

# Valley Heights Secondary School

## STUDENT HANDBOOK

### 2023 – 2024



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***\*Any information in the Student Handbook may be overridden by COVID policies and restrictions***

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# W e l c o m e

Welcome back Bears! We trust that you have had a great summer and look forward to the new school year.

If you are new to our school, thank you for choosing Valley Heights Secondary School. We hope that you will soon realize what we already know: ours is the largest and most beautiful campus in the board, but it is second to the friendly staff and students. Enjoy your time here and make the most of it.

This Student Handbook will provide you with important information which will be of use to you throughout the entire year. Please read it and be sure you are aware of the expectations concerning attendance, dress code, Code of Student Behaviour, etc.

Valley Heights Secondary School provides many opportunities for you to be successful, both in your academic work and in your participation in our extracurricular program. Our staff will do their part to help you have a successful year. Dedication to your learning, including hard work and cooperation, is crucial to your success. Regular attendance, homework and assignment completion, coupled with a positive attitude toward school also contribute to your success.

Bears, strive to be your best, complete your grade 12 Ontario Secondary School Diploma, and set yourself up to have the very best future possible.

Have a fantastic year!

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## Information on Student Fees & Athletic Fees (2023-24 School Year)

There will be no fees or cost charged to students to participate in the regular day school program. Fees may be charged where the student chooses to upgrade the material or where purchase of material is optional. Students enrolled in Grand Erie District School Board schools can expect to be provided with the basic classroom learning resources required to complete the course expectations. It is recognized there may be optional resources that students may purchase to enhance their program: field trips, workbooks, upgrading materials in courses such as construction technology and visual arts. Students may choose enhanced program options where fees are required.

Students should bring their own school supplies. Teachers will communicate the basic materials needed in each class such as pencils, pens, pencil crayons, markers, erasers, rulers, calculators, etc. There are some school supplies in our Sharing Closet for students who need them.

Students are strongly encouraged to pay the **Student Activity Fee** of \$26.25.

- These fees help to support a variety of student activities such as spirit events (i.e. Spring Carnival), Bear of the Week, and our school turkey lunch. They also help to cover some of the expenses associated with extracurricular clubs. Some events, such as dances, may only be accessed if the fee has been paid.
- Students who get their school photo taken and have paid this fee will receive their VHSS Student Card.

The **Secondary Athletic Fee** will be determined by the Principal of each school in consultation with School Council and will be reviewed on an annual basis. These fees help to cover a small portion of the costs of transportation, referees, facility rental and uniforms. For students participating on athletic teams, there are three options available:

1. \$125.50 will cover the student for all school sports during the entire school year;
2. \$21.00 per minor sports team: cheerleading, tennis cross-country, badminton, junior football, golf, track & field (only if the student qualifies for AABHN);
3. \$42.00 per major sports team: football, basketball, volleyball, soccer, hockey.

If you would prefer to wait until the season begins (in the event that your child does not end up participating), you are welcome to do so. *Please be aware that they will not be allowed to play in any games until this fee has been paid.* If you choose to pay sport by sport, fees collected will not exceed \$125.50.

It is not intended that any fee be a barrier to any student's participation in extracurricular activities. If a student has difficulty in paying the fee because of financial hardship, they should speak with Ms. High (Principal) or our Vice-Principal in order to make alternate arrangements.

## School Cash Online

VHSS uses a payment system called School Cash On-line. If you haven't already registered (and you may have done so in elementary school), please see the instructions below. Once registered, you will be able to pay for any school related costs such as the Student Activity Fee, Athletic Fee, field trips, enhanced fees, etc.

- Visit [www.schoolcashionline.com.gedsb](http://www.schoolcashionline.com.gedsb)
- Select "Register" and follow the steps to register
- Select the "click here" option on your confirmation email, sign in and add each of your children to your household account.

## **Daily Schedule at VHSS**

9:00 – 10:15 am	Period 1
10:15 – 10:20 am	Break
10:20 – 11:35 am	Period 2
11:35 – 12:20 pm	Lunch
12:20 – 1:35 pm	Period 3
1:35 – 1:40 pm	Break
1:40 – 2:55 pm	Period 4

### **Fire Drills**

The Health & Safety of all staff and students at Valley Heights is paramount. Each semester there are three drills for safe fire exit from the building. Fire drills expect students to leave the building quickly and safely and to report to their classroom teacher outside for attendance to ensure no one has been left in the school in case of a real fire situation.

