

# Veterans High School

## New Student Guide

**Welcome to the Warhawk Family!**



***Where excellence is the standard, not the goal.***

### Our Mission Statement

***To develop graduates of character in an environment of excellence.***

### Our Vision Statement

***To be the standard for all facets of student achievement, producing successful, active citizens.***

**Welcome to Veterans High School!** It is our hope that all students who enter our school find activities and classes where they are engaged with staff members who invest in relationships to build student capacity. We hope this guide will give you a preview of important facts and information to support success in transitioning to the high school setting.

## **Ways to Stay Engaged**

- ✓ Keep your contact information current and on file with school staff
- ✓ Check our school marquee for updates
- ✓ Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VHSWarhawks/>
- ✓ Check our website: <https://vhs.hcbe.net/>
- ✓ Attend conferences, activities, and events @ VHS

## **25-26 Administrative Personnel**

Dr. Amy Barbour, Principal

Dr. Mark Antley, Assistant Principal

Ashley Brock, Assistant Principal for Instruction

Shawn Masters, Assistant Principal

Dana Morris, Assistant Principal/CTAE Supervisor

Chad Simmons, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director

Steve Devoursney, Chief of Athletics

Kadie Griger, Guidance Counselor

Daphne McMahon, Guidance Counselor

Jennifer Stafford, Guidance Counselor

Lisa Stewart, Guidance Counselor

Laura Whitaker, Guidance Counselor

Stephanie Taylor, School Secretary

Connie Connell, Bookkeeper

Kim Martin, Receptionist

Lenora Spensley, Counseling Clerk

Ginger Towe, Administrative Technology Specialist

Shauna Stillings, Attendance Clerk

Christina Mark, Medical Technician

Heather Sans, Media Clerk

Marchien Ballard, Athletics Clerk

Robert Sears, School Resource Officer

Sierra Carroll, School Resource Officer

## Letters to New Warhawks from Seniors

Greetings Future Warhawks!

Welcome to “The Hangar!” I bet you can’t believe that you’re already a freshman in high school. I’m sure you’re feeling an intense mix of emotions about entering this final chapter of your teenage years. I know that transitioning into a new environment can be scary and overwhelming, and those feelings are completely normal. However, we often grow the most in unfamiliar situations, which there will be no shortage of in high school.

While getting good grades and staying on top of your responsibilities is important, high school is so much more than that. The friendships and relationships you build, as well as the marks you leave behind are what truly matter when all is said and done. Veterans High School houses so many opportunities to foster friendships and promote self-discovery. From school clubs and sports to the arts programs, there are so many avenues for growth. Although it can be intimidating to branch out and try new things, it’s so important to step out of your comfort zone, and at VHS there are so many people here to help you when doing so.

It can be so easy to get caught up in the stress that will come with tests, assignments, and meeting deadlines. Nevertheless, don’t forget to live in the moment and enjoy all that life has to offer you during this time. I remember thinking graduation was so far away, but these four years have flown by. Ask for help, be respectful of others, and savor every moment of your high school experience.

Remember that you are not alone in your feelings of nervousness, so be confident and open-minded as you step into all that Veterans High School has to offer.

You’ve got this, and of course... Go Warhawks!!

-Francesca Jones, Class of 2026

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Hello, and welcome to being a high schooler at Veterans High School! I know you must be very anxious and scared entering high school, but I promise that there is nothing to worry about as there are multiple groups of people that will help you as you transition into high school. Take it from a former military kid, who continued to move everywhere and had to go to multiple schools.

High school isn’t just a building and place, but instead it is more of an experience. It is much more than the grade you made in biology, or if you made it late to second period and your attendance is all messed up. It is about the bonds, friendships, relationships, etc. that will build your character and the person you will become in the future. If this means joining a club, joining a sport, going to that play, going to that game, or more, take that opportunity to connect with more people, even people above your grade level. VHS offers so many opportunities to meet new people and potentially find that spark you have been looking for.

