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# Virginia High School

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Blue Devils



## Student Handbook

### 2020-2021



We See...

- \*An educational environment designed to inspire passion and joy for everyone
- \*Collaborative educational experiences with immediate real-world applications
- \*Meaningful integration of community professionals into the daily education of students
- \*Adaptable learning spaces that will continually meet the needs of an ever-changing world

**411 5th Avenue South ● Virginia, Minnesota 55792 ● 218-749-5437**

**Attendance Line: ext. 8025 ● Website: [www.rrps.org](http://www.rrps.org)**

## **COVID SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

We are returning to campus in an in-person model unless your individual family selected distance learning. More information about these models can be viewed by visiting [www.rrps.org](http://www.rrps.org) and clicking on the COVID 19 Back to School Plan, but highlights are included below.

### *IN PERSON*

1. Students are required to wear face protection unless an accommodation is on file; however, students will be given mask breaks when distance protocols can be implemented.
2. Students will report directly to breakfast or class upon arrival and will not be able to congregate in the hallways. Because of this, we ask that walkers and those with family transportation arrive as close to the actual class start time as possible.
3. All visitors, including parents, should have an appointment to enter the school.
4. In order to minimize spreading and maximize ease if we are forced in to a hybrid or distance model, we have transitioned from a 7-period day to a 4-period block. Students still attend school from 8:15-3:05 each day; however, they now have only four classes at any one time. I've included a bell schedule at the bottom.
5. We have limited use of lockers. Those requesting a locker must contact the office. All others are encouraged to use a backpack.
6. All families will be asked to complete a self-screening daily. While the school will utilize our health professionals if additional screenings are necessary, we do not currently plan to check temperatures at the door.

### *DISTANCE*

1. Students participate in learning 5 days per week.
2. Students will connect for scheduled class periods a minimum of 3 times per week via ZOOM. During this time, instructors will provide live lessons simulating a typical class period.
3. The days that students do not connect for scheduled class time (typically 2 days per week), they will have independent online work that must be completed.
4. Not all electives will be available, but we will make efforts to provide creative schedules for students

# Purpose of Student Handbook

To Students, Parents, and Guardians:

Please take time to read this handbook.

**DUE to the global COVID-19 Pandemic, items in this handbook are subject to change. Please keep up to date, as changes may occur rapidly throughout the year.**

The student handbook should be used as a source of regulations, policies, and information for the student while attending the Virginia High School. Students should read the student handbook carefully, review it with their parent/guardian and keep it as a reference. The administration reviews the rules and procedures each year, making them relevant to protecting the rights of all students and allowing the school to function in a safe environment.

The Rock Ridge Public School District will continue with an educational plan designed to develop students' social skills as well as a better understanding of responsibility, respect and resourcefulness. The educational plan includes behavior expectations, achievement expectations, student self-management, and student social skills. The purpose of the plan is for the staff to work together to raise the quality of work done by students, and enhance the attitude of both students and teachers towards school and learning. The total education system teaches students such outcomes as self-discipline, self-management, respect, responsibility, planning, organization, persistence, tact, courtesy and coping skills. The education plan has had an impact on the rules and procedures that are written in this handbook.

**Students are responsible for knowing and following the rules, regulations, policies, and procedures contained in the student handbook. The handbook will be sent home electronically to families at the start of the school year. It is expected that the parent/guardian review the high school student handbook and acknowledge the rules, regulations, policies and procedures as stated. Any questions or concerns should be addressed to school administration.**

Lisa Perkovich  
**Virginia High School Principal**

TBD  
**VHS Assistant Principal**

**This handbook is divided into (5) sections and items are subsequently listed alphabetically.**

**1-General Information**

**2-Academics**

**3-Attendance**

**4-Rules and Discipline**

**5-Sports and Student Activities**

**Items in red are changes from previous years and many are due to COVID 19 guidelines.**

Virginia Public Schools  
2020-2021 School Calendar

July				
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

August					T-1
3	4	5	6	7	S-0
10	11	12	13	14	
17	18	19	20	21	
24	25	26	27	28	
31					

September					T-20
	1	2	3	4	S-17
7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30			

October					T-20
			1	2	S-20
5	6-M	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30	

November					T-19
2	3	4	5	6	S-18
9	10-Q1	11	12	13	
16	17	18	19	20	
23	24	25	26	27	
30					

December					T-16
	1	2	3	4	S-16
7	8	9	10	11	
14-M	15	16	17	18	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30	31		

January					T-20
				1	S-19
4	5	6	7	8	
11	12	13	14	15	
18	19	20	21	22	
25	26-Q2	27	28	29	

February					T-19
1	2	3	4	5	S-19
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	25-M	26	

March					T-21
1	2	3	4	5	S-21
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	25	26	
29	30	31-Q3			

April					T-20
			1	2	S-20
5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30	

May					T-20
3-M	4	5	6	7	S-20
10	11	12	13	14	
17	18	19	20	21	
24	25	26	27	28	
31					

June					T-4
	1	2	3-Q4	4	S-3
7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30			

	First & Last Pupil Days
	No School
	Early Release Wednesdays
	Student Contact Days
	Teacher Inservice Days
	Conference Exchange Day

Midterm (Quarter 1)	Oct. 6
Quarter 1	Nov. 10
Midterm (Quarter 2)	Dec. 14
Quarter 2	Jan. 26
Midterm (Quarter 3)	Feb. 25
Quarter 3	Mar. 31
Midterm (Quarter 4)	May 3
Quarter 4	Jun. 3
Graduation	Jun. 3

Trimester 1	Nov. 25
Trimester 2	Mar. 05
Trimester 3	Jun. 03

Pupil Days	173
Inservice days	7
Teacher Contract Days	180

All visitors should utilize Door #5 as the entrance to the building. Students will use multiple doors.

Students arriving after 8:15 am will be required to be buzzed in to the building at Door #5.


Students are dismissed by the teacher...not the bell.

Building Hours: 7:45-3:45. Students should be in their assigned location or out of the building by 3:20 PM.



VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL  
COVID 19 BELL SCHEDULE  
2020-2021



CLASS PERIODS		EARLY RELEASE WEDNESDAYS	
Block #1	8:15-9:44	Block #1	8:15-9:29
Block #2	9:51-11:20	Block #2	9:36-10:50
Block #3	11:27-1:29	Block #3	10:57-12:44
<b>JH Courses</b>		<b>JH Courses</b>	
11:27-12:00	Lunch	10:57-11:30	Lunch
12:00-1:29	Class	11:30-12:44	Class
<b>SH Courses</b>		<b>SH Courses</b>	
11:27-12:10	Class	10:57-11:37	Class
12:10-12:43	Lunch	11:37-12:10	Lunch
12:43-1:29	Class	12:10-12:44	Class
Block #4	1:36-3:05	Block #4	12:51-2:05
<b>24-Hour Attendance Line</b> <b>749-5437 Ext. 8025</b>		<b>EARLY RELEASE</b> <b>EVERY WEDNESDAY</b>	
<b>Main Office:</b> 742-3915 <b>Activities Office:</b> 742-3923 <b>Nurse's Office:</b> 742-3918 <b>Counseling Office:</b> 742-3910 <b>Indian Ed Office:</b> 742-3949 <b>SpEd Coordinator:</b> ext. 1909 <b>504 Coordinator:</b> ext. 1972 <b>Community Ed:</b> 742-3990		 <b>Rock Ridge Public Schools</b> <a href="http://www.rrps.org">www.rrps.org</a>	

The block schedules shown are being implemented due to the COVID-19. Students will have four (4) 89 minute classes M, T, Th and F and four (4) 74 minute classes on early release (Wednesday). This reduces cross contamination and makes it easier if we are forced to switch to hybrid or distance learning.

# General Information

## ACCIDENTS

Students involved in an injury of any kind in gym, classrooms, corridors, as well as in athletic competition, must report the accident to the teacher in charge immediately. The student will be referred to the main office or nurse's office as soon as possible to complete the proper forms. Tardiness in reporting an accident makes it difficult to record the circumstances accurately.

## ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE CHANGE

A change in a student's address or phone number should be reported to the high school office. This is necessary for keeping school records accurate, for school mailings, and for emergencies.

## AGE OF MAJORITY/EIGHTEEN YEAR OLD STUDENTS

Students 18 years of age or older must comply with the same rules and regulations as younger students according to State Statute M.S. 120.06 unless it has been determined by the school and the student's legal parents/guardians that the student is to be treated as an "independent student". Once a student is deemed independent, the parent/guardian no longer has access to educationally relevant including attendance, behavior, and academics. They may not write their own notes or excuses if they are living in the parental home. Families are cautioned in providing the independent status.

## ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

The Rock Ridge Public Schools has established an asbestos abatement and management plan for all asbestos- containing building materials. All of our buildings are regularly inspected to insure compliance. If anyone has questions or concerns, please contact the District's Director of Maintenance at 742-3939.

## BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

**Students will report directly to breakfast or class upon arrival and will not be able to congregate in the hallways. Because of this, we ask that walkers and those with family transportation arrive as close to the actual class start time as possible. The building will be open for entry at 7:45 AM and multiple doors will be available for entry.**

**Students should arrive at school in time to report directly to their first hour class @ 8:15 AM. Students will need to leave the building as soon as their last class is dismissed unless they have a specific appointment with a staff member.**

## CONCERNS and COMPLAINTS

Students, parents/guardians, employees, or other persons may report concerns or complaints to the school district. Complaints may be either written or oral and should follow the appropriate chain of command, as appropriate. Questions, concerns, or complaints should be directed first to the teacher or coach.

## **COPY MACHINES**

The copy machines are provided for the instructional staff. Students are not to use the copy machines.

## **COUNSELOR**

The counseling office for grades 7-12 is located in the corridor near the high school office (T127). Counseling services are available to all students. The counselors are prepared to assist students and parents/guardians who have concerns about vocational or educational plans in high school or for college preparation, programming and course selection, test results, achievement, study habits, personal matters, or social/emotional development.

