won a national competition through the NYC Metropolitan Opera. My “tone deaf” 6th grader was not at all “unmusical,” and I don’t believe that any human is. It might be that not every skill is learned at exactly the same time and some people have opportunities and experiences that work out certain abilities earlier, but every human has the ability to appreciate, listen to and share their ideas (and the ideas of those before them) through music—with instruments and voices.

I still teach with goals for each student and class, but they are not all skills (or things to do). Some goals are skills, but others are about understanding (or knowledge) and still others are about how we connect musical ideas to our own lives and use music to have a better understanding of ourselves, others, various cultural perspectives and how various subjects are interconnected.

For this fall, all grades are looking at music with this lens:

ANCESTORS IN TRAINING

Affective Goal: Students will reflect on the connection between the past present and future and describe how things that have happened before us still matter today and imagine how we can have a positive impact on those that come after us.

Knowledge:

4-5: Understand the ways that musical elements of pitch and rhythm can impact the feeling of intensity in a piece of music.

2-3: Describe melodic contours using words and shapes and match what is heard to music notation examples.

K-1: Identify ascending and descending melodic patterns.

Skill:

4-5: Perform notated rhythmic subdivisions with accuracy down to 16th note divisions. Read guitar chord charts and show the finger positions given.

2-3: Perform rhythmic patterns using quarter, eighth notes and rests. Use correct mallet technique to play with fluency and ring.

K-1: Use singing voice in and above normal speaking ranges. Play descending and ascending patterns on ladder bells.

A piece that all grades are studying (with the idea of connecting our past, present and future) is We Are, by Sweet Honey in the Rock, a wonderful Black women's acapella group. [WATCH HERE](#).



MEET THE NEW SECRETARY!

Amie Gorman

ABOUT ME: I have two kids, Mazzy (6) and Carter (9). I have a golden doodle named Buddy, and he will be 3 in November. I'm excited for a wonderful year at Van Hise!

MY FAVORITES: The color pink. Chili is my favorite food. The Invisible String is my favorite children's book. My favorite outdoor activity is walking, and my favorite indoor activity is reading.



You've reached the end. We hope to see you Tuesday, 10/12 at the PTO meeting! Check www.vanhisepto.org for updates.

