

**Valley View  
1201 Loop360 S  
Austin 78746  
(512)732-9140**

# Cardinal Weekly

<http://vve.eanesisd.net>

**Valley View Elementary**

**August 25,  
2016**

## WELCOME CARDINAL PARENTS

Welcome to the first, and most condensed edition of the *Cardinal Weekly*. Today's issue includes just a few **very important policies and procedures** specific to meeting our goals for safety and learning at Valley View. First and foremost, please join us for Parent Orientations next week.

### VVE Parent Orientation, Grades 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

Grade	Orientation Time	Location
3 <sup>rd</sup>	8:15-9:25	Parents meet in cafeteria- then go to homeroom class
1 <sup>st</sup>	9:30-10:40	Parents meet in cafeteria- then go to homeroom class
2 <sup>nd</sup>	11:00-12:05	Parents meet in foyer- then go to homeroom class
4 <sup>th</sup>	12:10-1:20	Parents meet in foyer- then go to homeroom class
5 <sup>th</sup>	1:25-2:35	Parents meet in cafeteria- then go to homeroom class

Parent Orientation provides the opportunity to connect, inform and invite parents to school and into their children's classrooms. Each grade level presentation begins with an overview of school-wide and district goals and expectations, followed by information specific to the grade level.

As always, parent participation is very much appreciated. This event saves teachers a great deal of time by sharing information once and answering questions that benefit all parents. **We will begin and end all presentations at the designated times listed above. Please make every effort to arrive on time.** Teachers will include time for questions and answers at the end of each session (built into the time). Once the session is over they will be racing to pick up students and resume instruction. Timeliness is important on this very busy day.

Out of respect for other parents and presenters, we have designed **Parent Orientation for an adult audience. Please make other arrangements for siblings who are mobile and/or vocal.** In the event you cannot find an alternative and must bring a younger sibling, feel comfortable slipping out of the presentation with your child if needed, to avoid distractions to other parents and teachers presenting.

Lastly, we sincerely appreciate that historically the vast majority of parents make this once-a-year orientation a priority to attend. For those of us who simply cannot make the designated day and time, the Valley View staff truly understands. Teachers will email the information electronically AFTER orientation.

**We look forward to seeing you next Wednesday, August 31.**

**Check us out now on [Facebook](#) , [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)!  
Icons can be found on our website.**

# School Attendance is a REALLY BIG Deal!

The State of Texas has very clear and specific attendance laws. We comply and enforce these expectations through regular communication about individual student attendance.

The intent of state or federal policies regarding attendance are intended to maximize the public education system by providing, requiring and educating every child in Texas. Unfortunately, the laws and policies are often inflexible and do not take into consideration the values or needs of individual families. As a result, the communication and language around attendance can sometimes feel prescriptive or threatening. I have found over the years that being upfront about this fact is helpful to parents prior to sending the required letter and parent meetings regarding compulsory attendance.

First and foremost we want students at school daily as we focus on relationships and learning. We cannot teach, reach, connect and help children thrive when they are not physically present. We miss children when they are absent.

Secondly, our district budget is dependent upon enrolled students attending school. **A child must be physically on campus at 9:45am (Valley View's official snapshot for attendance).** When a child is absent, it results in a loss of funds to the district of approximately \$35.00 a day per student. We do not receive funds when a child is absent regardless of the reason for the absence.

EISD board policy requires an email or written notification from the parent/guardian regarding any student absence. **Emails should be directed to the VVE Attendance Office at [vveattendance@eanesisd.net](mailto:vveattendance@eanesisd.net) no later than 10:00 a.m. and should include the student's name and reason for absence.** If the parent/ guardian is unable to email the Attendance Office, a written note is required upon the student's return to school. **Any absence without an email or written notice from the parent will remain an undocumented/unexcused absence on your student's record.**

If a student is **temporarily absent** during the school day for a **doctor/health-care appointment**, written documentation from the medical office is required for the student to be counted present that day. Students must be signed out in the office before an appointment and signed back in after an appointment if returning same day. If we do not receive proper documentation of the appointment, the student will be counted absent.

Included with the EISD Skylert Messaging Service, all EISD campuses utilize an **automated attendance calling system**. If a child is absent and the attendance office has **not** received an email/written notification from the parent by 10:00am, the system will automatically notify the parent by phone/text/email requesting the parent to contact the school regarding the student's absence. With child safety being the primary concern, we highly recommend parents set their Family Access Skylert preferences to receive the automated attendance notifications (see attached Skylert Messaging Service information sheet).

It is important to review the policies regarding attendance. Excused absences are viewed differently than unexcused absences, however, both require documentation. Unexcused absences are scrutinized closely as we work to comply with children attending school. Family vacations, regardless of the educational value, are unexcused absences. **I urge parents to review the EISD school-year calendar and schedule special trips during school holidays.** More specific attendance information and policies can be found in the EISD Elementary Student Handbook and EISD Board Policy available on the EISD website.

If a trip of a lifetime presents itself and parents find scheduling a trip during a school day unavoidable, an Extended Absence Form must be submitted in advance to the attendance office (form can be found on the VVE website under the Family Resources tab). Keep in mind, **it is not the classroom teacher's responsibility to plan instruction in advance for an unexcused absence.** It **is** a teacher's responsibility to provide missed assignments **after** the child returns to school and to allow a reasonable amount of time to complete the make-up work.

# Student Health is a REALLY BIG Deal too!

Mrs. Ramona Wilson is Valley View's full-time school nurse. Please note that Nurse Wilson's email address contains the number "2" after her name:

[rwilson2@eanesisd.net](mailto:rwilson2@eanesisd.net).

**Medication** can be given by the nurse at school; however, there are guidelines that the school must follow. A **parent or guardian** must bring the medication to school and sign the permission form. **Please do NOT send medication with your child.**

- ⇒ Medication may be administered **for up to 10 days** with the **Medication Permission Form completed** and on file in the nurse's office. Permission forms are available in the Nurse's Clinic or can be downloaded from the VV website by clicking on the *Family Resources* tab.
- ⇒ Medication may be administered **longer than 10 days** by providing a **physician's written request**.
- ⇒ Medication must be in the **original, labeled, prescription bottle**. Non-prescription medication must be in the **original container**.

**Is my child too sick to go to school?** Sniffles, allergies, runny noses, and sore throats are common throughout the year. **Fever of 100 degrees or more:** keep the child home until **24 hours AFTER** the temperature returns to normal (98.6) **without** fever-reducing medication. Students who come to the clinic during the school day with a temperature of 100 degrees F. or above will be sent home. Vomiting or diarrhea: keep the child home until **24 hours AFTER** the last episode. Students who become ill with fever, vomiting or diarrhea will not be allowed to ride the bus home. Parents will be contacted to pickup students who become ill at school. **Rash:** if the cause is unknown, please check with your physician before sending the child to school.