

# Veterans High School

## 2023-2024

### Student Handbook



340 Piney Grove Road  
Kathleen, GA 31047  
478-218-7537    [www.vhs.hcbe.net](http://www.vhs.hcbe.net)

*Dr. Amy Barbour, Principal*  
*Dr. Walter Stephens, District Title IX Coordinator*  
*Mrs. Daphne McMahon, 504 Coordinator*

# Veterans High School

## 2023-2024 Student Expectations

Welcome all new and returning Warhawks! We are excited to begin another great year at Veterans and will do everything possible to maximize learning and to create a positive high school experience for students. This handbook is a resource intended for use and reference throughout the school year by students and parents. We hope it will answer your questions regarding policies, procedures, and many instructional issues. If there are any questions, do not hesitate to ask any member of our staff for clarification.

Take advantage of all Veterans has to offer to best support student growth and development from the classroom to extracurricular activities. We work daily to make *“excellence the standard, not the goal”*, and are thankful to have students and parents who partner in that endeavor. Thank you for being part of our family @ the V!

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

Main Office: 478.218.7537  
Counseling Office: 478.218.7566  
Fax: 478.218.7570  
Counseling Fax: 478.218.7571

340 Piney Grove Road  
Kathleen, GA 31047

*Veterans High School student expectations comply with Houston County School System policies. Adherence to expectations and regulations set forth in this handbook are expectations of the entire student body.*

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# 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!*

# Veterans High School Faculty and Staff

## 2023-2024

### 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, CTAE Supervisor/Assistant Principal

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

Jessie Gardner, Media Specialist

Heather Sans, Media Clerk

Stephanie Taylor, School Secretary

Connie Connell, Bookkeeper

Kim Martin, Receptionist

Lenora Spensley, Counseling Clerk

Ginger Towe, Administrative Technology Secretary

Latricia Pope, Attendance Clerk

Marchien Ballard, Athletics Administrative Clerk

Christina Mark, Medical Technician

### Support Personnel

#### Custodial Staff

Steve Greene, Lead Custodian

#### Cafeteria Staff

Andrea McCollum, Manager

# Instructional Staff

## English

Ike Thompson, Department Chair  
Jack Bates  
Colton Jones  
Megan Jones, Gifted Lead Teacher  
Katelyn Middleton  
David Ondike  
Salina Patterson  
Matt Roth  
Johnathan Simmons  
Laura Stimus  
Lonna Wheeler  
Melissa Young

## Social Studies

Blake Yarbrough, Department Chair  
Clint Abbott  
Matthew Boone  
Dana Burress  
Brandon Cain  
Chris Chavous  
Angela Copa  
Renee Douglas  
Chip Flemmer  
Matthew Fortson  
Dan Jackson  
Andrew Moore

## Mathematics

Taylor Butler, Department Chair  
Jaeda Boyd  
Diona Johnson  
Li Ma  
Christina Maloney  
Heather Martin  
Lesley Murkerson  
Jeff Sans  
Jennifer Scannell  
Cynthia Scheuermann  
Katrina Sloan  
Chantal Taylor  
Shawn White

## Science

Kristina Cannon, Department Chair  
Julie Andrews  
Jennifer Bolton  
Meagan Borders  
Stacy Brunelle  
Mitch Horton  
Lindsay Lambert  
Megan Netherland  
Ayesha Okaiwele  
Ryan Parson  
Naketa Philius  
James Watson

## Fine Arts

Jeremy Williams, Choir Director/Department Chair  
Kaitlyn Griffin, Assistant Band Director  
Sarah Harlow, Art  
Amanda Moore, Drama Director  
Grayson Mullis, Band Director

## World Languages

Roberto Vivas, Department Chair  
Stephania Charles  
Phillip Hoskins  
Emma Mullis  
Sylvia Wilhite

## Career/Technology/Agricultural Education

Belinda Collier, Department Chair  
SMSgt. Steven Brooks (ret.)  
Angeles Jeffreys  
Tammie Love  
SMSgt. Garrett Martin (ret.)  
Jill Massee  
Col. Christopher Nick (ret.)  
Tobias Stripling  
Julie Vinup  
Clay Walker  
Emily Wiegert  
Jeff Wilson

## Physical Education

Jason Respert, Department Chair  
Demario Barber  
Josh Ingram  
Tyler Kinsler  
James Mahan  
Jill Nash  
Randall Owens  
Joseph Strohmeier  
Sam Zanders

## Special Education

Leah Jones, Department Chair  
Jessica Miranda, Department Chair  
Sydney Brown  
Tahjea Chambers  
Christopher Cowart  
Katherine Dollar  
Brandon Driggers  
Sherry Freyer  
Chris Kothe  
Eric Mack  
Ciara Marquis  
Khayla Owens  
Katie Satterfield  
Mark Stein

# Veterans High School 2023-2024 Bell Schedules

## Regular Bell Schedule

8:00-8:50	1st period
8:55-9:45	2nd period
9:50-10:40	3rd period
10:45-11:35	4th period
11:40-1:10	5th period & Lunch
1:15-2:05	6th period
2:10-3:00	7th period

A	1st lunch 11:40-12:10	5th period 12:15-1:10		12:15 Tardy Bell
B	5th period 11:40-12:10	2nd lunch 12:10-12:40	5th period 12:45-1:10	12:10 Release Bell 12:45 Tardy Bell
C	5th period 11:40-12:40	3rd lunch 12:40-1:10		12:40 Release Bell

## SOAR Time Bell Schedule (Tuesday)

8:00-8:40	1st period
8:45-9:25	2nd period
9:30-10:25	SOAR Time
10:30-11:10	3rd period
11:15-11:55	4th period
12:00-1:30	5th period & Lunch
1:35-2:15	6th period
2:20-3:00	7th period

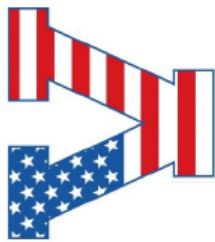
A	1st lunch 12:00-12:30	5th period 12:35-1:30		12:35 – Tardy Bell
B	5th period 12:00-12:30	2nd lunch 12:30-1:00	5th period 1:05 -1:30	12:30 Release Bell 1:05 Tardy Bell
C	5th period 12:00-1:00	3rd lunch 1:00-1:30		1:00 Release Bell

## PM Activity Schedule

8:00-8:45	1st period
8:50-9:35	2nd period
9:40-10:20	3rd period
10:25-11:10	4th period
11:15-12:45	5th period & Lunch
12:50-1:35	6th period
1:40-2:25	7th period
2:30-3:00	Activity period

A	1st lunch 11:15-11:45	5th period 11:50-12:45		11:50 Tardy Bell
B	5th period 11:15-11:45	2nd lunch 11:45-12:15	5th period 12:20 - 12:45	11:45 Release Bell 12:20 Tardy Bell
C	5th period 11:15-12:15	3rd lunch 12:15-12:45		12:15 Release Bell

VHS POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION AND SUPPORTS MATRIX



# Valued at the V

	Hallway	Cafeteria	Restroom	Classroom
Value our School	Keep it clean.	Place ALL trash in garbage cans.	Keep the restroom clean.	Respect school property.
Accept Responsibility	Be on time to class.	Keep your area clean.	Use the restroom between classes.	Always be prepared.
Lead by Example	Communicate without profanity.	Wait in line.	Report any misuse.	Be in charge of your own learning.
Understand Diversity	Use kind words.	Include others and use kind words.	Respect others privacy.	Treat others like you want to be treated.
Embrace Excellence	...in academics and character in a safe environment!			



