

Valerius Eagle News

September 2016

Dates to Remember in September

- 9/12 Gift Card Reward Program Orders Due
- 9/12 Flying Eagles Running Club begins
- 9/13 HyVee Market Grille Night
- 9/14 Late Start (Valerius begins at 10am)
- 9/15 HyVee Market Grille Night
- 9/16-18 HyVee Shop and Share
- 9/19-23 Homecoming Week

Online Calendar

1. Click the web address

https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=urbandaleschools.com_3k6635dg1vt3b74his743b6n8%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Chicago

2. Once the calendar pops up, go to the bottom right of the screen and you'll see +Google Calendar. Click on the + sign.
3. The calendar will pop up and a message will say, "Do you want to add this calendar?"
4. Click yes.

News from the Health Office

Dress for the weather:

Mornings at the bus stop are often cold while later it can be quite warm at recess. Dressing in layers will enable your child to be warm and comfortable with our ever changing Iowa weather.

Protect yourself from ticks and mosquitoes:

Avoid outdoor activities between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active. If you must be outside wear long sleeves and pants. Use bug repellent safely. Remove any free standing water in and or around your home. Check your body for ticks after being in brushy, wooded or grassy areas. Ticks will often find their way to less obvious places like between toes, along the hairline, armpits and groin area.

Monitor any bug bite sites for a bull's eye like appearance or persistent flu like symptoms that are not improving. See your doctor with any questions or concerns.

Flu Season:

Cold and flu season will be here before you know it. The basics will help keep you healthy. Wash your hands frequently. Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and or sneezing. Getting a good night's sleep and eating healthy foods will provide your body with the stamina it needs to get through the day and fight off viruses. If your child becomes ill and feels he or she can not participate in all of the school's daily activities, keep them home. Your child should be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medicine before returning to school. Discuss with your physician whether it is appropriate to get a flu shot. As always seek out your physician if you are not feeling well and symptoms persist.

Donations:

We are asking for any clothing donations here for our health office. We are desperately in need of sizes 5-10 for both boys and girls. We are looking for any gently used clothes that your child has outgrown and that you are willing to part with.

Message from Mrs. Mauro

Valerius Parents,

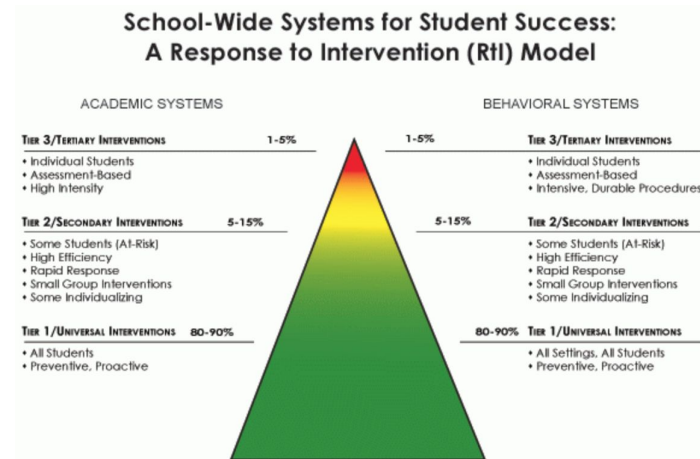
Since we have welcomed many new families to Valerius this fall, I want to be sure to share some information about our framework for teaching and reinforcing safe and appropriate behavior at Valerius. Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a system that we utilize at Valerius to create a safe and effective school. Use of the PBIS framework helps to reduce school disruptions and promotes a positive, respectful and responsible environment that encourages good citizenship. PBIS is a research-based framework that has been proven to improve academic success, reduce problem behaviors, and contribute to overall school safety.

Through the implementation of PBIS, we seek to reduce the number of behavior disruptions at Valerius. All staff members are receiving ongoing training this year to help them provide students with more praise than discipline, gain an understanding of preventative measures, engage all learners during instruction, and provide timely and appropriate feedback. When students choose not to follow rules, there are

established procedures for addressing disciplinary action. Parents are informed of situations which require a student to visit the office for the purpose of discipline.

At Valerius, grade-level teams have adopted classroom rules which clearly define school expectations for behavior. You will see these rules posted in your child's classroom. PBIS expectations are posted throughout the school as well (Check out your student's planner to see the schoolwide expectations matrix!). Rules and expectations are positively reinforced in a variety of ways. Designing a positive school-wide system for student success ensures that we are providing appropriate support that meets the needs of each individual student.