## **EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS/MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The school closing announcements will be put on the following media stations:

### **RADIO**

WEVE 97.9 FM 1340 AM  
WTBX 93.9 FM  
Radio USA 99.9 FM  
WMFG 106.3 FM  
KMFG/WMFG 1240 AM  
WNMT 650 AM

### **TELEVISION**

KDLH TV 3  
KBJR TV 6  
WDIO TV 10  
KQDSTV FOX 21  
Duluth News Tribune Online

The information will also be put on the homepage of the Rock Ridge Public Schools website.

## **Employment Background Checks**

The school district will seek criminal history background checks for all applicants who receive an offer of employment with the school district. The school district also will seek criminal history background checks for all individuals, except enrolled student volunteers, who are offered the opportunity to provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular academic coaching services to the school district, regardless of whether compensation is paid. These positions include, but are not limited to, all athletic coaches, extracurricular academic coaches, assistants, and advisors. The school district may elect to seek criminal history background checks for other volunteers, independent contractors, and student employees.

## **Fees**

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided with state, federal, and local funds at no charge to a student. Students are expected to provide their own pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks. Students may be required to pay certain other fees or deposits, including (not an inclusive list):

- Cost for materials for a class project that exceeds minimum requirements and is kept by the student.
- Security deposits for the return of materials, supplies, or equipment.
- Field trips considered supplementary to the district's educational program.
- Admission fees or costs to attend or participate in optional extracurricular activities and programs.
- Use of musical instruments owned or rented by the school district.

Students will be charged for textbooks, workbooks, library books, and other resources that are lost or destroyed. The school district may waive a required fee or deposit if the student and parent/guardian are unable to pay. For more information, contact the building principal.

### **FIRE DRILLS, EMERGENCY EVACUATION & LOCK DOWNS**

Fire, evacuation, and lock down drills are held to reduce the probability of serious damage or injury in case of a real emergency and are required by the state of Minnesota. Explanations of fire exit routes are provided in each room at the beginning of the school year. Teachers will provide this information and explain the procedure in case of a fire drill; students are to follow these instructions. All books and other materials must be left and students are to leave the building in a quiet and orderly manner. The first student out of the room should hold the door open until all persons are out, and then close the door. The first person to the outer door should hold that open until all students have gone out and then move away from the building to the sidewalks surrounding the school. On a signal, the students will return to the building and their classrooms in an orderly fashion. In case it becomes necessary to evacuate the building for other reasons than fire, students and faculty will follow the general fire drill exit regulations. If needed, you will be notified of any change in this routine, such as reporting to specific areas after leaving the school building.

### **HEALTH PROGRAM**

The health service program at the Virginia High School is the continuation of a plan of health guidance for students which began in the lower grades. The health services consist of Individual Health Care Plan and Emergency Action Plan development, student health assessments/evaluations, screenings for vision, hearing, and assistance with needed medical treatments. The health service program at the VHS assists to protect and promote student health, facilitate normal development, and advance academic success. As a district our health services provide care coordination and advocate for quality student-centered care. Parents/guardians may contact the nurse at 742-3918 regarding any special health problems.

Note: Except in emergencies, students must first report to their scheduled class to obtain a pass from their teacher to go to the Nurse's Office.

#### Medications:

Parent/guardian is responsible for providing all medications.

Medications may be dispensed in school when the student's health may be jeopardized without it, and when needed to maintain/promote the health of the student so that learning is enhanced. If a student needs to take prescription and or over-the-counter medication during school, the school district requires.:

1. The district's Medication Authorization form must be completed once per school year and/or when a change in the prescription or requirements for administration occurs. These forms are available on [www.vmps.org](http://www.vmps.org) under nursing services and in the nurse's office.



2. The administration of PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION at school requires a completed signed request from the student's parent and a signed physician's order. Prescription medication must be in the properly labeled pharmacy container & are to be kept and administered in the health office. Parents/Guardians are advised to ask the pharmacist for a bottle for home and second/separate labeled bottle for school.
3. OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS SECONDARY STUDENTS (grades 7-12): May possess and use nonprescription pain relief medications in a manner consistent with labeling for their own use only.
4. The school district may revoke the privilege of self-carry and self administering of medications if it is determined that the student is abusing the privilege or is at risk of harm to self or others.
5. Self-Carry Medications: Students needing to self-carry emergency medications such as an epi-pen or an inhaler may do so. The district requires the Self-Carry Medication Authorization form and either the Allergy Action Plan or the Asthma Action Plan available on the District's website [www.vmps.org](http://www.vmps.org) to be completed by the guardian and the prescribing health care provider. These forms must be completed at the start of each school year.

#### Immunizations

As required by Minnesota Statutes Section 121A.15, children enrolled in a Rock Ridge Public Schools must receive immunizations required per the Minnesota School Immunization Law. Proof of immunizations must be provided prior to the student's first date of attendance. All students entering grade 7 must show proof of 2 MMR vaccines, a series of 3 Hepatitis B vaccines, 1 Tdap vaccine, 3 polio vaccines, 1 Meningococcal vaccine and 2 Varicella vaccines or certify that the student had chicken pox. If immunization is medically contraindicated or if a parent or guardian wishes to be exempt based on beliefs from one or more immunization requirements then section 2 of the "Student Immunization Form" available on our school website must be completed and provided to the school health office. Students not in compliance will not be allowed to attend school.

#### Procedures & Expectations

1. Gym and swim excuses will be handled from 8:00-8:15 a.m. in the Nurse's Office.
2. If students have physical restrictions or are not able to participate in physical education classes due to medical reason then medical verification of restrictions and or accommodations needed for school are to be provided to the school nurse. Medical verification of clearance for return to physical activity is also needed.
3. Please update any health and emergency information annually. Contact the School Nurse as soon as possible if a student has a chronic or health condition that may need an Individual Health Care or Emergency Plan.
4. New students to the school must show proof of immunizations upon enrollment.

## **INDIVIDUAL CLASS OPTIONAL PURCHASES**

Sophomores will be offered an opportunity to purchase a class ring. Class rings are ordered in the winter of the sophomore year and delivered in the spring. Information about class rings, style, and price available to students. The purchase of a class ring is optional. Seniors should have their graduation pictures taken during the summer preceding their senior year.

Photographer selection and service is an optional choice left to students and parents/guardians. All seniors will be given the option to purchase a graduation cap and gown, but one will be provided to students to utilize for the ceremony if he/she decides not to purchase the cap/gown. The purchase of class rings, announcements, caps/gowns, and graduation pictures are all optional.

## **INTERNET POLICY**

### Rock Ridge Public Schools' Internet Use Policy Statement

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or school hallway. Communications on the network are to be considered public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply.

Network resources are provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others in relation to school work. Access to network services is given to students who agree to act in a responsible manner. Access is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, based upon the acceptable use guidelines outlined in this document, the administration and staff will deem what is inappropriate use and their decisions are final. Upon identification of inappropriate use of network services by the administration, faculty, and staff, access may be denied, revoked, or suspended at any time.

### Rock Ridge Public Schools' Internet Use Rules & Responsibilities

Individual users of the Rock Ridge Public Schools' Internet resources are responsible for their use of the network. The use of these resources must be in support of education and research and must be consistent with the academic expectations of the Rock Ridge Public Schools. Use of other organizations' networks or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of any material in violation of U.S. or state regulations including copyrighting, threatening, or obscene materials is prohibited. Use for commercial activities for profit by organizations, product promotion, political lobbying, or illegal activities is strictly prohibited.

The user is expected to abide by the following network rules of etiquette:

- \* Be polite. Do not write or send abusive messages.
- \* Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or other offensive language.
- \* Transmission of obscene materials is prohibited. Sending or receiving offensive messages or pictures from any source will result in immediate suspension of privileges.
- \* Do not reveal the personal address or phone number of yourself or other students.
- \* Do not communicate any credit card number, bank account number, or any other financial information.

- \* Only school-approved e-mail accounts will be allowed. Electronic mail is not guaranteed to be private. The System Administrator shall have access to all electronic mail.
- \* Do not use the network in such a way that would disrupt the use of the network by other users.
- \* Vandalism - any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user will not be tolerated. Any questionable action will result in the cancellation of user privileges.
- \* Students will not bypass the content filter or compromise other securities within the network.

## **LOCKERS**

**We have limited use of lockers due to COVID 19 and the need to reduce communal spaces. Those requesting a locker must contact the office. All others are encouraged to use a backpack.**

The 1995 Omnibus Crime Act creates a statewide school locker policy. It provides that it is the policy of the State of Minnesota, "School lockers are the property of Rock Ridge Public Schools. At no time does the Virginia School District relinquish its exclusive control of lockers provided for the convenience of students. Periodic general inspection of the interior of lockers may be conducted by school authorities for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. The personal possessions of students within a school locker may be searched only when school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence of a violation of law or school rules. As soon as practicable after the search of a student's personal possessions, the school authorities must provide notice of the search to students whose lockers were searched unless disclosure would impede an ongoing investigation by police or school officials."

1. All students must provide their own locks and are not allowed to share or change lockers.
2. Students are responsible for all contents contained in their assigned locker.
3. Students are advised not to leave money or other valuables in their locker.
4. Students should not leave items above or below lockers as it is not secure.
5. Students found tampering with another person's locker will be in violation of policy.
6. Students will be expected to honor a request by the administration to open his/her locker for inspection. Should a student refuse to honor the request, the school reserves the right to cut the lock on the student's locker.

## **Nondiscrimination**

The school district is committed to inclusive education and providing an equal educational opportunity for all students. The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, parental status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, or age in its programs and activities. Contact the school superintendent as needed.

## **Notification to Staff Regarding Placement of Student With Violent Behavior**

ISD 706 recognizes the right of students and data privacy. In an effort to provide a safe school environment, staff members will be notified by the Administration of a student's history of

violent behavior. The history of violent behavior and notice to the appropriate staff is an educational record and will be transferred to an enrolling school district. Parents have the right to review and challenge records or data, including the data documenting the history of violent behavior, under both state and federal law as set forth in the school district's Data Practices Policy.

