

# **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 & Twitter:  
[https://www.facebook.com/VHSWarhawks/@Veterans\\_High](https://www.facebook.com/VHSWarhawks/@Veterans_High)
- ✓ Check our website: <https://vhs.hcbe.net/>
- ✓ Attend conferences, activities, and events @ VHS

### **Administrative Personnel**

Dr. Amy Barbour, Principal  
Dr. Mark Antley, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director  
Ashley Brock, Assistant Principal for Instruction  
Shawn Masters, Assistant Principal  
Dana Morris, Assistant Principal/CTAE Supervisor  
Chad Simmons, Assistant Principal  
Josh Ingram, Chief of Athletics

Kadie Griger, Guidance Counselor  
Daphne McMahon, Guidance Counselor  
Lisa Stewart, Guidance Counselor  
Pamela White, Guidance Counselor

Stephanie Taylor, School Secretary  
Connie Connell, Bookkeeper  
Kim Martin, Receptionist  
Lenora Spensley, Counseling Clerk  
Ginger Towe, Administrative Technology Specialist  
Latricia Pope, Attendance Clerk

# Letters to New Warhawks from Seniors

Welcome to the V! As a recent graduate of VHS, I know high school can be overwhelming and scary. Being successful at Veterans High School starts with you. Everyone at the school wants the best for you and your future, but you must want it, too. Be proactive and not reactive. You can be proactive by making sure you are prepared for class. This not only includes having the necessary supplies such as paper, pens, and homework, but also includes being mentally prepared. You need to come into class with the right mindset and ready to learn. Another way to be proactive is to ask for help when you need it. We all have different struggles, and your teachers are here to help you. Do not be afraid to ask questions during class when you are confused and take advantage of tutoring opportunities. Teachers have tutoring before or after school, and these sessions are extremely beneficial. Sometimes just getting to talk through questions with your teacher in a smaller group setting is all you need to fully understand what you are learning. Everyone at Veterans wants you to succeed; you just have to try your best and ask for help, and the rest will fall into place.

A second way to be successful at VHS is by being involved. Veterans offers a wide variety of clubs, sports, and events for students. There is something for everyone. This helps you meet other people who enjoy the same things as you. By picking a few things to be involved with not only will you get closer to other students in the organization, but you will also grow a bond with the sponsor and the school as a whole. Sponsors give you someone close by to talk to and help guide you through your high school journey. When you become involved, it also gives you more pride in the school. You become a part of the school.

I wish you all the best for your years at VHS!

Katie Brunelle, Class of 2022

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Welcome to “The V”!! You’ve probably got a lot of emotions and even more questions going through your mind as you come to a new school. I know this because four years ago, as an incoming freshman, I was in your position: a new student at Veterans High School. It all seems scary right now, but you’re going to be fine. You will learn your way around, you will make new friends, and you will grow and change in ways that will surprise you. Here are a few suggestions that may help make these early days a little easier and the next four years a lot more fun.

-Ask somebody! At the V, everyone is willing to help. So, if you don’t know the best way to get from Math to Science, just ask!

-Develop good study habits, this will help you manage all the classes you’re taking now and help prepare you for whatever is next in your life. Take advantage of all the opportunities outside of class to learn more or get help. At the V, the teachers really want to see you succeed.

But the BEST advice I have is this: Get involved! I mean, really get involved! You HAVE to be here, but you GET to decide whether you enjoy it or not! Join a club, play a sport, speak to a new person and see where it leads; you could meet your best friend. Plugging myself into different things was the best decision I made coming into high school. Some of the choices showed me what I liked and others taught me what I didn’t like, but all of them helped shape my time here. Participation makes the time at VHS so much more worthwhile. You may have to spend more time at the school, but after four years you’ll look back at those times and be so glad you did those things. You will hear this a lot, but by engaging, you learn it’s really true: “You are valued at the V!”

James Davis, Class of 2022

## **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 9 <sup>th</sup> Literature and American Literature)	4
b. Mathematics*	4
c. Science* The 4th Science unit may be used to meet both the science and elective requirement (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
<b>State Required Units</b>	<b>24</b>

\*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 a requirement of a career pathway course.*

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Graduation Requirements Checklist

<i>Class of 20____</i> <i>24 units required for graduation</i>				
<b>ENGLISH-4 UNITS (9<sup>th</sup> Lit and American Lit req.)</b>				
9A ____	10A ____	11A ____	12A ____	
9B ____	10B ____	11B ____	12B ____	
<b>MATH-4 UNITS</b>				
Alg/H. Alg	Geom/H. Geom	Adv. Alg/Pre Cal	_____	
A ____	A ____	A ____	A ____	
B ____	B ____	B ____	B ____	
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES-3 UNITS</b>				
Am. Govt. ____	World History A ____	U.S. History 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 (3Units 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*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*

## **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. 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 postsecondary 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 center by going to the county'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.

### **END OF COURSE TEST (EOCs) & TEST-OUT:**

- All students are required to take End of Course tests in the following areas: American Literature & Composition, Algebra I/Coordinate Algebra, Biology, and US History.
- Students may be eligible to "test-out" of any course for which there is an associated EOC and earn credit for the course if a performance level of Distinguished Learner is achieved. Students cannot be currently or have been previously enrolled in the course and there are only certain times of the year they can attempt to test out. They must have earned a grade of B or better in the most recent course that is the same content area of the course in which they are attempting to test out.
- Students will need teacher and parent recommendations. The fee to test is \$50.00, which will be refunded if your child scores a performance level of "Distinguished Learner" on the test. For more information, contact our school's test coordinator.

### **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 being 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).
- \*Although Credit Recovery courses may meet Georgia graduation requirements, the NCAA will no longer accept the GADOE's Credit Recovery Program course credits for student athletes.

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

The cumulative GPA is used to determine honor graduates, salutatorian, and valedictorian. To be an honor graduate, a student must have a cumulative GPA of at least 90, which is not rounded up. 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 Graduates</li><li>• Advanced Placement (AP)</li><li>• AFJROTC</li><li>• American Red Cross Honor</li><li>• Beta Club</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>• Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism</li><li>• Georgia Governor's Honors Participant</li><li>• Golden Eagle Nominees</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HOSA, Future Health Professionals</li><li>• International Thespian Society</li><li>• Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor 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><li>• Student Leadership – Perry Chamber and Robins Regional programs</li><li>• Technical Certificate of Credit</li></ul>
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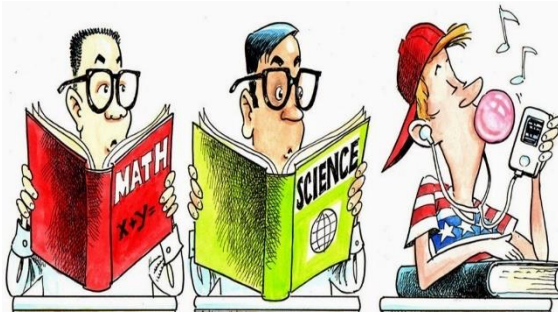
## **VHS ATHLETICS**

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; school physicals and requisite paperwork for participation are housed through Dragonfly. Information for setting up a Dragonfly account can be found on-line at the school website. 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.

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



## 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.

Cell phones are incredibly distracting, and the best way to procrastinate is to find distractions.

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!

Find a dedicated study group - people that aren't meeting to socialize but rather to help each other and hold each other accountable to get work done.

#### 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 college prep courses while 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 shut-eye 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 bedsheets 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 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!*