# HCBE CALENDAR



# 2023-2024

July 26 – August 1, 2023	Pre-Planning/Site Collaboration (Opening Session July 26)	<b>July</b> S M T W TH F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>August</b> S M T W TH F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>September</b> S M T W TH F S 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
August 2, 2023	First Day of School	<b>October</b> S M T W TH F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>November</b> S M T W TH F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>December</b> S M T W TH F S 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
September 4, 2023	Labor Day Holiday	<b>January</b> S M T W TH F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>February</b> S M T W TH F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	<b>March</b> S M T W TH F S 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
September 5, 2023	Distance Learning Day/Site Collaboration	<b>April</b> S M T W TH F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>May</b> S M T W TH F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>June</b> S M T W TH F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
October 6, 2023	Student Holiday/Site Collaboration	<b>Pre-Planning/Site Collaboration</b>		
October 9, 2023	Columbus Day Holiday	<b>Student Holiday/Site Collaboration</b>		
October 10 – 13, 2023	Fall Holiday, Students & Teachers	<b>Distance Learning Day/Site Collaboration</b>		
November 10, 2023	Veterans Day Holiday	<b>Student Holiday/Site Collaboration</b>		
November 20 – 24, 2023	Thanksgiving Holiday	<b>Distance Learning Day/Site Collaboration</b>		
December 20, 2023	Last Day of Semester – ½ for Students, Full day for Teachers	<b>Student Holiday/Site Collaboration</b>		
December 21 – January 2	Christmas & New Year's Holiday	<b>Distance Learning Day/Site Collaboration</b>		
January 3, 2024	Student Holiday/Site Collaboration	<b>Student Holiday/Site Collaboration</b>		
January 4, 2024	Second Semester Begins	<b>Distance Learning Day/Site Collaboration</b>		
January 15, 2024	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	<b>Student Holiday/Site Collaboration</b>		
February 19, 2024	Presidents' Day Holiday	<b>Distance Learning Day/Site Collaboration</b>		
February 20, 2024	Distance Learning Day/Site Collaboration	<b>Student Holiday/Site Collaboration</b>		
March 29, 2024	Student Holiday/Site Collaboration	<b>Spring Break</b>		
April 1-5, 2024	Spring Break	<b>Last Day of Semester – ½ for Students, Full day for Teachers</b>		
May 22, 2024	Last Day of Semester – ½ for Students, Full day for Teachers	<b>Post-Planning/Site Collaboration</b>		
May 23 – 24, 2024	Post-Planning/Site Collaboration	<b>High School Graduation</b>		
May 24 – 25, 2024	High School Graduation	<b>Memorial Day Holiday</b>		
May 27, 2024	Memorial Day Holiday			

**First & Last Day of Semesters**  
**Holidays/System Shutdown**  
**Pre/Post-Planning & Collaboration**  
**Distance Learning/Site Collaboration**

Approved June 14, 2022 by the Board of Education

# Frequently Asked Questions

## *What do I do if I . . .*

### **1. HAVE BEEN ABSENT?**

If you have been absent, you must bring a written excuse from your parent stating the reason for your absence. It is the student's responsibility to turn in documentation before the beginning of the school day. This written excuse is to be turned in to the attendance office, and the original notes will be kept on file. These will be needed in the event of an absence related discrepancy. This written note must be brought to school within 3 days after the absence and must contain the following information:

*Name of Student*  
*Date of Note*  
*Date of Absence*  
*Reason for Absence*  
*Parent Signature*  
*Phone Number of Parent*

The State Board of Education policy allows only the following circumstances as excused absences:

1. Personal illness
2. Death or serious illness in the immediately family
3. Recognized religious holidays
4. Absences mandated by a governmental agency
5. Conditions which render school attendance impossible or hazardous to the student's safety and health
6. Students who serve as a page in the General Assembly

All other reasons will be classified unexcused. When 5 unexcused absences have accrued, the student is considered truant.

Veterans High School shall enforce the Georgia Compulsory Attendance Law, Mandatory Attendance, which requires that all students between the ages of 6 and 15 attend school. All students missing more than 5 unexcused days in Georgia are declared as truant by law.

Veterans High School students are affected by and fall under the provisions of our attendance protocol which is stated as follows:

Level I: Three (3) unexcused absences. A letter will be mailed home by the Attendance Office.

Level II: Five (5) unexcused absences. School staff will notify parents of the truancy and request a conference with the parents to sign an Attendance Contract.

Level III: Eight (8) unexcused absences. School staff notifies Social Services Department; Social Services provides data to the court for judicial proceedings to begin, or warning for students 15 or younger.

### **Military Family Deployment - Absences for Special Consideration**

Veterans High School is supportive of our military families, especially during the difficult time of deployment. In an effort to ease the burden of our students who have parents deploying, Houston County Schools will allow up to a total of 10 days of administratively excused (AE) absences each academic year to allow families time during the deployment cycle. Absences may be planned to best fit your individual family needs. Excused absences will be allowed for the following situations:

- Pre-deployment, the day before deployment - one day;
- Day of departure - one day;
- Reunion, post-deployment - one day;
- R&R break-up to three days; or
- Travel to visit an injured parent - up to five days.

Forms may be picked up in the Attendance Office.

## 2. NEED TO LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY?

A written parent request must be made before permission will be given for a student to leave campus early for any reason. The written request must be taken to the attendance window prior to the beginning of the school day. All notes requesting an early dismissal must contain the full name of the student and a telephone number where a parent may be reached for confirmation. At the time of the dismissal, the student must sign out in the attendance office.

Appointments should be arranged for after school hours when possible. Remember that each teacher keeps individual attendance. Students must provide verification from their doctor or dentist in order for school time missed to be counted as excused. It is the student's responsibility to prove all absences were documented excused. Notes written after the third day grace period will not be accepted.

Students who arrive or leave school outside of the regular school times must enter/leave school through the attendance office and the main entrance.

## 3. AM TARDY TO SCHOOL/CLASS?

Tardy to school will be defined as arriving to school at 8:00 AM or later. If a student is late for first period, he or she will report to the attendance office to check in and receive an admit slip to first period.

- Attendance for 1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> periods will be taken by each teacher.
- Tardies to 2<sup>nd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> periods will be recorded by each teacher. No students will be sent to the office to have tardies recorded during the school day.
- All tardies will be cumulative each semester.
- Discipline will be as follows for accumulated tardies:
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> tardy: warning conference/tardy notice
  - 6<sup>th</sup> tardy: alternative discipline
  - 9<sup>th</sup> tardy: automatic .5 day of ISS
  - 12<sup>th</sup> tardy: automatic 2 days of ISS
  - 15<sup>th</sup> tardy: automatic 5 days of ISS/behavior contract

Subsequent tardy discipline is at the discretion of the administration, and discipline will be assigned progressively.

## 4. NEED TO USE THE PHONE?

Office telephones are to be used only with the permission of office personnel. Students using the office phone must sign the phone log. Students will not be allowed to use school phones unless they are conducting school business. Sick students should be sent to the Med Tech/Clinic with a pass. In case of emergency, a student must have a pass from a teacher to use the phone in the attendance office. **Failure to follow this standard procedure may result in disciplinary action.**

## 5. ARRIVE AT SCHOOL EARLY/NEED TO LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY?

*The school building will not be officially open to students until 7:15 AM. Any student who arrives prior to 7:40 AM should report to the cafeteria, and students will remain in the cafeteria until 7:40 AM. Students need to remember that once they arrive on the campus or board a school bus, they are considered to be officially at school.*

Students should arrive and enter the building as follows:

Bus riders: Students should exit the bus upon direction and enter through the bus ramp entrance only.

Car riders: Students should be dropped off at the front of the building and enter through the main office entrance only.