You will get caught up in all of that work and will be getting stressed out because of the amount of work you will have, but you need to remember, there is more to life than the worksheet that is due at 11:59. Have fun with your friends, because even though graduation is far away, the next 4 years will definitely fly by, so continue to make the memories with everybody and cherish them forever. Laugh with your friends, go with that new friend group, experience it all, while of course still making good decisions. Everybody before you has felt these kinds of sensations, so don’t worry - you aren’t alone. In due time, you will find your people, your place, your self-esteem, and your bonds. Don’t be afraid to step out of that shell of yours and break it to connect with more people. Embrace what VHS has to offer, and remember, high school isn’t just a building and a school, it’s a place to make the best experiences to build you.

I wish you the best of luck! Go Warhawks!!

-Nicholas Alcazar, Class of 2026

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

For freshmen entering high school, 24 Carnegie units are required to graduate. It is possible for students to earn 28 Carnegie units during four years of high school, grades 9-12.

- **Units required for promotion:**

- **9th Grade:** 5 Carnegie Units required for promotion to 10th grade
- **10th Grade:** 11 Carnegie Units required for promotion to 11th grade
- **11th Grade:** 17 Carnegie Units required for promotion to 12th grade
- All students will register for seven classes, four core content classes (English, Math, Science & Social Studies,) and three elective/CTAE classes. Each class is .5 Carnegie Unit.
- Students should develop and complete an individual graduation program or Career Pathway. The Career Pathways include Academic, Fine Arts, World Language, and CTAE.
- The University System of Georgia strongly recommends those students who are planning to attend a post-secondary college should take a 4th year of math above Advanced Algebra and 2 years of the same Foreign Language, no matter your graduation year.

- **AREAS OF STUDY**

A course shall count only once for satisfying any unit of credit requirement for graduation. See the following chart:

Areas of Study	Unit Required
a. English/Language Arts* (must include Comp I, Comp II, and American Literature)	4
b. Mathematics*	4
c. Science* The 4th Science unit may be used to meet both the science and elective requirements (must include Biology, Physical Science or Physics, Chemistry or Environmental Science)	4
d. Social Studies* (must include American Government, World History, US History and Economics)	3
e. CTAE and/or Modern Language/Latin and/or Fine Arts (any combination)	3
f. Health and Physical Education**	1
g. Electives	5

State Required Units 24

\*Required courses and/or Core Courses

\*\*Three (3) units of credit in JROTC may be used to satisfy this requirement (requires signed letter).

*The 4th science unit may be selected from academic science courses or from approved CTAE courses. This course will earn one Carnegie unit of science credit; however, this same 4th science course could also be used to meet the requirement of a career pathway course.*

*Must have 17 units to be promoted to 12<sup>th</sup> grade*

*Must have 11 units to be promoted to 11<sup>th</sup> grade*

*Must have 5 units to be promoted to 10<sup>th</sup> grade*

Student's Name

Graduation Requirements Checklist

<i>Class of 20 24 units required for graduation</i>			
<b>ENGLISH-4 UNITS (Lit I, Lit II and American Lit req.)</b>			
Lit IA _____	Lit II _____	11A _____	12A _____
Lit I _____	Lit II _____	11B _____	12B _____
<b>MATH-4 UNITS</b>			
Alg/AC Alg _____	Geom/AC Geom _____	Alg. II/Pre Cal _____	
A _____	A _____	A _____	A _____
B _____	B _____	B _____	B _____
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES-3 UNITS</b>			
World History		U.S. History	
Am. Govt. _____	A _____	A _____	
Economics _____	B _____	B _____	
<b>SCIENCE-4 UNITS</b>			
Biology _____	Phys. Sci./Physics _____	Chemistry/ Environmental _____	
A _____	A _____	A _____	A _____
B _____	B _____	B _____	B _____
<b>For. Lang./Fine Arts/CTAE (3 Units total)</b>		<b>PE/HEALTH-1 UNIT</b>	
1A _____	2A _____	3A _____	Personal Fitness _____
1B _____	2B _____	3B _____	Health _____
Or 3 units of ROTC			
<b>ELECTIVE-5 UNITS</b>			
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_ Total units as of \_\_\_\_      Total units as of \_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_ Total units as of \_\_\_\_      Total units as of \_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_ Total units as of \_\_\_\_      Total units as of \_\_\_\_