The PBIS committee is comprised of parents, classified, and certified staff, and meets on a regular basis to analyze student data, provide professional development for teachers, and develop strategies that meet the unique needs of Valerius students. Our goals for the upcoming school year will focus on strengthening our school-wide behavior management practices and enhancing the implementation of secondary prevention strategies and interventions. We have an excellent staff at Valerius and we will continue to act on the shared belief that together, we can make a difference in the academic performance of all our students. As parents, you are important members of our team. If you have questions regarding PBIS, please feel free to contact us at Valerius at any time.



Valerius Elementary School Behavior Expectation Matrix

Student Matrix	Be Respectful	Be Responsible	Be Safe
Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use line basics Follow adult directions Voices off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a pass Keep hallways clean Go directly to your destination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk on the right side of the hall Keep hands and objects to self Report problems to an adult Use walking feet
Lunch Room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow adult directions Use manners Stay in line order Use quiet voice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep area clean Pick up trash Make healthy food choices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report spills Sit where directed by an adult Raise your hand if you need help
Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow adult directions Be friendly Give best effort Use quiet voice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turn in assignments on time Use planner Be on time Keep area clean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands and objects to self Report problems to an adult Remain in assigned area
Bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow driver's directions Use a quiet voice Use kind words and actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get on/off at assigned stop Keep bus clean Represent Valerius appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay seated Report problems to the driver Keep body and objects to yourself
Restroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow others privacy Take Care of yourself Use quiet voice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use, Flush, and wash with soap Use time wisely, wait your turn Throw away trash 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report problems to an adult Return to class promptly Keep water in the sink
Recess	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use Kind words Share recess equipment Line up on time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow game rules Be a good sport and include others Dress appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay where adults can see you Keep hands and objects to self Report problems to an adult Use recess equipment appropriately
Assemblies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on speaker Remain quiet when appropriate Applaud at the end of the assembly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk to your spot Stay with class Wait to be dismissed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself Listen for directions
Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remain in student areas Use a quiet voice Wait your turn Be Honest and use kind words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take care of yourself Use a pass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sign in if you're tardy Report problems to an adult
Arrival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow Adult directions Enter building quietly and orderly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be on time, sign in if you're late Keep your area clean Take care of your belongings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go directly to your destination Walk on right side of hallways Use body basics
Dismissal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use Line Basics Follow Adult directions Meet family and friends outside 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go directly to your destination Use sidewalks Wait quietly for parents or bus Watch for your ride 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hands feet and backpacks to self Stay with your teacher until dismissed Go straight home

Grade Level Spotlight: 3rd Grade

The third graders are learning the expectations of the school and working on being responsible, respectful, and safe. We recently started our first reading unit and the children are learning strategies for visualizing and identifying story elements. In math we have been reviewing place value, rounding, adding and subtracting, and telling time. In social studies we are learning about maps, globes, and landforms. Third grade is busy here at Valerius!



Valerius 3rd Grade 2016-17

Counselor's Corner

Hello Valerius Families! My name is Melissa MacGregor and I'm the fulltime counselor at Valerius. The past several years I have been shared between two buildings so this is definitely a very positive change and I can't wait to get to know all the students and their families better on a daily basis!

Your student will have guidance class once every six days and at this time, all classes have met with me at least once. We have learned about the role of a counselor (classroom guidance, small group guidance based on teacher referral and data from behavior referrals, and individual counseling for students who have something they would like to confidentially share with me). In grades 3-5 we have discussed our

student leadership team called Eagle Leaders and students have had the opportunity to apply to be a leader for the year. Those applications will be scored using a rubric system and the top scorers will be announced as soon as possible. We have many fun projects and celebrations in the works!

Our second guidance lesson, which will be completed by the end of the week in all classrooms, deals with our crisis plan and what student expectations are if they were to hear the phrase “Teachers, please secure the building.” In age appropriate conversations we have covered the following basic steps:

1. As quickly as possible, get to the nearest room with a teacher and a door that locks.
2. Remain calm.
3. Be as quiet as possible.
4. Follow adult directions.

As I told the students, I hope this is a lesson we will never need to use, but it is always better to be prepared.

If you or your student has questions about anything this year, please feel free to let me know. My phone number is 457-6500 and my email is macgregorm@urbandaleschools.com. I look forward to seeing you around Valerius!