Student drivers: Students should park in their designated spots and enter through the gym parking entrance only. Student drivers should exit their vehicle and enter the building upon arrival.

Any student who needs early dismissal should do so through the attendance office. Documentation for early dismissal should be turned in at the attendance office prior to the beginning of school, and the student should sign out through the attendance office at the appropriate time. If a student needs to leave early in an unplanned fashion, the parent can call the attendance office to authorize early dismissal. All entrances/exits outside of the school day hours must go through the main entrance.

Any student who leaves campus for any reason without following the appropriate check-out procedures will be subject to disciplinary action. This rule applies even if you leave before 1st period starts.

## 6. REMAIN AFTER SCHOOL?

School ends daily at 3:00 PM. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities; however, students who are participating in activities should be in the area of activity under staff member supervision. Students may not loiter in the building or in other unsupervised areas, and students not in supervised school activities are expected to leave campus by 3:15 PM.

## 7. HAVE LOST SOMETHING?

Students who lose, misplace, or feel they have had something stolen, need to report the incident to school personnel immediately; a member of the clerical staff in the front office can assist students with incident reports. A lost and found area is also located in the front office. All misplaced textbooks that are turned in or found by faculty members will be returned to the appropriate department chair. Students are responsible for all items issued to them by the school and all personal items; the school does not assume responsibility for lost or stolen items.

## 8. HAVE AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE?

In compliance with local policy JCDAF, students are permitted to possess cell phones and other electronic devices while on school property and during school functions.

Recreational use of these devices is not permitted during the school day from student arrival on campus to school dismissal (3:00 PM). Listening devices, such as ear buds, headphones, and blue tooth devices, are also not permitted. Students who violate this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Electronic needs for instructional purposes will be met through school-issued chrome books, as assigned to all students.

***Veterans High School will not be responsible for lost or stolen personal communication or personal electronic devices.***

## **9. HAVE FORGOTTEN SCHOOL RELATED MATERIALS/PROJECTS IN MY VEHICLE?**

Students are not permitted in the parking lots during the school day for any reason. Students must have all needed materials before entering the building for the school day. Administrators and the school resource officer check the parking lots throughout the day for school safety and security.

## **10. NEED TO SEE A COUNSELOR?**

The counselor is one of the most important individuals a student can get to know in a high school. Counselors are directly responsible for student schedules, post-secondary information, personal counseling, and student records, to name a few. An appointment is needed if you need to see a counselor. This appointment can be made with the counseling office secretary. Emergency situations will be addressed at any time. Students who have a personal emergency and need to see a counselor during the class time must get a note from their current teacher. Because counselors are involved in testing, classroom guidance, registration, and other conferences/duties, emergency situations are handled on an on-call basis. Students who have conflicts with other students should see the counselors. Many times conflicts can be resolved with minimal disruption if school personnel are made aware of the problem early. The counseling student assignments are as follows:

Mrs. Stewart	A-E
Mrs. McMahon	F-L
Mrs. Griger	M-R
Mrs. Owens-White	S-Z

## **11. NEED TO SCHEDULE A CONFERENCE?**

Veterans High School wants all procedures, expectations, and decisions to be fair and consistent. In some situations, parents or students may need to conference to discuss student needs or consequences. For classroom needs, the teacher is the first point of contact. Please contact the teacher via email or phone call. If necessary, contact the counseling office to set up a teacher conference. If a conference is needed with a counselor for academic planning, dual enrollment needs, or other student supports, contact the counseling office. If a conference is needed for special education services or supports, please contact the student's case manager.

## **12. NEED FIRST AID, MEDICAL ATTENTION, OR MEDICATION?**

If a student becomes ill during the school day, he/she should report to the med tech's office/clinic and a call will be made to the parent. Parents requesting permission for their student to check out of school will go through the office staff. These dismissals will be excused or unexcused, and the same regulations will apply to graded and make-up work as far as daily absences. Any student who is injured at school should notify school personnel immediately. Students who are injured are required to fill out an accident report with the med tech.

Students who are under a doctor's care and require medication during the school day need to report this condition, with the appropriate medical documentation, to the med tech in the clinic. All prescription medication must be housed in the clinic and can only be administered by approved personnel. Students should not have any type of medication on their person. Students should never under any circumstances share or take medication from another student. Any student caught with unregistered medication, including over-the-counter medications, will face disciplinary action.

## **13. NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CLASS PROGRESS?**

It is important to stay aware of academic progress and needs throughout the school year. Report cards are issued and credit is granted every 18 weeks at the end of each semester. Progress reports are sent home every six weeks. The dates for progress reports are scheduled:

Semesters	End Date	Date Reports Issued
Progress Report, Day 30	September 13	September 15
Progress Report, Day 60	November 2	November 6
End 1st Semester, Day 88	December 20	January 10
Progress Report, Day 120	February 20	February 22
Progress Report, Day 150	April 10	April 12
End 2nd Semester, Day 180	May 22	May 24

Current grades and attendance may be monitored through Infinite Campus. Parents must register online to obtain a username and password; parents must have the student number, social security number, and date of birth to register online. Students also have Infinite Campus access accounts. For more information or to register go to <http://www.hcbe.net/parents.htm> . If you need help registering, please contact the ATS clerk in the counseling office.

Georgia Milestone Assessments, state standardized exams, are required in the following high school courses: American Literature, Biology, Geometry, and US History.

## GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

### Academic Integrity

The academic integrity of courses at VHS is of the utmost importance; as such, cheating or academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If a student cheats or plagiarizes on any assessment, the result is a zero as a placeholder until the student has had the opportunity to demonstrate learning on an alternate assignment; the teacher must make parent contact.

If the cheating or plagiarism occurs on a major assessment, the student should be referred to an administrator for review. Cheating or plagiarism on a major assessment will also result in alternative discipline or in-school suspension. The ISS assignment will be progressively graduated if it is a repeated offense.

### Advanced Placement Program

The following AP classes are offered at Veterans:

Biology	Physics 1
Calculus	Psychology
Chemistry	Statistics
Economics	Studio Art
English Language	U.S. Government
English Literature	U.S. History
Environmental Science	World History
Pre-Calculus	

Students who take Advanced Placement courses have the opportunity to take the College Board/AP exam in May to earn subsequent college credits. Students interested in taking AP courses should contact Mrs. Brock or a counselor for details.

## **Advisement Program**

All students are part of the advisement program. Parents should check their student's transcripts, monitor progress through Infinite Campus, and meet with counselors periodically to ensure student success.

Evening advisement will be held to provide parents with the opportunity for input regarding course selection and academic progress during the month of March. Evening advisement information including the designated date/time will be mailed to parents.

## **Attendance**

In the System Guidelines and Policies portion of the handbook, state and county rules regarding absences from class are defined.

In addition to these rules, VHS students should note the following:

- It is the responsibility of the student to obtain any work missed and arrange for any test makeups as a result of absences.
- Skipping constitutes an unexcused absence and will result in disciplinary action.
- Students who are failing 2 or more classes may not be allowed to attend a scheduled NI at the discretion of the principal. NIs are absences for activities such as non-instructional field trips or extracurricular activities.
- Work missed during an NI will be expected to be made up the next school day if the work missed was announced prior to the absence. Work previously announced prior to a regular single absence should also be made up the following day. In the case of extended absences, the student must make up missed work within 5 school days. This should be arranged before or after school and at the convenience of the teacher.
- Students must follow attendance procedures outlined in this handbook. Students who are absent have 3 days in which to present a note stating the reason for their absences. Responsibility for proving that an absence is excused falls directly on the student. Students who are out for 10 or more consecutive days for a medically documented illness should apply for hospital homebound services.
- Exemption status is contingent on students having 5 or fewer absences in the given semester, not including NIs. There are no exceptions granted for exceeding the five-absence requirement.