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade 1<sup>st</sup> Semester**

English \_\_\_\_\_  
 Math \_\_\_\_\_  
 SS \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sci \_\_\_\_\_  
 For Lang \_\_\_\_\_  
 Elec \_\_\_\_\_  
 Elec \_\_\_\_\_

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester**

English \_\_\_\_\_  
 Math \_\_\_\_\_  
 SS \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sci \_\_\_\_\_  
 For Lang \_\_\_\_\_  
 Elec \_\_\_\_\_  
 Elec \_\_\_\_\_

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade 1<sup>st</sup> Semester**

English \_\_\_\_\_  
 Math \_\_\_\_\_  
 SS \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sci \_\_\_\_\_  
 For Lang \_\_\_\_\_  
 Elec \_\_\_\_\_  
 Elec \_\_\_\_\_

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester**

English \_\_\_\_\_  
 Math \_\_\_\_\_  
 SS \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sci \_\_\_\_\_  
 For Lang \_\_\_\_\_  
 Elec \_\_\_\_\_  
 Elec \_\_\_\_\_

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade 1<sup>st</sup> Semester**

English \_\_\_\_\_  
 Math \_\_\_\_\_  
 SS \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sci \_\_\_\_\_  
 Elec \_\_\_\_\_  
 Elec \_\_\_\_\_  
 Elec \_\_\_\_\_

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester**

English \_\_\_\_\_  
 Math \_\_\_\_\_  
 SS \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sci \_\_\_\_\_  
 Elec \_\_\_\_\_  
 Elec \_\_\_\_\_  
 Elec \_\_\_\_\_

Post-Secondary Plans \_\_\_\_\_

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# **MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION**

## **DUAL ENROLLMENT**

Earning college credit while in high school is an option for students in the Houston County School System through Dual Enrollment. Eligible high school students may enroll full-time or part-time in college-level approved courses through Dual Enrollment. Dual Enrollment provides opportunities for Georgia high school students to take college-level approved courses, which earn both high school and college credit simultaneously. The Houston County Board of Education will set a registration deadline that is different from the postsecondary institutions. Deadlines will not be waived due to college entrance exams score reports.

## **FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

Financial Aid information (grants, scholarships & loans) can be located in the counseling office, VHS Website and at [www.gafutures.org](http://www.gafutures.org). Students and parents are responsible for contacting the counseling department and viewing the websites to obtain information.

## **HOPE SCHOLARSHIP AND HOPE GRANT**

- **HOPE Scholarship**

A merit-based award available to Georgia residents who have demonstrated academic achievement. A HOPE Scholarship recipient must graduate from high school with a minimum 3.00 grade point average (as calculated by GSFC) and maintain a minimum 3.00 cumulative postsecondary grade point average to remain eligible. The scholarship provides tuition assistance to students pursuing an undergraduate degree at a HOPE Scholarship eligible college or university in Georgia. A ten-year limit exists for students first receiving the HOPE Scholarship during summer term 2019 (FY20) or later. A student is ineligible to receive HOPE Scholarship funds once the student has reached the 127 semester or 190 quarter hour limit.

- **Hope Grant**

HOPE Grant is available to Georgia residents who are pursuing a certificate or diploma. A HOPE Grant recipient must maintain a minimum 2.00 cumulative postsecondary grade point average to remain eligible. The grant provides tuition assistance to students enrolled at a HOPE Grant eligible college or university in Georgia. A student is ineligible to receive HOPE Grant funds once the student has reached the 63 semester or 95 quarter hour limit.

