



Dear Student and Parents:

August 8, 2023

We are hopeful you have all had a wonderful and restful summer and are excited for the upcoming school year. The Van Buren team has been working very hard to prepare and we look forward to the **first day of school on Tuesday, September 5th.**

This letter is intended to provide you with some details and reminders as we transition toward the start of the school year.

- **Soft Opening** - Monday, August 21st - 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
 - We are providing an optional opportunity for new students to the building. This would include all 6th graders, all 9th graders, and any students/families new to the district.
 - Students will have the opportunity to meet their principal, be provided with their 23-24 schedules, and tour the building.
 - Students who attend this event will still need to attend “Opening Knight.”
- **Opening Knight** - Wednesday, August 23rd - from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
 - Students/parents will progress through a series of tasks/activities to prepare for the upcoming school year.
 - For those unable to attend Opening Knight, we will have open office hours on Thursday, August 24th from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.
 - **Please be sure to complete student registration (FinalForms) and pay student fees (PaySchools Central)**
 - REGISTRATION - All Van Buren students and parents will need to complete and confirm/update information through Final Forms, our electronic student registration. Step-by-step details can be found on the school website - “For Parents and Students” → FinalForms (<https://vanburen-oh.finalforms.com/>).
 - STUDENT FEES - “For Parents & Students” → PaySchools Central Login (<https://www.vbschools.net/page/payschools-central>)
 - For login information or additional assistance, please contact the main office. For those who are in need of internet access for this process, devices will be set up in the high school office the week of August 21st from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm.
- **VB Reads**
 - As a district, we will continue our literacy initiative in which EVERYONE in the district will have an opportunity to engage and explore in a daily reading opportunity of their choice.
 - Programs will continue to aid in providing resources to our students including, a well-stocked **school library, Newspapers in Education** (Through the Findlay Courier), and **Hancock County Library membership** drives including regular access to the bookmobile. Additionally, new for the 23-24 school year, all students will be provided **access to an ebook consortium** where they can borrow books through our library catalog and read on their devices.

- **Student Handbook** - full handbook at <https://bit.ly/vbhshandbook23> (case sensitive)
 - Students and parents are encouraged to view the contents of the student handbook. Specifically, attendance policies, dress code, and technology usage.
- **Academic Assist - Wednesdays 7:55 AM to 8:35 AM**
 - On Wednesdays (starting September 6th), we will again operate on a modified schedule to allow for academic student support and staff collaboration. We will begin our regularly scheduled classes starting at 8:40 am.
 - Throughout September this time will be used for student body meetings, trainings, and activities. Student attendance is mandatory.
 - Starting the week of October 4th, all students are encouraged to use this time to work with their teachers for additional support and academic needs. However, those students who are in good academic standing, have parental permission, and do not rely on school transportation may request a release for this time (details and permission paperwork for this process, coming soon).
 - Once accepted, these students may be excused from attendance until 8:40 am, on Wednesdays only. This release privilege may be revoked at any time for academic or behavioral purposes.
- **College Credit Plus (CCP) -**
 - As local colleges and universities get underway, please communicate courses and schedules with our guidance office (Mr. Zender - mzender@vbschools.net) to ensure students are scheduled appropriately, remain eligible for extra-curricular activities, and are meeting all graduation requirements.
 - Students will generally remain at VBHS for online CCP courses. Those with proven academic success (A's and B's for previously completed VB and CCP courses) may apply for a release to be excused from this requirement.
- **Stay Informed!**
 - Students and parents are encouraged to regularly check email, social media feeds, as well as Schoology accounts.

Additional Important Resources:

- ☐ Opening Knight Logistics (See below)
- ☐ Parking Information - Available [HERE](#)
- ☐ Picture Information - Jostens - Available [HERE](#)
- ☐ Major Events Calendar - Available [HERE](#)
- ☐ Bell Schedule - Available [HERE](#)
- ☐ (Seniors only) Reminders specific to the Class of 2024 - Available [HERE](#)

Sincerely,



Kevin Shoup

Van Buren Local Schools
High School Principal

The Opening Knight events will be conducted in an “Open House” format. Therefore, students/parents can attend at whatever time is most convenient between the hours of 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm. We are looking forward to seeing all of you on Wednesday, August 23rd as we kick off an exciting school year at Van Buren School.

MAP for the layout of the event, available [HERE](#).

- Enter the “Auditorium Entrance” (Door #9)
- Follow the signs and proceed through the Opening Knight Process:
 - Welcome
 - Pay School Fees in advance at vbschools.net
 - Student Pictures
 - All picture purchases will occur online through jostenspix.com
 - Additional detail can be found using event code: **FE71823**
 - Confirm Final Forms Completion - Computers available upon request
 - Pick up 22-23 School Yearbook
 - Submit Senior Class Trip deposit
 - Confirm Transportation needs (school bussing)
 - Pick-up School issued devices
 - Get 23-24 course schedules
 - Cafeteria:
 - Set up lunch money accounts
 - PTO, Athletic, Music Boosters
 - Set up Hancock County Library account
 - Learn about our career programs including student internship and apprenticeship opportunities
 - Schedule adjustments with the guidance office
- Guests are encouraged to tour the building and classrooms for the upcoming school year
- Exit out west cafeteria doors

Student schedules and computers will NOT be distributed until students and parents complete registration through FinalForms.