## **Beginning of the Day**

Students may be dropped off no earlier than 7:15 AM, and students should not be on campus prior to that time. The main entrance and the student parking lot gym entrance are open at 7:15 AM.

## **Bullying**

In accordance with Georgia law, bullying is defined as:

1. Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; or
2. Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or
3. Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that
  - a. Cause another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Code Section 16-5-23.1 or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Code Section 16-5-23.1;
  - b. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education;
  - c. Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
  - d. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Any bullying incident should be reported to an administrator immediately.

### **Cafeteria**

Breakfast and lunch will be served at school daily; breakfast costs \$2.00, and lunch costs \$3.00 for students. Menus can be found at [www.hcbe.net/schoolnutrition](http://www.hcbe.net/schoolnutrition).

Free and reduced meals will still be available to those who qualify, which can be found at <https://www.hcbe.net/snpcommunityeligibility>. Reduced price is \$.30 for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch. More information on school meals including pricing, free and reduced meal applications, and Q&A's can be found by visiting <https://www.hcbe.net/schoolnutrition>.

For the school year 2023-2024, Houston County School District is requesting all families to complete a Free and Reduced Meal Application. Our system receives a variety of funding, which is linked to the completion of this form. The fastest way to complete the form is to visit <https://www.nlappscloud.com>.

Snacks are available for purchase at the register. For speed of service and convenience, we encourage families to put money on their students' accounts at [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com). Checks should be made payable to Houston County School Nutrition and the student's ID number should be written on the check or clearly labeled on an envelope containing cash; payment drop boxes are available in the attendance office and the main cafeteria for in-house payments.

Students are expected to respect other students and the cafeteria space. Trash should be placed in appropriate receptacles. Students should go to the cafeteria in an orderly manner. Cutting in the lunch lines will not be permitted. All papers, food, and other trash should be removed from the floor, table, and grounds wherever lunch is consumed. Good manners and cleanliness are expected at all times.

### **College Visitations**

Seniors will be allowed one excused absence, not a school NI, for the purpose of visiting universities, colleges, technical or vocational schools in a school year.

### **Confiscated Items**

Confiscated items (i.e., hats, electronic devices) may be picked up in the front office after 3:00 PM.

### **CTAE Pathways**

Students who graduate from high school after successfully completing a CTAE "Career Pathway" are equipped for immediate employment, post-secondary education and life-long learning. In essence, students in CTAE are "college, career and workforce ready" - prepared to compete in the global marketplace.

The decisions made regarding which CTAE courses to take and career interests to pursue will affect the rest of a student's life. The CTAE Pathway selected should align with personal interests and future goals. Whether interested in agriculture, food and nutrition, marketing, graphics or business, there are class offerings that will provide the foundation and knowledge for growth in the skills and talents needed to make the most of an individual's interests.

Pathways consist of 3 courses in a related field that are taken sequentially. Veterans High School offers the following CTAE pathways on campus:

- AFJROTC
- Agriculture (Ag Mechanics, Food Animal Systems, Forestry/Wildlife, and Agribusiness Systems)
- Business and Computer Science (Business & Technology, Entrepreneurship, and Financial Services)
- Early Childhood Education



- Family & Consumer Science (Food & Nutrition)
- Graphics (Graphic Communication)
- Marketing, Sales & Service (Sports & Entertainment Marketing)

Additional career pathways are offered through the Houston County Career Academy (HCCA). For information on those pathways, please see a counselor.

Every educational journey is different, and students should take full advantage of these pathway offerings to explore and develop passions and unique skills.

### **Deliveries**

Students may not receive personal deliveries of any kind, such as flowers, balloons, candy, or food, during the school day. This includes deliveries from commercial vendors, delivery services, friends, or parents.

### **Discipline**

School is a place designed to promote positive learning experiences. This process becomes limited when students choose to be disruptive or non-compliant. Research shows that students learn best and teachers provide the best instruction in a safe and orderly environment. Students who choose to violate school rules and policies will receive consequences accordingly. Parents are strongly encouraged to contact administrators, counselors, and/or teachers should discipline problems arise with their student. Offenses involving drugs, alcohol, violence, sexual harassment, or theft are considered extremely serious and may result in immediate recommendation to student review committee or tribunal and/or involvement of law enforcement officials.

Veterans High School uses a progressive discipline system; each incident has a progression of discipline based on the severity of the infraction. The consequence severity and type will increase with each reported incident. Each student will be disciplined according to the particular incident and his/her cumulative discipline history. Any student involved in physical altercations/fighting will be issued a ticket and/or be arrested by the Houston County Sheriff's Department. NOTE: It is conceivable that two students could be involved in the same incident and receive different punishments if their discipline histories are different.

In the System Guidelines and Policies portion of the handbook, state and county rules regarding discipline are defined. Possible consequences include conferencing, teacher detention, administrative detention, dismissal of bus transportation, dismissal of parking privileges, dismissal of technology use, in-school suspension, behavior-discipline contract, restitution, out of school suspension, alternative discipline, notification of law enforcement, and tribunal hearing.

### **Dress Code**

Expectations for student dress are outlined in the Houston County Board of Education Policy JCDB, and local rules are defined in the System Guidelines and Policies portion of the handbook. Students who are found to be in violation of the dress code are subject to disciplinary action. Highlights of the student dress code include these provisions:

1. Obscene pictures, symbols, or depictions of weapons, illegal drugs, tobacco products or alcoholic beverages, inflammatory, suggestive, racial, or other inappropriate writing, advertisement, or artwork shall not appear on clothing.
2. Extremes of dress shall not be permitted. These include lack of cleanliness, bare feet, bare midriffs, tank tops, see-through clothing, pajamas, etc.
3. When leggings are worn, a dress, skirt, or shirt must be worn over the leggings to fingertip length at the natural hand position or longer. Sheer or cut panels must be below the knee.

4. Shorts, skirts, and dresses should be mid-thigh or longer.
5. Clothing which is cut, slashed, or has holes and exposes skin above the knee is prohibited.
6. Sagging pants are not allowed, and pants must be worn at the waist.
7. Head coverings are not allowed in the building during the instructional day.

Disciplinary actions may include:

- Counseling the student,
- Warning the student,
- Calling parents to bring a change of clothes,
- Saturday School,
- Alternative Discipline,
- Placing the student in in-school suspension for the remainder of the day,
- Suspending the student short term, or
- Recommending long-term suspension (for flagrant or repeated violations).

All clothing is to be worn appropriately and in the manner for which it was designed. The school reserves the right to establish rules during the school year regarding new fashions in dress. Principal discretion applies to all of the above.

### **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.

Students who participate in Dual Enrollment program are expected to do the following:

- Enter and exit the building through the main entrance
- Use resources such as the attendance office, the school web site, and the counselor's office to stay informed of school events (i.e. progress reports, prom, graduation, scholarships, senior activities)
- Keep up with schedule changes due to school activities
- Maintain school dress and school rules any time on campus

Limited Dual Enrollment courses through Central Georgia Technical College are offered to qualifying juniors and seniors on campus; more information is available through the counseling office.

### **Electronic Devices**

Students are permitted to possess cell phones and other electronic devices while on school property and during school functions but are not in use from student arrival to school dismissal on instructional days.

