

VAN BUREN COUNTY CSD



WARRIOR PRIDE, COUNTY WIDE
WWW.VBCWARRIORS.ORG
JULY 2025



VAN BUREN COUNTY CSD BOARD MEMBERS

WILLIAM CLINE, PRESIDENT
DAN SMITH, VICE-PRESIDENT
DR. RICHARD BRECKENRIDGE
SHEILA PARSONS
ALEX RICHARDS
COLBY KREISS
ALISHA DUEHN

Van Buren County Community School District

Mr. Jeremy Hissem, Superintendent
District Office
1313 1st Street
Keosauqua, IA 52565

Van Buren County Elementary Douds Center

Mary Dawn Schuck, Principal
14573 Washington Street
Douds, IA 52551

Van Buren County Elementary Harmony Center

Wesley White, Principal
33727 Route J40
Farmington, IA 52626

Van Buren County Secondary School

Brandon Stuhr, Principal
405 4th Street
Keosauqua, IA 52565

School Board Meetings

All agendas will be posted on our website at www.vbcwarriors.org. Changes and updates will also be posted on our school website. We will post the agenda 24 hours in advance of the meeting using digital media on our TV panels in the High School entryway and on the front entryway doors of both the Douds Center and Harmony Center. Our news media will also receive the agenda via email.

Registration Day

Wednesday, August 6th, 2025 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

At the MS/HS Commons

New students will need the following:

Proof of birthdate; Immunization Records; Health Insurance Policy Number;
Previous school attended name (address & dates attended);

Proof of Residency (e.g., copy of current utility bill, purchase/rental agreement)

If you have a new student or need assistance and cannot make it to registration day, please call Trisha Keim in the District Office to set up an appointment for registration. 319-293-3334

A Letter From Superintendent Hissem

Welcome to the 2025–2026 School Year!

Dear Students, Families, Staff and Stakeholders,

I hope you are enjoying a restful and rejuvenating summer. As we gear up for the start of the 2025–2026 school year, I want to share some updates and important information that reflect our continued commitment to creating safe, inspiring and student-centered learning environments.

New Cell Phone Policy

This year, we are implementing a revised cell phone policy across all campuses, however, the changes will be felt most in the 7-12 building. The Iowa legislature passed a new law that requires all schools to have a policy to limit the use of cell phones. These changes are rooted in recent data showing that limiting non-academic phone use during school hours significantly improves student focus, academic performance and emotional well-being. The data that shows the harm that cell phone usage is causing in our youth is alarming and needs to be addressed. Our goal is to minimize distractions and maximize learning time. Full policy details will be shared in our student handbook and posted on our website.

Facility Improvements

Over the summer, our buildings received several upgrades designed to enhance functionality and create a more inviting atmosphere for our students and families:

- Locker Room Flooring: Brand-new, durable flooring has been installed in our locker rooms, offering a safer and cleaner environment for our student-athletes.
- Outdoor Restrooms Renovation: The restrooms at our football/track complex are getting new flooring, a fresh coat of paint, and new plumbing fixtures.
- Harmony Center Cafeteria Renovation:
The cafeteria has undergone a major transformation, including:
 - Fresh paint with a new color scheme and wall graphics
 - Energy-efficient LED lighting
 - New flooring, tables and chairs
 - A more welcoming and modern space designed for elementary ages students and staff
- Football/Track Complex Improvements:
 - A new concrete approach has been poured at the concession stand, improving accessibility for our fans and visitors.
 - Updated School Graphics:
 - Throughout our buildings, you'll notice vibrant new graphics and wall art that reflect our district spirit and values, creating a more inspiring atmosphere for students and staff alike.

Teach to Heal

We are proud to begin our second year of the Teach to Heal program at both elementary centers. The main goal is to help students that are unregulated learn how to regulate themselves and have trained staff designated to help them with this work. This will allow the teachers and other students in the classroom to focus on learning. The positive impact during our first year was tremendous, and we're excited to deepen that work as we continue to learn and grow.

We are incredibly proud of the progress we've made and are looking forward to welcoming our students back into refreshed spaces with renewed energy. Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Warrior Pride County Wide,
Jeremy Hissem, Superintendent



YLC- Join Today!

This year YLC is celebrating its strong youth program in Van Buren County. Youth Leadership Council (YLC) is committed to fighting teen substance use throughout the county. This group is made up of Middle and High School Students at Van Buren County CSD. Throughout the year the members participate in many local and statewide activities. Some activities are Youth Advocacy Day in Des Moines at the State Capitol attending state and national conferences and providing learning events for their peers and community members. They help host local events to inform residents of the harm of smoking/vaping nicotine products, underage and binge drinking, and drug use. YLC is an excellent program for students to get involved in as it allows them to gain leadership skills in their school and community. The program is also linked with VBC SAFE Coalition, becoming the voice of the youth in our county. Because of this, youth can also gain leadership among adults and students. The YLC program strives to have youth-driven meetings, and also youth-driven results. This program is about students helping students. Overall, the YLC program is awesome for students of any age to be involved in. If you have questions or have a student interested in joining YLC, please call the SAFE Coalition Office at 319-293-2579 or email us at safe.coalition@vbcwarriors.org.

Update from Gayle Hervey, Nutrition Director

The Nutrition Staff has been busy working with families in our Summer Food Program. We are grateful that the community has given us the opportunity to help families with their meal planning needs. The program ran during the month of June and we are excited to say we were able to offer 7 days/week of breakfast and lunch this year. I encourage you to look for forms during enrollment that could help you and your student have a successful year. Forms like Free and Reduced Meals, Dietary Request Forms, Afternoon Milk assistance in the elementary centers, as well as making sure you are signed up to get school notifications. Please remember your dietary request form will need to be updated and all allergies will need to be discussed with the building nurse. Students, check out our buffet style breakfast at the secondary building which will start at 7:45 a.m. There will be several hot choices. Feel free to eat in the cafeteria or take it with you on your way to class. The Grab and Go options at the secondary building are expanding! New menu items will be available upon return to school in August. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and we will see you soon! Menus can be found at www.vbcwarriors.org and are subject to change without notice.

Open House

at ALL school locations:

Open House at ALL Van Buren County CSD locations (including Preschool program at VB Hospital Child Care Center) will be:

August 21st from 4:30 PM-7:30 PM

Secondary Building

7th Grade & New Students Only: 4:30-5:30

Grades 8-12: 5:30-7:30

Harmony & Douds Elementary Centers-Please use the following schedule:

Family last name starts with A-I 4:30-5:30

Family last name starts with J-Q 5:30-6:30

Family last name starts with R-Z 6:30-7:30

Board Affirms Intent to Support Student Conduct Rules

The Van Buren County Community School's Board of Directors affirms its intent to support the Student Conduct Rules, its intent to support the staff who enforce the Student Conduct Rules, and its intent to hold the staff accountable for the implementation and enforcement of such Student Conduct Rules as adopted by board policy.

