

WELCOME BACK PIRATES

218-445-5184



VERNDALESCHOOL.ORG



@VERNDALESCHOOL



Superintendent-
Jeannie Mayer



K12 Principal- Katie
Bolland



Dean of Students/
AD- Greg Johnson



A message from Superintendent Mayer

Dear Verndale Students, Families, and Community Members,

Welcome back to Pirate Territory! I hope you have had a wonderful summer filled with time to relax, make memories, and enjoy all that Minnesota has to offer. It is hard to believe we are already preparing for another exciting school year.

As I begin my fifth year as Superintendent of Verndale Public School, I continue to feel incredibly grateful to be part of this amazing community. I truly love coming to work each and every day because of our outstanding students, dedicated staff, supportive families, and community members who make Verndale such a special place. Thank you for trusting us with your children and for partnering with us in their education. Please take a few moments to read through this year's Back-to-School Newsletter, as it contains important information to help your family prepare for the year ahead. If you have additional questions, please visit our website at www.verndaleschool.org or contact the school office at 218-445-5184. We are always happy to help.

This school year brings a few exciting changes. Thanks to recent changes in state law, our school year begins before Labor Day. Students in Kindergarten through 7th grade and Grade 12 will begin classes on Tuesday, September 1, while students in Grades 8-11 will begin on Wednesday, September 2. We will ease into the year with two short weeks before settling into our regular routines.

We also look forward to welcoming everyone to our Back-to-School Open House on Wednesday, August 26, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. During Open House, we will host New Student Orientation and 7th Grade Orientation to help students and families feel comfortable and prepared for the first day of school. I also encourage every family to stop by our JMC booth, where staff will be available to help you access grades, attendance, schedules, lunch accounts, and other important student information.

As always, school meals continue to be available at no cost to all students. Even though meals are free, I encourage every family to complete the Application for Educational Benefits. This important form helps determine eligibility for state and federal funding that supports our students and school programs.

One of the greatest predictors of student success is simply being present. Regular attendance builds strong academic habits, positive relationships, and opportunities for growth. We appreciate your partnership in making attendance a priority and helping your child arrive at school each day ready to learn.

Our commitment remains unchanged: to provide every student with a safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment where they can grow academically, socially, and emotionally. We will continue to focus on high-quality instruction, strong relationships, and preparing every student for success beyond our doors.

Thank you for allowing us to be part of your child's journey. I cannot wait to welcome everyone back into our building and begin another incredible year together.

Here's to a fantastic 2026-2027 school year!

Proud to be a Pirate!

Jeannie Mayer
Superintendent

UPCOMING EVENTS



Open House

August 26th - 4pm to 6pm



First Day of School (K-7 & 12)

September 1st



First Day of School (8-11)

September 2nd

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Verndale Public School District is to provide a safe and innovative learning environment where all students are prepared for an ever-changing world through educational excellence.

DISTRICT GOALS

1. Optimize Student Achievement
2. Manage an Effective School District Budget
3. Retain Effective Staff Members



Back to School Information

School Enrollment: Preschool- Grade 12

We encourage you to stop by or call the office to pick up an enrollment packet, or visit our website to enroll online. Enrollment forms are also available on our website for you to print and complete at your convenience. Once completed, please return your enrollment packet to the school office if you are using a paper packet.

Preschool Plus:

Offers developmentally appropriate play and learning experiences that set your child up for success in school; Provides a safe environment for children to play, develop social skills through friendship and play, participate in music, arts and discovery; Offers a sliding fee scale for tuition.



Front Row: Chris Youngbauer- Vice Chair, Tahna Rurup- Clerk, Tony Stanley- Director
Back Row: Tyler Fisher- Treasurer, Chuck Dick- Director, Scott Veronen- Chair

Verndale Public School Board

Meetings of the Verndale Public School Board are held on the first Monday of the Month, in the School Media Center. The annual Truth and Taxation Meeting will be held the first Monday in December.

Student Handbook

The Student Handbook is available on the Verndale Public School website and can also be picked up in the school office. We encourage all students and families to review the handbook together before the start of the school year, as it contains important school policies, procedures, and expectations. Student and parent acknowledgment of the handbook will be required.

Chromebook Handbook

The Chromebook Handbook is also available on the Verndale Public School website and in the school office. Please review it with your student to become familiar with Chromebook expectations, care, and acceptable use guidelines. Chromebooks will be distributed during the first week of school.



Verndale School Open House!

Get ready for an exciting new school year by joining us for our Open House on Wednesday, August 26, from 4:00–6:00 PM! This is a great opportunity for students and families to meet teachers, explore classrooms, drop off school supplies, and get familiar with the school before the first day. **We also want to remind families of an important change to this year's calendar: the first day of school will be before Labor Day. Students in grades K–7 and grade 12 will begin classes on Tuesday, September 1, while students in grades 8–11 will start on Wednesday, September 2.** We can't wait to welcome everyone back for another fantastic year at Verndale Public School!