A phone in hand is a phone in use. Additionally, cell phones should not be charged, and ear buds/Bluetooth should not be used while at school. Students who violate this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

1<sup>st</sup> offense: Warning, phone agreement, & confiscation of device (pick up after 3:00 PM)

2<sup>nd</sup> offense: .5 day of ISS or alternative discipline & confiscation of device (pick up after 3:00 PM)

3<sup>rd</sup> offense: 1 day of ISS

***Refusal to surrender device to a staff member is failure to follow direct request and will result in 3 days ISS. VHS is not responsible for lost or stolen electronic devices.***

## End of School Day

The regular school day ends at 3:00 PM. All students should be off campus no later than 3:15 PM unless they are under the direct supervision of a staff member.

## Extracurricular/Co-Curricular Activities

Students learn teamwork, discipline, responsibility, and many other social skills through participation in extracurricular activities. Participation in extracurricular activities is considered an integral part of high school life that enhances the development of the total student. To participate in competitive extracurricular activities, students must meet all eligibility requirements and other policies governing participation as set forth by Georgia High School Association and the local Board of Education who are responsible for establishing eligibility requirements. Below are the general guidelines for eligibility. All eligibility issues should be discussed with the athletic director.

Participation in any extracurricular activity or sport is a privilege, not a right, and is subject to school/coach/sponsor requirements, expectations, and procedures.

The following information is in effect as of July 1, 2003:

- All academic requirements are based on a minimum passing grade of 70.
- GHSA refers to the Georgia High School Association activities that are governed by that body.
- State Board of Education No Pass/No Play policy pertains only to competitive interscholastic activities.
- Approved high school and middle school summer school is an extension of the spring semester.
- All students must meet the following requirements to be eligible:
  - Age - To be eligible to participate in interscholastic activities a student must not have reached his/her 19th birthday prior to May 1st preceding his/her year of participation.
  - Semesters -students are only eligible to participate for 8 consecutive semesters from the time they enroll in their first 9th grade course. (Alg. I in the 8th grade does not count in the semester rule).
  - Home school enrollment - Students must participate in activities at the school where they first entered the 9th grade. Students who enroll in another high school during their 8 semesters are subject to migratory rule requirements and a form B must be completed.
  - Students must pass 5 out of 7 classes and meet on-track requirements.

All students who are entering the 9th grade for the first time are eligible for the first semester provided they meet the age requirement. At the end of the 1st semester and every semester thereafter, students must pass 5 out of 7 classes, meet on track requirements, and satisfy the age requirements. In addition to the above GHSA and state requirements, all students must have a current physical form on file, a parent permission form, and an insurance waiver form to be eligible to participate.

In order to participate in extracurricular activities, a student must be counted present on the day of participation. Ex: A student may not stay home for the day then participate in a contest that afternoon or evening.

***Students should remember that the same discipline expectations, rules, and regulations are in effect at any school-sponsored event in any location as would be expected on campus during the school day.***

## Guidance/Counseling Office

Services available through the guidance/counseling office include: personal counseling to students, individual and group activities for academic, emotional and career development, information about course offerings and programs, college and career information and counseling, scholarship and financial assistance for post-secondary opportunities. The Counseling office also coordinates intervention/prevention services, maintains all student records, provides ASSET, PSAT, SAT, and ACT information,

and coordinates school-wide testing services. Parent conferences should be scheduled through the counseling office.

Mrs. Stewart	A-E
Mrs. McMahon	F-L
Mrs. Griger	M-R
Mrs. Owens-White	S-Z

### **Lockers**

General lockers in the main building are issued based on student request. Students may contact the front office for a locker assignment. Contents of the locker are the responsibility of the assigned student, and lockers are subject to search at any time.

Gym lockers are available in physical education classes, and students are encouraged to use these lockers during gym. Students should see their teacher for gym locker use. Students are responsible for the contents of their lockers at all times, and the school is not responsible for stolen items.

### **Media Center**

The Media Center opens daily at 7:40 AM and closes at 3:30 PM. Students going to the Media Center during class time should have a pass from their current teacher. Books may be kept for a two-week loan period. Students needing more than five books at a time should consult with a Media Specialist. Students are reminded that Internet/computer access is provided in the Media Center, but classroom assignments may supersede individual student use. All students who use the Internet must have an Internet agreement on file. Students who misuse, abuse, or in any way manipulate the internet for purposes other than research will be subject to severe disciplinary action by the school administration.

### **Obligations**

Students are directly responsible for all debts incurred during the school year. Students should be aware that items issued directly to them are their responsibility until the item is officially returned; such items include chrome books, textbooks, calculators, uniforms, instruments, and like school equipment. All student obligations shall be cleared before the end of the semester they are incurred. Students will not be issued replacement textbooks or equipment until the obligation has been cleared. Students will not be allowed to participate in dances (homecoming/prom), the graduation ceremony, or field day until all fines are cleared; additionally, students will not be allowed to exempt any final exam until all obligations are cleared.

### **Parking**

The operation and parking of a vehicle on campus is a privilege granted by the school to students who have a valid driver's license. Students should remember that they are directly responsible for every item in their vehicles, and vehicles are subject to random search at any time.

All students are expected to observe traffic regulations. The school reserves the right to suspend and/or revoke campus parking privileges of any student who violates parking rules and regulations or is not in good standing in the school. Students whose permits are revoked will not be reimbursed any portion of the parking fee.

All vehicles must be registered if they are parked on campus during the school day. The registrant of a motor vehicle is held responsible for the proper use, all contents, parking, and operation of his/her vehicle. All vehicles must have a visible parking permit while on school property. No parking permit is to be transferred, sold, loaned, or given to another student.

Parking permits can be purchased from the school receptionist in the front office before or after school. Parking rules and required documentation information are available on the school website or from the school receptionist.

### **Respect for Staff and Equipment**

VHS students are fortunate to have the privilege of attending school in a modern, well-maintained facility. Students should take pride in their school and make every possible effort to help maintain its appearance and cleanliness. Each student is expected to assume responsibility for the care of all school property. Students who damage property accidentally are responsible for paying for the damage. Students who willfully deface or damage school property in any way shall pay in full for all damages and/or repair and will receive appropriate disciplinary action.

It is the student's responsibility to comply with classroom and school rules. Students are required at all times to obey school expectations and reasonable requests from faculty members. This includes identifying themselves to faculty members when asked to do so. Failure to respond appropriately or refusal to follow the direct request of a faculty member will result in disciplinary action.

### **Schedule Changes/Dropping Courses**

After registration, schedules will only be changed for the following reasons:

- A student is in a class for which he/she has already received credit.
- A student needs a credit for graduation.
- A student is enrolled in a class that he/she has previously failed under the assigned instructor.

All schedule changes must be completed during the first ten days of the new semester. Neither students nor parents are allowed to "request" teachers or change schedules from selections made at registration. Students and parents are strongly encouraged to check schedules at the beginning of each semester to make sure the student is in the appropriate level and proper course sequence. Any scheduling concerns should be addressed with the student's counselor.

### **School Council**

VHS hosted its first School Council during the 2011-2012 school year. This council serves as an advisory body, consisting of two parents, two teachers, two business partners, and the school principal. The council can provide advice and recommendations to the school principal and, where appropriate, the local board of education on matters relevant to the school, district, and/or community. The council meets at least four times per year, and those dates are publicized on the school website and through local media.

### **Section 504**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Action of 1973 prohibits discrimination and assures that disabled students have educational opportunities and benefits equal to those provided to non-disabled students. Any inquiries concerning Section 504 may be referred to our school's Section 504 Coordinator, Daphne McMahon.

### **Semester Final Exams**

Final exams will be given on the last three days of each semester. Students and parents are asked not to schedule vacations and out-of-town trips on exam days. EXAMS WILL NOT BE ADMINISTERED EARLY EITHER SEMESTER.

