

First day of school - Monday, August 30th.



Viroqua Area School District

We are Mobile! To receive school delay and closing information, announcements, event calendars, daily menus and much more go to the App store on your phone and search "Viroqua Area Schools" and the Aptegy App should be your top choice. It's free! Just click and download. There is also a link to the App stores at the bottom of our school website. *Like us on Facebook!

Back-To-School Night Wednesday, August 25th Open House for All Grade Levels 5:00-7:00 pm

Viroqua Area Schools will host a "Back To-School Night" for parents and students! This will be a great opportunity for students to see their classrooms and to meet their teachers.

Educational Options Available To Resident Children

The Viroqua Area School District offers the following educational options for resident school aged children :

- Full-time Enrollment Opportunities which include: Core Course Academic Education, Reading Instruction, Fine Arts Education, Physical and Health Education, Education for Employment Programs, Career and Technical Education, Environmental Education, Drug and Alcohol Education, Bilingual Education, and Programs that meet the needs of Students with Disabilities.
- Early College Credit Program (<https://dpi.wi.gov/dual-enrollment/eccp>)
- Start College Now (<https://dpi.wi.gov/wise/data-elements/sectionprogram>)
- Open Enrollment (<https://oe.dpi.wi.gov/>)
- Part-time Enrollment for Non-public School Children (https://sms.dpi.wi.gov/sms_bascinf)
- Elementary Summer School
- Middle School Summer School
- High School Recovery Credit Summer School
- Virtual Learning Option through Viroqua Area Schools.

Census Data Residents of Viroqua Area School District

If you are a resident of the Viroqua Area School District, please call the District Office, 637-1181, to register your children, birth to age 21, for the Viroqua Area School District Census. We are required to collect this information for all persons under the age of 21 that reside in the Viroqua Area School District. If your child has been enrolled at the Viroqua Area Schools, there is no need to re-register.

If you have any specific concerns regarding your child's speech, hearing, vision, walking, learning, or behavior, please contact Cathy Reed, Student Services Director.

Important Notices for Viroqua Area School District

Education of Homeless Children and Youth

Homeless children and unaccompanied youth within the Viroqua Area School District must have access to public school educational programs and services that allow them to meet the same challenging state academic standards to which all students are held. Homeless children and youth are identified as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence. The term includes children and youth who are:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons;
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or campgrounds;
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Abandoned in hospitals;
- Awaiting foster-care placement;
- Living in a primary night-time residence not used as a regular sleeping accommodation;
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and/or
- Migratory children living in any of the circumstances described above.
- If you are personally aware of or are acquainted with any children who may be homeless, please contact Cathy Reed, Student Services Director, 637-1182.

Title 1

Title 1 is a federally funded program. The Viroqua Area School District operates a Title 1 program that provides academic support to students in Kindergarten through grade 6. Students are identified for participation through the use of classroom assessments, standardized testing, and teacher observation. Parents are notified of their child's eligibility by the classroom teacher. Parents have an opportunity to accept or decline service. The Title 1 program supplements the instruction that is provided in the classroom through small group instruction in the classroom, small group and individual pull out instruction, and extended learning opportunities. Any questions related to the Title 1 program should be directed to Pat Olbert, Title 1 Coordinator (637-7071).

Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity

Viroqua Area Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex, (including transgender status, change of sex or gender identity), or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability ("Protected Classes") in any of its student program and activities.

The District encourages informal resolution of complaints under this policy. A formal complaint resolution procedure is available, however, to address allegations of violations of the policy in the Viroqua Area School District.

Any questions concerning this policy should be directed to:
Tom Burkhalter, District Administrator
Viroqua Area School District
115 N Education Avenue
Viroqua, WI 54665
Telephone: (608) 637-1181

Student Harassment & Bullying (Policy #5517, 5517.01)

The students of the Viroqua Area School District have the right and can expect to attend school in an environment free of harassment. Harassment is defined as any deliberate, unwelcome verbal, written or physical conduct. This can entail explicit derogatory statements or discriminating remarks that are offensive or objectionable to the individual or which cause the individual discomfort or which interfere with the individual's academic performance. This may include, but is not limited to, any blatant sexual overtures such as: leering, pinching, patting, displays or graphic or written material. This may also include, but is not limited to, subtle repeated verbal or physical action such as comments, innuendoes, gestures, or actions, which involve bullying and/or intimidating others.