### **Lockdown Drills**

Lock down practice is about being safe in the school in the event of an intruder, who may pose risk to staff and/or students. When the school is in lock down, students are expected to quickly move into an area where they can be out of view. During a drill or real lock down, it is extremely important that students remain quiet and still. Students should not use cell phones to communicate because of the noise that they make. Everyone's at risk if even one person is making noise. The practice drills are preparation in case of a real need. Taking them seriously is the expectation.

Washrooms cannot be locked and therefore should be identified during planning as a danger (red) area in the event of a lockdown. Students need to evacuate washrooms if at all possible and get to an area which can safely be locked down (green).

As a last resort, staff or students if trapped in a washroom, should secure the bathroom door, enter a stall, lock the door and climb on top of the toilet.

## **Attendance Policy**

Success at school is directly related to regular attendance; therefore, students are expected to be on time and present in all their classes. The school attendance monitoring procedures are designed to stress the importance of attending school and the consequences of absenteeism.

### **SafeArrival**

At Grand Erie District School Board, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each and every day.

To enhance our existing absence-checking procedure, we are introducing **a new, more efficient** student absence reporting system called **SafeArrival**. This new system will reduce the time it takes to verify student attendance, make it easy for you to report your child's absence and easy for staff to respond to unexplained student absences.

With **SafeArrival**, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

1. Using your mobile device, download and install the **SchoolMessenger app** from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>). The first time you use the app, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
2. Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>. The first time you use the website, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
3. Call the toll-free number **1-833-557-9420** to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time.

In addition, we will use the **SchoolMessenger Communicate** automated notification system to contact parents whose child is absent when the absence was not reported in advance. The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents at multiple contact points until a reason is submitted for the absence. If our system is unable to reach the designated contacts, office staff will follow up.

If you report your child's absence in advance using the **SafeArrival** toll-free number, website or mobile app, you will NOT receive these notifications.

Please report absences in advance using **SafeArrival** instead of sending notes or calling/emailing the school.

Staff will be using the **SafeArrival** notifications to let you know if your student is absent (when you haven't reported the absence in advance).

If you have children attending other schools, please continue to report absences using the existing procedures for those schools.

- Parents/guardians will be called when the cause for the absence is unknown or needs substantiation. If the student is an adult (18 years of age), communication will be with the student only.
- Upon reaching the age of 18, attendance is the responsibility of that student. Absenteeism should be only for **valid** reasons for example medical or family emergencies. Should inappropriate attendance behaviours be observed, such behaviours will be addressed by staff and/or administration through progressive discipline that considers both the maturity of the student and the repetitive nature of the incident. Note that leaving school to go to work is not an acceptable reason.
- **Legitimate Absences include** Illness, medical/specialist appointments that are unavoidable, emergencies, religious days, bereavement.
- Illegitimate Absences include Shopping, attending a school event (sport or club) as a spectator, “beach day”, extra-long lunches, “reward day” from parent, work days.
- Students participating in authorized school-related activities outside the regular class will have that absence recorded as excused.
- If a student is absent for 15 consecutive school days, or a number of single days that are not consecutive, and has not provided a medical certificate, the student will be referred to the Attendance Counsellor by the Vice Principal for follow-up.
- Students absent from school on the day of a school dance or extracurricular activity (i.e. game, performance) will not be allowed to participate.
- If a student is absent for an examination or for any other major evaluation due to illness, a medical certificate may be required; alternate arrangements for completing the evaluation must be made with the teacher and school administration.
- A student who becomes ill is to report to the office. His/her parent or guardian will be called to give permission to sign out and leave school.
- The first morning bell signifies the time for students to head to class. By the second bell students should be in homeroom. Students are late to homeroom if they arrive after the second bell. Lates will be handled by the student’s teacher initially. If lates are persistent, then the student will be referred to the school administration.

Students with spares remaining at school are expected to work in the library, cafeteria or Bear Pit. Students on spare should not be in the locker bays or hallways during class time. Students leaving the school during a spare **are expected to sign out in the main office.**



**How Can Parents Help?** Encourage and support your child and contact the classroom teacher to discuss any questions or concerns.

1. Permit absence only when necessary. Question your child about assignment due dates and tests to be written, before permitting an absence.
2. Discourage your child from working long hours at a part-time job. Except in emergencies, students should not request to miss school in order to work.
3. Make sure that the school has your **correct phone number** and a **number at work** where you can be reached.
4. Please attempt to schedule appointments (dental, medical, personal business) outside school hours, or when school is not in session.
5. Make vacation plans that will coincide with the school calendar. Students on vacation during school time miss a great amount of work. Please refrain from taking vacation time during exam schedules.
6. Requests to miss school to work must have Board approval. A SAL application must be completed, including a Work Education Agreement, signed by all parties, and approved by the board before any student is permitted to miss school to work. Students under 14 will not be granted permission to work. All SAL applications must be completed through the Vice Principal. Students will not be permitted to work until the SAL has been approved by the board. This could take a few weeks, so planning ahead is highly recommended.