- **Zell Miller Scholarship**

A merit-based award available to Georgia residents, similar to the HOPE Scholarship, but with more stringent academic requirements. A Zell Miller Scholarship recipient must graduate from high school with a minimum 3.70 grade point average (as calculated by GSFC), combined with a minimum SAT score of 1200 on the math and reading portions or a minimum composite ACT score of 26 in a single national test administration, and maintain a minimum 3.30 cumulative post-secondary grade point average to remain eligible. Eligible students are provided a higher level of tuition assistance while pursuing an undergraduate degree at a Zell Miller Scholarship eligible college or university in Georgia. A ten-year limit exists for students first receiving the Zell Miller Scholarship during summer term 2019 (FY20) or later. A student is ineligible to receive Zell Miller Scholarship funds once the student has reached the 127 semester or 190 quarter hour limit.

- **Zell Miller Grant**

A merit-based program available to Georgia residents pursuing a certificate or diploma. A Zell Miller Grant recipient must maintain a minimum 3.50 cumulative postsecondary grade point average to remain eligible. Eligible students are provided full standard tuition assistance while enrolled at a Zell Miller Grant eligible college or university in Georgia. A student is ineligible to receive Zell Miller Grant funds once the student has reached the 63 semester or 95 quarter hour limit.

## **INFINITE CAMPUS**

Infinite Campus allows parents to access the grades and attendance of their children daily through the internet. You can access this resource by going to the district's main web page, [www.hcbe.net](http://www.hcbe.net), and then "Parents". You can also contact Mrs. Ginger Towe, the VHS ATS Clerk, at 218-7537 ext. 3639 or [ginger.towe@hcbe.net](mailto:ginger.towe@hcbe.net) for additional assistance.

## **PARENT CONTACT**

Be sure to update your settings to receive phone calls and emails from the school. This is the best way to ensure that you are receiving all important information from the school.

## **END OF COURSE (EOC) TESTS**

All students are required to take End of Course tests in the following areas: Algebra I, Biology, English Composition II, and US History.

## **HONOR GRADUATES, VALEDICTORIAN, AND SALUTATORIAN**

The cumulative GPA is used to determine honor graduates, salutatorian, and valedictorian. A student must have a cumulative GPA of at least 90 in order to be an honor graduate; more information can be found in the student handbook. Determination of honor graduates, salutatorian, and valedictorian is made at the end of the first semester of the senior year.

## **GRADUATION SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Honors</li><li>• Advanced Placement (AP)</li><li>• AFJROTC</li><li>• American Red Cross Honor</li><li>• Beta Club</li><li>• Beta Club Officers</li><li>• CTAE End of Pathway Assessment</li><li>• DECA</li><li>• FIRST Robotics</li><li>• Future Business Leaders of America</li><li>• Future Farmers of America</li><li>• Family, Career and Community Leaders of America</li><li>• Fine Arts SEAL</li><li>• Georgia Scholar</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism</li><li>• Georgia Governor's Honors Participant</li><li>• Golden Eagle Nominees</li><li>• HOSA, Future Health Professionals</li><li>• International Thespian Society</li><li>• National Art Honor Society</li><li>• National English Honor Society</li><li>• National French Honor Society</li><li>• National Latin Honor Society</li><li>• National Spanish Honor Society</li><li>• National Technical Honor Society</li><li>• Rho Kappa</li><li>• SkillsUSA</li></ul>
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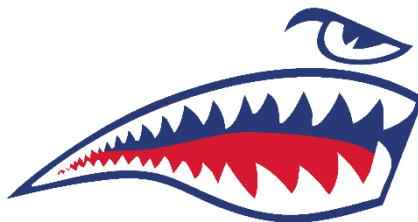
## **VHS ATHLETICS**

All student-athletes are required by the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) to have a physical examination on file in order to try-out for any sport. The form to be used for the physical can be obtained from the school or online at the school website or [ghsa.net](http://ghsa.net). Student-athletes are also required to maintain academic requirements in order to compete in GHSA sanctioned events. Please visit the school website and select the Athletics tab to review the Athletic Handbook for expectations and procedures for VHS sports programming.