Library News

Hello! My name is Dani Christensen, and I’m the new teacher-librarian for all students in kindergarten through 5th grade at Valerius. I’m excited to work with your students! This month in the library, our kindergarten through 2nd-graders are learning (and refreshing their memories) about how to check out books and be respectful, responsible, and safe both in the library and with their books at home. Third- through 5th-graders are getting their first experiences with our new library catalog system so that they can search and find books independently in the library. If you’d like to use system from home to see what resources are available in Valerius’ library, you can go to urbandaleschools.follettdestiny.com and click on the Valerius link. I’m looking forward to a wonderful year in the library. If you use twitter, you can follow me @MrsCsLibrary, where I’ll post links to student work throughout the year!

PTO Corner

Welcome to a new school year! We hope your kids are getting settled into their new routines and are enjoying being back in school with old and new friends!

Being "in the know"

We're here for you...with a Friday weekly email to remind you of important school events and other ways to get involved. However, we can't send those to you each Friday unless you opt in! If you opted in at registration, we can access the primary contact's email address for our weekly reminders (sent via mail chimp). If you opted out, but still want to receive important communications or you want to add a second parent's email address to our distribution list or maybe you can't remember whether you opted in or out...just email valeriuspto@gmail.com directly and include the following information:

Child's Name, Class Teacher and Email address(es) to add to our weekly communication list (Please note that you have to indicate your "opt in" wishes each year when you register your students...opting in doesn't carry over year to year.)

Don't forget to like our facebook page to stay up to date on everything going on at Valerius: <https://www.facebook.com/valerius elementary/> It's a great way to stay connected. We also have links to forms and volunteer sign up opportunities on our website: <http://www.urbandaleschools.com/schools/valerius-elementary/pto/>

Box Tops: We are still in need of 2 more volunteers for the Box Top and Labels program at Valerius. The program runs from September through April, and it's a great way to volunteer from home. There are 5 contests where parents send in special labels (Box Tops and Campbell's Labels for Education) that they get off of different products. Each classroom has a collection box, and there is one volunteer for each classroom who collects the labels, trims them to size, counts them, and then returns them to school. Last year we raised \$1158.00 from Box Tops, which helped to pay for the field trips the kids took during the year, and received a \$100 gift card from

the Labels. To sign up to help, please go to:

<http://valerius elementarypto.bringit.bz/public/0d495c>

If the class in which your child is in is already taken by another volunteer, but you would still like to help, please feel free to sign up for a different class. Thank you!

Running Club: We are partnering with the new PE Teacher, Ms Jones, to facilitate Running Club this year. We ask for your patience and understanding as we try to kick this program off September 12! If you'd like to help, we still need some tally volunteers. It's a great way to spend your lunch hour for 7 Tuesdays or Wednesdays! Please email valeriuspto@gmail.com if you're interested in learning more!

Spirit Wear: Just a reminder that any spirit wear items you ordered will be ready to send home with your student(s) the week of homecoming (Sept 19). Spirit Parties will be September 23 and our next Spirit Day contest will be October 7.

Book Fair: Love the Valerius school Book Fairs? We are looking for a couple of people who would be interested in learning how we run the Book Fairs at Valerius. Christina Roesler and Tammy Sparks, our two current Book Fair co-chairs, both have 5th graders this year, and would love to have the opportunity to have anyone who might be interested in running the Book Fairs in the future help with some of the planning this year. If you are interested, please email the PTO at valeriuspto@gmail.com, or contact Kate Johnson in the school office (phone 457-6500, email johnsonk@urbandaleschools.com)

Annual Notice – Open Enrollment – Urbandale Schools

The deadline for filing an open enrollment application for the 2017-2018 school year is March 1, 2017 for grades 1-12 and September 1, 2017 for kindergarten students.

The completed form should be submitted to the resident and to the receiving district.

- Students that open enroll in grades 9-12 shall not be eligible to participate in **varsity** contests and competitions during the first ninety (90) school days of transfer.

- Parents are responsible for transporting children open enrolled to another district.

This applies to all students, including those with an IEP. If a child open enrolls to a district that is contiguous (borders) to the home district, and the parents' income meets economic eligibility requirements, the family may qualify for transportation assistance.

- Applications that have been denied may be appealed in the Iowa District Court of the resident district. If the application is based on harassment or a serious health condition, the denied application would be appealed to the Iowa Department of Education.

- Students currently open enrolled into Urbandale Schools do not need to reapply. Additional information regarding open enrollment can be found on the Urbandale Community Schools Website:

<http://www.urbandaleschools.com/our-district/student-services/open-enrollment-2>

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