## Guidance, Student Success and The Workshop

The Guidance department offers a variety of services to students and parents:

- Individual counselling about courses, careers and personal matters;
- Group presentations about careers and future education;
- Printed information, videos and computer programs about jobs, apprenticeships, co-op, colleges, universities, enrichment, exchanges, and other opportunities;
- Records of accumulated credits;
- Information about scholarships and financial aid for further education;
- Help in transitioning to Valley Heights Secondary School;
- Personal crisis counselling;
- Referrals to community agencies for help with particular problems;
- Referrals with parental permission to the board Social Worker or Child and Youth Worker for counselling with students and/or parents;
- Referrals to the S.T.A.R. Counsellor, H.N. Health Nurse, or Addictions Counsellor, for information and counselling about physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Parental permission is required.

Although our Guidance Counsellor tries to see every student every year with regard to future plans, students are encouraged to request an interview at any time rather than wait to be contacted.

**Scholarships, Bursaries and Awards:** All students are automatically eligible for subject awards. Bursaries and scholarships, on the other hand, must be applied for and application forms may be obtained from the Guidance Office. Information regarding scholarships, bursaries and awards is available in the Guidance Office throughout the school year and is accessible for students' reference.

**VHSS Student Success Team:** Our team, which includes administration, guidance counsellor, learning resource teacher, and student success teachers, meets at least once each month to discuss any student concerns that have been referred to us by staff and/or parents. We work collaboratively to develop a plan to support these students who may need extra help or services.

**The Workshop:** is an alternate space where students can work quietly if the classroom teacher feels it appropriate and the learning resource teacher or student success teacher is available.

The Valley also has a **"Take it or Leave It"** cupboard, which is located beside the library. We stock a variety of gently used clothing, new hygiene products, and school supplies which have been donated by our generous school community. Students are welcome to take what they need, or donate items that they don't.

## **J.H. Atkins Library Information Centre/Learning Commons**

The J.H. Atkins School Library Information Centre (SLIC) is a hub of activity, learning and sharing. Our Library Technician and Teacher-Librarian (Mrs. Van De Slyke) have created an inviting atmosphere in which students can study, research, share and learn.

As the **SLIC** team, our aim is to teach students the research skills they need to succeed in an information-rich future. We provide students with access to a wide range of print, non-print and electronic learning resources to support the curriculum. We encourage reading for pleasure, self-knowledge and ultimately a life-long love of reading. Our overall goal is to foster learning and to improve student achievement.

Students are encouraged to use the **SLIC** resources for both school and recreational purposes. The basic loan period for materials is **3 weeks**, excluding reference materials. If additional time is needed, the loan may be renewed. Most reference materials can be taken out overnight only. Encyclopedias may not be removed from the library. It is expected that all materials will be returned on or before their due date. A late charge of **20 cents** for each item for each day will apply.

Students must sign a Computer Acceptable Use form in order to access the **SLIC** computers during class, before school and at lunch. Students can expect to be monitored closely while in the computer lab.

## **Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting**

Assessment, evaluation, and reporting in Ontario schools are based on the policies and practices described in *Growing Success – Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting in Ontario Schools 2010*. The policy states that the primary purpose of assessment and evaluation is to improve student learning and is based on seven fundamental principles.

Teachers will obtain assessment information through a variety of means. They will ensure that students' demonstrations of their achievement are assessed in a balanced manner with respect to the four categories of the achievement chart.

**Learning Goals:** clearly identify what students are expected to know and be able to do, in language that students can readily understand and should be shared at or near the beginning of a cycle of learning.

**Success Criteria:** describe in specific terms what successful attainment of the learning goals looks like. Teachers need to identify the criteria they will use to assess students' learning and develop specific corresponding assessment tools.

**Descriptive Feedback:** helps students learning by providing them with precise information about what they are doing well, what needs improvement, and what specific steps they can take to improve.

**Learning Skills:** are an integral part of a student's learning. Generally speaking, the evaluation of learning skills and work habits should not be considered in the determination of a student's grades. Teachers will work with student to help them develop the learning skills and work habits identified on the official report card.