The affirmation by the board is in compliance with a State Standard 12.3 (6). A further requirement of the standard is to give notice to the public of the board's action.

The Student Conduct Rules are available at the administrative office, in any of the district's attendance centers and on the district website. Student Conduct Rules are also routinely explained to students each year at the beginning of school or upon transfer to the school.

Program Contacts

Title IX: Superintendent Secretary

Perkins: Secondary Principal

Title VI: Superintendent

Office of Civil Rights & Section 504: Building Principals & HR Manager

Harassment/Investigator I: Building Principals/Counselor

Affirmative Action Coordinator: Superintendent

Education Equity Coordinator: Building Principals

Homeless Children and Youth: Doud's Center Principal, MaryDawn Schuck

Bullying/Harassment: Building Principals

Level I Investigators: Building Principals/School Nurse



Registering your student for school (E-Registration)

Registering your student for school is online using our PowerSchool student management system. The web address is <https://van-buren.powerschool.com/public/home.html>. This will bring up the Parent/Student Login Page. Returning students/parents who attended Van Buren County CSD may use their information from last year. If you have a new child to add to your account, you will have this option after logging in. If you have any questions or issues with this process please contact the district office at 319-293-3334 for assistance. If you are new to our school district, we ask that you come to our walk-in registration day or make an appointment to come to the District Office at 1313 1st Street, Keosauqua, to start the registration process. New Students will need the following: proof of birth date, immunization records, health insurance policy number, previous school name, address and dates attended, & proof of residency (e.g. copy of current utility bill, rental/purchase agreement).

From the Desk of Mr. Brandon Stuhr, 7-12 Principal

Dear Van Buren County Warrior Families,

I hope you're all enjoying a well-deserved summer break filled with rest, fun, and family time. As we move through July, our team is hard at work preparing for another great school year here at Van Buren County MS/HS!

Entering my fourth year with Van Buren County Schools, I continue to be thankful for the opportunity to serve such a dedicated and supportive community. It's a privilege to lead this building and to work alongside an incredible group of educators and students.

We are especially excited to welcome our incoming 7th grade class and all students new to the district. Transitioning to a new building can feel overwhelming, but we are here to help every step of the way. To support that transition, we'll hold an Open House for new students on Thursday, August 21st from 4:30–5:30 PM at the MS/HS building. This is a great opportunity for new students and families to explore the building, meet some of our staff, and pick up student schedules.

Our school-wide Open House for all returning students and families will follow from 5:30–7:30 PM. Students will be able to pick up their class schedules, find lockers, and reconnect with friends and teachers before the first day of school.

We're excited to share several updates and enhancements for the 2025–2026 school year. Construction is underway on a new classroom space in our high school. This addition will help us better support student learning as our enrollment and course offerings continue to grow. Juniors and seniors will also have expanded access to in-house college-credit classes, allowing students to earn college credits without leaving the building—an incredible opportunity to get a head start on their post-secondary goals. We're also working on introducing more club opportunities for our middle school students, giving them new ways to explore interests, build friendships, and get involved beyond the classroom. We are committed to creating a dynamic and inclusive learning environment where all students have the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child's education. Let's continue building a school culture centered on respect, responsibility, and growth. Enjoy the rest of your summer—we can't wait to welcome everyone back in August!

Brandon Stuhr
7-12 Principal
Van Buren County MS/HS

Instructional Materials Available for Parental Inspection

Iowa Code 279.50 impacts Van Buren County Community School District as well as all other schools throughout the State. This piece of legislation mandates each school district to provide instruction in human growth and development, including instruction regarding human sexuality, self-esteem, stress management, interpersonal relationships, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome, as required in Section 256.11, in grades 1-12. Van Buren County CSD's plan for compliance with this legislation will utilize infusion of mandated content into existing courses at the K-8 level, with separate courses of Health I and Health II being taught at the high school. The content and the grade level at which the content is taught is as follows:

Kindergarten—The protection and development of physical well being with attention given to experiences relating to the development of life skills and human growth and development.

Grades One through Six—The effects of alcohol, tobacco, drugs and poisons on the human body, human sexuality; self-esteem; stress management; interpersonal relationships; and the characteristics of communicable diseases including acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

Grades Seven and Eight—Reemphasis given to grades one through six content areas with the addition of current crucial health issues and sexually transmitted diseases.

Grades Nine through Twelve—State approved health education coursework taught by a certificated health educator. Course content shall be inclusive of the prescribed for grades seven and eight with the addition of an awareness of physical and mental health needs.

Much of the content mandated has been taught to Van Buren County CSD students for a number of years and is not new. We believe materials have been taught & will continue to be taught in a professional manner. Van Buren County CSD's K-12 Human Growth & Development curriculum and instructional materials are available for public inspection. The code also contains provisions for parents to make written request for their child to be exempted from the instruction. Parents wanting more information may contact their student's attendance center building principal.

If an early dismissal, delay or cancellation should occur, Van Buren County CSD will use ParentSquare, Facebook, and the following radio/TV stations to inform the public:

Radio: KMEM (100.5 FM) Memphis, KMCD (1570 AM, 95.9 FM) Fairfield, WHO (1040 AM, 107.5 & 100.3 FM) Des Moines, KBIZ (1240 AM) Ottumwa, KTWB (92.7 FM) Ottumwa, KILJ (105.5 FM) Mt. Pleasant, KOTM/KLEE (97.7 FM) Ottumwa, KISS/KRKN (101.5/104.3 FM), Ottumwa

TV: KTVO, WGEM, KYOU

If you would like to be added to our automated notification system, please contact your attendance center's office or manage your contact features (receive messages via landline, cell, text, email, etc.) through your PowerSchool account.



Dear Warrior Elementary Families,

We can't believe it's almost time to welcome our families back to school! The beginning of a new school year is always such an exciting time. There are new things to learn, new friends to make, and new adventures to be experienced. We are confident that the 2025-2026 school year will be our best year yet at Van Buren County CSD.

First and foremost, we would like to extend a warm welcome to the new families and staff members joining the Van Buren County Community School District. We are thrilled to have you on board and look forward to getting to know each and every one of you. To our returning families, and staff members, welcome back! Your continued trust, support, and commitment to education mean the world to us, and we are excited to embark on another incredible year together.

Members of our support staff have been working hard to prepare our buildings for the return of students and staff. As always, the hard summer work will pay off, and everything will be shiny and clean when we welcome students and staff back to school in August.