## **PLAYING SPORTS IN COLLEGE**

- In order to be eligible to play college sports as a freshman, students must meet certain course requirements and meet certain standards in GPA and SAT or ACT scores. The student and parents are responsible for certain students take the proper courses to meet NCAA standards. The standards are in the counseling office.
- Students must complete the NCAA eligibility form online at the end of their junior year. It is the students' responsibility to be certain this form is completed online, and transcript is mailed. Registration form and more information can be found at [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org).

## **OUR ATHLETIC LOGOS**



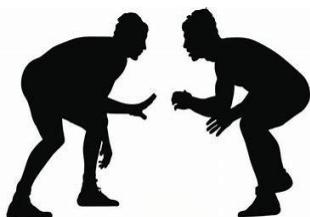
**GET INVOLVED**  
**MEET PEOPLE, MAKE FRIENDS, MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



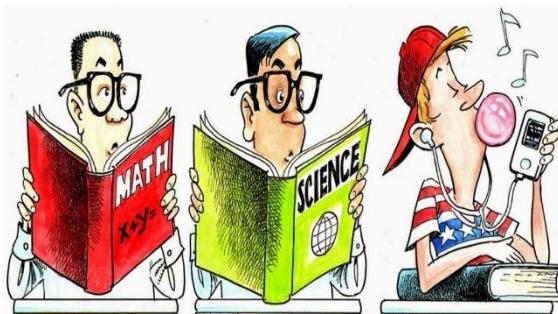
National Technical Honor Society



Georgia FIRST Robotics



## DEVELOP GOOD STUDY HABITS EARLY



The difference between students that get straight A's and students that struggle is usually the amount of effort they put into studying combined with the way that they study. Effective studying is NOT about cramming. You must study SMARTER!

Look at the study habits below to help you throughout this journey called HIGH SCHOOL!

### 9 Ways to Study Like A Successful Student

**Don't cram!**  
Cramming before an exam is not conducive in the long run. You are more likely to have a memory dump and be back to square one for finals week.

**Focus on one subject at a time...but not for long periods of time.**  
If you feel mentally stuck, move on to a new subject.

**Give yourself a break!**  
One professor suggests: "An hour a day, then go out and play." So spend an hour a day on each course, then stop for the day.

**Turn off your phone!**  
Or at least put it on silent. You can also set a special ringtone for emergency calls from your family.

**Whenever possible, try to get 8 hours of sleep a night.**  
Better sleep habits usually lead to a higher GPA.

**Be an active learner!**  
Show up to class. Do your homework. Participate. Ask questions. Take notes. Pay attention!

**Read Your Textbooks!**  
And read them like a student...

**How so?**

- 1)Find the study questions at the end of the chapter.
- 2)Have a conversation with the text.
- 3)Write notes alongside important facts or ideas.

**Use Methods that work for you!**  
Flash cards, self-quizzing, teaching others, rhymes, images, etc.

There are so many learning styles that trying only one might not work.

College Success for Moms

# SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media comes with great responsibility. If you use it, be smart and be kind. Irresponsible behavior on social media can cause harm to you, your family, and others.



## REMEMBER:

- Don't post anything that you would not want your parents, grandparents, mentors or other trusted adults to see or hear.
- Don't share inappropriate pictures of yourself or others your age. It's destructive and **illegal**.
- Don't be cruel and hurtful online.
- *"What You Post Will Not Ghost."* Once it's out there, it doesn't go away!
- Social media is not the "Real World."



# Post-Secondary Options

## Two-year College:

Community colleges provide affordable, career-oriented programs that enable students to begin their career after two years of college. Business, law enforcement, and engineering technology are just a few careers student can prepare for by attending a two-year college. Students can also start here and transfer to a four-year university.



## Career or Technical School:

Career & Technical schools offer short-term training programs in career fields such as auto body technology, cosmetology, and dental assisting. While some programs last only a few weeks, others take up to two years to finish. These schools are privately owned, and they can be expensive. Students need to apply for financial aid and make sure the school is accredited.

## Military:

The military trains young men and women so they can serve and protect our country. The military offers qualified individuals free job training and provides discipline and structure, as well as opportunities for career advancement and travel. In addition to the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force, there are opportunities in the Reserves and National Guard. For more information visit [www.todaysmilitary.com](http://www.todaysmilitary.com).