Students who feel that they are being harassed should report it to their building principal, school counselor or any staff member.

Viroqua Area Schools Mission Statement

"The Viroqua Area School District provides a quality education for all students that inspires continuous learning, positive relationships, curiosity and compassion in an environment that welcomes diversity while developing respectful and responsible citizens."

Administration & Supervisors

District Administrator - Tom Burkhalter
Phone: 637-1181 Email: tburkhalter@viroquablackhawk.org
High School Principal - Jason Cress
Phone: 608-637-1605 Email: jcress@viroquablackhawk.org
Middle School Principal - John Schneider
Phone: 637-1603 Email: johnschneider@viroquablackhawk.org
Elementary School Principal - Pat Olbert
Phone: 637-1104 Email: polbert@viroquablackhawk.org
Director of Business Services - Mike Brendel
Phone: 637-1184 Email: mbrendel@viroquablackhawk.org
Director of Student Services - Cathy Reed
Phone: 608-637-1182 Email: creed@viroquablackhawk.org
Director of Instruction - Krista Woodward
Phone: 608-637-1115 Email: wookri@viroquablackhawk.org
Transportation Supervisor - Randy Pederson
Phone 637-1642 Email: rpederson@viroquablackhawk.org
Buildings & Grounds Supervisor - Terry Olson
Phone: 637-1636 Email: tolson@viroquablackhawk.org
Food & Nutrition Dept Supervisor - Kristi Ethridge
Phone: 637-1645 Email: ethkri@viroquablackhawk.org

School Telephone Numbers

Elementary School	637-7071	Fax 637-1211
High School	637-3191	Fax 637-8034
Middle School	637-3171	Fax 637-8034
District Office	637-1186	Fax 637-8554
Student Services	637-1182	
Bus Garage	637-1642	
Food Service	637-1645	
Nurse	(Elem) 637-1103	(HS/MS) 637-1509
HS/MS Activity Director	637-1610	

School Supplies

Viroqua Area Schools is excited to be able to provide general school supplies for the 2021-22 school year. General school supplies include items such as paper, pencils, scissors, glue, colored pencils, etc. Students and parents will be responsible for some items including organizers/binders, back pack, water bottle, tennis shoes, physical education clothing (VMS/VHS), and any other personalized items, as needed by your child(ren)'s grade level. Your child's teacher may communicate if there are specific school supply needs for their class.

Special Needs Scholarship Program Overview

The Special Needs Scholarship Program (SNSP) allows a student with a disability, who meets certain eligibility requirements, to receive a state-funded scholarship to attend a participating private school. The SNSP is governed by Wisconsin Statute 115.7915 and Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter 49.

2021-2022 PUBLIC RELEASE FOR SEAMLESS SUMMER OPTION (SSO) NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST PROGRAMS, SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM

This is the public release that we will send to: [Vernon County Times](#) and [Vernon View](#) on 7/28/21.

RELEASE STATEMENT

Viroqua Area School District is participating in the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) during COVID-19, a free breakfast and lunch program for the 2021-22 school year. All students enrolled at the following school(s) are eligible to receive school meals at no charge:

Viroqua Elementary School
Viroqua Middle School
Viroqua High School
Viroqua Area Montessori School
Laurel High School
Better Futures

USDA Free and Reduced Price Meal Applications are not required to receive free meals under SSO. However, applications may be distributed by the school to collect household income data for other programs that require this information, such as the Special Milk Program, Pandemic FoodShare Benefits (P-EBT), educational funding and additional benefits.

For additional information please contact: Viroqua School District, Attention: Kristi Ethridge, Food Service Director, Food & Nutrition Department, 100 Blackhawk Dr. Viroqua, WI 54665 608-637-1645, or email at ethkri@viroquablackhawk.org.