We are looking forward to continuing our work with I-Ready Math, Benchmark Advanced Literacy, Teach to Heal, Satchel Pulse SEL, and deepening our understanding of technology standards. This work will begin with teachers incorporating more innovative learning in the classroom thanks to our Boot-Up Technology Grant!

Parental involvement is vital to a child's educational journey, and we encourage you to actively participate in your child's schooling experience. Be sure to watch for information from your child's teacher about easy ways to extend your child's learning at home! We will be organizing various events throughout the year to facilitate communication, collaboration, and shared goals. We value your feedback, suggestions, and contributions, as they play a crucial role in shaping our school's success.

Lastly, we encourage all our students to approach this year with a sense of curiosity, resilience, and kindness. Embrace new challenges, celebrate achievements, and remember that each day is an opportunity for growth. Our team is here to guide, inspire, and empower you every step of the way.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions, concerns, or ideas you may have. We are here to serve you and your children.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer! We look forward to seeing you soon!

Be sure to attend Open House on August 21st!

Mary Dawn Schuck and Wesley White
Elementary Principals

Asbestos Notification

Asbestos has been an issue of concern for many years. The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986 (AHERA) was designed to determine the extent of asbestos concerns in the schools and to act as a guide in formulating asbestos management policies for the schools. Asbestos has been used as a building material for many years. It is a naturally occurring mineral that is mined primarily in Canada, South Africa and the U.S.S.R. The properties of asbestos make it an ideal material for insulating, sound absorption, decorative plasters, fire proofing and a variety of miscellaneous uses. There have been over 3,000 different products manufactured using asbestos. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began action to limit its uses in 1973. Most of the asbestos products used as building materials were banned by 1978. The school district facilities have been inspected by a certified asbestos inspector as required by AHERA. The inspector located, sampled and determined the condition and hazard potential of all material in the school facilities suspected of containing asbestos. The inspection and laboratory analysis records form the basis of the asbestos management plan. A certified management planner has developed an asbestos management plan for the school district facilities which includes: notification letters, training for employees, a set of procedures designed to minimize the disturbance of asbestos containing materials, and plans for regular surveillance of the materials. A copy of the management plan is available for inspection in the District Office.

Section 504

The law requires the Van Buren County CSD to provide to eligible students a free appropriate education; including individually designed instruction. Section 504 does not require a written IEP as in IDEA; however, it does require a plan. "Appropriate" means an education comparable to the education provided to non-handicapped students. When identified, a handicapped student can expect that reasonable accommodations will be made so that the student receives an appropriate educational experience. Section 504 requires that buildings and programs be made accessible through reasonable accommodation for individuals identified as handicapped and eligible. Students who are eligible or believe they are eligible for a 504 Plan should contact the building principal. Parents or teachers may, also, request a 504 Plan by contacting the building principal.

Student Health Information

Immunizations: Each student needs to provide the school with an updated immunization record if new vaccines have been completed since the previous school year, or if you are new to the district. Any student who does not have an immunization record at school, or has not completed the required vaccines will not be allowed to attend until an updated immunization record is given to the school.

Medications: Parents, please fill out & sign a "Medication Administration Authorization Form", which is included in e-registration and can also be found on the school website under the Parent tab > Parent Forms for printing. This form is required for over-the-counter medication to be administered to your child. If a student needs a prescription medication to be given during school hours, a Doctor's signature is required on the form, as well as parent signature. All medication, including Tylenol or Ibuprofen, needs to be provided by the parent in the original bottle. For the safety of each student, a parent must deliver the medication to the school and cannot send it with the student.

Health requirements by specific grade:

Pre K: Same state immunization requirements as a licensed child care center.

Kindergarten: 4-year-old shot series must be completed. Vision & dental certificates completed & given to school office*

3rd Grade: Vision certificate completed & given to school office*

7th Grade: Tdap & Meningococcal vaccines required

9th Grade: Dental certificate completed & given to school office*

12th Grade: Meningococcal vaccine required

*Vision and Dental certificates are available where the exams are completed and can be faxed to the school.

Supply List - Douds and Harmony Centers

Pre-K students:

- Backpack
- Change of clothes in bag labeled with name
- 1 box Kleenex
- Gym shoes (Harmony, Douds Centers only)
- 1 container Clorox wipes (Harmony, Keosauqua Centers only)

Kindergarten:

- Headphones (no ear buds, no bluetooth please)
- Change of clothes in bag labeled with name (to be switched out for Winter)
- Beach towel or small blanket for rest time
- Backpack
- Gym shoes (velcro or slip on if your child doesn't know how to tie)

1 of each:

- Small pencil box
- Pair of scissors
- Box of quart size baggies
- Box of gallon size baggies
- Package of pink erasers
- Package of glue sticks

2 of each:

- Boxes of 24 count crayons
- Washable markers
- Ticonderoga pencils
- Kleenex

4 containers of Clorox wipes

1st Grade:

- 2 big pink erasers
- 1 pk of Ticonderoga pencils
- 1 box of pencil top erasers
- 1 box of crayons
- Fiskars scissors
- 1 pack of glue sticks
- 1 small pack of EXPO dry erase markers (black)
- 1 small pencil box (8x5 Sterilite) No bags
- 1 spiral-bound notebook, single subject
- 2 folders
- 4 containers of Clorox wipes
- 2 boxes of Kleenex
- 1 box sandwich-sized Ziploc bags
- 1 Box gallon size Ziploc bags
- Headphones for computer use (straight plug end, not angled) no ear buds please
- Bookbag to bring daily
- Gym shoes (stay at the school)

2nd Grade:

- 12 Ticonderoga yellow #2 pencils
- 2 pack of large pink erasers
- 1 pack of pencil top erasers
- 1 Fiskars scissors
- 4 glue sticks
- 2 boxes of 24 crayons
- 1 pack of black EXPO whiteboard markers
- 1 yellow & 1 pink highlighter
- 1 pencil box for supplies
- 3 folders
- 1 composition notebook
- 2 wide ruled notebooks
- 2 large boxes of Kleenex
- 1 bottle of hand sanitizer
- 2-3 containers of Clorox wipes
- 1 box of gallon-sized Ziploc bags (Harmony Center Only)
- 1 box of quart-sized Ziploc bags (Harmony Center Only)
- 1 set of earbuds or headphones
- Gym shoes - (left at school)
- Bookbag to - bring daily

3rd Grade:

- 2-24 pk of pencils
- 2 Pink erasers
- 10 Glue sticks and 1 bottle of glue
- 1 take home folder-Choice
- Folders with prongs (red and 1 choice)
- Fiskars Scissors
- 4 Dry erase markers and an eraser
- 2 spiral bound notebooks -(1 yellow, 1 choice)
- Pencil bag or box
- 1 container of Clorox Wipes
- 2 box of Kleenex
- Headphones
- Crayons (box of 24)
- Markers - fine tip or regular
- Boys - purchase gallon baggies and 1 pack of Wide Lined Loose Leaf Paper
- Girls - purchase sandwich baggies and 1 package of sticky notes
- Gym shoes-left at school
- Bookbag - bring daily
- Paint shirt
- Optional - Mouse for Chromebook



Supply List - Douds and Harmony Centers

4th Grade:

- 1pk of #2 wooden pencils (Ticonderogas work the best)
- 1pk of pencil top erasers
- 1- 4pk of glue sticks- replenish as needed
- Fiskars Scissors
- 4 pocket folders: 1 green, 1 yellow, 1 red, 1 choice
- 1- 24 ct box of crayons
- 1- 8 ct pack of colored pencils
- 2 wide-ruled spiral notebooks
- 1 pencil bag/box
- 1 pk of 3x3 post-its
- 1 pk EXPO markers- replenish
- 1 set of earbuds or headphones (no wireless headphones)
- 2 boxes of tissues
- 1 box of Ziploc Sandwich bags
- 1 bottle of Germ-x
- 1 container of disinfecting wipes
- Gym shoes (to be left at school)
- Bookbag (to go back and forth daily)
- Optional - Mouse for Chromebook

5th Grade:

- 1 24pk of crayons
- 1 8pk colored pencils
- 1 notebook: spiral wide ruled (**Douds Center**)
- 3- single subject wide ruled notebooks (**Harmony Center**)
- 3- 2 pocket folders with 3 hole punch
- 2 - 24pk. #2 Ticonderoga Pencil (replenish as needed)
- Pink eraser OR pencil top erasers
- 2 pks of glue sticks
- 1 pk dry erase markers (chisel pt.)
- Fiskars scissors-pointed tipped
- 2 pk of highlighters (**Harmony Center**)
- 1-Pack of 3" x 3" Post-it Notes (**Harmony Center**)
- Pencil bag with zipper (**NO pencil boxes**)
- Earbuds OR headphones (to remain at school to use everyday, if they need to be charged the charger needs to come to school also.)
- 3 large containers of Clorox Wipes
- 3 large boxes of Kleenex (replenish as needed)
- 1 box of gallon zip-lock baggies
- Gym Shoes-**to be left at school**
- Backpack

Please Note: Students will carry their Chromebooks from room to room. All other supplies will be left in classrooms or their locker. Notes will be sent home to replenish items as needed.



6th Grade:

- #2 pencils (Ticonderogas work the best)
- Erasers (pencil top or regular, pink works best)
- 2 - spiral notebooks
- 2 - 2-pocket folders with 3 hole punch
- 1 package of lined 3x5 notecards
- 2 Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Headphones or earbuds (to remain at school to use everyday, if they need to be charged the charger needs to come to school also.)
- Pencil bag with zipper - (No pencil boxes)
- 1 Container of disinfecting wipes
- 3 boxes of tissues (for classrooms)
- 1 bottle of hand sanitizer
- Gym Shoes to be left at school, do not need to be new just clean and appropriate for gym floor
- Schoolbag/Backpack (for daily use from school to home)
- Douds only - 2 bottles of glue
- Douds only - Colored pencils
- Douds only - Fine tip markers
- Douds only - 4 Pack Post-Its
- Douds only - 2 Fine Tip Sharpies
- Douds only - 2 Regular Sharpies
- Douds only - Pens
- Douds only - Loose Notebook Paper
- Harmony only - 2 boxes crayons
- Harmony only - 1 box of sandwich baggies

Please Note: Students will carry their Chromebooks from room to room. All other supplies will be left in classrooms or their locker.

Compulsory Attendance Law

House file 455 was signed into law May 23, 1991 making significant changes in Iowa Code Chapter 299, the compulsory attendance law. Children between the ages of 6 and 16 are compelled to receive education (with certain exceptions), and each child's parent, guardian or legal custodian is the person held responsible in the law for compelling the child's education. Attendance requirements may be met by attending any public school or accredited private school for the number of days per year prescribed by the governing body. The parents of any new student of compulsory attendance age who choose to fulfill the compulsory education requirements of the child in a setting other than a public or accredited private school are required each year to complete a report of competent private instruction by the first day of school. This report form may be obtained from the local public school, which has received the form from the Department of Education. It is the responsibility of the parent, guardian or legal custodian to initiate and file the report with the local public school district. Forms may be obtained from the Office of the Superintendent, Van Buren County Community School District, 1313 1st Street, Keosauqua, Iowa 52565 for the residents of the Van Buren County Community School District. Completed forms should also be returned to the Office of the Superintendent.

Middle School Supply List

- Gym Shoes-not required to be new, just clean and able to be left at school
- Gym Clothes-Clean T-shirt with sleeves, socks, athletic shorts or pants
- 3 Boxes of Kleenex (to go to 1st hour teacher)

English

- 1 - Three Ring Binder (not to be shared with other subjects)
- 1 set - 8 Tab 3-ring -binder Dividers
- Loose-leaf notebook paper for binder
- 1 - box colored pencils (12 count)
- 1 - pack of notecards
- Earbuds or headphones (for online lessons)
- Pencils as needed
- Pocket folder for 3-ring-binder

Reading

- 2 Expo Markers-Black
- 1 Expo Eraser
- (Box of 24) Pencils
- 2 Pocket Folders
- 1 Red Pen (for checking)
- 1 Spiral Notebooks
- 1 Black Sharpie
- 1 box of multi-colored highlighters



US History

- 1 Spiral Notebook (Not to be shared with other subjects)

Global Studies

- Loose Leaf Paper
- Pocket Folders-2
- Pencils

Math

- 1 - Spiral Notebook (not to be shared with other subjects)
- 1 - Calculator
- 2 - Highlighters
- 1 - Pocket Folder (not to be shared with other subjects)
- Pencils
- Earbuds or Headphones (for online lessons)

Science

- 2 - Spiral Notebooks (not to be shared with other subjects)
- 2 - College ruled notebooks
- 2 - Highlighters
- 1 - Pocket Folder
- 1 - Three Ring Binder (2 in. no larger)
- 1 Box ea. Pencils and Colored pencils (Bx of 12)
- 1 ea. Earbud or headphone (required)
- Optional - wireless mouse for Chromebook (much easier for formatting)

Pets Prohibited at IGHS AU/IHSAA Sanctioned Events

Except as otherwise stated herein, no pets are permitted at events sanctioned by the IGHS AU/IAHSAA. Any persons found with a pet at an event will be removed from the premises.