Students may exempt their exams if they meet the following criteria:

1. have a B average (80 or above) in the course,
2. have no more than 5 excused or unexcused absences over the course of the semester,
3. must not have received Hospital Homebound Services,

4. must not have been assigned ISS/OSS during the semester, and
5. must have cleared all financial/material/school property obligations to the school.

Exceptions to the required criteria for exemptions are not made.

### **Standardized Testing**

**PSAT:** This examination is an excellent opportunity for students to understand the requirements of the SAT, which is a critical reasoning exam used as a criteria in college admissions. Tenth grade students who participate in the October administration of the PSAT at their home high school receive a detailed Score Report Plus in December. The Score Report Plus provides students with a comprehensive skills' analysis of their performance and gives them a code which provides access to a website with additional test information and an interactive career information program called My Roads.

Students may take the PSAT as freshman or junior for a fee. Junior students who take the PSAT are eligible to be considered for National Merit Scholarship. Confer with your student's counselor in August about ordering the PSAT for your junior.

The counseling department facilitates registration and admission of the PSAT at the school level; this year's administration is October 25, 2023.

**SAT:** The SAT reasoning test is a measure of the critical thinking skills needed for academic success in college. The SAT assesses how well a student analyzes and solves problems. All colleges and universities in Georgia accept scores from the SAT for admission purposes. The College Board determines the national testing dates and testing sites for the SAT exam.

Students are responsible for registration and payment for SAT testing online. Students may register at: [www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat) . The College Board offers fee waivers for students meeting certain financial criteria.

**ACT:** The ACT examination assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college level work. All colleges and universities in Georgia accept scores from the ACT for admission purposes. ACT determines the national testing dates and testing sites for the ACT exam.

Students are responsible for registration and payment for ACT testing online. Students may register at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) . ACT offers fee waivers for students meeting certain financial criteria.

### **2023-2024 SAT and ACT Test Dates/Registration Deadlines**

SAT Test Date	SAT Registration Deadline	ACT Test Date	ACT Registration Deadline
August 26, 2023	July 28, 2023	September 9, 2023	August 4, 2023
October 7, 2023	September 7, 2023	October 28, 2023	September 22, 2023
November 4, 2023	October 5, 2023	December 9, 2023	November 3, 2023
December 2, 2023	November 2, 2023	February 10, 2024	January 5, 2024
March 9, 2024	February 23, 2024	April 13, 2024	March 8, 2024
May 4, 2024	April 19, 2024	June 8, 2024	May 3, 2024

### **Student Records/Transcripts**

Veterans High School maintains records for students currently enrolled, and records are housed for three years after graduation. Written parent permission or a signature of an 18-year-old is required for release of a student's record, and these may be requested through the counseling office. Students or parents may also request transcripts for universities, colleges, or other related programs. Students can request that transcripts be sent electronically through their Georgia Futures account.

## **Title IX**

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities. Any inquiries concerning Title IX should be directed to the administration.

## **Visitors**

All conferences with teachers should be arranged through the counseling office; conferences will be scheduled either before school or after school. Visitors are not allowed to go directly to any classroom without prior approval. Any visitor should report to the main office where a visitor's pass will be issued. All visitors must wear badges while in the building. Upon departure, badges should be returned to the main office. Students are not permitted to invite visitors during the school year.

## **Voter Registration**

Students who are 18 years of age may register to vote in the Media Center.

## **Withdrawal**

A parent/guardian must come to the school to withdraw a student. All books must be returned and fines cleared before completing the withdrawal process. Records will not be released to a new school unless the receiving school has sent an official request for records.

# VHS Clubs and Extracurricular Activities

## AFJROTC

**Sponsor:** Col. Christopher Nick, SMSgt. Steven Brooks, and SMSgt. Garrett Martin

**Membership Requirement:** Open to all AFJROTC cadets

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** \$50.00-\$100.00 dues for Raiders and Orienteering only

**Purpose:** Develop citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and community.

**Planned Activities:** Competition teams, competition orienteering team, Awareness Presentation team, Academic Bowl team, Kitty Hawk Air Society, Rocketry team, and Honor Guard

## BAND/WARHAWK SQUADRON MARCHING BAND

**Sponsor:** Grayson Mullis and Kaitlyn Griffin

**Membership Requirement:** Director's permission. Own or purchase instrument, sticks, mouthpiece

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** Varied, See Mr. Mullis for details

**Purpose:** To produce hardworking, compassionate and determined students of character and integrity through music.

**Planned Activities:** Football game performances, Veterans Day concert, Christmas concert, Pre-LGPE and LGPE concert and spring concert are all after school. A detailed calendar is available at [www.veteransband.org](http://www.veteransband.org).

## BETA CLUB

**Sponsor:** Meagan Borders, Jennifer Bolton, and Lesley Murkerson

**Membership Requirement:** Membership is by invitation only for those students with a 90+ GPA. New invitations are extended at the beginning of first semester for sophomores, juniors, and seniors; or at the beginning of second semester for freshmen.

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** \$50.00 new members; \$25 returning members

**Purpose:** Beta Club is a nationally recognized service organization which recognizes its students for their involvement in the community and their academic achievement. Students are inducted into Beta Club by invitation only. Students must have a minimum academic average of 90 and exhibit the characteristics of achievement, character, leadership and service. Students will participate in several service projects throughout the year. Students will also participate in state and national convention and competitions.

**Planned Activities:** Volunteer at Humane Society of Houston County and feeder schools. Collect items for Macon Rescue Mission Humane Society & Ronald McDonald House. Raise funds for Relay for Life and participate in many other service projects throughout the year.

## CHESS CLUB

**Sponsor:** Lesley Murkerson

**Membership Requirement:** Any VHS student

**Financial Obligation:** \$20.00

**Purpose:** Foster the practice and understanding of the game of chess.

**Planned Activities:** TBD

## CHICK-FIL-A LEADER ACADEMY

**Sponsor:** Megan Jones and Johnathan Simmons

**Membership Requirement:** Application and selection

**Financial Obligation:** N/A

**Purpose:** To build capacity as student leaders and promote servant leadership opportunities.

**Planned Activities:** Big Thank You, Do Good December, Impact project.

## DEBATE TEAM

**Sponsor:** Renee Douglas and Matt Boone

**Membership Requirement:** Student interest and commitment along with 2 teacher recommendations.

**Financial Obligation:** \$50 (includes a T-shirt and national and state dues)

**Purpose:** Debate Team offers a space of trust and respect in which students can develop their communication skills and compete in a safe and fun way.



**Planned Activities:** Weekly practices, school, local and state competitions. Members can choose to compete in a variety of speech and debate events.

#### **DECA**

**Sponsor:** Angeles Jeffreys

**Membership Requirement:** Open to anyone interested in Marketing, Sports and Entertainment marketing, or Business Ownership

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** \$40.00 dues plus the cost of conference/activity participation fees

**Purpose:** DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.

**Planned Activities:** Mercedes Benz Stadium Tour, College Football Hall of Fame, Six Flags, Region, State and International Conferences, and Georgia National Fair

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB**

**Sponsor:** Julie Andrews

**Membership Requirement:** Open to all students

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** No/optional shirt cost \$15

**Purpose:** To educate and motivate young adults to help their environment. Bringing awareness of how we can give back to our world, starting with our community. We want to make waves and affect change.

**Planned Activities:** Meetings twice a month on Wednesdays with environmental topics and games, school-wide recycling and community service hour opportunities.