**Report Card Information:** Teachers will take various considerations into account before making a decision about the grade to be entered on the report card. Interpretation of evidence should reflect the student's most consistent level of achievement, with special consideration given to more recent evidence.

**For assessment information, refer to individual course outlines provided by the classroom teacher at the beginning of the course.**

Final Assessment dates are clearly set out in the school calendar – students must schedule family appointments, holidays, employment opportunities, and other personal plans around these dates in order to avoid issues. Please avoid plans for the weeks leading up to exams as in-class culminating activities and practical exams will be taking place.

**Academic Honesty:** All submitted assignments by students must be original work. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. It may result in loss of the credit and may jeopardize the student's eligibility for bursaries, scholarships and other awards.

**Missed Assessments:** If you know in advance that you will be absent on a test or presentation day, please make alternate arrangements with the teacher to complete the work. If you are absent on the test or presentation day, be prepared to do the work on the day that you return to class, at a time deemed appropriate by the teacher. Bring a parental note specifying the reason for your absence. If you do not have an acceptable/legitimate reason for the absence, you are still expected to complete the assessment (or alternate form of assessment) and disciplinary consequences may be assigned.

GEDSB Policy SO20 contains detailed information about how cheating, plagiarism, and late or missed assignments are handled.

## **Code of Conduct for All Students**

Valley Heights Secondary School is a community that promotes responsibility, respect, civility and academic excellence in a safe learning and teaching environment. All students, parents, teachers, and staff have the right to be safe, and feel safe, in their school community. Everyone has the right to be respected and the responsibility to respect others.

## Expectations of All Students

1. Students are expected to demonstrate respect for themselves, staff members, other students, and all school property by what they say, do and wear.
2. Students are expected to attend all classes regularly and punctually.
3. Students are expected to use appropriate language and avoid altercations of any kind with other students and school staff.
4. Students are expected to complete assessments to the best of their ability and hand in all assigned work on time.
5. Students are expected to know and follow the expectations as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct as found in the Students' Handbook.

Students who do not meet expectations may face consequences ranging from an interview with school administration to expulsion. Our school Code of Conduct and progressive discipline practices align with the Grand Erie policies given below, which can be found on the board website.

Code of Conduct (SO12)

Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour (SO11)

Bullying Prevention and Intervention (SO9, SO10)

Student Suspensions (SO6)

Student Expulsions (SO7)

**Safe Schools:** Valley Heights takes the safety of our students very seriously. One of the ways that we help to maintain the safety of our students is through our Safe Schools Team. If a violent incident occurs, the incident may be referred to the board's Safe Schools Team and a Violent Risk Threat Assessment may be recommended and carried out by the school.

### Expectations in the Gym:

- Food and drink are not allowed in the gym during noon hour.
- Running shoes and no skid soles are the only footwear allowed on the floor. If the student does not have the proper footwear, he/she must see the teacher in charge.
- No hanging on the rim or misuse of other equipment. Students will be warned once. The second time results in loss of gym privileges.
- Students are expected to use common sense and show respect toward others at all times.

**Lockers & Locks:** Students MUST have a locker and a working lock. You may not share a locker with another student. (Students may not have a key lock unless approved by administration. If approved, students with a key locks must provide the office with one key to keep in the main office.)

**Change Rooms:** These are provided for physical education classes and extracurricular sports. DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES IN CHANGE ROOMS AT ANY TIME. VHSS will not be responsible for lost or stolen items.

**Smoking/Vaping:** The Smoke-Free Ontario Act prohibits smoking or vaping within 20 metres of a school's property line. In addition to covering all indoor areas at a school, the law applies to outdoor spaces such as playgrounds or sports fields. Anyone caught smoking or vaping in a prohibited area could face a minimum fine of \$305 and suspension from school. You should also be aware that it is illegal to sell or supply tobacco or tobacco products and vaping products to anyone under the age of 19.

**Electronic Devices/Cell Phones:** When used appropriately, personal devices such as laptops, tablets and cell phones are acceptable in a classroom setting. Each classroom teacher will determine when these devices may be used and how they are to be used. Students who do not follow classroom expectations may have their device confiscated and sent to the office to be picked up at the end of the day. A second offence may require a parent/guardian to pick up the device from the main office. Texting, surfing the internet for personal use, playing games, making or receiving phone calls, recording conversations, and/or taking photos are considered examples of inappropriate use of personal devices. If inappropriate use of a device continues to be a problem, a confiscation and suspension may occur.