However, this policy shall comply with the provisions of Iowa Code 216C. As such, a person with a disability or a person training an assistive animal has the right to be accompanied by a service dog or an assistive animal, under control. The person is liable for damage done to any premises or facility by a service dog or assistive animal. A "service dog" means a dog specially trained at a recognized training facility to assist a person with a disability. An "assistive animal" means a simian or other animal specially trained to assist a person with a disability.

High School Supply List

- 7 or 8 - 1 subject notebooks
- 7 or 8 - Pocket folders
- #2 Pencils
- Black and Blue pens
- 3 packs of 3x5 notecards
- 2 boxes facial tissue (for first period class)
- Gym Shoes - not required to be new shoes, just clean and to be left at school
- Gym Clothes - Clean T-shirt with sleeves, socks, athletic shorts or pants
- Scientific Calculator
- *Headphones for laptop - if you are unable to purchase your own headphones, please see the secretary in the office during the first few weeks of school.
- *Students taking Pre-Calc and Calc must have a TI-84CE Graphing Calculator.
- All secondary students will be provided with a schedule on the first day of school. Schedule changes may be made at this time.
- Laptops will be distributed shortly after we begin the school year (2-3 weeks into the school year)

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

As a school corporation of Iowa, the Van Buren County Community School District, acting through its board of directors, is dedicated to promoting an equal opportunity for a quality public education to its students. The board's ability may be limited by the school district's ability and willingness to furnish financial support in cooperation with student's parents and school district community. The board is also dedicated to providing the opportunity to develop a healthy social, intellectual, emotional, and physical self-concept in a learning environment that provides guidance to, and encourages critical thinking in, the students for a lifetime. The board endeavors, through the dedication of the school district's resources, to encourage students, who come to the school district from a variety of backgrounds, to look forward to the time when they will have jobs, homes, families, places in the school district community, and attain recognition as individuals. In order to achieve this goal, the board will seek qualified employees dedicated to development of their professional skills for the betterment of the education program and for the expertise for educational productivity. Instruction and curriculum are the key elements of a public education. Critical thinking and problem solving skills that will assist the students' preparation for life is instructed as part of a sequentially coordinated curriculum. The school district strives to prepare students for employment, to discover and nurture creative talent and to prepare them to meet and cope with social change in an atmosphere conducive to learning. The support and involvement of the home and the school district community are essential to achieve educational excellence in the school district. The school district strives to maintain an active relationship with the home and the school district community to create within the students an awareness of dignity and worth of the individual, civic responsibility and respect for authority.

Fee Waiver and Reduction Procedures:

Students whose families meet the income guidelines for free and reduced price lunch, the Family Investment Program (FIP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), transportation assistance under open enrollment, or who are in foster care are eligible to have their student fees waived. Students whose families are experiencing a temporary hardship may be eligible for a temporary waiver of student fees. Parents or students who believe they may qualify for temporary hardship should contact the building secretary for a waiver form. This waiver does NOT carry over from year to year and must be completed annually. Van Buren County CSD encourages ALL families to apply.

VAN BUREN COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2025-2026 REGISTRATION FEES AND INFORMATION

2025-2026 E-REGISTRATION Walk-in Registration

August 6 Van Buren High School Commons 9am - 7pm

School Starts: August 25 - Grades PreK3 & K-12, School begins (Begin 1st Quarter)
September 3- PreK4, School begins

School Hours: Elementary: 8:15 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.
Middle School: 8:21 a.m. - 3:35 p.m.
High School: 8:21 a.m. - 3:35 p.m.

Registration Fees: \$45.00: Elementary Student (ea.)
\$55.00: Middle School/High School Student (ea.)
\$22.50: Reduced Fee Elementary Student (ea.)
\$27.50: Reduced Fee Middle School/High School Student (ea.)



<u>Admission Fees:</u>	Adults	Students
High School Sports	\$7.00	\$7.00
All Middle School Sports	\$5.00	\$5.00



Season Tickets (25-26)

Adult Season passes	\$100.00
Student passes	\$55.00
Veterans & Senior Citizens (Age 62+)	\$55.00
Family Pass (2 Adults & 2 Children)	\$285.00

<u>Meal Prices:</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>	<u>PK-6</u>	<u>7-12</u>	<u>Adult</u>
	Single Meal-Lunch	\$2.70	\$2.90	\$5.00
	Lunch Reduced	\$0.40	\$0.40	
	Breakfast Daily	\$1.90	\$2.00	\$3.00
	Breakfast Reduced	\$0.30	\$0.30	
	Daily Milk*	\$0.75	\$0.75	\$0.75
	Veg./Fruit/Dessert/Grain (ea.)*	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
	Add't Entrée/Main Dish *	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$3.00

Grab & Go Cart: 2025-2026

Switch/Soda	\$2.00
Chips*	\$0.75
Cheese*	\$1.00
Yogurts*	\$1.50
Beef Sticks*	\$1.50
Lunchable	\$3.00
Sub Sandwich	\$3.00
Fresh Fruit Cup	\$1.25



*Prices subject to change quarterly based on District's cost

Open Enrollment

Open enrollment is the process by which parents/guardians residing in an Iowa district may enroll their child(ren) into another Iowa school district under the terms and conditions of Iowa Code section 282.18 and Iowa Administrative Code 281-17.

To file for open enrollment a parent must complete an application form that is available in the central office of Iowa school districts. The form is also available via the Iowa Department of Education's website at <https://educate.iowa.gov/pk-12/educational-choice/open-enrollment>

The completed form must be filed with both the resident and receiving district by March 1st preceding the school year for which open enrollment is desired. Therefore, March 1, 2026 is the deadline for the 2026-2027 school year. The deadline for kindergarten students is September 1.

A pupil that is open enrolled may return to the district of residence, and enroll, at any time (unless under suspension or expulsion). The parent or guardian must notify the district of residence and the receiving district in writing of the decision to enroll the pupil in the district of residence. A 90-day period of athletic ineligibility accompanies the transfer from one district to another. Iowa Code section 282.18(6). For more information, please contact your local Superintendent's office.

English Learner

Please see the following required publication regarding Van Buren County CSD's English Learners Program.

