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Blue Devil Newsletter #2

August 23, 2019

Greetings Blue Devil Families,

We are a little over a week away from the start of a new school year. This newsletter contains important information that will help you and your student get ready for the year.

FEE PAYMENTS

**We've adjusted our fee payment hours slightly to allow for some last minute staff training.

Last week, you should have received information on the online option to pay your student's fees. During the week of August 26, Varina will offer three options for fee payment at the school. The dates and times are listed below. We accept cash, check, money order, or card. Card payments are subject to a 4% convenience fee. Student schedules will be available for pick-up at fee night on August 27. Students are welcome to tour the campus on their own. Families will be able to meet their student's teachers at back-to-school night on Monday, September 16.

Here are the dates and times for fee payments:

Monday, August 26 - 8:00 AM - 8:45 AM & 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Tuesday, August 27 - 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Wednesday, August 28 - 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

We will not be open Thursday or Friday for fee payment. If you are unable to make it to the school to pay your fees during the times listed above, your student may bring the fee payment to any of his/her teachers beginning Wednesday, September 4. We are not accepting fee payments on the first day of school. We no longer accept fee payments in the main office. Online payments can be made at any time.

VHS MAIN OFFICE HOURS

During the week of August 26, the main office will be closed at the following times for staff training:

- Monday, August 26 from 8:45 AM - 10:00 AM
- Tuesday, August 27 from 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM
- Thursday, August 28 from 8:15 AM - 10:00 AM

SUMMER READING REMINDER

The HCPS Summer Reading assignment for College Prep and Honors English classes will be due during the third week of school for a grade. Students had a choice of the materials they wanted to read with the goal of reading 20 minutes per day. A reading log that includes the following will be collected: Title, Author, Genre, Summary/Reflection/Connection, and Time spent in the text. The log may be handwritten or electronic. Please refer to the directions at <https://tinyurl.com/SummerReadingVHS> or contact Beth Firmin mefirmin@henrico.k12.va.us for additional information.

STUDENT SCHEDULES

Schedules will be available on PowerSchool next Friday. If you would like a copy of your student's schedule, you can visit us on Fee Night, Tuesday, August 27 from 4:00 - 7:00 PM.

DRESS CODE

The Henrico County Code of Student Conduct clearly outlines the dress code requirements for students. Here is the link to the Code. The dress code is on pages 8 & 9.

<https://henricoschools.us/pdf/Schools/CodeOfStudentConduct.pdf>

(Please note - HCPS is working on updating the link. The dress code information is valid. I will send the 19-20 link when it is available.) We expect students to dress for success at Varina.

The dress code will be enforced in the following way:

Minor Dress Code Infractions

1. Students will receive a written reminder of the dress code requirements.
2. The reminder will be logged in PowerSchool as a student conference.
3. The parent will receive an email regarding the infraction.
4. After two reminders, the student will talk with the administrator regarding additional consequences.

Major Dress Code Infractions

1. The student will be given the opportunity to permanently correct the infraction (change into their own clothes).
2. The student will be given the opportunity to change into clean, school-provided, weather-appropriate clothing (t-shirt/shorts).
3. The student will be allowed to call a parent/guardian for a change of clothes. This option cannot require a student to miss a lot of class time.

4. If a student refuses to cooperate with the staff member, the infraction will be considered insubordination/defiance and appropriate consequences will apply.

The administrators reserve the right to implement the dress code according to their discretion.

Course Change Requests

During the first week of school the only class change requests that will be honored are those that are the result of a scheduling error (ie-the student already passed the class). Requests to change non-AP classes begin the week of September 9; request to drop AP classes begin October 15. All requests must be submitted via the required form. This form can be picked-up by the student from the School Counseling Office. The form must be completed by the student, teacher, parent, and counselor before it is forwarded to the principal for review. Requests are not automatically approved. Changes will be considered based on available seats in the requested class. Requests to drop a class and add a study hall will be limited. With the exception of students to attend an ACE center, all students are provided with 35 minutes of study time Tuesday-Thursday, We offer a wide range of electives to allow for student choice.

SAFETY FIRST

The policies and procedures implemented at Varina are first, and foremost, done with student safety in mind. Our choice to search students, their bookbags, phones, cars, etc. is always done through the lens of keeping everyone safe. Schools operate under civil law and have more flexibility to search in order to keep our students, staff, and campus safe. We also have the right to question students without a parent or guardian present. Again, we do this with safety in mind.

CAMPUS VISITORS

VHS complies with the HCPS policies and procedures for campus visitors. ALL visitors (those who are not VHS students or staff members) must report to the main office to sign in. Sign in includes providing photo identification that is scanned into our Visitor Management System and signing in on our clipboard. Visitors will be provided with a visitor badge that must be worn at all times while on campus.

FOOD DELIVERY

Last year, we saw a drastic rise in food delivery orders from Grub Hub, Door Dash, and Uber Eats. These deliveries pose both a safety risk and a disruption to the learning environment and, therefore, are not allowed. Calling unknown food delivery people to an open school campus poses a major safety risk. Food will be confiscated and returned to students at the end of the school day in the main office. The school is not responsible for loss of money or food in these transactions. Outside food delivery is not allowed from any party. Parents are welcome to add money to their student's lunch account via the online account system.

MORNING DROP OFF

VHS staff are not available until 8:15 to supervise students. At 8:15 the cafeteria and the library will be open for students. Please do not drop off your child until this time unless he/she is taking an early-bird class. In that case, the student may arrive at 7:55..

CAFETERIA DURING LUNCH

For the safety and security of all, students must remain inside the cafeteria during their assigned lunch time. They are not allowed to be outside on the sidewalks. Students interested in visiting the library during lunch can reach out to the librarians Mrs. Glatt and Mrs. Spencer for a pass. Students are also reminded to bus their own trays following lunch. Trash should not be left on the tables.

VAPING

Vaping is on the rise with teenagers and recent reports on the serious impacts it has on teenagers are scary. Please take a moment to review this article: Vaping Article

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/teens-hospitalized-for-lung-damage-after-vaping-e-cigarettes-juul-health-risks/>

BELL SCHEDULE

All Henrico County High Schools are now operating on a Day 1/Day 2 Bell Schedule (see attached). Students who attend one of the ACE Centers will now spend the whole day at the center following their first period class. The Day1/Day 2 schedule has been set by the county, and we will not be able to deviate from it (see attached).

IMPORTANT DATES

September 3-First Day of School

September 3-6 - Cap and Gown orders taken through senior English classes

September 16-Back-to-School Night

September 27 & 28 - Homecoming Weekend

September 30 - Early Release for Students

October 14-No School for Students

October 25 - Convocation for the Class of 2020

November 5-No School for Students/Morning Parent Conferences

