



August 15, 2011

Dear Valley Catholic Middle School Families,

On behalf of the middle school staff, I would like to welcome you to the 2011-2012 school-year. This year will prove to be an exciting one full of new experiences, new facilities, new programs, as well as many time honored traditions.

It is hard to believe that we are a few weeks away from the first school event –Book Buying and Registration Day, as well as new student orientation for grade 6, 7 and all new 8th grade students. We look forward to seeing you at this event on Thursday, September 1st.

During the Book Buying and Registration time (noon – 2:00 for middle school), students will receive their daily class schedules, lockers, take their yearbook photos, and purchase their textbooks. There will be locations to purchase both new and used textbooks. All new students (6th, 7th and new 8th grade), will receive their hooded uniform sweatshirt and one PE/spirit wear t-shirt. In addition, a variety of spirit wear will be available for purchase including spirit wear (PE and Friday dress items).

New Student Orientation (11:00 – 11:45 a.m.) addresses both the students and the parents with important information for the first week of school. Parents and students will have the opportunity to ask questions as needed. In an effort to lessen the anxiety students may have entering into the building on the first day of school, we have scheduled time for students to learn how to open their locker, to travel to their classes, and other ways to help them become familiar with the school, teachers, schedules during the first week.

I hope you find this mailing helpful, and know that we will update the web with any additional information.

While there is a lot excitement as the staff prepares for the new school year, I certainly do not want to rush the remaining weeks of your summer. Again, we are really looking forward to seeing you in a few weeks. Until then I hope you are able to enjoy the sunshine, catch up on your sleep, and have fun until we see you in September.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Gfroerer

Principal

Valley Catholic Middle School

503-718-6510 (direct line)

503-718-6500 (main number)

www.valleycatholic.org

Reminders and Tips:

Beaverton Parade Saturday, August 27 2011: We hope you can join us! Valley Catholic Schools, Valley Catholic Early Learning School, and Maryville Nursing Home will be participating in this year's Beaverton Celebration Parade for the eleventh year in a row. This year's event will be held on Saturday, August 27th. Details can be found on the enclosed flyer.

What: 53rd Annual Beaverton Celebration Parade

When: Saturday, August 27th; Parade begins at 10 a.m., meet at the starting location at Allen Blvd and Menlo Dr. no later than 9:40 a.m. (See shuttle information for those times – attached paperwork)

Where: Parade route begins at Beaverton Christian Church on SW Allen Blvd. at SW Menlo Dr., turns north onto SW Erickson, east on SW 5th, north again on SW Watson and then onto Broadway and into Old Town Beaverton.

RSVP: No need to RSVP. Just show up if you can join us. We are float number O5 (Oh five).

New 6th – 8th Grade New Student Orientation: New 6th – 8th grade students and parents are invited to attend an orientation 11:00 – 11:45 a.m. in the new MS building on Thursday, September 1st. This session will introduce students and parents to the middle school program, to our building, and to procedures specific to the first week of school. Parents will join Mrs. G while the students will join the middle school staff, as well as mentor/host students.

8th Grade Mentor/ Host Students/Tour Guides Wanted: Any VCMS eighth grade student who attended VCMS last year that would like to be trained and act as a mentor/host student/tour guide for the New Student Orientation on Thursday, September 1st is welcome to join us for the initial training starting at 9:00 a.m. in the new middle school building. Training will occur from 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. and then you will assist during the New Student Orientation for all 6th, 7th and new 8th grade students. Your day will be finish by noon, when the MS book buying and registration time begins. If you are interested in helping please RSVP. General service hours are granted, as well as hours for National Junior Honor Society members.

Save the Date: You are invited to join us for the dedication of the new building on Friday, September 8th starting at 6:30 p.m. Archbishop Vlazny and Mayor Denny Doyle will join our school community as we officially celebrate the opening of the new building. Invitational postcards were mailed to all Valley Catholic families with more details. We hope to see you there!

Permission Slip: As part of the first week of school - orientation week - Valley Catholic Middle School students have been going to Skateworld in Hillsboro. This trip provides the students with an opportunity to get to know one another in a fun and relaxed setting. Permission slips are included in this packet. We encourage you to complete the forms and turn them in ON REGISTRATION AND BOOK BUYING DAY Thursday, September 1st. However, the forms are not due until Wednesday, September 7th.

Things to do before school starts:

Physical Examination: State law requires that every student is up to date with the following shots before entering school.