Burger Bash

Wednesday, August 26th

4:00–6:00 pm Location: Cafeteria

This event is free for ALL students and their families, teachers, and staff.

Sponsored by: Verndale
Alliance Church



Back to School Information Cont.**Student Medications:**

If your child requires any medication during the school day, please bring medication and Consent for Administration of Prescription Medication Form (signed by prescribing physician) to the District Office during the open house. Also, please stop in to the District Office to pick up any expired medication. All expired medications will be disposed of after October 1st, 2026

Verndale Public School Calendar 2026-2027

July 2026

M	T	W	T	F	Summer Office Hours								
		1	2	3	The office will be open Mondays-Wednesdays from June 9th-August 8th, from 8-3:00 pm. The office will resume regular hours on August 11, 2025.								
6	7	8	9	10									
13	14	15	16	17									
20	21	22	23	24	3	Office Closed- Independence Day							
27	28	29	30	31									

August 2026

M	T	W	T	F	3 & 13	NEW Teacher Workshop							
3	4	5	6	7	17	Fall Sports Begins							
10	11	12	13	14	25-27	Teacher Workshop							
17	18	19	20	21	26	Open House (4:00-6:00 pm)							
24	25	26	27	28									
31			T-3	S-									

September 2026

M	T	W	T	F	1	First day for grades K-7, and 12							
T-21	1	2	3	4	2	First day for grades 8-11							
7	8	9	10	11	7	No School- Labor Day							
14	15	16	17	18									
21	22	23	24	25									
28	29	30	S-20/21										

October 2026

M	T	W	T	F	7	Late Start- School begins at 10:10 AM							
T-30	S-19		1	2		Homecoming Week							
5	6	7	8	9									
12	13	14	15	16	15	No School- MEA Break							
19	20	21	22	23	16	No School- MEA Break							
26	27	28	29	30	19	No School- Staff Development							

November 2026

M	T	W	T	F	4	Late Start- School begins at 10:10 AM							
2	3	4	5	6	12	No School- Staff Development/PT Conf.							
9	10	11	12	13	13	No School							
16	17	18	19	20	26-27	No School- Thanksgiving Break							
23	24	25	26	27									
30		T-18.5	S-17										

December 2026

M	T	W	T	F	2	Late Start- School begins at 10:10 AM							
T-14	1	2	3	4		Grades 7-12 Choir Concert (8:30 PM)							
7	8	9	10	11		Grades 5-12 Band Concert (7:30 PM)							
14	15	16	17	18		(Elementary (K-6) Christmas Concert (10:00 AM and 1:30 PM)							
21	22	23	24	25									
28	29	30	31	S-14	21-31	No School- Winter Break							

January 2027

1	No School					M	T	W	T	F
	School Resumes				T-20	S-19				1
6	Late Start- School begins at 10:10 AM					4	5	6	7	8
	End of 1st Semester- 82 days					11	12	13	14	15
18	No School- Staff Development					18	19	20	21	22
						25	26	27	28	29

February 2027

3	Late Start- School begins at 10:10 AM					M	T	W	T	F
	No School- President's Day					1	2	3	4	5
15	No School- Staff Development					8	9	10	11	12
						19	16	17	18	19
						22	23	24	25	26
									T-19	S-18

March 2027

3	Late Start- School begins at 10:10 AM					M	T	W	T	F
	Grades 7-12 Choir Concert (8:30 PM)					1	2	3	4	5
	Grades 5-12 Band Concert (7:30 PM)					8	9	10	11	12
25-29	No School- Easter Break					15	16	17	18	19
						22	23	24	25	26
						29	30	31	T-21	S-20

April 2027

7	Late Start- School begins at 10:10 AM					M	T	W	T	F
	(Elementary (K-6) Spring Concert (10:00 AM and 1:30 PM)					T-21	S-20		1	2
						5	6	7	8	9
						12	13	14	15	16
29	No School- Staff Development					19	20	21	22	23
30	No School					26	27	28	29	30

May 2027

5	Late Start- School begins at 10:10 AM					M	T	W	T	F
	Grades 7-12 Choir Concert (8:30 PM)					3	4	5	6	7
	Grades 5-12 Band Concert (7:30 PM)					10	11	12	13	14
	Last Day of School/Early Release/Graduation					17	18	19	20	21
28						24	25	26	27	28
31	No School- Memorial Day					31		T-20	S-20	

June 2027

1	Teacher Flex Day					M	T	W	T	F
18	School Closed- Juneteenth					1	2	3	4	
						7	8	9	10	11
						14	15	16	17	18
						21	22	23	24	25
						28	29	30	T-1	S-1

Total Student Days - 168-169
Total Teacher Days - 178-5

Key:

School Resumes
Late Start
Special Note
Parent Teacher Conferences
No School/ Office Closed
Teacher Staff Development

Music Program
Last Day of School- Early Release

Approved
12/1/2025

**A note from the School Nurse****If your students has a health concern:**

Please complete the Health Questionnaire before school starts so I can best inform the appropriate school staff of your child's conditions/needs. Confidentiality of this information is stressed upon and only the appropriate staff members will receive relevant information about your student. You can get a form from the school office or download one from the Verndale School Website. If your child has a more serious, life threatening health condition, please contact me as soon as possible so an Emergency Health Plan can be created.