## **PARENT VOLUNTEERS**

Parents/guardians are welcome in the schools and are encouraged to volunteer in their children's classrooms. To volunteer in the school district, parents/guardians should speak to the building principal. Parents/guardians who visit the school should sign in at the office before entering a classroom. In most instances, volunteers will be required to have a background check on file with the school district prior to volunteering. Please be advised that COVID 19 may limit visitors. Always call the day prior to make an appointment if you would like to visit the school.

## **PARKING POLICY**

The Virginia School Board adopted a policy on January 8, 1996, regarding all school parking lots within the district. It is illegal to park in any school parking lot during school hours without a parking permit issued by the school. School personnel will check cars parked in all school lots for a school-issued parking permit. A car without a school-issued permit will be issued one parking violation warning. A second parking violation will result in the car being towed at the owner's expense.

## **PASSES**

Students found to be in violation of the procedures and/or in locations other than the one listed on the approved pass will have passes privileges revoked for a period of time determined by school administration. Students 7-12 may be issued a pass from one location to another by a teacher, counselor, or administrator.

Students may obtain a special pass from the Principal's office to leave the school building. Those passes will be granted if the request is determined necessary and best for the well being of the student. The student will be required to sign out in the office before he/she leaves the building after being granted a special pass.

### **Study Hall Passes Specific to Grades 11-12**

**Eleventh and Twelfth** graders have the opportunity to be excused from their study hall and be approved to leave the building if they meet the following criteria:

- Earn a minimum **of a passing grade during COVID 19**.  
Students will **NOT** be rechecked at midterms to earn access, but will be checked frequently to determine if the pass needs to be revoked. Students maintaining **passing grades** will remain eligible. **Those that drop below may be revoked and required to return to study hall.**
- Acquire Parent/Guardian/Administrator permission.
- Remain in good standing for attendance and disciplinary requirements.
- Students must stay in study hall as assigned until their schedule is changed.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION EXCUSES**

A student may, when it is necessary, be excused from gym or swim classes. A student shall not be excused from physical education unless he/she presents a written excuse from one of the following:

Doctor.....this excuse must include the length of time for non-participation.

Nurse.....the school nurse shall evaluate the student's illness or injury.

Parent.....this is valid for one class meeting in a case where the student cannot immediately obtain a doctor's excuse or where the student had just returned to school after a sustained illness.

If a student is excused from participating in physical education he/she shall remain in the physical education area if the excuse is for two weeks or less. He/she may be programmed into a study hall if the excuse is longer.

Students are discouraged from getting new piercings during the school year for safety reasons in PE class. Students with new piercings that occur during PE class must remove them or cover them with athletic tape provided by the school.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

According to Minnesota Law, public schools are to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America at least once a week. The Pledge of Allegiance is optional for all students. **Per school board Policy #531 adopted in summer of 2020, the Pledge of Allegiance will be recited daily; however, any student may choose not to participate, but must not interfere with another student's choice to participate.**

## **PURCHASING, SELLING OR SOLICITING**

Students are not permitted to make any purchase for the school or for any club or organization without permission of the club advisors. Receipts for purchased items shall be given to the club or class advisor so payment may be made. The Principal must approve any type of selling or soliciting to be carried on in the school building or on the school grounds.

All notices, signs, advertising bills displayed in the corridors or on the school bulletin board must be approved by school administration. It is a policy to display materials pertaining only to approved high school student activities.

## **RESOURCE CENTER**

1. The Resource Center hours are from 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
2. The Resource Center is available to students and faculty/staff as a place to read, to search for materials, and to study.
3. Any student asked to leave the library for inappropriate behavior will be issued a warning. This student will lose Resource Center privileges if inappropriate behavior continues.
4. On the average, books are checked out for 3 weeks; materials can be used for a longer time for reports/projects provided they are renewed.
5. Overdue notices are sent through the English teachers. Using and returning Resource Center items is each individual student's responsibility.
6. Magazines will remain in the Resource Center - these items are not available for checkout. Articles from magazines will be copied.

7. Students must obtain a pass from a teacher in order to access the Resource Center or use a Resource Center computer for a classroom assignment; guidelines posted in labs in other parts of the building apply to the Resource Center computers. Proper care and respect for equipment is expected.
8. Computers are to be used for classroom assignments only. Computer games are only allowed before first hour or after seventh hour.
9. Respect and care of the furniture and surrounding area is encouraged and expected.
10. No food or drink will be allowed.
11. All rules, regulations, policies and procedures contained in the Student Handbook apply to student use of the Resource Center.

## **VISITORS**

Visitors are welcome in our school. All visitors must enter door #5 and register in the high school office to obtain a visitor badge. The practice of casual student visits is not allowed. Students wishing to tour the school must make prior arrangements through the principal's office. **We ask that all visitors, including parents, make appointments to visit during COVID 19. This is to limit exposure to COVID 19 through proper social distancing and cleaning.**

## **WITHDRAWALS AND TRANSFERS BY STUDENTS**

A student who will be withdrawing from school is asked to bring a written statement from home to the Principal's Office in order to receive a withdrawal form. This form must be taken to each teacher for grades and clearance, the school librarian, athletic director, and counselor. Upon completion, the withdrawal form must be returned to the Principal's Office.

## **WORK PERMITS (Excused from Study Hall)**

Students are not encouraged to work during school hours. If a junior or senior has a job and wishes to be excused from a study hall period for work privileges he/she must obtain a work permit from the office. This form will need to be completed by the parent/guardian, employer, principal and counselor. The privilege of excusing a junior or senior to work during the school day may be granted by the school providing a proper work permit has been submitted. Students who are tardy, truant, or have excessive absences will not be issued a work permit. If a student receives any failing grades or incomplete's during the year, the work permit will be revoked for the next marking period or until satisfactory progress is made. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required in order to qualify for being excused from study hall.

# Academic Information

**GRADE 10-12 Graduation Requirements:** 24 credits

Statewide testing document attached.

Visit [www.vmps.org](http://www.vmps.org) to view course catalogs with more academic information about course offerings, college credit opportunities, NCAA compliance questions, and more!

## **English: 4 Credits**

1.0 English 9  
1.0 English 10  
1.0 English  
1.0 English

## **Social Studies: 4 Credits**

.5 Geography 9  
.5 Economics 9  
1.0 World History  
1.0 US History or American History I & II  
.5 Economics 12 or Survey of Economics  
.5 Government 12 or American Government

## **Math: 4 Credits**

1.0 High School Algebra\*  
1.0 Geometry  
1.0 High School Algebra II  
1.0 Senior Math Elective - a variety of options meet this requirement-see course catalog

\*Students that accelerated to Honors Geometry in Grade 9 will meet this requirement through advance coursework in their 11th and 12th grade years.

## **Science: 3 Credits**

1.0 Intro to Physics 9  
1.0 Biology or AP Biology  
1.0 Science Elective - a variety of options meet this requirement-see course catalog

**Speech:** .5 Credit

## **Physical Education and Health: 1 Credit**

1.0 Physical Education/Health 9

**Fine Arts:** 1 Credit - a variety of options meet this requirement-see music/art sections in course catalog

**Electives:** 6.5 Credits - a variety of options meet this requirement-see course catalog

## **GRADE 9 Graduation Requirements: 24 credits**

Statewide testing document attached.

Visit [www.vmps.org](http://www.vmps.org) to view course catalogs with more academic information about course offerings, college credit opportunities, NCAA compliance questions, and more!

### **English: 4 Credits**

#### **Social Studies: 3.5 Credits**

1.0 Social Studies Foundations

1.0 World History

1.0 US History

.5 Government

#### **Math: 3 Credits**

1.0 Math Elective

1.0 Geometry

1.0 Algebra II

#### **Science: 3 Credits**

1.0 Intro to Physics & Chemistry

1.0 Biology o

1.0 Science Elective

#### **Physical Education and Health: 1 Credit**

5. Physical Education

.5 Health

#### **Fine Arts: 1 Credit**

#### **Career Exploration: .5 Credit**

#### **Electives: 8 Credits**



## **7 & 8 GRADE REQUIREMENTS**

### **GRADE 7**

#### **Required Courses-**

**Students must take all the 6.5 required courses and only 1 of the electives:**

English 7

7<sup>th</sup> Grade US Studies

Honors Math 7, Math 7 or Informal Math 7

Life Science 7

Physical Education/Health 7

Music (Band, Choir or Orchestra)

Computer 7 (1 semester)

**Elective Options: Intro to World Languages, REACH, AVID, or Study Hall (1 semester)**

### **GRADE 8**

#### **Required Courses-**

**Students must take all the 6 required courses and only 1 of the electives:**

English 8

Algebra I, Informal 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Algebra I or Honors 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Algebra I

Earth Science 8

Global Studies

Physical Ed/Health 8 (1 semester)

Art (1 semester)

Family & Consumer Science (1 semester)

Pre-Engineering 8 (1 semester)

**Elective Options: Band, Choir, Orchestra, REACH, AVID, or Study Hall**

## **7th and 8th GRADE PROMOTION POLICY**

Evaluation of student achievement focuses on performance and on all dimensions of student growth. While the Principal is ultimately responsible for determining the placement that best meets the student's academic, social, emotional and physical needs, each member of the school teaching team is responsible for evaluating the growth of each individual. The teaching team will consist of the Principal, the teacher, the counselor, the Assistant Principal, and the parent.