**Fighting:** Students involved in a fight can expect to be suspended from school. Continued involvement in fights will result in longer suspensions. Fighting which results in one or more of the parties requiring medical attention may result in suspension pending expulsion.

**Drugs and Alcohol:** Under section 306(1) of the Safe Schools Act (2000) any student, regardless of age, who is in possession of alcohol or drugs or under the influence or suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs while that student is at school or engaged in a school related activity will face a mandatory suspension. Drugs, drug paraphernalia, and alcohol will be confiscated, and it may become a police matter. School-sanctioned activities include dances, field trips, and any extracurricular activity. Students of legal age of majority are not permitted to be under the influence of alcohol and or marijuana or any illegal/controlled substance at school-sanctioned activities.

**Respect for Property:** Students are expected to treat the school grounds, the building, and everything in the school with respect. The community, school staff, and the vast majority of the student body take much pride in this school. Our custodial staff are nothing less than excellent in their constant attention to repair and cleanliness of the facility. Therefore, all students are expected to help keep it tidy, in good repair, and thereby share in this Valley pride.

Students who destroy or deface school property, or property belonging to others, will be required to pay the cost of repair or replacement. Destruction of school property may result in suspension or expulsion and possible police action.

Students who lose or damage texts or school equipment will be required to cover the cost of replacement or repair.

**Theft:** Theft within the school is regarded as it is in society. Students found guilty of theft will be turned over to the police and their parents will be notified. Restitution will be sought. Suspension from school at the discretion of school administration, may ensue.

**Parking:** Students are welcome to drive to school and use the north parking lot to park their vehicles. Motorbikes are to be parked in the main lot. While on school property it is expected that students will drive safely and observe the rules of the road. Students are not to be smoking/vaping in a vehicle parked on the property. Any students who choose to operate a vehicle in a manner that jeopardizes the safety of self or another can be expected to face serious consequences. Police may be contacted. Suspension from school may occur, and/or the privilege of parking on property may be revoked.

**Skateboards & Scooters** are not permitted to be used on school property.

**Trails:** Due to the lack of appropriate supervision, trails are out of bounds to students unless accompanied by a teacher. Students need not be beyond the parking lot in the north east corner of the property. Students are not permitted to be down at the bridge on Highway 59.

**Visitors to the School:** All visitors to the school need to report to the main office, including former students. If a visitor needs to go to another area of the school, a visitor's pass may be issued and they are available in the front office.

**Additional Considerations:** The adults in the building act in the best interest of our students, and should report any activity, concern, or behaviour to the administration if it is deemed to pose a risk. Also, any personal item(s) brought to school may be subject to confiscation by the administration if it is deemed to pose a risk to the student or others.

## **VHSS Computer Acceptable Use Policy**

Computers are valuable learning tools. When used properly, they are an important part of the learning process. When used inappropriately, however, they can compromise the learning opportunities for the student and for other students in the class. For this reason, inappropriate computer use is not acceptable and will be subject to disciplinary action by the teacher, school, or board administration. Such disciplinary action will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

## **Buses/Inclement Weather – VHSS is in ZONE 1**

Students are responsible to the principal, vice principal, teachers, and bus driver while riding the bus.

The bus driver has a great responsibility, for the safety of all students on his/her bus. Therefore, appropriate conduct is expected in order that the driver can give his/her full attention to safe driving.

Students who misbehave on the bus will be referred to administration for discipline. Repeated misbehavior may result in suspension of transportation privileges. Detailed bus regulations are available from the Transportation Department website.

In accordance with board's Transportation Services Department, students are not to use buses to visit friends, go to jobs, or for other reasons not associated with travel to and from school. There are no allowances for courtesy transportation. Any requests for a change in transportation drop offs/pick-ups are to be done through the Vice Principal via a Bus Pass. Requests must be supported by a note or phone call to the vice principal from the parent and will only be considered for emergency situations. Bus passes can be picked up at the office from the office staff.