If your student needs to take medication while at school:

For prescription medication, a consent form must be signed by both the parent and the prescribing health professional who prescribed the medication. This form is called the Consent for Administration of Medication (For Prescription Medication). For non-prescription medication, a similar consent form must be completed by the parent only. You can get one of these forms from the school health office or you can download a copy from the Verndale School Website. Medication given at the school must be brought in by an adult. All medications must be brought to the school in its original container/prescription bottle with the student's name on it, along with dosage information. (A duplicate bottle can be obtained from the pharmacist upon request.) The label on the bottle must match the doctor's order on the consent form. Please provide the school with a one-month supply at a time at a minimum.

If your child needs Immunizations:

Please plan to get your child's necessary immunizations done prior to the first day of school. Certain immunizations are required prior to Kindergarten and 7th grade entrance. Kindergarten students must have their booster doses of DTaP, Polio, Varicella, and MMR. All 7th graders will need the meningococcal vaccine, along with the TDaP booster. All high school students should have a TDaP booster and a meningococcal shot. If your high school student has not had these yet, please do so before school starts. If you choose not to vaccinate your student, please contact the school for an exemption form that must be signed and notarized. You can get vaccines at your primary health clinic or at Wadena County Public Health if you qualify for the state vaccine program.

If you have questions, please contact Jill Davis at Wadena County Public Health at 218-631-7629 Anne Beastrum at 218-445-5184



Back to School Information Cont.**Verndale Public School Elementary and Highschool Schedules**

VERNDALE PIRATES

SCHOOL CALENDAR



REGULAR SCHEDULE			TWO-HOUR LATE START SCHEDULE			EARLY RELEASE SCHEDULE & LUNCH RELEASE TIMES (7-12)		
	Start	End		Start	End		Start	End
1st Period	8:10	8:58	1st Period	10:10	10:45	1st Period	8:10	8:40
2nd Period	9:01	9:49	2nd Period	10:48	11:23	2nd Period	8:43	9:13
PT2	9:52	10:18	3rd Period	11:26	12:01	3rd Period	9:16	9:46
3rd Period	10:21	11:09				4th Period	9:49	10:19
4th Period	11:12	12:00				5th Period	10:22	10:52
Lunch (7-12)			Lunch (7-12)			6th Period	10:55	11:25
7-12	12:00	12:40	12-11	12:01	12:41	7th Period	11:28	11:58
11-12	12:00	12:40	9-10	12:06	12:41	Lunch (7-12) 11:58 12:28		
9-10	12:05	12:40	7-8	12:11	12:41	LUNCH RELEASE TIMES		
7-8	12:10	12:40				11:58 - 11th Grade		
5th Period	12:43	1:31	4th Period	12:44	1:19	11:58 - 10th Grade		
6th Period	1:34	2:22	5th Period	1:22	1:57	12:00 - 9th Grade		
7th Period	2:25	3:13	6th Period	2:00	2:35	12:03 - 8th Grade		
			7th Period	2:38	3:13	12:06 - 7th Grade		
 Regular School Day 8:10 AM – 3:13 PM			 Two-Hour Late Start Day 10:10 AM – 3:13 PM			 Early Release Day 8:10 AM – 12:30 PM		

BE HERE. BE READY. BE A PIRATE!

VERNDALE PIRATES

LUNCH & RECESS SCHEDULE

SCHOOL DAY STARTS AT 8:10 AM

K	LUNCH 10:40 AM - 11:10 AM RECESS 11:15 AM - 11:50 AM
1ST GRADE	LUNCH 10:50 AM - 11:20 AM RECESS 11:25 AM - 11:50 AM
2ND GRADE	LUNCH 10:45 AM - 11:15 AM RECESS 11:20 AM - 11:50 AM
3RD - 4TH GRADE	LUNCH 11:15 AM - 11:40 AM RECESS 11:45 AM - 12:10 PM
5TH - 6TH GRADE	LUNCH 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM RECESS 11:00 AM - 11:25 AM

PIRATE PRIDE EVERY DAY!

BE HERE. BE READY. BE A PIRATE!

Student Absence Procedure:

Students who anticipate being gone for one or more days must first secure an advance notice of absence form from the office and show it to each of their teachers. Failure to do so before leaving may result in the absence being unexcused. To receive an absence from the office, parents should send a note with your student to bring into the office, or call the office directly. Text messages will not be accepted.

Students will not be released from class for pick-up until the office has received a note or phone call from a parent/guardian. Students should always be picked up in the main office. Unexpected student absences should be called into the office by parents/guardians by 8:30 am each day.