#### **FAMILY, CAREER, COMMUNITY LEADERS OF AMERICA - FCCLA**

**Sponsor:** Jill Masee and Julie Vinup

**Membership Requirement:** Open to all students in a FACS class.

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** \$40.00 plus the cost of conferences, trips, and competitions

**Purpose:** An organization that promotes personal growth and leadership development through Family and Consumer Science Education

**Planned Activities:** Monthly meetings, community service projects, Fall Rally at Georgia National Fair, Fall Leadership Conference at FCCLA Camp, Region and State STAR Events Competitions, State and National Conferences, FCCLA Day at the Capitol

#### **FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES - FCA**

**Sponsor:** Tyler Kinsler and Jill Nash

**Membership Requirement:** Open to all who come, leaders must apply

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** N/A

**Purpose:** Serving local communities by equipping, empowering and encouraging people to make a difference for Christ.

**Planned Activities:** Huddle meetings meet weekly, Fields of Faith, monthly and quarterly school gatherings, Leadership and Sports Camps, Coaches' breakfast, and other opportunities.

#### **FRENCH CLUB/FRENCH HONOR SOCIETY**

**Sponsor:** Stephania Charles

**Membership Requirement:** Open to all French students

**Financial Obligations/ Dues:** \$25.00 for French Club; \$30.00 for French Honor Society

**Mission:** To provide opportunities outside of the classroom for those interested in the French Language/culture

**Planned activities:** Games, food, music, and movies

#### **FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA - FBLA**

**Sponsor:** Tammie Love and Tobias Stripling

**Membership Requirement:** Open to all VHS students

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** \$30.00 plus cost of conferences/trips

**Purpose:** To inspire & prepare students to become community minded business leaders in a global society through relevant career preparation & leadership experiences.

**Planned Activities:** Community service and travel opportunities, challenging competitions, leadership development workshops, conferences, friendship and fun social outings and fundraising

#### **FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA - FFA**

**Sponsor:** Clay Walker and Jeff Wilson

**Membership Requirement:** 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> students currently in Agricultural Education class

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** fundraising

**Purpose:** FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential or premier leadership, personal growth and career success through Agricultural Education

**Planned Activities:** C.O.L.T. Conference, Discovery Conference, Georgia National Fair, State and National Conventions

#### **HOUSTON COUNTY STUDENT BASS FISHING FEDERATION**

**Sponsor:** Ike Thompson

**Membership Requirement:** Students must meet GHSA eligibility

**Financial Obligation/Dues:** Yearly dues paid through sponsorship.

**Mission/Purpose:** To win a state championship while becoming better teammates and members of our community.

**Planned Activities:** 5 HCSBAF tournaments and 4 GHSA tournaments

#### **INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN SOCIETY/GEORGIA THESPIANS**

**Sponsor:** Amanda Coody

**Membership Requirement:** calculated on a point system. 10 points = 100 hours of service.

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** \$50.00 on initiation; \$25.00 for members

**Mission/Purpose:** To honor student achievement in the Theatre Arts.

**Planned Activities:** Annual Thespian Showcase, Summer Theatre Camp, monthly activities

#### **LITERARY**

**Sponsor:** Amanda Coody

**Membership Requirement:** None

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** None

**Purpose:** Literary is an academic and musical competition sponsored by the Georgia High School Association. Meets are held at both the region and state levels, and events include boy's and girl's solo, boy's quartet, girl's trio, boy's and girl's essay, boy's and girl's dramatic interpretation, and boy's and girl's extemporaneous speaking. The region meet takes place the second week of March, and the state meet takes place in late March. More information can be found at [www.ghsa.net](http://www.ghsa.net).

#### **MATH TEAM**

**Sponsor:** Li Ma

**Membership Requirement:** Any interested student

**Financial Obligations/ Dues:** TBD

**Mission:** To integrate various types of mathematics studied in the classroom, promote a deeper understanding of mathematics and apply quantitative skills to competitions and other settings

**Planned activities:** weekly meetings, local and state math competitions

#### **MU ALPHA THETA MATH HONOR SOCIETY**

**Sponsor:** Li Ma

**Membership Requirement:** Two-year completion of college preparatory mathematics, including algebra & geometry, and have completed or are enrolled in a third year of mathematics; 3.0 math GPA

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** TBD

**Mission/Purpose:** To inspire a keen interest in mathematics, developing strong scholarship in the subject and promoting the enjoyment of mathematics in high school students

**Planning Activities:** Weekly meetings and volunteer opportunities

### **MISS VHS PAGEANT**

**Sponsor:** Taylor Butler

**Membership Requirement:** Eligibility is based on the GHSA requirement of a student passing 5 out of 7 courses per semester and being on track for graduation at the completion of each year of study.

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** To be determined

**Purpose:** The Miss VHS pageant is held annually when a student is crowned to represent Veterans High School at school and community events. The pageant awards the winner and runners up. Applications are available in advance, and a parent/participant meeting and rehearsal schedule will follow.

### **NATIONAL ART HONOR SOCIETY/ART CLUB**

**Sponsor:** Sarah Harlow

**Membership Requirement:** Open to all. Must have 1 year of art compete, dues paid and attendance at meetings is required.

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** \$20 local art club/\$40 NAHS-includes t-shirt or senior cord with active membership.

**Purpose:** To inspire and recognize students who have shown an outstanding ability and interest in art and to encourage helping our community through art

**Planned Activities:** Participation in school/community and national contests/shows; Fun, artistic events; community service hours towards Art Diploma Seal

### **NATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY**

**Sponsor:** Laura Stimus and Lonna Wheeler

**Membership Requirement:** Open to students with a GPA of 3.0 in English courses during sophomore year or higher.

**Financial Obligation:** \$20.00 dues

**Purpose:** Duty goes with honor, exploring and expanding student scholarship in the study of English

**Planned Activities:** Monthly meetings, celebrations, book clubs and annual field trip.

### **NATIONAL TECHNICAL HONOR SOCIETY**

**Sponsor:** Angeles Jeffreys/CTAE Department

**Membership Requirement:** Members must have a 3.5 GPA and have earned a minimum of three units of Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) credits; must be an active member of a CTSO.

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** \$35.00

**Purpose:** The purpose of the NTHS is to acknowledge outstanding student achievement in Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education. It also develops pride and self-esteem and promotes achievement, honesty, responsibility, initiative, teamwork, leadership, and scholarship, and builds a strong positive image for workforce education.

### **PARTNERS CLUB**

**Sponsors:** Brandon Driggers, Leah Jones, and Chris Kothe

**Membership requirement:** Attend meetings and social functions

**Financial Obligations:** TBD

**Purpose:** To provide opportunity for disabled and non-disabled students to learn about each other and form friendships

**Planned Activities:** Special Olympics, Partner's Prom, Partner's Club Lunch, Bowl-a-Rama and State Special Olympics Event

### **RHO KAPPA**

**Sponsor:** Renee Douglas

**Membership Requirement:** Junior or senior with an A average in Social Studies classes

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** \$20.00

**Purpose:** To acknowledge and celebrate academic excellence in the Social Studies through extracurricular study and activities

**Planned Activities:** Various activities through the year, field trips, charity work

## SCIENCE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

**Sponsor:** Lindsay Lambert

**Membership Requirement:** See application for membership requirements.

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** \$50.00 new members/\$30.00 returning members per year

**Purpose:** To foster the love of STEM through our school, community and county.

**Planned Activities:** STEM nights, school suppl fundraiser, Mad Scientist Scholarship 5K

## SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

**Sponsor:** Kristi Cannon

**Membership Requirement:** Interest and Commitment

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** \$40.00

**Mission/Purpose:** STEM enrichment with a competitive team-based approach.

**Planned Activities:** Science Olympiad Competition

## SkillsUSA

**Sponsor:** Emily Wiegert

**Membership Requirement:** Any interested student must attend four meetings per semester.

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** \$25.00 plus state and national dues

**Mission/Purpose:** To empowers its members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens.

**Planned Activities:** Fall leadership conference, Champions Rally, Region Championship, State Leadership and Skills Conference, community service, and SkillsUSA week.

