

Important Information for Valwood Lower School Families

Welcome back! As we prepare to begin a new school year, we are filled with excitement and anticipation for all that lies ahead. The start of school brings with it a fresh sense of possibility, renewed energy, and the opportunity to continue growing together in academics, character, and service. Whether you are returning to campus or joining us for the first time, we are thrilled to have you as part of the Valwood family. Below you will find descriptions of events and common terms that often may be hard to define. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions throughout the school year.

Monday, August 10 – Open House

- 1:30 pm New family orientation (Gym)
- 2-3 pm New student open house (meet teachers and see classrooms)
- 3 – 5 pm Returning student open house

Tuesday, August 11 – Back to School & Convocation – 8 am

On the first day of school, **Tuesday, August 11**, we will begin the year with our annual **Convocation**. All students in **Kindergarten through 12th grade** will report directly to the gym for this special event. **Pre-K students will not attend Convocation and should go directly to their classrooms upon arrival.**

During Convocation, we will introduce our faculty and staff, recognize the senior class, and celebrate the start of a new school year together. At the conclusion of the program, students will be dismissed by grade level and accompanied by their teachers to their classrooms.

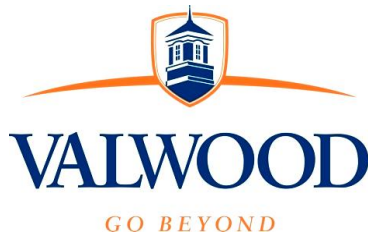
Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend Convocation. Please note that parents will not be walking students to their classrooms following the event.

August 11 is a half-day of school. Dismissal times are listed below.

Wednesday, August 12 – First Full Day of School & Late Start Wednesday – 8:30 am

BEFORE SCHOOL BEGINS:

Physicals - All students in grades 5 through 12 are required to have a physical on file. Completed physicals are due by August 1, 2026. Many local physicians are familiar with this form and may charge a small fee to complete it for you.



Summer Reading - Summer reading is required for students in grades 3rd through 12th. The information can be found on our website, [HERE](#).

Summer Math - Summer math packets for students in grades 3rd-7th. These were distributed before school was dismissed in May. If you need another copy, they can be downloaded from our website, [HERE](#).

Supply Lists - Are available on our website, [HERE](#).

BACK TO SCHOOL:

Arrival and Dismissal

- School begins at 8:00 am for all Lower School students. Students are considered tardy if they arrive after 8:00 am. **(On Wednesdays, school begins at 8:30 AM)**
- Safety Patrol is present to assist your child out of the car. Please do not let your child get out by themselves.
- **If you choose to walk your child into the building, please make sure you park in a parking space – DO NOT park along the curb.**
- Please drive slowly through the parking lot, watch for pedestrians, and do not use your cell phone.
- If you arrive while our Safety Patrol is still unloading, you may let your child out as normal. If Safety Patrol is not present, then we ask you to park and escort your child in and sign him or her in as tardy in the office.

Dismissal Times for Lower School

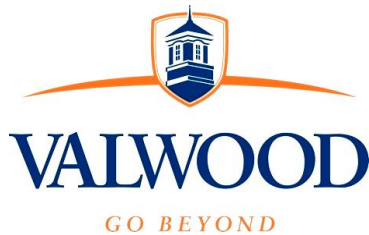
- Pre-K (half day) – 12:00 pm
- Pre-K (full day) – 2:20 pm
- Kindergarten – 2:30 pm
- 1st - 2:35 pm
- 2nd - 2:40 pm
- 3rd - 2:45 pm
- 4th - 2:50 pm
- 5th - 2:55 pm

Half-Day Dismissal Times

- Pre-K (all) - 11:20 am
- Kindergarten - 11:35 am
- 1st Grade - 11:40 am
- 2nd Grade - 11:45 am
- 3rd Grade - 11:50 am
- 4th Grade - 11:55 am
- 5th Grade – 12:00 pm

Additional Info:

- Please do not “cut around” a car or park at the ends of the islands.
- Always check for pedestrians around your car before pulling away.
- Dismissal is not the time for parent/teacher conferences. If you need to speak with the teacher, please email them to set up a conference time.
- Please place the Grade Number(s) in the front window of the passenger side and the left rear window of your car. Let us know if you need additional numbers.
- Lower School students are not permitted to walk alone to the other buildings to be picked up. Please call the Lower School Office to discuss this should the need arise.
- Please call us if you are going to be late picking up your child.