- Information on Student Transportation Services can be found here: <http://www.stsbhn.ca/>
- For transportation delays, cancellations or school closures, visit: [www.transinfobhn.ca/Cancellations](http://www.transinfobhn.ca/Cancellations)
- During **Inclement Weather/Emergency School Closure Learning** days students will have the option to access asynchronous learning experiences through Brightspace.
- If there are school or board facility closures, Grand Erie will post a notification by 6:30 a.m. on the Board's website here: [www.granderie.ca](http://www.granderie.ca)
- Information will be posted on Grand Erie's Twitter (@GEDSB) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/GEDSB](http://www.facebook.com/GEDSB)) accounts
- Closure information will also be shared with local media (i.e. radio, television)
- Find the Board's Inclement Weather Policy here: [https://www.granderie.ca/application/files/9215/5907/1526/FT7\\_Inclement\\_Weather.pdf](https://www.granderie.ca/application/files/9215/5907/1526/FT7_Inclement_Weather.pdf)
- Learn how Student Transportation Services makes its decision about inclement weather here: <https://stsbhn.ca/application/files/8916/5521/6189/024.pdf>

## **School Dress Code**

In keeping with Grand Erie's current procedure, [SO 112 – Student Dress Code](#), expectations are outlined in item 3, "clothing worn to school must be conducive to a safe, culturally inclusive learning environment." To further support guidelines in schools, student dress guidelines apply principles of anti-oppression, anti-racism, anti-colonialism, equity and inclusion to what students wear to school and school functions. They support student health, well-being and safety and foster positive school climates, affirming the diversity of social and cultural identities reflected in student clothing and respecting student choice and freedom of expression. A further review of SO 112 will be conducted beginning in the fall.