## SPANISH CLUB

**Sponsors:** Phillip Hoskins

**Membership Requirement:** The Spanish Club is open to all students taking Spanish, have previously taken Spanish, are native speakers or have a keen interest in the subject to explore a more enhanced experience with the culture.

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** \$20.00

**Purpose:** To provide educational opportunities outside the classroom for those interested in the Spanish language and culture

## SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY

**Sponsors:** Phillip Hoskins and Sylvia Wilhite

**Membership Requirement:** Three semesters of Spanish with 90 or above

**Financial Obligation/Dues:** \$35.00 new members; \$25 for returning members

**Purpose:** Awards the academic achievement of students taking Spanish at VHS.

**Planned Activities:** TBD

## SPIN CLUB

**Sponsors:** Grayson Mullis and Kaitlyn Griffin

**Membership Requirement:** N/A

**Financial Obligation/Dues:** \$20.00 (subject to change)

**Purpose:** To share and grow the passion of Color Guard through small group performance and choreography.

**Planned Activities:** Annual Spin Club Showcase

## THESPIAN TROUPE 7662

**Sponsors:** Amanda Coody

**Membership Requirement:** Invitation after completing two shows

**Financial Obligation/Dues:** \$40

**Purpose:** An honor society that recognizes and rewards excellence among the participants in the theatre arts program

**Planned Activities:** Meetings, activities, Fox field trip

## **WARHAWK WORKSHOP**

**Sponsors:** Ike Thompson

**Membership Requirement:** interview for position

**Financial Obligation/Dues:** none

**Purpose:** To provide the students of VHS with a center of students devoted to assisting their peers in academic areas through SOAR

## **WEIGHTLIFTING TEAM**

**Sponsors:** Josh Ingram and Sam Zanders

**Membership Requirement:** Top 3 per Weight Class

**Financial Obligation:** N/A

**Planned Activities:** Area and State meets

## ***VHS Athletics***

All student-athletes at Veterans High School are required by the GHSA (Georgia High School Association) to have a physical examination on file in order to try-out for any sport. There is a specific form to be used for the physical examination as mandated by the GHSA, which can be obtained from the school or on-line at [ghsa.net](http://ghsa.net). Student-athletes are also required to maintain certain academic requirements in order to compete in GHSA sanctioned events and athletics. For further information, please contact the sport's head coach or the school's administration.

### **Baseball**

**Head Coach:** Jeff Sans

Baseball is played as a team sport. The team will be divided into a 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Junior Varsity, and a Varsity team as participation numbers allow. The season begins in January and concludes in May at the state championship tournament. You are required to try-out for the team and must be selected in order to participate on the team. Baseball is a region and state championship sport.

### **Basketball - Boys**

**Head Coach:** Chip Flemmer

Basketball is played as a team sport. The team will be divided into a 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Junior Varsity, and a Varsity team as participation numbers allow. The season begins in October and concludes in March at the state championship tournament. You are required to try-out for the team and must be selected in order to participate on the team. Basketball is a region and state championship sport.

### **Basketball - Girls**

**Head Coach:** Randall Owens

Basketball is played as a team sport. The team will be divided into a 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Junior Varsity, and a Varsity team as participation numbers allow. The season begins in October and concludes in March at the state championship tournament. You are required to try-out for the team and must be selected in order to participate on the team. Basketball is a region and state championship sport.

### **Cheerleading**

**Head Coach:** Taylor Butler

Cheerleading is divided up into three teams: Junior Varsity Football Competition, Varsity Football Competition, and Varsity Basketball. All athletes must try out for the squads in which they would like to participate. Tryouts are usually held in March of the preceding school year. The spirit cheer season is aligned with the sport in season (football and basketball). The cheer season begins in August and concludes at the end of the given sport's playing season. Varsity competition cheerleading is a region and state championship sport.

### **Cross Country - Boys & Girls**

**Head Coach:** Jennifer Bolton

Cross Country is a competitive running sport in which athletes cover a 3.1 mile course of varying terrain. The season begins in August and concludes in November at the state meet. There are individual winners and a team winner at meets. Cross Country is a region and state championship sport.

## **E-Sports**

### **Head Coach: Stephania Charles**

E-Sports involves organized competitive gameplay between two teams, governed by set rules and guidelines. A GHSA sponsored activity, E-Sports has a competitive fall season and spring season.

## **Flag Football**

### **Head Coach: Khayla Owens**

Flag football is played as a team sport, where de-flagging ends the down and tackle contact is not permitted. The season begins in August and concludes in the late fall. Flag football is a region and state championship sport.

## **Football**

### **Head Coach: Josh Ingram**

Football is played as a team sport. The team will be divided into a 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Junior Varsity, and a Varsity team as participation allows. The season begins in August and concludes in December at the state championship game. Football is a region and state championship sport.

## **Golf - Boys & Girls**

### **Head Coaches: James Mahan and Jill Nash**

Golf is conducted as both a team and individual sport. There are individual medalist and team winners at each meet. The season begins in January and concludes in May at the state championship tournament. You are required to try-out for the team and must be selected in order to participate on the team. Golf is a region and state championship sport.

## **Soccer - Boys**

### **Head Coach: Matt Roth**

Soccer is conducted as a team sport. The season begins in January and concludes in May at the state championship tournament. You are required to try-out for the team and must be selected in order to participate on the team. Soccer is a region and state championship sport.

## **Soccer - Girls**

### **Head Coach: Christina Maloney**

Soccer is conducted as a team sport. The season begins in January and concludes in May at the state championship tournament. You are required to try-out for the team and must be selected in order to participate on the team. Soccer is a region and state championship sport.

## **Swim - Boys & Girls**

### **Head Coaches: Richard Kennedy and Garrett Martin**

Swimming is conducted as both a team sport and an individual sport. Swimmers compete in events of different lengths and different strokes. Events also include relays. The season begins in October and concludes in February. Swimming is a region and state championship sport.

## **Softball - Fast-Pitch**

### **Head Coach: Jeff Sans**

Softball is played as a team sport. It is fast pitch only. The team will be divided into a Junior Varsity and a Varsity team. The season begins in August and concludes in October at the state championship tournament. You are required to try-out for the team and must be selected in order to participate on the team. Softball is a region and state championship sport.

## **Tennis - Boys & Girls**

### **Head Coaches: Jamey Watson and Shawn White**

Tennis is conducted as a team sport. The season begins in January and concludes in May at the state championship tournament. You are required to try-out for the team and must be selected in order to participate on the team. Tennis is a region and state championship sport.

## **Track - Boys & Girls**

**Head Coaches: Eric Mack and Diona Johnson**

Track is conducted as both a team and individual sport. There are individual medalists and team winners at each meet. The season begins in January and concludes in May at the state championship meet. Athletes compete in various events including sprints, intermediate distance, and long distance running. Athletes may also compete in jumping, long and high, and throwing events. Track is a region and state championship sport.

## **Volleyball**

**Head Coach: Jill Nash**

Volleyball is played as a team sport. The team will be divided into a Junior Varsity and a Varsity team. The season begins in August and concludes in October at the state championship tournament. You are required to try-out for the team and must be selected in order to participate on the team. Volleyball is an area and state championship sport.

## **Wrestling - Boys & Girls**

**Head Coaches: Blake Yarbrough and Chris Chavous**

Wrestling is conducted as both a team sport and an individual sport. The season begins in October and concludes in January for the team championship tournament and February for the individual championship tournament. Wrestling is an area and state championship sport.