Drop Off and Pick-Up

- Students are not allowed in the school building before 7:45 am or after 3:30 pm unless they are under the direct supervision of a school staff member.
- Elementary students will be allowed to enter their classrooms starting at 7:45 am.
- Students arriving late to school or leaving early from school are **REQUIRED** to check in or out through the main office.
- Parents picking up students **ARE REQUIRED** to enter the building through the main office.

Door Policy:

Parents and students should always use the main entrance (door #1) to access our school. All external doors, except the main entrance door (door #1) will remain locked during school hours.



218-445-5184



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Back to School Information cont.**Family Information Changes**

In order to maintain current records, please notify the district office of any changes in your family or household information. Changes you should communicate include but are not limited to: Phone numbers (home, work, & cell), email addresses, physical and mailing addresses, child information (children who live in home ages birth through 12th grade), emergency contact information, medical information (doctor and dentist), and transportation information. Keeping this information current is important when the school needs to contact parents/guardians in case of emergency. If you have changes to report, please contact the district office at 218-445-5184.

Shop Fees (Industrial Technology)
7th Graders: \$60 8th Graders: \$60

Technology Fee (See Chromebook Handbook)
\$30 per student with a family cap of \$100
**** Will be waived if the School Lunch Form is filled out****

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)

Early Childhood Family Education offers parent/child time together with fun learning activities, music, and a chance for your child to play with other children their age! Parents and children will spend their time playing and learning together along with parents taking part in informal discussions on different topics. Classes are for children ages newborn to 5 years old (or not yet in Kindergarten), and are FREE to all families! Session dates will be available in September. Please call the Verndale Preschool room to register for each session. Come and join us for fun, friends, songs, and special time with your mommy, daddy, grandma, grandpa, or any loved one! For more information, or to have a brochure sent to you, contact Becky Ludovissie at bludovissie@verndaleschool.org or 218-445-5184 ext. 260/261. You can also visit our website at www.verndaleschool.org, click on the Preschool Plus tab on the left, and then the ECFE tab for future ECFE dates and updated information!

**JMC Parent Portal**

To access your JMC Parent Portal by using your personal computer, go to our website at www.verndaleschool.org. Click on the circle labeled "Parents". Click on "JMC Parent" Make sure you have the 25-26 school year selected, and enter your username (parent last name), and your password (if you have not created a password, please contact the district office). You are now in JMC. Click on any of the available links on the left of your screen to view your child's information.

Tuition/Fees JMC Parent Portal

Did you forget to send cash or a check with your student? No need to worry! You can now pay for milk tickets, shop fees, and more right from the comfort of your home.

Log into your JMC Parent Portal, then click on Tuition/Fees and follow the prompts. If you have any questions, please contact Reagan Mayer in our district office at 218-445-5184.

Digital Content Notice:

The Verndale School District takes pride in the advanced technology being used throughout our building. Our teachers are encouraged to submit pictures to the newspapers, post pictures and/or videos on their school websites, and use classroom recordings to aid them in their professional development, etc.

The Verndale School District, at its sole discretion, may use, distribute, and post photos and/or videos for professional development and research purposes, and any other purpose the Verndale School District deems appropriate to further the mission of the organization, and that the video recording and digital materials, and all copies thereof, shall constitute the sole propriety of the Verndale School District. Verndale School District and its employees or authorized agents have the authority to use any photo, video, video stream, or audio of the students who attend the Verndale School.

Please contact the school office if you do not want your child's picture shared in any of the formats mentioned above or have any questions regarding this notice.



Back to School Information cont.**School Closings & Information**

Instant Alert System - JMC Message Center will be used to notify parents, students, and staff. You can find the link on the top of our school website under "Quick Links".

Radio - All school closings will be announced over the following radio stations: KWAD (920 AM), and KKWS (105.9 FM), and these television stations: KSTP (Channel 5), WCCO (Channel 4), KMSP (Channel 9), and KARE (Channel 11).

Facebook - On our Facebook page. Search "Verndale Public School"

School Alert List of Closings - When severe weather strikes, count on JMC

The Verndale School has scheduled eight (8) late start/early release days during the 25-26 school year. Buses will run two hours late on late start days. On those days, Elementary students (K-6) may be brought to the school at 8:00 am and will be supervised by paraprofessional staff. Breakfast will be available for our Elementary students at 8:00 am. We request that you call the school at 445-5184 to let us know if your child(ren) will be coming to school before 10:00 am on late start days so we can provide the appropriate supervision. All students are to leave the building at the completion of the school day on early release days.

Yearbooks

The Verndale School yearbook, which includes both high school and elementary photos and activities, will be offered for the discount price of **\$42** for a regular yearbook until the December holiday break. After the break, the minimum price of a regular yearbook will be **\$47**. There are extra charges for add-ons. This year, the only way to order a yearbook is to go to Lifetouch online and pay with a credit card.