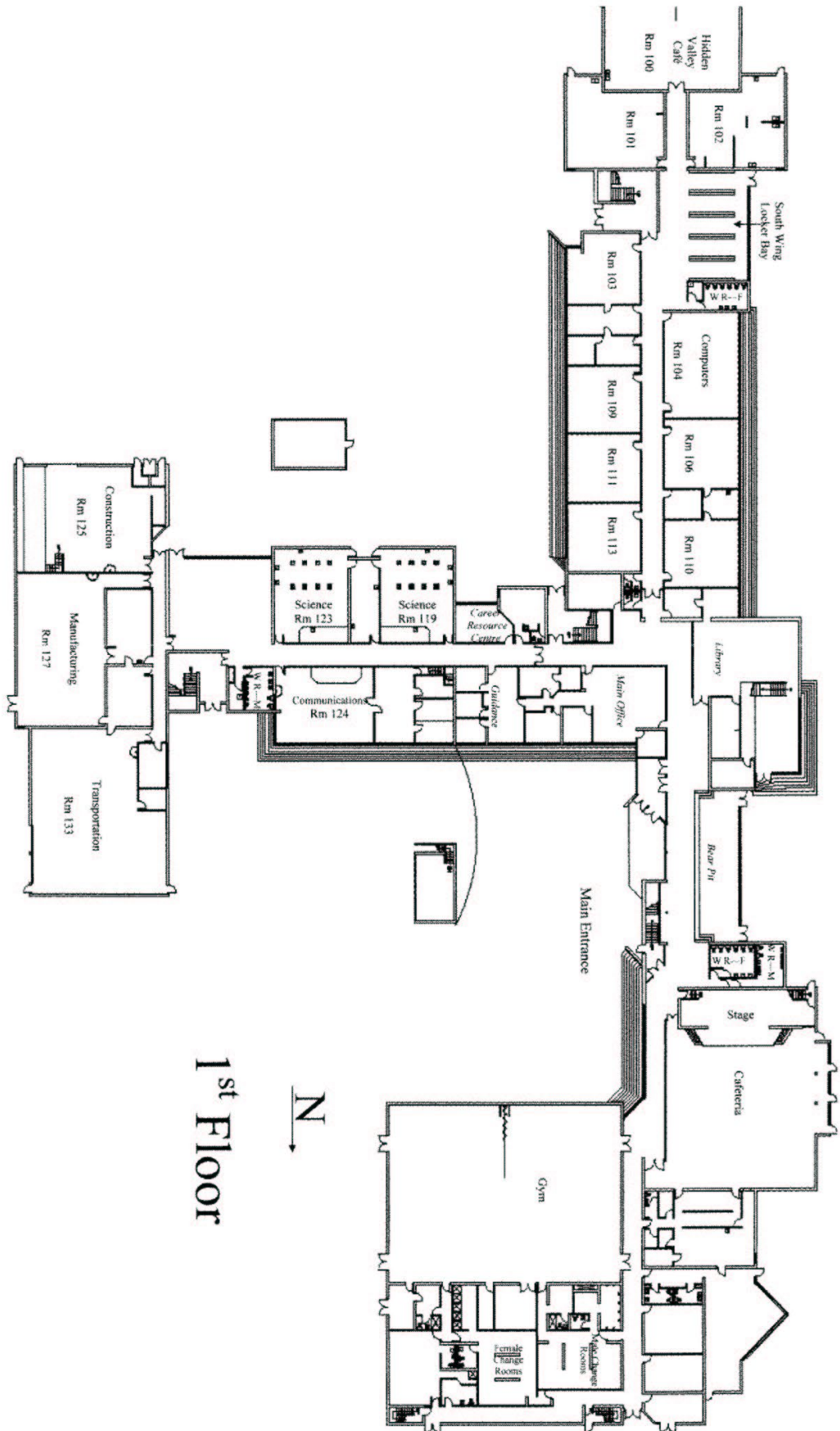
## School Dance Policy

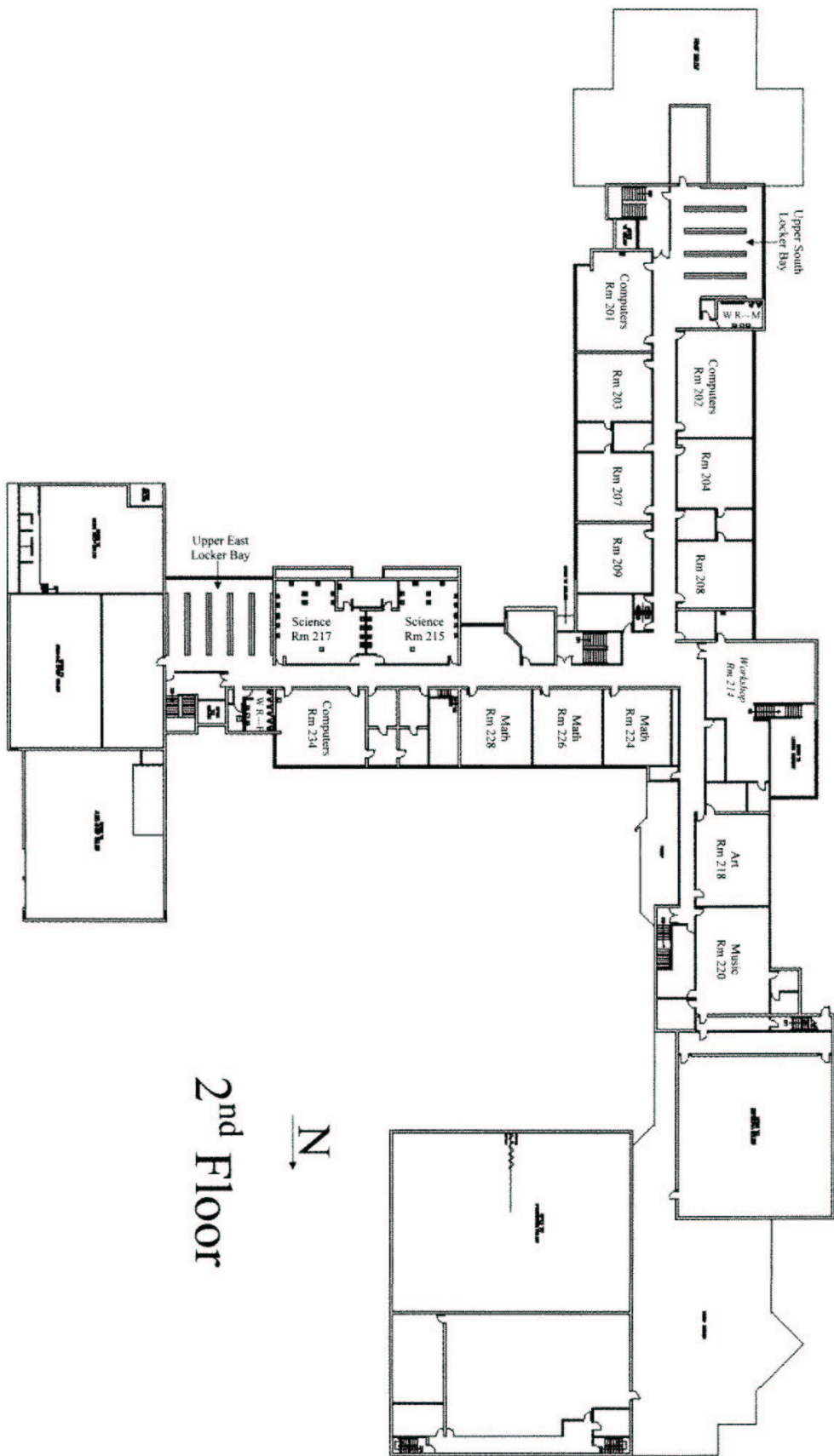
- a) Admission is restricted to students of Valley Heights and approved guests.
- b) Each student may sign in **one guest only and a request form must be turned in to the Vice Principal 2 days prior to the dance**. The student will accept **full** responsibility for the guest. If the guest is found to be disrupting the dance in any way, both the student and the guest will be ejected from the dance. The student may be **refused admission for two or more dances** and will have **no sign-in privileges for one full calendar year**. **The guest will be refused admission to all future dances**. The guest will be expected to enter the dance with the person who signed him/her in.
- c) The Students' Council, co-operating with the Principal or Vice Principal, reserves the right to refuse admission to any students or guests. **Students who are absent** from school on the day of a dance will not be admitted unless previously approved by the Principal or Vice Principal.
- d) No articles whatsoever may be brought in with the intention of disrupting the dance. If considered necessary, school staff and the Students' Council may search students or guests.
- e) Entrance is through main door only. A member of the door committee may stamp each person as he/she enters.
- f) Coats/bags must be left in the front hall. There is no access to lockers.
- g) If a student or guest leaves during the dance, he/she will **not** be readmitted.
- h) The Student Code of Conduct will be in effect for all dances.
- i) Any behavior on the dance floor which is considered morally inappropriate or potentially dangerous is strictly prohibited.
- j) If any of the dance policy regulations, except as in (b), are violated, the student or guest will be ejected from the dance and may be refused admission to all future dances for one calendar year.
- k) Students and/or guests under the influence of alcohol or drugs or suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be sent home from the dance and will face suspensions from school. A parent/guardian will be contacted for pick up. Police may be involved.