### **Promotion Criteria:**

The Principal and the teaching team will consider the following factors in determining promotion, retention and placement of students:

- 1 – Academic achievement
- 2 – Perceived ability to function at the next level
- 3 – Organizational skills
- 4 – Work habits
- 5 – State test scores (or other norm referenced tests)
- 6 – Level of maturity – including social, emotional and physical factors

Students who are failing 30% or more of the total program will be considered "at risk". For a student "at risk" the Principal and teaching team may recommend from the following alternatives:

- 1 – Attendance at summer school at the student's expense
- 2 – Supplemental assignments as determined by the teaching team (to be completed during the summer months)
- 3 – After school help if a program is available
- 3 – Repeat a particular class or classes
- 4 – Promotion to the 8th or 9th grade
- 5 – Repeat the entire year
- 6- Enrollment in a supplemental intervention during the school year
- 7 – Any combination of the above

## **FINAL EXAMINATIONS**

Students will not be allowed to take final examinations early unless cleared by the Principal. Circumstances for students taking final examinations early are:

1. Involvement in school sponsored or school scheduled events
2. Illness
3. Family moving out of the district before the end of the school year
4. Administrative discretion

## **HONOR ROLL**

Students of Virginia High School must meet certain standards to be listed on the Honor Roll. The basis for Honor Roll designation for grades 7-12 is as follows (effective 1994-95):

1. Honor Roll will be computed following the end of the marking period.
2. A Honor Roll for the nine week period, student GPA must be between 3.667 and 4.0.
3. B Honor Roll for the nine week period, student GPA must be between 3.000 and 3.666.

4. Students that have an Incomplete or F recorded as a nine week grade will not be eligible for the marking period's Honor Roll.

The numerical equivalents for letter grades are as follows:

A+	4.000	B+	3.333	C+	2.333	D+	1.333
A	4.000	B	3.000	C	2.000	D	1.000
A-	3.667	B-	2.667	C-	1.667	D-	.667

P 1.500

### **Power School Parent Portal**

Parents may check the progress of their children on a daily basis by using Virginia Public School's Power School Parent Portal. Sign on with your Username and Password. Contact the school if you do not have this information. Grading information is updated weekly. Attendance information is updated daily. It is an excellent way to stay connected with the school.

### **VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE CHANGE POLICY:**

#### OPTION A

Student is dropping from a class into a study hall. This drop is occurring prior to the "5 school day" deadline set at the beginning of the year for a year-long class, and the beginning of the semester for a semester-long class. The student is dropping without penalty and the class will not appear on his/her transcript. Signatures are required by: parent/guardian, teacher and counselor.

#### OPTION B

Student is dropping from a class into a study hall. This drop is occurring after the "5 school day" deadline set at the beginning of the year for a year-long class, and the beginning of the semester for a semester-long class. The student is dropping with penalty. The student will receive an "F" for the quarter in which the drop occurs. Signatures are required by: parent/guardian, teacher and counselor.

#### OPTION C

Students who drop an upper level class and move to a lower level class (i.e. AP Biology to regular Biology), will retain the current grade in the class they are dropping.

Due to complex scheduling that accommodates distance and in-person learning during COVID 19, there are extremely limited opportunities for schedule changes. It is highly likely that students will be placed in courses they didn't select and occasionally won't get their first choices unless they are required for graduation.

### **PROGRESS REPORTS**

During each marking period, progress reports are mailed/e-mailed to the parent/guardians of those students who are failing and/or not working up to capacity. Parent/guardians who receive these reports should contact the teacher or counselor to make an appointment.

## **REPORT CARDS**

Following the completion of each marking period, report cards will be available to be viewed electronically. Report cards will still be mailed by request to those households that do not have computer access.

## **INCOMPLETE GRADES**

Students may receive an incomplete as a grade because their work was not completed at the end of the marking period. Failure to complete work may result in no credit being given. Seniors receiving incomplete's in courses needed for graduation will not participate in the graduation ceremony if the incomplete is not made up before graduation day. All incomplete grades on assignments must be made up within two weeks or the assignment grade will turn to a zero.

Athletic Eligibility is affected by incomplete grades. Students that earn an incomplete are ineligible to play until the incomplete has been made up and recorded in the office. If the eligibility was the result of an incomplete grade, eligibility may be re-established once work for the incomplete grade is made up and the grade change is made in the office.

# Attendance Information

Attendance will continue to be required and encouraged. We understand during COVID-19 there may be situations that arise that may require students to quarantine. We will work individually with students who have recurring absences to create an attendance improvement plan.

## **ATTENDANCE INFORMATION**

See Board Policy 503 [http://www.vmps.org/downloads/board/policies/Policy\\_503.pdf](http://www.vmps.org/downloads/board/policies/Policy_503.pdf)

**To excuse an absence, please call 749-5437 ext. 8025 (attendance line) within 24 hours.**

Each student is expected to be in daily attendance at school and to report to classes on time and with appropriate work materials. Regular attendance is basic to meeting the educational needs of students. Maximum classroom instructional benefits can happen only when the student is in attendance. Regular attendance being essential to educational welfare, it follows that students, parent/guardians, and educators need clear understanding as to rights and responsibilities relating to attendance.

## **Minnesota State Law:**

(a) Every child between seven and 17 years of age must receive instruction unless the child has graduated. Every child under the age of seven who is enrolled in a half-day kindergarten, or a full-day kindergarten program on alternate days, or other kindergarten programs shall receive instruction. Except as provided in subdivision 6, a parent may withdraw a child under the age of seven from enrollment at any time. (b) A school district by annual board action may require children subject to this subdivision to receive instruction in summer school. A district that acts to require children to receive instruction in summer school shall establish at the time of its action the criteria for determining which children must receive instruction. (c) A pupil 16 years of age or older who meets the criteria of section 124D.68, subdivision 2, may be assigned to an area learning center. Such assignment may be made only after consultation with the principal, area learning center director, and parent or guardian.

## **Open Enrolled Students**

Under MN Statute 124D.03, subd. 12, open enrolled students may be assigned to their home district if they meet the definition of Habitual Truant and have been referred as indicated by law for truancy.

## **LEAVING SCHOOL**

Under no condition will a student leave the high school without permission from the Nurse, Assistant Principal, or Principal. If a student leaves school without permission, he/she will be considered unexcused and/or truant. Once permission has been granted, the student must sign out in the High School Office.

## **PRE-EXCUSED ABSENCES**

As necessary, a student may be given an advanced excuse. An example of a pre-excused absence would be a co-curricular activity and other activities at the discretion of the principal.

### **Procedures**

- a. Parents must call the high school office (749-5437 ext. 8025) and state the reason why the student will be absent.
- b. The office will issue a pre-excuse form to be signed by the teachers. This form must be returned to the high school office by the student prior to the absence
- c. The amount of time the student must notify the office in advance shall be equal to the number of days the student will be absent, but not less than two (2) days notice.
- d. Advance make-up shall be at the discretion of the individual instructor.

## **ABSENCES**

Students participating in co-curricular or school sponsored clubs, sports, and activities must be present for all classes preceding any practice, activity, concert, contest, or game and all classes the day after unless **pre-excused** by the Principal or the absence is due to an exempted reason.

Students involved in school activities during school hours have the responsibility to obtain and complete assignments for the time missed from class. Students with 2 or more consecutive daily absences will be granted at least the same number of days absent to make up their coursework. For example, if a student misses 2 consecutive class periods for a softball game (Monday and Tuesday), the student will have until Thursday to complete the coursework. This is a minimum requirement, but additional time may be granted by individual classroom teachers at their discretion.

## **TARDY POLICY**

Tardy is defined as arriving to class after the last bell. A student is not to be documented as tardy if they are in the classroom prior to the last bell.

- Once a student has been tardy to a specific class 3 times in a semester, the teacher will address the matter with the student as well as making contact home to discuss the importance of arriving to class on time.
- If a student reaches 5 tardies for a specific class, administration will call a meeting with the student, parent, and school counselor. The purpose of the meeting will be to create an attendance intervention plan.
- The intervention plan will outline the expectations and the consequences if additional tardies for a specific class continue.
- Consequences could include, but are not limited to after school detention, lunch detention, ISS, suspension from clubs/activities, OSS, and recommendation for an alternative placement.

## **TRUANCY**

A student is truant when absent from school without parental and/or school knowledge or consent. Students under the age of 17 are required by law to attend school. If a student under the age of 17 has missed 3 days of school unexcused and is determined by the school/parent to be truant, the student will be referred to the St. Louis County probation office for a truancy hearing.

## **UNEXCUSED OR UNEXPLAINED ABSENCE**

The school has the right and responsibility to screen and either approve or disapprove excuses brought in by the students. The school has the right to declare an absence to be unexcused even though a parent/guardian may have provided a written excuse. Reasons such as oversleeping, car trouble, or missing the bus do not excuse a student. Such disapproval by the school indicates that the absence was not consistent with the reasons for excused absences.



EXEMPT Absences & Tardies	EXCUSED Absences & Tardies	UNEXCUSED Absences & Tardies
Grades 7-12 Maximim = 10 Total Per Semester		
<b>Documented Medical</b> -Appointments w/ Medical Note -Illness & Injuries w/ Medical Note -School Nurse Recommendation  <b>School Related Activities</b> -School Related Assessment -Sport/Activity Participation -College Visits w/ Documentation -Career Visits w/Documentation  <b>Legal Concerns</b> -Documentation Required  <b>Administrative Referral</b> -In School Suspension -Out of School Suspension  <b>Discretion of Administration</b> -Prior Approval Required -Community Related Activities -Funerals of Immediate Family	<b>Undocumented Medical</b> -Illness -Injury -Appointments Without Cards -Serious Illness of Family  <b>Physical Emergencies</b> -Fire, etc.  <b>Funerals</b> -Non-Immediate Family  <b>Religious/Cultural Observance</b>  <b>Family Leave/Vacations</b> -Excused Absences Require a Pre-Absence Form for 3+ Days  <b>Non-School Related Activities</b>	<b>Any absence that is not accompanied by a parent/guardian notification to the office will be labeled as unexcused.</b>  or  <b>Any absence in which a student leaves the building without parent/guardian notification to the office will be labeled as unexcused.</b>  or  <b>Any absence not falling under the category of exempt or excused will be labeled as unexcused unless prior approval has been granted by administration.</b>

## INTERVENTIONS

The purpose of attendance interventions are to reengage students with the school community. We recognize the students and families may be struggling with a variety of concerns and we recognize the need to work together to reengage students with the positive supports a school community can offer. Research shows that students connected to school are less likely to miss classes and more likely to graduate on time.