- Van Buren County CSD asks that families complete a home language survey at the time of enrollment.
- Van Buren County CSD must then determine if a student shows limited English proficiency.
- English Learners are entitled to appropriate services to become proficient in English; these services are chosen at the district's discretion.
- Van Buren County CSD must have qualified teachers, staff and administrators to implement the program and must provide those staff members with necessary training.
- English Learners must have access to grade-level curriculum. They are entitled to an equal opportunity to all programs and extra-curricular activities.
- School districts may not segregate students on the basis of English proficiency status.
- English Learners with disabilities must be provided both language and disability-related services.
- English Learners who may have a disability must be located, identified and evaluated (in an appropriate language) in a timely manner.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

The Van Buren County Community School District offers career and technical programs in the following areas of study: Welding, Business Finance, Foods, Health Occupations, Carpentry, Agriculture. Pursuant to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and other applicable state and federal laws, the Van Buren County CSD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status (for programs) in any of its education programs, activities, or employment opportunities. This prohibition on discrimination applies to admission and employment. The District has adopted grievance procedures for resolving formal and informal Title IX sex discrimination complaints and other discrimination complaints. Inquiries regarding Title IX or the District's nondiscrimination policy may be referred to the U.S. Department of Education (attn. Assistant Secretary, Office for Civil Rights; 400 Maryland Avenue Southwest, Washington, DC 20202; 800-421-3481; OCR@ed.gov) or the District's Title IX Coordinator: Lisa Stiles, Title IX Coordinator, 1313 1st Street, Keosauqua IA 52565, lisa.stiles@vbcwarriors.org, 319-293-3334. Inquiries regarding complaints of race, color, national origin, disability, religion, creed, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status discrimination may be directed to the Equity Coordinator: Jeremy Hissem, Superintendent, 319-293-3334.

HOME SCHOOL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Families wishing to participate in a District home school program in Iowa must fill out the Competent Private Instruction (CPI) form and turn it in to their school district secretary by September 1, 2025 or within 14 days of withdrawing from school. Note, however, if a child has been identified as requiring special education programs or services, prior written approval must be obtained from the special education director of the AEA in which the child resides before the child may be home schooled or enrolled in a non-accredited nonpublic "school". Families wishing to belong to Van Buren's Home School Assistance Program must notify the district by September 15, 2025. For more information, please call Van Buren County CSD at 319-293-3334. The Home School teacher for elementary students is Mrs. Randi Shriver with enrichment support from Mrs. Tonya Jirak. The Home School teacher for secondary students is Mr. Kurt Jirak.

Protections of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) applies to the programs and activities of a state education agency (SEA), local education agency (LEA), or other recipient of funds under any program funded by the U.S. Department of Education. It governs the administration to students of a survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight protected areas:

1. political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
2. mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
3. sex behavior or attitudes;
4. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
7. religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent; or
8. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

PPRA also concerns marketing surveys and other areas of student privacy, parental access to information, and the administration of certain physical examinations to minors. The rights under PPRA transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under state law.

Sportsmanship Philosophy

The Van Buren County Community School District believes that a dynamic and varied program of student activities is vital to the educational development of the student. It should offer opportunities to serve the district, to assist in the development of fellowship, team spirit, sportsmanship and to encourage learning the qualities of good citizenship.

Recognizing that sportsmanship is a vital component of the student activities program it then becomes necessary to define the philosophy of such as interpreted by Van Buren County CSD. Sportsmanship is that quality that desires always to be courteous, fair, respectful and is interpreted in the conduct of players, spectators, coaches and school authorities.

Representatives of the school should set an example in good sportsmanship and condemn unsportsmanlike conduct at all times.

Title I Teacher Qualification

All districts receiving Title I funds must notify parents in Title I funded buildings that they may request information on their child's teacher qualifications. Information is available that addresses the licensing requirements for the position held by the teacher, the licensure status and educational background of the teacher. If a student also receives services from an instructional paraprofessional, the parents may receive information of their qualifications upon request. For more information, please contact the School Business Official/Secretary at 319-293-3334.

Bus Behavior and Conduct Introduction

Van Buren County CSD has student behavior guidelines which apply to all students transported on school district buses for any purpose. Every student has the right to a safe and enjoyable ride to and from school or on any type of activity trip. With safety being the district and bus driver's primary concern, students must recognize the importance of proper personal conduct and how this contributes to ensuring a safe ride for all individuals on the school bus. Situations might arise in which student behavior is in conflict with established rules and may jeopardize the safety of others on the bus. The purpose of this policy is to provide predetermined disciplinary consequences for unacceptable behaviors while riding the bus or waiting at a designated school bus stop. If a student is involved in a serious or repeated unacceptable behavior, school administrators will have the option to suspend the bus riding privileges. Suspension from riding the school bus is not necessarily a suspension from school.

A parent/guardian of a student suspended from riding the school bus is responsible for ensuring safe transportation to and from school for the student during the bus suspension.

Students with special needs who lose bus riding privileges due to disciplinary action will have the disability and the individual education plan reviewed as part of the final disciplinary decision.

The district administration will review each discipline issue as reported, which may or may not be listed in the three classes of unacceptable behavior. Each issue will be treated uniquely with student behavior and incident factors fully investigated. Disciplinary action will be assigned with those factors in mind.

Unacceptable Behaviors

Class I:

- Extending head, arms, or legs out of windows
- Distracting the bus driver
- Failure to follow the bus drivers' instructions
- Throwing/shooting objects on the bus
- Failure to follow safe crossing procedures
- Standing while the bus is in motion
- Jumping over or crawling under seats
- Riding on a bus other than assigned bus without proper permission
- Boarding/exiting a bus at a location other than the assigned stop without permission
- Shouting, yelling, screaming, or excessive noise
- Tripping another student
- Blocking the bus aisle
- Spitting
- Horseplay
- Possession of squirt guns, laser pointer, water balloons, liquid container of any type, shaving cream, eggs or dispensing perfume or aftershave
- Any other behavior as defined by administration that constitutes this level

Class II:

- Theft or robbery
- Willful damage to property of another individual
- Tampering with emergency equipment
- Chasing or running alongside a moving bus
- Throwing or shooting an object at the driver or out of the bus window
- Bringing dangerous objects onto the bus. Also, items dangerous by use, not by design
- Pushing/shoving another student in the bus loading zone, bus danger zone or near a moving bus
- False identification or refusal to provide correct identification information to the driver
- Vandalism of the school bus (an individual responsible for vandalizing a bus will be responsible for the cost of replacement items and/or repair)
- Possession of obscene/pornographic materials
- Use of obscene or profane languages or gestures
- Possession of a lighter or matches
- Harassment in any form, including bullying
- Interfering with or disrespectful towards the bus driver or other staff
- Physical aggression or the threat of physical aggression against another person
- Fighting
- Other behavior as defined by administration that constitutes this level

Class III:

- Unacceptable sexual conduct, including sexual harassment
- Possession of a knife, weapon or ammunition
- Detonation of any firework or like device on bus/at bus stop
- Ignition of any type of fire, including matches and lighters
- Possession of a flammable liquid on the bus
- Assault or threat to the bus driver or any other person
- Attempt to ride on the outside of the school bus
- Running out in front of a moving bus
- Opening any emergency exit, or attempting to exit from a moving bus
- Possession or use of alcohol
- Possession or use of tobacco products
- Possession or use of drugs or drug related material
- Any other behavior as defined by administration that constitutes this level

Consequences for Unacceptable Behavior

Class I:

1st Offense-Parental contact by bus driver. If needed, follow-up communication by transportation director or building administrator. Discipline will be handled at attendance center.