NOTE: If you do not order with Lifetouch online, you will not be guaranteed a yearbook. There will be NO extra yearbooks available at the end of the year. If you have any questions, contact Kelly Youngbauer at kyoungbauer@verndaleschool.org or 445-5184 ext 408.

Late Starts

First Wednesday of every month except September.

October 7th, 2026
November 4th, 2026
December 2nd, 2026
January 6th, 2027
February 3rd, 2027
March 3rd, 2027
April 7th, 2027
May 5th, 2027

Important Bus Information

If you are new to Verndale School or your location has changed from last year, please notify Wade Kern, Transportation Supervisor, at 218-445-5184 ext. 304. Please notify us as quickly as possible as some changes may not be guaranteed for the start of the school year.

To view your bus route number and pick up time, please check your JMC Parent Portal. Please keep in mind that the pick up time may vary up to 10 minutes for the first two weeks of school, so be prepared. Also, please keep in mind that times do change throughout the school year due to route changes. Please call the school if you have any questions regarding your pick up time.

Bus Stop Rules

1. Be prepared at the stop 5 minutes prior to pick-up time.
2. If on time, drivers do not wait for late students. Drivers go by school district office time.
3. Wait until the bus stops before approaching the bus.
4. ALWAYS cross in front of the bus.
5. Busses will go up driveways 1/4 mile or more, if less than 1/4 mile, students are to be at the end of the driveway.
6. If the driveway is not plowed or there are obstacles in the driveway, it shall be at the driver's discretion to travel up the driveway or not.

School Bus Discipline Policy

Riding the bus is a PRIVILEGE, not a right. M.S. 123.801

A student's eligibility to ride a school bus may be revoked for a violation of bus safety rules or conduct policies.

All consequences are dependent upon the severity and frequency of the behavior. Administration and transportation officials reserve the right to consider extenuating circumstances in determining disciplinary action, and may classify an offense into a more severe tier if the infraction jeopardizes the health, safety, or well-being of others

1. FIRST OFFENSE - Warning, notify parent/guardian.
2. SECOND OFFENSE - Three (3) school day suspension from riding the school bus.
3. THIRD OFFENSE - Five (5) school day suspension from riding the school bus.
4. FOURTH OFFENSE - Ten (10) school day suspension from riding the school bus.
5. Further offenses may result in the suspension from the school bus for the remainder of the school year.



Community Education

Get Involved!

Have a skill, hobby, or passion you'd love to share with others? Verndale Public School is always looking for individuals and organizations interested in hosting a class, camp, or community education opportunity! Whether it's arts, fitness, STEM, outdoor activities, or something completely unique, we'd love to partner with you to bring engaging experiences to our students and community.

If you're interested in hosting a class or camp at Verndale, please reach out to Reagan Mayer for more details—we're excited to collaborate and help make your idea come to life!

Reagan Mayer- Rmayer@verndale.k12.mn.us or 218.445.5184 ext. 302

Pirate Care Update

We want to make families aware of an important change for the upcoming school year. Verndale Public School will not be offering Pirate Care this year. We understand that Pirate Care has been a helpful resource for families in the past, and we encourage families who previously utilized the program to make alternative after-school care arrangements.

While Pirate Care will not be available, students will still have opportunities to participate in a variety of after-school activities and programs offered throughout the school year. Please watch for information regarding these opportunities as they become available.

Thank you for your understanding as we prepare for another great school year!

After-School Activities

There are plenty of ways for students to stay involved, learn something new, and have fun beyond the school day! Throughout the school year, Verndale offers a variety of after-school opportunities for students of different ages and interests.

SOAR & Captain's Crew | Grades K-8

Verndale Public School plans to offer SOAR and Captain's Crew again this school year. These programs are dependent on staff availability and student enrollment.

SOAR | Grades K-6

SOAR provides students in kindergarten through sixth grade with additional opportunities to learn, explore, create, and connect with their peers through fun activities outside of the regular school day.

Captain's Crew | Grades 5-8

Captain's Crew gives students in grades 5-8 an opportunity to get involved, build leadership skills, connect with others, and take an active role in our school community. SOAR and Captain's Crew are offered at no cost to families; however, specific criteria and eligibility requirements must be met before a student can be enrolled. Families should watch for additional information regarding enrollment, availability, schedules, and eligibility.

LEGO Club

For students who love to build, create, and use their imagination, LEGO Club provides a fun, hands-on opportunity to work together, problem-solve, and bring creative ideas to life.

And There's More!

These are just some of the opportunities available throughout the school year! Families should watch for additional information, registration details, dates, and other after-school activities as they are announced.

There's always something happening at Verndale—find an activity, get involved, and have some fun!

Verndale PTA

The Verndale PTA is dedicated to supporting our students, staff, and families while helping build a strong school community. By bringing parents, teachers, staff, and community members together, the PTA works to create additional opportunities and experiences for our students throughout the school year.

Our Mission:

The Verndale PTA strives to support and advocate for our children by partnering with staff, families, and the wider community to create a safe and healthy learning environment where students can excel and feel confident in themselves.

