

Welcome to
Kindergarten



Van Meter Elementary



Daily Schedule

Breakfast	7:45-8:10
Classroom doors open	8:05
School day begins	8:15
School Dismissal (M-Th)	3:30
School Dismissal (F)	1:30



**Please note: These times may change, as the school board has not approved the calendar for next school year.*

School Contact Numbers

Main Office	(515) 996-2221
Business Office	(515) 996-9960
Fax	(515) 996-9954
Web Page	www.vmbulldogs.com

Principal	Cody Tibbetts	cody.tibbetts@vmbulldogs.com
Administrative Assisstant	Kris Koster	kris.koster@vmbulldogs.com

Kindergarten Teachers

Mrs. Wosmansky	molly.wosmansky@vmbulldogs.com
Miss McClintock	christa.McClintock@vmbulldogs.com
Mrs. Smith	melanie.Smith@vmbulldogs.com



Support Teachers

Kate Lamoureux	kate.lamoureux@vmbulldogs.com
Deb Saylor	deb.saylor@vmbulldogs.com

Infinite Campus

Infinite Campus is our student management system where you may check your child's academic progress, lunch account balance, attendance, and update your contact information. At the start of the school year, you will receive information on how to log onto Infinite Campus. In the event of early dismissal or school cancelation, the program will notify you via email, phone call, and/or text message. In addition to Infinite Campus, closings will be announced on KCCI-TV 8 and WHO-TV 13. If your child needs to be absent, please call Mrs. Koster in the elementary office. She will record the absence in Infinite Campus.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is my five-year old ready for Kindergarten?

Kindergarten should be an exciting and rewarding experience for both you and your child. While there is no perfect checklist to determine whether your child is truly ready for kindergarten, the following list will give you an idea of the necessary skills a child should have mastered in order to receive the greatest benefit from their kindergarten experience. Remember, age is only one factor in determining kindergarten readiness. Social, emotional, cognitive and physical development should also be taken into account when deciding if your child is ready for kindergarten.

Social and Emotional development

- Uses words instead of being physical when angry or frustrated
- Listens to a story without interrupting
- Follows two-step directions
- Asks for help when necessary
- Pays attention for short periods of time to adult directed tasks
- Stay with an activity to completion
- Initiates and sustains appropriate play with other children
- Begins to share with others and understands taking turns
- Complies with rules, limits and routines
- Recognizes authority & interacts appropriately with adults
- Respects the rights, property and feelings of others.
- Dresses themselves (button shirt, pants, coats and zip up zippers)
- Manages bathroom needs independently
- Separates from parents for extended periods of time without being upset

Frequently Asked Questions continued

Language

- Speaks in complete sentences of 5-6 words
- Uses descriptive language
- Sings and/or recites nursery rhymes
- Pretends, creates, and makes-up songs and stories
- Talks about everyday experiences
- Tells or retells stories & asks questions
- Enjoys having books read to him/her

Motor Skills

- Holds scissors correctly
- Holds pencils, crayons or markers properly
- Can run, jump, and skip

What is the cut off date for children entering Kindergarten?

Your child must be 5 years old by September 15th in order to enter kindergarten for the current school year. We recommend if your child's birthday falls during the summer months; consider very carefully his/her academic and social skills. Maturity and a child's ability to verbalize and focus on an activity tend to be extremely important factors in a child's success in kindergarten. If your child is young and shy and has little interaction with other children, preschool might be an excellent place for your child to learn social skills.

Many times parents wonder about the values of preschool. We often see significant differences between children who have attended and those who have not. Children who have participated in some form of organized learning often are more able to focus their attention, follow directions, attend to an activity and express themselves, very important skills for doing well in school. Children who have not had the opportunity to be with a group of children are sometimes overwhelmed with kindergarten and spend part of the year adjusting to this new situation.

What do I need to do if my child's transportation needs change for one day?

Please send a written note or email if your child is going home differently. If an email is sent the day of the change, please contact the elementary office to be sure the message is received. Our teachers may not have time to check their email throughout the day. This will ensure the message is delivered. Thank you!



May I volunteer in the classroom?

We encourage parent volunteer help! You may volunteer in the classroom, or with our "Helping Hands" parental group each week. We understand that everyone cannot offer time in the classroom, but can work at home, attend special events, and send items for special activities throughout the year. Please contact your child's teacher for more information.

What are Scholastic Book Club orders?

Once a month your child will be bringing home a book order pamphlet. If you wish to order, you may go online at <https://clubs2.scholastic.com> or simply fill out the form and return it with the correct amount of money or a check made out to Scholastic. These orders are provided as a convenient way for parents to buy quality books for their children at a low price.

Will there be dally snacks & what type of snack should I send?



A snack calendar will go home each month with your child with an assigned date to bring snacks. We ask that you send enough healthy snacks for the entire class. If your child is having a birthday, their snack date will fall as closely to the special day as possible! You are welcome to send a special treat for your child's birthday. If it falls during the summer, please contact your child's teacher if you would like to choose a different date to celebrate throughout the school year. Due to many food allergies, we ask that the snacks be peanut free. Thank you for your help!

When will I know who my child's teacher will be?

At the end of the current school year, we will have a two day Kindergarten Orientation, which allows teachers time to observe students and perform assessments. The Kindergarten teachers collaborate to create class lists. They will be distributed through email by Mr. Tibbetts at the end of the summer.

When can I bring my child's supplies to school and meet the teacher?

A few days before school begins, Van Meter will have an Open House for the entire elementary. You may bring your child and meet the teacher and leave any supplies purchased in your student's desk. This is a good time for you child to come and see the classroom and answer any last minute questions you may have. It can also help to get out those beginning of the year jitters!