## **NOTIFICATIONS/CONSEQUENCES**

While teachers should remind students of excessive absenteeism, it is the student's responsibility to ultimately be responsible for tracking his or her own absences by checking the student information system or asking the office for support.

### **Daily**

Daily notifications will be sent via electronic systems for all absences not cleared by a parent/guardian.

### **Continuing Truant (3 Unexcused Absences)**

Minn. Stat. § 260A.02 provides that a continuing truant is a student who is subject to the compulsory instruction requirements of Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 and is absent from instruction in a school, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 120A.05, without valid excuse within a single school year for:

1. Three days if the child is in elementary school; or
2. Three or more class periods on three days if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school.

When a student is initially classified as a continuing truant, Minn. Stat. § 260A.03 provides that the school attendance officer or other designated school official shall notify the student's parent or legal guardian, by first class mail or other reasonable means.

1. That the child is truant;
2. That the parent or guardian should notify the school if there is a valid excuse for the child's absences;
3. That the parent or guardian is obligated to compel the attendance of the child at school pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 and parents or guardians who fail to meet this obligation may be subject to prosecution under Minn. Stat. § 120A.34;
4. That this notification serves as the notification required by Minn. Stat. § 120A.34;
5. That alternative educational programs and services may be available in the district;
6. That the parent or guardian has the right to meet with appropriate school personnel to discuss solutions to the child's truancy;
7. That if the child continues to be truant, the parent and child may be subject to juvenile court proceedings under Minn. Stat. Ch. 260;
8. That if the child is subject to juvenile court proceedings, the child may be subject to suspension, restriction, or delay of the child's driving privilege pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 260C.201.

### **Habitual Truant (7 Excused or Unexcused Absences)**

A habitual truant is a child under the age of 17 years who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for seven school days if the child is in elementary school or for one or more class periods on seven school days if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school, or a child who is 17 years of age who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for one or more class periods on seven school days and who has not lawfully withdrawn from school. A principal shall refer a habitual truant child and the child's parent or legal guardian to appropriate services and procedures, under Minn. Stat. Ch. 260A. Once a student has reached 7 excused or unexcused absences in any one

course, a formal notification will be provided to the student and his/her guardian. This notification will be generated only one time per semester regardless of additional absences and serves as a reminder that students may lose credit if they exceed the 10 allowable absences. These reports and letters will be sent at one specified time each month and may not be immediately upon accruing 7 absences.

**Chronically Truant (9 Excused or Unexcused Absences)**

A chronically absent student will be required to participate in a parent/guardian, student, administrative conference to discuss absenteeism, possible interventions, and appropriate consequences. These conferences will serve as a notification that students accruing 10 or more absences may lose credit in each specific course unless interventions are successful.

Once a student has reached 11 or more excused or unexcused absences in any one course, a student will be required to make up absences and turn the documentation into the office in order to earn the credit for a course regardless of the grade earned. The code will be changed when students make up the absence.

Failure to make up the required absences may result in loss of credit, a truancy referral to appropriate agencies, discontinuance of open enrollment, transfer to an alternative education program, or a combination of listed consequences.

# Rules and Discipline

## DISCIPLINE

### SUMMARY OF COMMON CONSEQUENCES (NOT ALL INCLUSIVE)

*For each infraction, a Discipline Notice will be completed and the parent contacted by school staff.*

**\*Note – The administration has the right to deviate from the chart.**

**ISS= In School Suspension OSS=Out of School Suspension**

	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense
<b>Athletic/Activity Eligibility</b>	Ineligible - 2 contests or 14 days (whichever is longer)	Ineligible - 6 contests or 21 day (whichever is longer)	Ineligible - 12 contests or 28 days (whichever is longer)
<b>Bullying/Contributing to the Continuance of Bullying</b>	1 hour detention	1-3 days ISS or OSS	4-5 days ISS or OSS, Possible Expulsion
<b>Cheating/Plagiarism</b>	Zero on assignment	F for the quarter	F for the semester
<b>Classroom Infraction</b>	Warning	1 hour detention per occurrence	2 hours detention per occurrence
<b>Dress Code Violation</b>	Warning - change clothing	Warning - change clothing	ISS, change clothing, parent conference
<b>Drug Sales and Distribution</b>	OSS/Expulsion and police referral		
<b>Drug/Synthetic/Alcohol Use/ Possession</b>	3 days OSS, Possible Police and Rule 25 Referral Recommended**	5 days OSS, Police Rule 25 Referral Required, Treatment Referral	10 day OSS, Police Referral, Treatment Referral Required with Recommendations, Possible Expulsion
<b>Failure to Clear Absences</b>	Warning	Detention	Detention
<b>Failure to Identify Self</b>	Detention	ISS	ISS
<b>Fighting/Assault</b>	1-3 days ISS/OSS possible police referral	3-5 days ISS/OSS possible police referral	OSS/Expulsion and police referral
<b>Harassment (Sexual, Religious, Racial)</b>	1-3 days ISS/OSS possible police referral	3-5 days ISS/OSS possible police referral	OSS/Expulsion and police referral
<b>Inappropriate Behavior/ Language</b>	1 hour detention	2 hours detention and parent conference	ISS and parent conference
<b>Insubordination</b>	Reviewed by Principal	Reviewed by Principal	Reviewed by Principal
<b>Misuse of Technology including videos/photos without authorized permission</b>	WiFi restrictions, Check in/out, meeting with Principal	Reviewed by Principal	

Public Display of Affection	Warning	Detention	Detention/ISS
Safety Concerns	Principal Discretion w/ Possible Police Referral		
Sexual Comment or Gestures	1-2 days ISS/OSS	3-4 days ISS/OSS	5 Days OSS
Skipping Detention	Warning	Detention added	ISS/OSS
Teasing/ Threatening	1 hour detention	1-3 days ISS/OSS	4-5 days ISS/OSS Possible Expulsion
Theft	1-5 days OSS and restitution/police report	1-5 days OSS and restitution/police report	OSS/Expulsion/police report
Tobacco/E-cig/Vape use or possession	3 days ISS and referral to police **	5 days ISS, police referral, parent conference **	5 days OSS, parent conference, police referral
Truancy/Skipping	Detention/ISS	Detention/ISS	ISS/police referral
Vandalism	1-5 days OSS and restitution	1-5 days OSS and restitution	Expulsion
Weapon Possession	OSS/Expulsion and police referral		

\*\*During the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school year, Virginia High School will be piloting the eCheckup to Go educational consequence program. In scenarios determined appropriate by administration, it may be recommended that students participate in an educational module and motivational interviewing with school personnel in lieu of police referral and a reduced ISS consequence. After the 2019-2020 school year, the district will review policies and effectiveness.

Students and families should be aware that any student that comes forth on their own accord to ask for help in quitting the use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs and/or turns in these items to the office in an effort to reduce their consumption will be supported through eCheckUp to Go. In most instances, students asking for help, even if they detail specific events, will be supported rather than punished.

In the event students are found in violation without coming forth on his or her own, eCheckUp may be used to minimize the consequences; however, consequences will still be served.

The purpose of discipline in a school is to provide a positive force designed to ensure the rights of all students to learn in a safe and comfortable environment. A teacher, school employee, school bus driver, or other agent of the district **may use reasonable force** in compliance with Minnesota Statute 121A.582 and other laws. Discipline also provides for a productive environment in which students may learn the skills necessary to develop into mature adults responsible for their own actions. The following items are discipline issues that are of special interest and have specific consequences attached to them. However, the Principal may impose or recommend longer suspensions, expulsions, or any other discipline as appropriate on a case by case basis.

**MN Statute 123A.06(b)**-Consistent with the requirements of sections 121A.40 to 121A.56, a school district may provide an alternative education program for a student who is within the compulsory attendance age under section 120A.20, and who is involved in severe or repeated disciplinary action.

### **ABUSIVE LANGUAGE**

It is expected that language directed toward staff members and fellow students will be polite and appropriate. Profanity, obscenity, and vulgarity have no place in the school setting. This pertains not only to students as individuals, but also as a part of larger groups. Yelling offensive chants in the cafeteria or at athletic events is as inappropriate as if you were saying these words as an individual.

### **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, NONPRESCRIPTION DRUGS & MOOD ALTERING SUBSTANCES**

The use of intoxicating beverages, nonprescription drugs or mood altering substances by students in school vehicles, on school premises within this district or at any other premise in which students from Virginia Public School are participating in a school activity is prohibited. These infractions of school and State Laws are also under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota State High School League.

Intoxicating beverages are any beverages containing alcohol. (Please note that this includes many of the “nonalcoholic” beverages.) The use of intoxicating beverages shall include possession of such beverages as well as the actual consumption thereof. The consumption of alcoholic beverages during times considered normal school hours will be considered in this provision.

### **ASSEMBLY BEHAVIOR**

School assemblies will be held at various times during the school year. The assemblies will be announced in the daily bulletin. Unless notified otherwise, students will sit in their ASSIGNED SEATS. A student not in his/her assigned seat will be marked absent. Inappropriate behavior during an assembly will result in the loss of assembly privilege.

### **BACKPACK POLICY**

The following conditions will apply to the use of backpacks:

1. Backpacks will be allowed to assist students with getting classroom materials, water bottles and other educational supplies between classes.
2. During COVID 19, we are limiting the use of lockers as they create large communal spaces. We are encouraging the use of personal backpacks to carry your belongings, but ask that you limit extra personal items to those of the utmost necessity. If you personally need a locker, you may request one at the high school office and one will be assigned to you.
3. Students may use a gym bag to carry gym clothes to and from gym class.

The administration reserves the right to limit the size of bags, purses or string bags carried in the school.

## **BULLYING**

Virginia High School promotes a safe and appropriate environment for all students in compliance with the MN Safe and Supportive Schools Act. Please see Board Policy 514 “Bullying” for more information.