There are many ways to be involved with the PTA, whether you can lend a hand at an event, share an idea, attend a meeting, or simply help when your schedule allows.

Every bit of involvement makes a difference!

We look forward to another great year of working together to support our students and make Verndale an even stronger place to learn, grow, and belong. Pirates take care of their crew!

Want to join reach out to:
PTA@verndale.k12.mn.us



Athletics and Lunch

Athletic Season Passes & Admission

Verndale Public School offers season passes for all home football, volleyball, girls' basketball, boys' basketball, and wrestling events.

Playoff games are not included with a season pass.

Season passes may be purchased on bound, in the District Office or at the ticket table during home athletic events.

New this year, Verndale Public School will be using Bound for athletic ticketing. Tickets for every home game can be purchased through the Bound app or online before the event, making entry quick and convenient.

Admission Prices (New for This Year)

Verndale Students: Free

Visiting Students: \$5 (cash or online)

Adults: \$10 cash or \$8 online

Season Passes

First Pass: \$50

Each Additional Pass (same household): \$40

Senior Citizens-Free Admission

Home Playoff Games

Admission prices for home playoff games will be determined by the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) and announced when available.

Physical Exams

Any student who intends to participate in high school (7th - 12th grade) athletics must have a current physical examination on file in the school office.

The necessary forms are available at the clinic, school office, or online. Students will not be allowed to participate in the athletic activity until they have a current physical clearing them to participate.

If you have any questions, contact Greg Johnson at 218-445-5184 ext. 319.

Athletics & Activities

Stay connected with everything happening in Pirate athletics and activities through the Athletics & Activities section of the Verndale Public School website. There you'll find schedules, announcements, team information, scores, photos, and other important updates throughout the school year.

New this year: Verndale Public School is transitioning to Bound as our official athletics platform. Schedules, game information, ticket links, scores, and other athletic updates can all be found through Bound, making it easier than ever to stay connected throughout the season.

Student-athletes are asked to register online each season through the Athletics & Activities page. Online registration helps coaches and advisors maintain current contact and medical information for all participants. Verndale Public School continues to offer activities with no participation fees.

Activities Calendar

Looking for upcoming school events? Our online Activities Calendar is the best place to stay up to date.

To access the calendar:

- Visit www.verndaleschool.org
- Click Activities in the top menu.
- Select Calendar from the drop-down menu.
- Browse upcoming athletic events, school activities, concerts, meetings, and more.

You can also access the Activities Calendar directly from the Athletics & Activities page on our website. As we transition to Bound, you'll also be able to find athletic schedules, scores, ticketing, and event information through the Bound app or online.

BREAKFAST/HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

Breakfast and lunch will be served on a daily basis. All students will eat in the cafeteria. In

order to serve our

students with peanut allergies, the Verndale School does not serve products containing nuts or nut products.

We also encourage students and families to follow these same guidelines. The district will also provide an alternate product for students that are lactose-intolerant with medical documentation.

Extra meals and extra milk are to be paid for in advance or at the time of service. Students will receive their

meal number on the first day of school.

Breakfast/Hot Lunch Program The School Board has determined the following prices:

Breakfast Prices

PreK - 12th grade: FREE

Adults: \$3.00

Lunch Prices

PreK - 6th grade: FREE

7th - 12th grade: FREE

Adults: \$5.05

7th-12th Second Lunch: \$5.05

(Subject to change per MDE)

Additional Milk: \$0.35

Parents and visiting students are expected to pay the adult price for their meal.

****All accounts must be prepaid or paid at the time of service.****



Lunch cont & Clothes Closet

2025-26 Application for Educational Benefits (Free and Reduced Lunch Form)

Can be filled out electronically from your JMC Parent Portal. Access to JMC Parent Portal can be found on the parent resource page of our website.



Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our school offers healthy meals each day. For 2026-2027, we will continue to follow the MN Free School Meal Program. All students can get one breakfast and one lunch free of charge each day at school. Although no application is required to receive this free meal benefit, filling out the Application for Educational Benefits is still important! Your child(ren) may qualify for other benefits like reduced fees at school. Your application may also help the school qualify for education funds, discounts, and other meal programs. To apply, complete the enclosed Application for Educational Benefits and return it to: INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #818, 411 SW BROWN STREET, VERNDAL, MN 56481

Who should complete this application? Children in households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), and foster, homeless, migrant and runaway children qualify without reporting household income. Alternatively, children can qualify if their household income is within the maximum income shown for their household size on the instructions. COMMON QUESTIONS: I get WIC or Medical Assistance. Can my children qualify? Children in households participating in WIC or Medical Assistance do not automatically qualify. Children may be eligible depending on other household financial information. Please fill out an application. Who should I include as household members? Include yourself and all other people living in the household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends). May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen? Yes. You or your children do not have to be U.S. citizens for you to complete an application. What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that you normally get. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get over-time only sometimes. For seasonal work, write in the total annual income. Will the income information or case number I give be checked? It may be. We may also ask you to send written proof. How will the information be kept? Information you provide on the form, and your child's approval, will be protected as private data. For more information, see the back page of the Application for Educational Benefits. If I don't qualify now, may I apply later? Yes. Please complete an application at any time if your income goes down, your household size goes up, or you start getting SNAP, MFIP or FDPIR benefits. If you have other questions or need help, call 218-445-5184.