2nd Offense-Same as above, discipline at building and/or 1-3 days suspension from riding the bus

3rd Offense-3-5 days suspension from riding the bus

4th Offense-5-15 days suspension from riding the bus

Class II:

1st Offense-Parental contact by bus driver. Follow-up communication by transportation director or building administrator. Discipline at building and/or 1-3 days suspension from riding the bus

2nd Offense-3-5 days suspension from riding the bus

3rd Offense-5-10 days suspension from riding the bus

4th Offense-Suspension from riding the bus for the remainder of the year or 60 day minimum

Class III:

1st Offense-5-30 days suspension from riding the bus

2nd Offense-Suspension from riding the bus for the remainder of the school year or 60 day minimum. This may be carried into the next academic year if less than 60 days remain in the current academic year

A bus suspension is for any bus and for all purposes.

Motor Vehicle Operator Rules When Meeting a School Bus

If you are traveling on a two- or three-lane road

• **And you are approaching the bus from the rear:** When you see flashing red or amber warning lights, you are not permitted to pass the school bus and should be prepared to stop. Stop behind the school bus when the school bus stops and the stop arm is extended. Stop no closer than 15 feet from the rear of the bus, and remain stopped until the stop arm is retracted and school bus starts moving again. Proceed with caution.

• **And you are meeting the bus from the front:** When you see amber warning lights flashing you must slow your vehicle to no more than 20 mph and be prepared to stop. Stop in front of the school bus when the school bus stops and its stop arm is extended. Remain stopped until the stop arm is retracted. Proceed with caution.



All parents of bus riding students are encouraged to visit our transportation table at registration. Our transportation director will be available for questions at that time. Please remember there is NO specified length of time a bus is to wait at a stop for riders! Your child(ren) should be prepared for the approach of the bus. Please make sure that you go over these rules with your student(s). The Administration and drivers would like to thank you for your cooperation in the past and know that we can expect the same in the future.

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION LETTER FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEAL APPLICATION
Frequently Asked Questions About Free and Reduced Price School Meals

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Van Buren County Community School District** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs **\$1.55 (PK4-6)** and **\$1.65 (7-12)**; lunch costs **\$2.70 (PK4-6)** and **\$2.90 (7-12)**. Your children may qualify for free meals/milk or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is **\$0.30** for breakfast and **\$0.40** for lunch. Return or mail the completed application to: **Van Buren County CSD, 1313 1st Street, Keosauqua IA 52565.**

Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Family Investment Program (FIP) or a few specific Medicaid programs are eligible for free or reduced price meals.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is at or below the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines below and submit an application for free and reduced price meals/milk.

FEDERAL INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES for SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

Household Size	Yearly	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	28,953	2,413	1,207	1,114	557
2	39,128	3,261	1,631	1,505	753
3	49,303	4,109	2,055	1,897	949
4	59,478	4,957	2,479	2,288	1,144
5	69,653	5,805	2,903	2,679	1,340
6	79,828	6,653	3,327	3,071	1,536
7	90,003	7,501	3,751	3,462	1,731
8	100,178	8,349	4,175	3,853	1,927
Each additional family member:	10,175	848	424	392	196

- 2. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?** No, but please read the letter carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your notification, contact: Lisa Stiles by mail at 1313 1st Street, Keosauqua IA 52565; by email at lisa.stiles@vbcwarriors.org; or by phone at (833) 293-3334. Immediately as eligibility for free or reduced price meals is extended to all school age children in a household. If you did not receive a letter from the school, but received a Free Lunch Notice from the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS), submit this letter to your children's school. You may add any students living in your household who are not listed on the letter. Also, if someone in your household receives SNAP or FIP benefits and you did not receive either of these letters, you may complete an application listing the case number as this will qualify all school age children in your household for free meals. If you were informed that your children will get reduced price meals, see the income guidelines above and if you feel you would qualify for free meal benefits, complete an application for free and reduced price meals.
- 3. WHAT IF WE HAVE FOSTER CHILDREN?** Households with foster and non-foster children may choose to include the foster child as a household member, as this may help other children in the household qualify for benefits. If the foster family is not eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits, that does not prevent a foster child from receiving free meal benefits.
- 4. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT OR RUNAWAY?** Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please contact: **Van Buren County CSD Homeless Liaison, MaryDawn Schuck by phone at 833-293-3334 or by email at marydawn.schuck@vbcwarriors.org.**
- 5. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?** No, complete the applications for free and reduced price school meals for all the students in your household. We cannot approve an application unless complete eligibility information is submitted, so be sure to complete all required information.
- 6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE?** Yes, your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through **October 8, 2025**. You must complete a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. When the carryover period ends, unless you are notified that your children will receive free meals or you submit an application that is approved, the children must pay full price for school meals. The school is not required to send a reminder or a notice of expired eligibility.
- 7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please complete and send in an application.
- 8. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN?** Yes, you, your children or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced price meals.
- 9. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?** Yes, we may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report. You are not required to provide proof with your application.
- 10. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER?** Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free or reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit, if your household size goes up, or if you start getting SNAP, FIP or other benefits.
- 11. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION?** You should talk to your school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: **Jeremy Hissem, 1313 1st Street, Keosauqua IA 52565; (833) 293-3334; Jeremy.hissem@vbcwarriors.org.**

12. **WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME?** List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
13. **WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT?** Household members may not receive the types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
14. **WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY?** Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food or clothing, or receive Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
15. **DO I NEED TO PROVIDE MY SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER?** Only the last four digits of the Social Security Number of the household's primary wage earner or another adult household member (or an indication of "none") is needed.
16. **WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY?** List any additional household members on a Supplemental Worksheet and attach it to your application. Contact **Lisa Stiles by mail at 1313 1st Street, Keosauqua IA 52565; by email at lisa.stiles@vbcwarriors.org ; or by phone (833) 293-3334** to receive a Supplemental Worksheet.
17. **WHO CAN GET FREE MILK?** If your school participates in the Special Milk Program for half day kindergarteners, your kindergarten child may be eligible for free milk. Children who buy extra milk with a meal or if they eat breakfast or lunch and have an afternoon milk break, are not eligible to receive free milk.
18. **MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR?** To find out how to apply for SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call **1-877-347-5678**. Your children may be eligible for Hawki (children's health insurance) or a waiver of school fees. Read the information on the back of the Application for Hawki information. A school waiver form is available from your school.
19. **CAN CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES GET FOOD SUBSTITUTIONS?** If a child has a disability, as determined by a licensed medical professional, and the disability prevents the child from eating the regular school meal, the school will make substitutions prescribed by the licensed medical professional. If a substitution is needed, there will be no extra charge for the meal. Please note, however, that the school is not required to make a substitution for a food allergy, unless it meets the definition of disability. Please call the school for further information.
20. **DO I NEED TO REPORT MY RACE AND ETHNICITY?** It is optional to complete the racial/ethnic portion of the application.
21. Translated applications are available at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/translated-applications>.