## **BUS CONDUCT**

Bus transportation is a privilege, not a right, and the following rules must be followed by students:

### Rules for Waiting at the Bus Stop

1. Be on time.
2. Respect others and their property.
3. Stay away from the street, road or highway.
4. Keep safety in mind...no shoving, running or pushing.

### Procedure for Boarding the School Bus

1. Line up in single file.
2. Approach the bus only when it has stopped and the driver has opened the door.
3. Don't push or crowd others.
4. Use the handrail, climb the steps one at a time, and be seated quickly.

### Rules When Riding the Bus

1. Obey the driver's instructions.
2. Promptly be seated and remain in your seat.
3. Speak quietly and use appropriate language.
4. Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
5. Keep the bus clean and do not damage it.
6. Do not throw any object.
7. Do not bring weapons/dangerous objects on the bus.
8. The use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs is prohibited.
9. Fighting, harassment, and horseplay are prohibited.

### Procedures for Leaving a School Bus

1. Remain seated until the bus stops.
2. Let the students in front get off first.
3. Don't push or crowd.
4. Watch your step and use the handrail.
5. Move out of the “danger zone”.

### Procedure for Safe Crossing of Vehicle Lanes

1. Move away from the side of the bus to at least 10 feet in front of the bus.
2. Turn to the driver and make eye contact.
3. Wait for the driver to signal that it is safe to cross.
4. Walk 10 feet in front of the bus & stop to check for vehicles that might violate the stop arm.
5. When it's safe...complete the crossing.

### Procedures for Emergency Evacuation

There are three different evacuation plans:

1. Using only the front service door
2. Using only the rear (or side) emergency door
3. Using both the service door & the emergency door

Whichever plan is used, students need to:

1. Be quiet and wait for instructions from the driver.
2. Be alert and move quickly.
3. Keep your feet out of the aisle, go out seat by seat, alternating sides.
4. Duck your head when going out the emergency door
5. After you are out of the door, move away from the bus
6. Go a distance of at least 100 feet from the bus and remain there for further instructions

#### Consequences for Failure to Follow Bus Rules

Consequences are consistent with all other school policies and practices. Please remember that school transportation is a privilege and not a right. Administration reserves the right to remove students from school transportation.

#### **CAFETERIA BEHAVIOR**

Students in grades 7-9 will observe a closed lunch break. No student will leave the lunch area during this time except when excused by a supervisor to use the bathrooms on the ground floor. All students will observe the following rules for the well being of all who eat and work in the cafeteria

1. Books should be kept at the student's seat.
2. Voices should be kept to a conversational level.
3. No eating food or drinking in the halls.
4. Each student is responsible for cleaning up. Students must leave their table free of trays, food or litter. Students will use refuse containers provided.
5. Throwing of anything is not allowed. Offenders will be given consequences.
6. Trays are to be brought to the window in the cafeteria when finished, if applicable. You are responsible for your own tray and area of the table.
7. Students may not break in line (no cuts).

**Ninth graders must remain on campus during the entire lunch period. 10th through 12th grade students may leave campus. All students remaining on campus will eat in designated locations as directed by administration. If the district moves to a hybrid model, lunch will be closed for 10th through-12th grade students.**

**Students that are not observing safety protocols may have open lunch revoked.**

#### **CHEATING/PLAGIARISM**

Cheating and/or plagiarism of any school assignment will result in zero credit for the assignment. On the second occurrence, the student will fail that class for the quarter. Teachers shall include this policy on their course syllabi and make sure younger students understand what "plagiarism" is and how to avoid it. Parents must be contacted by the teacher if and when cheating or plagiarism occurs. Students will earn a 59% for the quarter grade unless the earned grade from other assignments is lower than 59%.

## **DETENTION PROCEDURES**

Detention is a form of discipline for students who choose to behave inappropriately. Detention will be held Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday after school. Students assigned detention have one week to serve their consequences. There is no detention on Wednesdays.

The procedure for detention is as follows:

1. The student will have one-week from the time the infraction occurred until the detention is served. This allows parent/guardians and students to make arrangements for transportation. If the student fails to be at detention, an extra hour will be added. Third and future consequences are at administrative discretion.
2. Students will serve assigned detention from 3:15 to 4:05 p.m. in room T128
3. Students will bring everything they will be taking home with them to detention.
4. Students will not be allowed to go to their locker after detention. Teachers in charge of detention will escort students out the nearest exit.
5. Students will take a seat and sit up for the entire period. Students will be permitted to do homework assignments during detention. Students may not talk, chew gum, sleep, etc.
6. Inappropriate behavior in detention will result in added consequences. If the student is tardy getting to detention, the student will not be allowed in the room.
7. A student will be allowed a maximum of 7 hours of detention for all offenses related to inappropriate school behavior. Beyond 7 hours more severe consequences will be administered.
8. Parent/guardians will provide transportation for detention.

## **DRESS CODE POLICY FOR STUDENTS**

A correlation exists between good grooming, personal attire, personal/public respect, and student achievement. A similar relationship exists between student dress and acceptable standards of conduct. The School District has a legitimate educational interest in promoting respect for authority, decency and civility among students and in protecting the health and safety of its students. This dress code is designed to allow for student comfort, while maintaining an environment conducive to learning and appropriate for the educational setting in the Virginia High School.

Recognizing these relationships and educational interests, the following dress code applies to both sexes and will be enforced at school and school-sanctioned activities. Any apparel, hair style, cosmetics, or jewelry - even if not specifically mentioned which poses a threat to the health or safety of the student or others, or disrupts the educational process is not acceptable. Our school is a place for the business of education; students' grooming and dress must be appropriate to both the school setting and the weather. Exceptions to the enforcement of this dress code may be made in exceptional circumstances; for example, Prom or other school sanctioned activities. Students will be notified in advance of the activity of the dress code provisions which may be relaxed for the activity.

Prohibited dress and grooming items includes, but is not limited to, the following:



**Masks are required. Masks may be removed for PE class, and during breakfast/lunch. A mask will be provided to students, but we recommend supplying your own.**

1. Clothing that exposes the midriff or chest, intentional exposure of undergarments or undergarments that are worn as outer garments, and other clothing that is not in keeping with community standards.
2. Clothing that includes words or pictures that are obscene, vulgar, sexually explicit, convey sexual innuendo, abuse or discrimination, or which promote or advertise alcohol, chemicals, tobacco, or any other product that is illegal for use by minors.
3. Clothing and other items or grooming in a manner that represents and/or promotes threat/hate groups or gangs.
4. Jewelry that presents a safety hazard to self and/or others.
5. Bandanas and other head attire during the school day. Exceptions will be made for religious, medical, or school related reasons. **Students are allowed to wear baseball caps (other hats not allowed) in the common spaces of the building and are allowed to wear baseball caps in the classroom as determined by each individual teacher. Caps should be worn facing directly forward or back and should adhere to the same dress expectations. As with other dress code guidelines, hats with inappropriate for school language, symbols, or other factors will not be allowed. Students who do not follow the dress expectation may lose this privilege or other privileges.**
6. Wearing of masks (**except those necessary for COVID protection**), painted faces, disguises or grooming that limits or prevents the identification of a student or substantially disrupts the learning environment.
7. Any apparel or footwear that may damage school property or interfere with the educational process.
8. Any other items that substantially disrupt the educational environment.

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Technology is a part of life for many students and adults. However, their usage necessitates some rules in order to ensure that the environment of the school is not negatively affected. For that reason, technology use is allowed at lunch, during passing periods unless it becomes a tardy/truancy concern, before school, and after school. Cell phone use during class is determined by each individual teacher, which typically means it is allowed for educational purposes only. Cell phone usage is not allowed during lockdowns or fire drills. Students are not allowed to take pictures or videos of any student or staff member without the express written consent of all parties involved. Consequences are listed on the "Summary of Consequences" chart. Electronic Video Devices in Locker Rooms

Electronic video devices in any locker room is strictly forbidden. Student privacy needs to be maintained at all times. Penalties for non-compliance of this rule will be enforced.

This includes iPads, cell phones, and any other electronic device with photographic or video capabilities. In the event that the supervisor has the ability to place the devices in a locked cabinet upon entering the locker room, the devices must be secured and locked immediately.

### **FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS**

Directions by teachers, substitutes, and other members of the school staff must be followed. A student may not always agree with the directions of a staff member, but the staff member has a position of authority that must be respected. Students have recourse in situations where they feel inappropriately directed, but they do not have the right to refuse the directions as given. Students may address their concerns to a school counselor, Assistant Principal, or the Principal.

### **PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION**

The public display of affection such as kissing, inappropriate touching, etc. is not acceptable school behavior. Respect yourself and the rights of others by demonstrating appropriate school behavior.

### **REMOVAL FROM CLASS** Please see Board Policy 506 for more information

There are many reasons that a student may be removed from class. They include but are not limited to rules violations or the potential of a dangerous situation. In these cases, a student may be sent to ISS (In School Suspension) or sent to the Assistant Principal.

When a student is removed the **first time**, it will be documented by the teacher and the parent will be notified by the teacher. The student may also receive additional disciplinary action. If a **second** removal occurs, the parent will be notified and a meeting will be held within 48 hours with the student, teacher, parent, and administration. During this meeting the teacher will explain his/her expectations for behavior. The student and parent will have the opportunity to ask any questions they may have with the goal being a solution to the behavioral problem. If a **third** removal takes place, the student may be removed from the class, assigned study hall, and lose credit. Other solutions may be a class change or alternative programming for the student. A parent meeting may also be held at the request of the teacher when removals have not occurred.

Students serving administratively determined consequences in the in school suspension / intervention room / or other disciplinary locations will be ineligible from participating in after school activities, practices, and athletic contests.

### **SKATEBOARDS & ROLLERBLADES**

Skateboarding and rollerblading are not allowed on school property.

### **SMOKING AND TOBACCO USE**

Effective September 1, 1987, the Virginia School District adopted a Smoke and Tobacco Free Policy prohibiting smoking and the use of tobacco products on school district property. This

shall include school buildings, school grounds, and school-owned vehicles. This applies to all staff and students of the Virginia School District as well as the public when attending school activities on school property. Possession of tobacco products by students on school property shall be prohibited.