Form Can be found on next page

Need a Hand? Visit the Verndale Clothes Closet!

The Verndale Clothes Closet is here to support our students and families throughout the school year. We know that every family faces challenges from time to time, and our goal is to help ensure every student has what they need to feel comfortable, confident, and ready to learn.

The Clothes Closet offers a variety of items, including:

- Clothing for all ages and sizes
- Shoes and boots
- Jackets and outerwear
- Toiletries and personal care items
- Verndale Pirate apparel and spirit wear

*We are in need of
smaller sizes
for girls and boys!*

If your student could benefit from any of these items, please don't hesitate to reach out to any Verndale staff member. All requests are handled with care and respect, and we're always happy to help connect students with the resources they need.

At Verndale Public School, we believe that Pirates take care of their crew, and we're proud to support one another in every way we can.

218-445-5184



VERNDALESCHOOL.ORG



@VERNDALESCHOOL

Mail or return completed form to: (School/District Information)

Definition: A Household Member is Anyone living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related.* Read How to Complete the Application for Educational Benefits for more information. Adults over grade 12 living in the same household should be reported in Step 3, if children in the household attend different districts or charter/nonpublic schools, return an application at each one.

Child's First Name (list all children in household)	MI	Child's Last Name	School	Grade	Birthdate	Foster Child (v)
						☐
						☐
						☐
						☐
						☐

IF YES > Enter SNAP, M/IFP or FDI/R Case Number (between 4-9 digits, do not report EBT card number) _____ then go to STEP 4 **Do not complete STEP 3**

then go to STEP 4 (Do not complete STEP 3)

Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income, such as from a part time job or SSI. Please include the

Total Income Received by All Children	Weekly	Bi-weekly	2x Month	Monthly
\$	☐	☐	☐	☐

C. All Adult Household Members (including yourself). For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total gross income only. If they do not receive income from any source, write "0" or leave any fields blank. You are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. Not sure what income to include here? Flip the page and review "Sources of Income" for information. "Sources of Income" will help you with the Child Income section and All Adult Household Members section.

Names of All Adult Household Members (First and Last)	Gross Earnings from Working at Jobs				Are you Self-Employed or a Farmer?		Any Other Gross Income						
	Weekly	Bi-weekly	2x Month	Monthly	Report income before deductions or taxes in whole dollars (no cents).	Monthly	Yearly	Net income from Farm or Self-Employment. Do not duplicate elsewhere.	Weekly	Bi-weekly	2x Month	Monthly	SSI, Unemployment, Public Assistance, Child Support, and others on Page 2
List all Household members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. Include children who are temporarily away at school or in college.	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$	☐	☐	\$	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$	☐	☐	\$	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$	☐	☐	\$	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$	☐	☐	\$	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$

STEP 4: Contact information and add signature. "I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported, I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of federal funds, and that school officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws."

Free	Reduced	Overnight	Express
1	2	4	6

☐ **Verified?**

☐ I have checked this box if I *do not* want my information shared with Minnesota Health Care Programs as allowed by state law.

Printed name of adult signing form	Daytime Phone	
Address (if available)	Apt#	City Zip
SIGN HERE: Signature of Household Adult		
Date		

Do Not Fill Out: For School Office Use Conversions to Annualize All Income:	X52	☐ Verified? Attach Tracker	☐ No change ☐ Free After Verified ☐ Reduced After Verified ☐ Denied After Verified
	X26		
	X24		
	X12		
	X1		
All Total Income (Include child and adult income)	☐ Weekly ☐ Bi-weekly ☐ 2X Month ☐ Monthly ☐ Annualize	☐ Household Size: ☐ Categorical Eligibility ☐ Free ☐ Reduced ☐ Denied	
\$			
Determining Official Signature:		Date:	
Confirming Official Signature:		Date:	

Annual Legal Notices for Families

As we begin a new school year, we want to keep our families informed about important state and federal requirements that help ensure a safe, healthy, and supportive learning environment. Each year, schools are required to share updates on things like student privacy rights, health and safety practices, attendance expectations, and more. Please take a moment to read through these brief notices. They outline your rights as parents, how to request information, and ways we work together to keep our school community safe and welcoming for every student.

Pesticide Application Notification

In accordance with the Janet B. Johnson Pesticide Act (Minn. Stat. §121A.30), parents and guardians may request to be notified in advance of any pesticide applications at school. For more information or to be added to the notification list, please contact the school office.