## Four-year College/University:

A four-year college education, or bachelor's degree, can open doors and provide a wide range of career options. While four colleges vary in size, costs, requirements, and in the majors, they offer, all four-year colleges want students who are prepared for college-level work and responsibility. Students who plan to attend a four-year college need to take rigorous courses while in high school and work hard to get good grades.

## **Advice for parents of high schoolers from parents of seniors:**

1. **Be the sleep police.** Most teens are running on empty when it comes to sleep; but we all know they need sufficient shuteye to think straight, make solid decisions, keep cool under pressure, and to enjoy the moments. Keep electronics out of kids' bedrooms after 9 p.m., for example, and require devices to be charged in the common area.
2. **Don't discount their stress.** In today's world, high schoolers are under more stress than ever - getting good grades, excelling at sports and activities, preparing for SAT's, part-time jobs, trying to have a social life and meeting your expectations. Seek to understand what's going on below the surface and don't take everything personally. 99.5% of the time it's not about you! Be the sounding board and safe haven for the stress of high school life.
3. **Listen more than you lecture.** Like any of us, kids just want to be heard. They want to know that we "get them," and that we're listening. There are times when you'll have to sit down and have the difficult conversations – but MOST of the time, they just need you to be that place to land, the ear to bend, and the rudder that keeps them on the right course.
4. **Don't sweat all the small stuff.** Bed's not made? Room's a mess? Towel lying on the bathroom floor, AGAIN? Yeah, I know. It can be irritating, because if you've told them once you've told them a hundred times, right? So, tell them again if you must but please, please don't sweat the little stuff. Pretty soon they'll be out on their own and you'll miss them. Wet towels, rumpled bed sheets and all.
5. **Go to every event.** Every single one that you can. They want and need your support. Even though they may not say it, they love to see the wonder and pride you feel as you watch your teen flourish and create their own accomplishments. Be there for those moments. Celebrate who they are. Let them know you are their biggest fan, even when you can't be there!
6. **Spend one-on-one time with them as often as you can.** Even though they are teens and are biologically wired to "individualize" – your kids still crave emotional connection with you. Spend one-on-one time with them on a daily basis if possible. Be fully present – no distractions and do whatever they want to do - maybe shooting hoops, watching funny YouTube videos, taking a bike ride or yes, even playing video games. You'll both love the connection time and it will work wonders in making your teen more cooperative at other times.
7. **Push them out of their comfort zones.** High school is unique. It's the time for kids to figure out who they are and explore their passions. Give your kids the encouraging nudge to try something new – whether it's in the arts, sports, volunteering - anything that sparks their interest. You never know what will happen when they try something new.
8. **Create a "Decision-Rich Environment."** High school is the time to learn how to make decisions and do for themselves. The more practice they have making little decisions, the better they'll do making decisions when the stakes are much higher. Some decisions are still up to you, the parent, but let them take the leads on their lives as much as possible.
9. **It will work out.** Whatever it is. Breathe. Here's the thing – nothing lasts, not the good or the bad - so don't wrap every emotion and anxiety up in the problems. And please, don't try to control it all – because you can't. Your kids will make their own way. There will be missteps and consequences and lessons learned. They'll find the right path. They'll be just fine.

# Veterans High School

Established 2010

## ***Mission:***

*To develop graduates of character in an environment of excellence.*

## ***Vision:***

*To be the standard for all facets of student achievement, producing successful, active citizens.*

## ***Core Values:***

- *We believe we are cultivating tomorrow's leaders.*
- *We believe we are developing character to empower to define and create success.*
- *We believe we are enabling students through academics and extracurriculars to graduate.*

## ***Alma Mater:***

*From the pride of our great nation,*

*Reared against the sky,*

*Proudly stands our Alma Mater*

*As the years go by.*

*Moving forward toward our future,*

*We shall never fail!*

*Hail, to thee, our Alma Mater,*

*Veterans High School, hail!*