- a. Use or possession of tobacco products in the building, on school property, during school activities, or leaving school grounds during school hours to smoke or chew will not be tolerated. Violators of this regulation will receive consequences consistent with school policy and students will not be readmitted until after a parent/guardian has been contacted by the administration. Cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, vaping devices and paraphernalia or other tobacco products are not to be carried by students within the school during school hours. Students should realize the State High School League rules carry a penalty for smoking and tobacco use that also will be enforced by the School. b. Minnesota Statute 609.685, subd. 3, a state that possession or use of tobacco or tobacco related devices by anyone under the age of 18 is unlawful. Because of the health consequences for our youth and the mixed message that is given when laws are not enforced, the NO SMOKING LAW for those under the age of 18 will be enforced. Law enforcement officials will be contacted for violation of the district's smoking and tobacco policy.

### **STUDY HALL RULES**

1. All students are expected to bring assigned work or school approved reading material. Bring enough material for the entire hour - there should be no need to go to lockers during study hall.
2. All students are to be in their assigned seats at the beginning of the hour or they will be counted tardy.
3. Students will refrain from distracting movements and disturbing noises.
4. No hand held musical devices, radios, headphones, etc. are allowed without prior approval from the supervisor.
5. No visiting between students allowed without the consent of the person in charge.
6. No food of any kind allowed in study halls.
7. Dispose of all waste paper and unwanted materials in the trash can on the way out of study hall.
8. Students will not be allowed to leave study hall without a pass from an instructor.
9. No passes from study hall teachers (Exception: washroom pass).

### **PUPIL FAIR DISMISSAL ACT**

All students are protected under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act. Students who are involved in suspension from school should ask what their rights are under this act. See the Assistant Principal for a copy of this document.

# Sports and Activities

<p><b>VHS ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p>Art Club Choir Concert Band Engineering Club Flags Foreign Language Club Green Team Iron Range Youth in Action Jazz Band Leo's Knowledge Bowl Math Counts (Jr. High) Math League (Sr. High) Musical Theater National Honor Society One Act Play Pep Band Three Act Play Pom Poms Prom Prom Committee Rifles Speech Stand For The Silent Club Student Council Video Crew Wind Ensemble Yearbook</p>	<p><b>VHS SPORTS</b></p>  <table border="0"> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Cross Country</td></tr> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Swimming &amp; Diving</td></tr> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Tennis</td></tr> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Volleyball</td></tr> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Soccer</td></tr> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Alpine Ski</td></tr> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Basketball</td></tr> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Hockey</td></tr> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Nordic Ski</td></tr> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Track</td></tr> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Golf</td></tr> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Softball</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Cross Country</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Football</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Soccer</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Alpine Ski</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Basketball</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Hockey</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Nordic Ski</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Swimming &amp; Diving</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Wrestling</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Baseball</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Tennis</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Track</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Golf</td></tr> </table>	Girls	Cross Country	Girls	Swimming & Diving	Girls	Tennis	Girls	Volleyball	Girls	Soccer	Girls	Alpine Ski	Girls	Basketball	Girls	Hockey	Girls	Nordic Ski	Girls	Track	Girls	Golf	Girls	Softball	Boys	Cross Country	Boys	Football	Boys	Soccer	Boys	Alpine Ski	Boys	Basketball	Boys	Hockey	Boys	Nordic Ski	Boys	Swimming & Diving	Boys	Wrestling	Boys	Baseball	Boys	Tennis	Boys	Track	Boys	Golf	<p><b>VIRGINIA BLUE DEVILS</b></p> <p><b>VIRGINIA ACTIVITIES OFFICE</b></p> <p>411 5<sup>TH</sup> AVE. S. VIRGINIA, MN 55792 ENTER DOOR #5 (218) 742-3923</p> <p>VIEW ACTIVITY SCHEDULES ONLINE <a href="http://www.ironrangeconference.org">www.ironrangeconference.org</a></p> 
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## MSHSL ELIGIBILITY

The Virginia High School requires all students in grades 7-12 who participate in extracurricular activities outside of the classroom whether they are extra-curricular, co-curricular or athletics, are all subject to the same eligibility requirements. It will be the duty of the sponsor of an activity to inform all participants as to the scholastic eligibility requirements.

In order to participate in any MSHSL-sponsored activity, a student must meet all eligibility requirements set forth by the MSHSL. These eligibility requirements are listed in the MSHSL publication "Athletic Eligibility Information", which must be read and signed by each student and his/her parent/guardian prior to participating in the activity. Eligibility rules and regulations can also be viewed by going to the publication section of the MSHSL website, [www.mshsl.org](http://www.mshsl.org). In addition, a copy of the Official Handbook of the MSHSL is on file with the athletic director and high school principal, if a student wishes to review it in its entirety. Violations of eligibility bylaws of the MSHSL will result in specific penalties, which are also published in the aforementioned publications. Any students who are considered to be chronically truant from school may be suspended from extracurricular activities under MSHSL Policy 206.

Violation Quantity	Category I Consequence	Category II Consequence
<b>First Violation</b>	The student shall lose eligibility for the next four consecutive interscholastic contests or four weeks, 28 calendar days, whichever is greater, of a season in which the student is a participant.	The student shall lose eligibility for the next contest or until 15 hours of community service is documented. The community service must be pre-approved by the administration <b>and</b> the coaching staff of the activity.
<b>Second Violation</b>	The student shall lose eligibility for the next twelve consecutive interscholastic contests or six weeks, 42 calendar days, whichever is greater, of a season in which the student is a participant.	The student shall lose eligibility for the next two contests or until 30 hours of community service is documented. The community service must be pre-approved by the administration <b>and</b> the coaching staff of the activity.
<b>Third Violation and Subsequent Violations</b>	The student shall lose eligibility for the next twenty-four consecutive interscholastic contests or eight weeks, 56 calendar days, whichever is greater, of a season in which the student is a participant.*	The student shall lose eligibility for the next three contests or until 45 hours of community service is documented. The community service must be pre-approved by the administration <b>and</b> the coaching staff of the activity.

### Chemical Eligibility

The Minnesota State High School League recognizes the use of mood-altering chemicals including drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vaping, or other similar items as a significant health problem for many adolescents, resulting in negative effects on behavior, learning and the total development of each individual. The misuse and abuse of mood-altering chemicals for some adolescents affect co-curricular participation and development of related skills. Others are affected by the misuse and abuse by family, team members or other significant persons in their lives. Penalties shall be accumulative beginning with the student's first enrollment into the Virginia High School. This includes all students in grades 7-12.

As of July 1, 2019 Rock Ridge Public Schools will now enforce the following chemical eligibility policies [all violations occurring on or after July 1, 2019]. Students violating the chemical policy will be subject to both Category I and Category II consequences, if applicable. (i.e. a student in basketball and band will serve a Category I consequence and also serve a Category II consequence).

#### Category I

This includes all MSHSL sponsored activities in which member school has a schedule of interscholastic contests, including league sponsored tournaments.

\*All MSHSL Athletics 7-12

\*Speech & Debate Team

\*One Act Play—if a season is scheduled

\*Robotics ———if a season is scheduled

\*Other new activities, if they meet the definition

## Category II

This includes MSHSL sponsored activities in which a member school does not have a schedule of interscholastic events.

- \*Music Contests (including sections, subsections, state, etc)
- \*One Act Play—if only participating in one league sponsored tournament
- \*Robotics ———if only participating in one league sponsored tournament
- \*Knowledge Bowl
- \*Math Counts
- \*Other new activities, if they meet the definition

\*A students who chooses to become a participant in a treatment program may become eligible for participation after a minimum period of six weeks after entering treatment if all of the following conditions are met:

- A) The student is assessed as chemically dependent
- B) The student enters treatment voluntarily
- C) The director of the treatment center certifies that the student is successfully participating and/or has successfully completed the treatment program

Note:

The treatment provision is only available for those on the third violation.  
All prior violation consequences must still be served.

Students not accompanied by their parent are prohibited from entering bar areas, liquor establishments, or attending parties where liquor is made available to high school students. *This rule puts the burden on the student to know, in advance, whether alcoholic beverages will be made available to students at a party.* If there is any doubt, the student or parent/guardian should contact the host family to determine whether alcoholic beverages will be served. Students violating this rule are not eligible to participate in activities sponsored by the Virginia High School for a period consistent with the Minnesota State High School League Rules (MSHSL

Bylaw Section 205.00 regarding the Use of Mood Altering Chemicals, i.e. Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs or Marijuana). A student employed by a business establishment is exempt from this rule while working.

## **MSHSL Athletics & Activities Academic Eligibility Procedures**

### **Grades 7-12**

- ~Checked quarterly and at mid-terms (8 times per year)
- ~Students must have quarter GPA of 1.333 to participate and zero failing grades  
FYI: all D+'s in regular classes = 1.333
- ~Students cannot have in complete grades
- ~Students can earn eligibility two weeks after **quarter-** if they are not failing any classes and if they equate to 1.333 GPA (if not eligible, they will be rechecked at midterm)
- ~Students can earn eligibility immediately following **midterms** as soon as they are passing all classes; GPA is not checked at this time

~Students deemed ineligible for the fall sports season based on 4th quarter grades will serve a 2 game penalty

If an ineligible student retakes a failed course in summer school and/or in night school and brings up his/her GPA to at least 1.33 prior to the beginning of a sport or activity, that student will then regain academic eligibility for extracurricular activities.

#### **All Other Non-MSHSL Activities (Clubs, Etc)**

No policy for any student grades 7-12

#### **MSHSL Athletics & Activities Attendance Eligibility Procedures**

Students participating in co-curricular or school sponsored clubs, sports, and activities must be present for all classes preceding any practice, activity, concert, contest, or game and all classes the day after unless pre-excused by the Principal or the absence is due to an exempted reason.