Asbestos Management Plan

In accordance with federal regulations, Verndale Public School District #818 maintains an Asbestos Management Plan that identifies the location and condition of all known or assumed asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM) within our school buildings. Every six months, a licensed and accredited inspector conducts a visual inspection of these materials to ensure they remain in good condition.

The Asbestos Management Plan is available for public review during regular business hours in the school office. Parents, staff, or community members with questions may contact the district's account manager through the Institute for Environmental Assessment, Inc. at 763-315-7900.

Lead in Drinking Water

In compliance with Minn. Stat. §121A.335, our school tests drinking water fixtures for lead every five years. Results are available for review in the district office. Families will be notified if levels exceed state guidelines until corrective actions are completed. More information can be found on our website.

Directory Information & Privacy Rights

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, parents may choose to restrict the release of "directory information" (such as name, grade level, or participation in activities). If you wish to opt out, please contact the office for instructions and deadlines.

Special Education Procedural Safeguards

Parents of students receiving special education services are entitled to specific legal rights under IDEA. A copy of the procedural safeguards notice is provided at least once per year and is available at the district office or on our website.

Attendance and Truancy

Minnesota law requires all students to attend school regularly. Families will be contacted if attendance concerns arise, as required by Minn. Stat. §§120A.22 and 120A.24. Please work with us to ensure students are on time and present every day.

Student Discipline Policy

Our school follows all state laws regarding student discipline, including suspension and expulsion procedures (Minn. Stat. §124D.8957). Copies of the discipline policy are available in the student handbook and on our district website.

Immunization Requirements

Minnesota law requires all students to be fully immunized or provide appropriate exemptions before attending school. Please ensure your child's records are updated. Contact the health office with questions.

Background Check Policy

Per Minn. Stat. §123B.03, background checks are required for employees and volunteers working with students. Information on this policy is available through the district office.

Important School Policies – What Parents Need to Know

As required by state and federal law, schools must provide annual notification of these policies to all parents and guardians. Verndale Public School follows several important policies to ensure a safe, supportive, and collaborative learning environment for all students. Here is a brief overview of those requirements:

Policy 419 – Tobacco-Free Environment

No tobacco, e-cigarettes, or vaping products are allowed on school property or at school events. This applies to students, staff, and visitors at all times.

Policy 503 – Student Attendance

Regular attendance is essential for student success. Parents are expected to ensure their children attend school daily and follow proper procedures for reporting absences.

Policy 505 – Distribution of Non-School-Sponsored Materials

Students and community members must receive prior approval before distributing flyers, brochures, or other materials on school property.

Policy 506 – Student Discipline

The school promotes positive behavior and a safe learning environment. Discipline procedures are fair, consistent, and follow due process to address inappropriate behavior. Please see the student handbook for more information.

Policy 515 – Protection and Privacy of Student Records

Parents and eligible students have the right to review educational records. Student information is kept private and only shared as allowed by law.

Policy 522 – Title IX and Sex Nondiscrimination

Students are protected from discrimination based on sex, including harassment or unequal treatment in school programs, activities, and athletics.

Policy 524 – Internet Acceptable Use and Safety

Students are expected to use technology responsibly and follow guidelines to stay safe online. Inappropriate or unsafe use of school technology is not allowed. Please see the Chromebook Handbook for more information.

Policy 527 – Student Use and Parking of Motor Vehicles; Patrols, Inspections, and Searches

Students who drive to school must follow parking rules. All student vehicles must be registered and have a Verndale Parking Pass. Vehicles parked on school property may be subject to inspection if there are safety or legal concerns.

Policy 529 – Staff Notification of Violent Behavior by Students

Staff are informed if a student has a history of violent behavior, helping ensure appropriate supervision and safety for all students.

Policy 609 – Religion

The school is neutral regarding religion. Religious expression by students is allowed as long as it is voluntary.

Full policies are available on our school website or by request at the district office.



WHO IS AT THE SCHOOL

Superintendent - Jeannie Mayer ext. 317
Principal/Assessment Coordinator - Katie Bolland ext. 313
Activities Director/Dean of Students - Greg Johnson ext. 319
School Counselor/Academic Advisor - Katie Tackmann ext. 321
School Counselor/Academic Advisor - Heather Lehmkuhl ext. 320
School Nurse - Anne Beastron ext. 312
School Nurse - Jill Davis at WCPH 218-631-7629
Secretary/MARSS - Mary Gronlund ext. 301
K12 Principal/ DOS/ AD Assistant and Media Communications - Reagan Mayer Ext. 302
Payroll/Human Resources - Amber Nelson ext. 300
Accounts Payable & Receivable - Stacy DeMars ext. 315
Business Manager - Mackenzie Schertler ext. 315
Preschool Plus - Becky Ludovissie ext. 260/261
Food Service Supervisor - Kelsea Desrocher ext. 210
Transportation/Buildings & Grounds Supervisor - Wade Kern ext. 304
IT Coordinator - Erin Huebner ext. 229



Let's Stay Connected:

Scan for the School Facebook



Scan for the School Website