The following household size and income criteria will be used for determining eligibility. Children from families whose annual income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free and reduced price benefits. A student still needs to be eligible to receive free milk if a split session student does not have access to the school lunch or breakfast service.

FAMILY SIZE INCOME SCALE For Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Meals or Milk

Family (Household) Size	ANNUAL INCOME LEVEL			MONTHLY INCOME LEVEL		
	Free <i>Must be at or below figure listed</i>	Reduced Price <i>Must be at or between figures listed</i>		Free <i>Must be at or below figure listed</i>	Reduced Price <i>Must be at or between figures listed</i>	
1	\$16,744	\$ 16,744.01 and	\$23,828	\$ 1,396	\$1,396.01 and	\$1,986
2	22,646	22,646.01 and	32,227	1,888	1,888.01 and	2,686
3	28,548	28,548.01 and	40,626	2,379	2,379.01 and	3,386
4	34,450	34,450.01 and	49,025	2,871	2,871.01 and	4,086
5	40,352	40,352.01 and	57,424	3,363	3,363.01 and	4,786
6	46,254	46,254.01 and	65,823	3,855	3,855.01 and	5,486
7	52,156	52,156.01 and	74,222	4,347	4,347.01 and	6,186
8	58,058	58,058.01 and	82,621	4,839	4,839.01 and	6,886
For each additional household member, add	+ 5,902	+ 5,902 and	+8,399	+ 492	+ 492 and	+ 700

Application forms are being sent to all homes with a notice to parents or guardians. To apply for free or reduced price benefits or free milk, households must fill out the application and return it to the school (unless notified at the start of the school year that children are eligible through direct certification). Additional copies are available at the office in each school. The information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by agency or other program officials. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year.

To obtain free or reduced price benefits or free milk for children in a household where one or more household members receive FoodShare, FDPPIR, or Wisconsin Works (W-2) cash benefits, list the FoodShare, FDPPIR or W-2 case number, program name, list the names of all school children, sign the application, and return it to the school office.

For the school officials to determine eligibility for free or reduced price benefits or free milk of households not receiving FoodShare, FDPPIR or W-2 cash benefits, the household must provide the following information requested on the application: names of all household members, total number of household members, and the adult signing the application form must also list the last four digits of his or her Social Security Number or mark the box to the right of "Check if no SSN". Also, the income received by each household member must be provided by amount and source (wages, welfare, child support, etc.).

Under the provisions of the free and reduced price benefit/meal and free milk policy Nora Christianson 100 Blackhawk Drive Viroqua, WI 54665 608-637-1644 will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent or guardian is dissatisfied with the ruling of the official, he/she may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. If the parent/guardian wishes to make a formal appeal, he/she may make a request either orally or in writing to: Tom Burkhalter, District Administrator 115 N. Education Ave Viroqua, WI 608-637-1186.

If a hearing is needed to appeal the decision, the policy contains an outline of the hearing procedure.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size changes, the family should contact the school. Such changes may make the household eligible for free or reduced price benefits or free milk if the household income falls at or below the levels shown above, and they may reapply at that time.

Children formally placed in foster care are also eligible for free meal benefits. Foster children may be certified as eligible without a household application. Households with foster children and non-foster children may choose to include the foster child as a household member, as well as any personal income available to the foster child, on the same application that includes their non-foster children.

The information provided by the household on the application is confidential. Public Law 103-448 limits the release of student free and reduced price eligibility status to persons directly connected with the administration and enforcement of federal or state educational programs. Consent of the parent/guardian is needed for other purposes such as waiver of textbook fees.

Non-discrimination Statement:

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: [How to File a Complaint](#), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to the determining official.

*Delete the references to the Breakfast Program or the Split-session Special Milk Program if you do not offer these programs.

Parents Have a Right To Know

- Whether a teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subjects taught.
- Whether a teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional license or whether licensing criteria have been waived.
- A teacher's degree major and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher and the discipline of the degree or certification; and
- Whether a child is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications.

If you have questions, please contact any building principal.

DISTRICT BOARD POLICIES

Viroqua Area School District Board Policies can be found on the District www.viroquaareaschools.com