## Extra-curricular Activities

There are numerous extra-curricular activities occurring throughout the school year such as interschool athletics, students' council events, and a variety of clubs. All students are encouraged to participate to get the most out of their years at VHSS. Students must attend school the day of a game/event to be eligible to participate. Senior students must have at least two courses in their timetable to be eligible to participate on a sports team. Listen to morning announcements for important information about all extracurricular activities.

# School Map





# **SCHOOL CALENDAR DATES 2023 – 2024**

*\*subject to change – see website*

Semester 1 Begins	Tuesday, September 5	
Picture Taking Day	Thursday, September 14	
Professional Activity Day	Friday, September 15	
Norfolk County Fair	Tuesday, October 3	
Professional Activity Day	Tuesday, October 3	
Thanksgiving	Monday, October 9	
Progress Reports Home	Monday, October 16	
Selecta	Wednesday, October 18	6:00 – 6:30
Meet the Teacher	Wednesday, October 18	6:45 – 8:00
Photo Re-take	Wednesday, October 25	
Take Our Kids to Work Day	Wednesday, November 1	
OSSLT Fall	November 1 – November 30	
Commencement	Friday, November 3	7:00 -
Student Learning Support Day	Tuesday, November 7	
Careers & Civics Final Assessment	November 7 & November 8	
Term 1 Ends	Thursday, November 9	
Term 2 Begins	Friday, November 10	
Remembrance Day	Saturday, November 11	
Professional Activity Day	Friday, November 17	
Mid Semester Report Cards Sent Home	Friday, November 22	
Christmas Assembly	Friday, December 22	
Christmas Holidays	December 23 – January 7 ( <i>inclusive</i> )	
EQAO Math	January 11 – February 3	
Future Grade 9 Night	Thursday, January 16	6:00 – 7:00
Grad Photo	Thursday, January 18, Friday, January 19	
Semester 1 Exams	January 26 – January 31	
Professional Activity Days	February 1 & 2	
Semester 2 Begins	Monday, February 5	
Semester 1 Report Cards Sent Home	Friday, February 9	
Family Day	Monday, February 19	
Progress Reports Sent Home	Monday, March 4	
Meet the Teacher	Wednesday, March 6	5:30 – 7:00
March Break	March 9 – March 17 ( <i>inclusive</i> )	
Grad Photo Re-take Day	Friday, March 22	
OSSLT Spring	March 20 – April 24	
Good Friday	Friday, March 29	
Easter Monday	Monday, April 1	
Student Learning Support Day	Tuesday, April 16	
Careers & Civics Final Assessment	April 16 & April 17	
Term 1 Ends	Wednesday, April 17	
Term 2 Begins	Thursday, April 18	
Professional Activity Day	Friday, April 19	
Mid Semester Reports Sent Home	Friday, April 26	
Victoria Day	Monday, May 20	
EQAO Math	June 29 – June 26	
Year End Assembly	Friday, June 21	
Exams	June 24 – June 27	
Professional Activity Day	Friday, June 28	
Report Cards (mailed home)	July 2 – July 5	