Incoming 6th Grade Students

- 5 Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP)
- 4 Polio
- 1 Varicella (Chickenpox)
- 2 Measels
- 1 Mumps
- 1 Rubella
- 3 Hepatitis B

Incoming 7th – 9th Grade Students

- 5 Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP)
- 1 Tdap
- 4 Polio
- 1 Varicella (Chickenpox)
- 2 Measels
- 1 Mumps
- 1 Rubella
- 3 Hepatitis B

In addition, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who plan to take part in athletics are strongly encouraged to have a physical before the first practice.

School Supply List: The recommended supply list was posted on-line at:
<http://www.valleycatholic.org/about/parents-guide.php> at the end of last school year.

Daily Locker Dimensions: Interior dimensions are approx. 35 ½ inches tall x 17 ½ inches wide. There are three hooks about one inch from the top of the locker. There is a single hook on both the right and left side of the locker, as well as a double hook on the back of the locker. All in all, these lockers are much larger than last year's middle school lockers. Our recommendation is to purchase a shelf with legs instead of a self adjusting "compression style" shelf – if you intend to purchase one. Locker assignments and combinations will be distributed on Thursday, September 1st at the Book Buying and Registration Day. (Also, see the locker decorating rules at the end of this packet.)

PE Locks: All 6th, 7th, and new 8th grade students will need to rent a PE lock for \$5.00. As long as the student does not lose his/her lock over the course of their time in middle school, the \$5.00 fee is a one-time fee. PE locks and clothing baskets will be distributed during the first week of school. However we recommend paying the \$5.00 fee on Thursday, September 1st at the Book Buying and Registration Day.

Dress Code Reminder: When shopping for school clothes, please keep in mind the dress code that will be enforced. Please pay attention to not only the clothing requirement but also the policy regarding hair and accessories. *We appreciate support and guidance from parents in helping students make good choices about what is appropriate for school, using the dress code as the guideline.*

Reminder: Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices: Phones are not to be used from the time students walk into the building until they leave at the end of the day. Phones must be turned off and put into their lockers before 0 period and stay there until the 3:10 dismissal bell. It is the responsibility of students to lock their lockers. Keep in mind that this policy includes any personal items or devices brought to school (Electronic games, I-Pods, etc.). In an emergency, parents can always reach their children by calling the school office.

Reminders for the first week of school:

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures: Detailed information regarding drop-off and pick-up will be distributed on September 1st at the Book Buying and Registration day.

First School Day: School starts on Tuesday, September 6th, at 7:50 a.m. with an 11:40 a.m. dismissal.

Building Hours: The building open for students at 7:30 a.m., and supervision will be offered in the building at that time. Students need to leave the building and grounds within 10 minutes of dismissal unless they are working with a teacher or are attending an after school club, an after school meeting, or the supervised study hall.

After School - Daily Supervised Study Hall: Plans at this time are for the after school study hall to start Thursday, September 8th. The program meets Monday-Friday from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. on full class days. THERE IS NO SUPERVISED STUDY HALL ON ANY DAY THAT SCHOOL ENDS PRIOR TO 3:10 p.m. It is the family's responsibility to arrange for pick-up within 10 minutes of dismissal for any school day that ends prior to 3:10 p.m. **More details regarding the after school supervised study hall will be available on Thursday, September 1st at the Book Buying and Registration Day.**

Locker Decorating Rules: First, remember the locker is primarily a place for students to store school supplies. Organize the locker so that things are neat and easy to find. We suggest using a locker shelf to provide more space for your supplies.

Be careful, though - Too much clutter will keep you from reaching your class on time with all the supplies you may need. Also, be sure any magnetized items are strong enough to hold onto the door before you remove the store wrapping.

With that being said, feel free to make the locker your own by personalizing the inside of the locker. But remember – whatever you put up now must be removed – including tape residue – in June.

General Rules:

Students may decorate the inside of the locker only.

Locker items may be applied with making tape, blue painters tape, or magnets ONLY (The use of Scotch tape, double sided tape, stickers, and glue is prohibited.)

Decorations must have appropriate messages. Decorations may not promote or endorse the use of drugs (including tobacco) or alcohol and cannot be disrespectful to the Catholic Church or its teachings.

In addition, all people displayed in photos (including magazine cut-outs, etc.) must be in modest clothing. People in the photos should be wearing clothing that would be acceptable under our free dress guidelines.

The decorations must be safe. They must not pose any danger or injury to the students or to anyone coming into contact with the locker.

Not sure if you can use something to decorate? Ask a middle school teacher.