Lower School Lunch Times

- Kindergarten – Bahnsen - 10:50 - 11:20 am
- Kindergarten – Minson - 10:55 - 11:25 am
- 1st Grade – Burnett - 11:00 - 11:30 am
- 1st Grade – Register - 11:05 - 11:35 am
- 2nd Grade - Drumheller - 11:10 - 11:40 am
- 2nd Grade - Holton - 11:15 - 11:45 am
- 3rd Grade – Perry - 11:20 - 11:50 am
- 4th Grade – Davis - 11:30 am - 12:00 pm
- 4th Grade – Nijem - 11:35 am - 12:05 pm
- 5th Grade – Lewis - 11:40 am - 12:10 PM
- 5th Grade – Taylor - 11:45 am - 12:15 pm
- Pre-K – Dean & Turner – 11:55 am - 12:25 pm

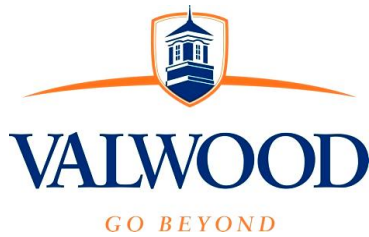
ADDITIONAL INFO

“Beyond the Bell” (previously known as Extended Day) – Is available for lower school students for an additional fee. Please register on-line by logging into your [FACTS Family Account](#) (District Code: VW-GA) > School > Web Forms > Extended Day & Homework Hour (Lower School) > Extended Day Program Enrollment. Students must be picked up from by 5:30 pm.

Field Trips – PK-5th grade have field trips throughout the school year. Fifth graders go on one overnight trip. Parents may be invited as needed for chaperones and drivers. *Siblings ARE NOT ALLOWED to attend field trips.*

Food Services - Pepi Food Services is our on-campus food provider. Student accounts have been set up by FACTS student ID numbers. A representative will be available for questions during the new family BBQ and open house. Some students choose to bring their own lunch, it's completely your choice. If students in upper school choose to order lunch to be delivered, it must be delivered to Crane Hall. We do think everyone needs to know that this is not encouraged by Valwood because the students have a short time allotted for lunch and often the food is not here when they expect it!

Late Start Wednesday - The school day begins at 8:00 am every day except, Wednesdays, classes do not start until 8:30 am. The teachers are here at 7:30 am on Wednesday so that they can have meetings, conferences, participate in staff development, etc. If you need to bring your child to school at the normal time (anytime after 7:45 am), they can go to Rodgers Performance Hall (RPH) for supervised time prior to class starting at 8:30 am.



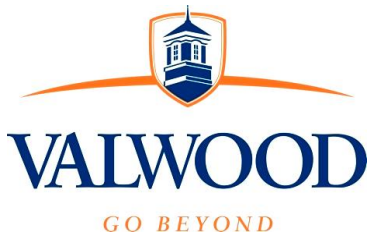
RPH – Rodgers Performance Hall located in Godwin-Holmes Arts Center – assemblies and plays take place here.

Spirit Days - Every Friday is Spirit Day at Valwood! Students are allowed to wear t-shirts IF IT IS A VALWOOD t-shirt! We also have pep rallies on some Fridays.

Sports Calendar - Our athletic director sends a sports update every Monday titled “Sports This Week”. This includes all games and practice schedules. (Full schedules can be found on the Valwood Athletics App.) In the event of last-minute changes, usually due to weather, you will receive a parent alert via text message and a notification on the App. Please make sure your information in FACTS is correct and that you have downloaded the App.

Valwood App - Stay Connected All Year Long. The Valwood School Family App provides parents and students instant access to their Facts Family Account for grades, events, homework, directory, lunch menus, and so much more! Download the Valwood School Family app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store today!

Valwood View – Our weekly newsletter, “The Valwood View” is emailed every Thursday to all families via your email account that is in FACTS. This will contain updates from administration and division specific newsletters, the lunch menu for the current month, any calendar updates, and other important information.



2026 – 2027 KEY CALENDAR DATES

New Family Dinner	August 6
New Family Orientation & Open House	August 10
First Day of School/Convocation	August 11 (Noon Dismissal)
First Full Day of School/Convocation	August 12 (Late Start 8:30 am)
Labor Day Holiday (No School)	Sept. 4 & 7
Homecoming Week	September 14 - 18
Yearbook Picture Day (MS/US)	September 21
Yearbook Picture Day (LS)	September 22
Columbus Day Holiday (No School)	October 12
Middle School Trips	October 18 - 23
Conference Day (No School for Students)	October 28
Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)	November 23 – 27
Middle & Upper School Exams	December 14 - 16
End of First Semester	December 16 (Noon Dismissal)
Christmas Holidays (No School)	December 17 - January 5
Teacher In-Service Day	January 5
First Day of Second Semester	January 6
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (No School)	January 18 & 19
President's Day Holiday (No School)	February 12 & 15
Upper School College Trips & Internships	February 22 - 26
Conference Day (No School for Students)	March 17
Good Friday Holiday	March 26
Spring Break (No School)	March 29 - April 2
Grandparents Day	April 23
Middle School & Upper School Exams	May 18 - 20
Pre-K & Kindergarten Last Day	May 20
Last Day of School (1st-12th)/Graduation	May 21
Post-Planning	May 24 – 26
Memorial Day Holiday	May 31