If a student has exceeded the 10 allowable absences, he/she must make up the time to return to eligible status. Students with 11+ are not eligible to participate.

#### **Athletics & Activities Discipline Eligibility Procedures**

##### ***EXTRACURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY DUE TO OUTSTANDING CONSEQUENCES***

Any student over the allowable absentee policy and any student with more than one detention to serve is not in good standing and is ineligible for extra curricular activities until all school consequences have been served.

Students serving administratively determined consequences in the in school suspension / intervention room / or other disciplinary location will be ineligible from participating in after school activities, practices, and athletic contests.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR TRANSPORTATION POLICY FOR STUDENTS**

Participants in extracurricular contests must use transportation provided by the school. The only exception is in the event that parents request in writing via the school districts extra-curricular alternate transportation form to have their student ride with a parent, grandparent or immediate family member, in which case they assume all responsibility. No student may ride with another student under any circumstance.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR WEATHER RELATED POLICY**

Please be aware that just because school is closed, it does not mean all Virginia School District events and contests are cancelled. Our policy is such that if school is closed before the starts and the weather improves throughout the day, administration can decide to play games as scheduled.

#### **HOMECOMING/SNOW WEEK ROYALTY**

Any student with an outstanding chemical violation, who has not completed serving their penalty, will be ineligible for any Royal Court activities. Violations occurring during activities will render the student ineligible. This includes, but is not limited to chemical violations and

legal violations. The school administration will make the decision based upon a student meeting the requirements set forth by school policy and the MSHSL to clear their ineligibility for extracurricular activities. Decisions will not be appealed.

Students owing detentions or other school related consequences and those over the allowable attendance policy will not be eligible for homecoming and/or Snow Week Royalty.

### **OVERNIGHT/OUT OF STATE TRAVEL**

Students with outstanding violations relating to alcohol, tobacco, or other mood altering chemicals will not be approved for overnight or out of state travel.

### **WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY ACTIVITIES**

It is the policy of the Virginia District to not schedule all extra-curricular activities between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday's during Religious Education classes. Playoff contests could also be scheduled on Wednesday by the section committee, which is out of the control of the district. When Religious Education classes are completed for the school year, the District may need to schedule Wednesday activities, especially during the spring sports season. Sunday practices are not allowed as stated in the rules of the Minnesota High School League.

### **SCHOOL DANCES**

#### Turnabout Rules

1. Tickets must be purchased in advance from the designated selling location.
2. Turnabout is open to all Virginia High School students currently enrolled in grades 10-12 girls presently enrolled in the Virginia High School may invite guests who have graduated within the last two years, regardless of home school.
3. The parent/guardian of any student who does not arrive by 8:15 PM will be notified. Students who leave early will not be allowed to return to the dance.
4. As this is a school activity, all school rules will be followed throughout the activity.
5. All students attending the Turnabout are expected to be in attendance at school the Friday before the Turnabout unless pre-excused. Students not in attendance on Friday will not be permitted to attend the Turnabout.
6. All detentions and suspensions must be served before a ticket will be issued to a student and his/her partner. Students who are not in good standing, including those with truancy and/or behavioral issues, may not be allowed to attend Turnabout.

#### Prom Rules

1. The PROM is given by the junior class in honor of the graduating seniors.
2. A TICKET MUST BE PRESENTED FOR ADMITTANCE TO THE PROM. Students will be informed of locations to purchase tickets in the daily bulletin.
3. Any senior or junior presently enrolled may ask a person outside of the school providing they are at least 16 years of age and classified as an 11th grader. NO ONE BELOW 11TH GRADE MAY BE INVITED. If your partner is not a student at the Virginia High School, the name, address, and grade must be given in the office. If your partner is not currently enrolled in high school, they must have graduated within the last 2 yrs and must be under 21.
4. Parent/guardians will be informed of any student who has not arrived to Prom by 8:15 pm. Students who leave early will not be allowed to return to the dance.



5. Due to lack of space, no spectator tickets will be issued. Please convey this information to your parent/guardians and friends. Parents may view the Prom decorations at the time specified by the Prom supervisor.
6. All school rules will be followed throughout the Prom, as it is a school activity.
7. All students attending the Prom are expected to be in attendance at school the Friday before the Prom unless pre-excused. Students not in attendance on Friday will not be permitted to attend the Prom.
8. All detentions and suspensions must be served before a ticket will be issued to a student and his/her partner. Students who are not in good standing, including those with truancy and/or behavioral issues, may not be allowed to attend Prom.
9. Formal dress is required. Inappropriately dressed students will not be allowed to attend Prom activities.

## **STUDENT COUNCIL**

The Student Council is an organization made up of students representing the student body. It furnishes responsible leadership training for student leaders. It is through this organization that student opinion and sentiment is brought to the attention of the faculty and administration.

### **Grades 9 -12**

The Student Council consists of a total of 32 members, including a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. The membership shall be elected to the Council each spring for the following year. The qualifications that one should look for when electing their representative and officers are: good character and positive leadership ability.

### **Grades 7 & 8**

The Student Council in grades 7 & 8 has four students from each of the grades making a total of 8. The incoming seventh grade elects their representatives in the fall, while the current 7th grade elects next year's representatives in the spring.

## **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

The Virginia High School has two separate organizations, an Honor Society in which membership is based strictly upon Grade Point Average (GPA), and the National Honor Society in which the four criteria of scholarship (GPA), leadership, service and character are given equal weight in determining membership. Potential Juniors will be contacted following the second marking period and given instruction on making the appropriate application for membership. A description of the selection procedure shall be published in an official school publication that is widely available in a timely fashion to all students and parents of the school. The selection procedure shall be determined by the Faculty Council and shall be consistent with the rules and regulations of NHS. \*The selection criteria is posted and available in the counseling office.

NASSP shall not review the judgment of the Faculty Council regarding selection of individual members to local chapters.

# Addendum of School Policy Links

## **POLICIES**

The following is a partial list of selected student policies. For a complete list of policies for ISD #2909, please refer to our website at [www.rrps.org](http://www.rrps.org) under “District”, “School Board”, and “Board Policies”. The blue links will bring you directly to the policy.

It is the policy of the Rock Ridge Public Schools to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from religious, racial or sexual harassment and violence.

### **[Policy 501: Weapons Policy](#)**

Any student found to be in possession of a weapon on district property or at a district-sponsored activity shall be expelled from school for up to one year and may be subject to other appropriate disciplinary action.

### **[Policy 502: Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person](#)**

The purpose of this policy is to provide for a safe and healthful educational environment by enforcing Virginia Public School's policies against contraband.

### **[Policy 503: Attendance](#)**

Administration and staff will inform parents of the options available to them to excuse their child from school when necessary.

### **[Policy 504: Student Dress and Appearance](#)**

The dress and grooming of students becomes the concern of the school if it causes disruption of the educational program or is offensive or inappropriate to others. Students should dress in a manner that takes into consideration the educational environment, safety, health and welfare of others.

### **[Policy 506: Student Discipline](#)**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students are aware of and comply with the School District's expectations for student conduct. The School District will take appropriate disciplinary action when students fail to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct established by this policy.

### **[Policy 514: Bullying](#)**

An act of bullying, by either an individual student or a group of students, is expressly prohibited on District property or at school-related functions. This policy applies not only to students who directly engage in an act of bullying but also to students who, by their indirect behavior, condone or support another student's act of bullying.

### **[Policy 515: Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records](#)**

The school district recognizes its responsibility in regard to the collection, maintenance and dissemination of pupil records and the protection of the privacy rights of students as provided in federal law and state statutes.

## Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing

This information will help parents/guardians make informed decisions that benefit their children, schools, and communities.

### Why statewide testing?

Minnesota values its educational system and the professionalism of its educators. Minnesota educators created the academic standards which are rigorous and prepare our students for career and college.

The statewide assessments are how we as a state measure that curriculum and daily instruction in our schools are being aligned to the academics standards, ensuring all students are being provided an equitable education. Statewide assessment results are just one tool to monitor that we are providing our students with the education that will ensure a strong workforce and knowledgeable citizens.

### Why does participation matter?

A statewide assessment is just one measure of your student's achievement, but your student's participation is important to understand how effectively the education at your student's school is aligned to the academic standards.

- In Minnesota's implementation of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, a student not participating in the statewide assessments will not receive an individual score and for the purpose of school and district accountability calculations, including opportunities for support and recognition, will not be considered "proficient."
- Students who receive a college-ready score on the high school MCA are not required to take a remedial, noncredit course at a Minnesota State college or university in the corresponding subject area, potentially saving the student time and money.
- Educators and policy makers use information from assessments to make decisions about resources and support provided.
- Parents and the general public use assessment information to compare schools and make decisions about where to purchase a home or to enroll their children.
- School performance results that are publicly released and used by families and communities, are negatively impacted if students do not participate in assessments.
- English learners not taking ACCESS or Alternate ACCESS for ELLs will not receive a score to meet English learner program exiting criteria.

### Academic Standards and Assessments

#### What are academic standards?

The [Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards](#) are the statewide expectations for student academic achievement. They identify the knowledge and skills that all students must achieve in a content area and are organized by grade level. School districts determine how students will meet the standards by developing courses and curriculum aligned to the academic standards.

#### What is the relationship between academic statewide assessments and the academic standards?

The statewide assessments in mathematics, reading, and science are used to measure whether students, and their school and district, are meeting the academic standards. Statewide assessments are one measure of how well students are doing on the content that is part of their daily instruction. It is also a measure of how well schools and districts are doing in aligning their curriculum and teaching the standards.

#### Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) and Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS)

- Based on the Minnesota Academic Standards; given annually in grades 3–8 and high school in reading and mathematics; given annually in grades 5, 8, and high school for science.
- Majority of students take the MCA.
- MTAS is an option for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

#### ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for English Learners

- Based on the WIDA English Language Development Standards.
- Given annually to English learners in grades K–12 in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.
- Majority of English learners take ACCESS for ELLs.
- Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is an option for English learners with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