If you have other questions or need help, call **Lisa Stiles at (833) 293-3334 or email at lisa.stiles@vbcwarriors.org**.

Sincerely,

Lisa Stiles, Secretary to the Superintendent

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement: In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:**
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:** Program.Intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Iowa Non-Discrimination Statement: (revised 7-1-25) It is the policy of this CNP provider not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, age, or religion in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code 216.6, 216.7, and 216.9. If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by this CNP Provider, contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, 6200 Park Ave, Suite 100, Des Moines, IA 50321; phone number 515-281-4121 or 800-457-4416; website: <https://icrc.iowa.gov/>.

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires that we use information from this application to see who qualifies for free or reduced price meals. We can only approve complete forms. We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them deliver program benefits to your household. Inspectors and law enforcement may also use your information to make sure that program rules are met. Please be sure to provide the last four numbers of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application. If the adult does not have one, 'Check if no Social Security Number.' Applications for a foster child do not need to list a Social Security number. Applications for children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) do not need to list a Social Security number. Some children qualify for free meals without an application. Please contact your school to get free meals for a foster child, and children who are homeless, migrant, or runaway.

2025-2026 School Calendar – Aug. 25 Start

Summary of Calendar:
Days/Hrs. in classroom:

1st Semester 74/508.5

2nd Semester 88/603

TOTAL DAYS/HS 162/1109.5

CALENDAR LEGEND

Begin/End	
Holidays	
Quarter	
P.D. Days	
No 4 Year PreK	
Vacation Days	

HOLIDAYS:

Labor Day	(9/1)
Thanksgiving Day	(11/27)
Christmas Day.	(12/25)
New Year's Day	(1/1)
Good Friday	(4/3)
Memorial Day	(5/25)

Flex Days: (No School)

Aug 18,19, Nov. 26, Jan. 2, May 26

PD Days: (No School)

Aug 20, 21, 22

Sep 8, 22

Oct. 13

Nov. 10

Dec. 8

Jan. 26

Feb. 23

Mar. 9

Apr. 20

May 4, 21, 22

PLC Wednesday's

Sept. 17

Oct 1, 22

Nov. 5, 19

Dec. 3, 17

Jan. 7, 21

Feb. 4, 18

Mar 4, 25

Apr 15

May 13

August 2025					
M	T	W	Th	F	
18	19	20	21	22	
25	26	27	28	29	5
September 2025					
1	2	3	4	5	9
8	9	10	11	12	13
15	16	17	18	19	18
22	23	24	25	26	22
29	30				24
October 2025					
		1	2	3	27
6	7	8	9	10	32
13	14	15	16	17	35
20	21	22	23	24	40
27	28	29	30	31	44
November 2025					
3	4	5	6	7	49
10	11	12	13	14	53
17	18	19	20	21	58
24	25	26	27	28	60
December 2025					
1	2	3	4	5	65
8	9	10	11	12	69
15	16	17	18	19	74
22	23	24	25	26	
29	30	31			
January 2026					
			1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	79
12	13	14	15	16	84
19	20	21	22	23	89
26	27	28	29	30	93
February 2026					
2	3	4	5	6	98
9	10	11	12	13	102
16	17	18	19	20	107
23	24	25	26	27	111
March 2026					
2	3	4	5	6	116
9	10	11	12	13	119
16	17	18	19	20	123
23	24	25	26	27	128
30	31				130
April 2026					
		1	2	3	132
6	7	8	9	10	136
13	14	15	16	17	141
20	21	22	23	24	145
27	28	29	30		149
May 2026					
				1	150
4	5	6	7	8	154
11	12	13	14	15	159
18	19	20	21	22	162
25	26	27	28	29	
June 2026					
1	2	3	4	5	

1080 Hours Calendar

Aug 18/19 – New Teacher Days (Work Day/Flex)

Aug 20 – Opening Day P.D.

Aug 21 – Open House

Aug 25 – First Day of School

Sept. 1 – Labor Day (No School)

Sept. 3 – First Day PK4

Sept. 8 – Professional Development

Sept. 22 - Professional Development

Oct. 13 – P.D. 8-12, PTC 1-4 and 4:30-7:30

Oct. 14 – PTC 4-7 (7-12 Only)

Oct. 16 – PTC 4-7 (Elem Only)

Oct. 17 – No School

Oct. 24 – End of 1st Qtr.

Oct. 27 – No School

Oct. 28 – No 4-Year-Old Preschool

Nov. 10 - Professional Development

Nov. 26 Work Day/Flex

Nov. 27-28 – Thanksgiving Break (No School)

Dec. 8 - Professional Development

Dec. 19 – End of 2nd Qtr.

Dec. 22 – Jan. 1 – Winter Break

Jan. 2 – Work Day/Flex

Jan. 26 - Professional Development

Feb. 9 – No School

Feb. 10 – No 4-Year-Old Preschool

Feb. 23 – Professional Development

Mar. 9 – P.D. 8-12, PTC 1-4 and 4:30-7:30

Mar. 10 – PTC 4-7 (Elem Only)

Mar. 12 – PTC 4-7 (7-12 Only)

Mar. 12 – End of 3rd Qtr.

Mar. 13/16 – No School

Mar. 16 - Snow Make Up Day

Mar. 17 - No 4-Year-Old Preschool

Apr. 3 – Good Friday (No School)

Apr. 6 – No School (Snow Make Up Day)

Apr. 7 – No 4-Year-Old Preschool

Apr. 20 – Professional Development

May 4 - Professional Development

May 14 – Last Day PK4

May 20– Last Day 1:30 Dismissal

May 21 – June 5 (Snow Make Up Days)

May 21/22 - Professional Development

May 17 – Graduation 1:30

May 25 – Memorial Day (No School)

May 26 - Work Day/Flex

1,109.5 Hours (29.5 over 1080 Required)



VAN BUREN COUNTY CSD
DISTRICT OFFICE
1313 1ST ST
KEOSAUQUA, IA 52565

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Keosauqua, Iowa
Permit No. 20

****ECR WSS****
POSTAL CUSTOMER