

## Valley Forge Middle School Resources and Frequently Asked Questions

---

### **VFMS website**

<https://www.tesd.net/Domain/506>

---

### **2021-2022 Student Handbook** *(we will update to 2022-2023 when it is available)*

<https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/509/handbook%202021-2022%20digital%20version.pdf>

---

### **VFMS PTO**

The Valley Forge Middle School PTO is a volunteer organization of parents that exists to support the administration, staff, faculty and students of VFMS. By offering programs, raising money and providing volunteers at school and PTO events, the VFMS PTO works to enhance every student's experience at VFMS.

***A list of the PTO's activities can be found here:*** <http://www.vfmspto.org/about-the-ptol/>

### **PTO Blast**

The Blast is the PTO's weekly email newsletter sent on Sunday afternoons to VFMS parents containing news and announcements from the PTO and school administration. An archive of past Blasts is conveniently accessible right here on the PTO website for your reference.

***Sign up for the PTO Blast:*** <http://www.vfmspto.org/vfms-blast/>

---

### **ARCH**

ARCH is a coalition of parents, educators, and community members committed to promoting the well-being of youth in Tredyffrin and Easttown Townships. Arch serves as a resource to families as they help their children form a positive self-image, make healthy choices, and reduce the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD).

*ARCH is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving the community since 1981. ARCH stands for "Area Residents Caring and Helping, Inc."*

<http://www.archcares.org/>

---

### **VFMS Morning Announcements**

A few weeks into school - parents will be able to sign up for a Schoology group that publishes the VFMS morning announcements that students hear during homeroom on VF-TV.

---

### **T/E - Bulletin Board**

Disclaimer: While the T/E School District reviews fliers for content, the District is not responsible for the actual activities or events. The organizations featured on the T/E-Bulletin Board are independent of the T/E School District.

<http://www.tesd.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=96>

---

### **Clubs**

School clubs start at staggered times during the year – depending on the moderator’s availability. Notifications about clubs and permission slips are updated in the VFMS weekly bulletin, weekly counselor emails, and clubs from 2021-2022 are posted here:

<https://www.tesd.net/domain/513>

**Homework Club** (Homework Club typically starts the second or third week of September)

The goal of this club is to provide a consistent, quiet environment with resources for students to complete homework. Homework Club meets after school **Monday through Thursday from 3:15-4:00.**

Students have access to reference materials, teachers, and computers. Some time may be available in the library as well. Students should come prepared with their assignment book and homework materials. It is also helpful to have a reading (SSR) book and materials to study in case homework is completed before the end of the club.

***Permission form can be found here*** (return to your child’s school counselor):

<https://www.tesd.net/Page/3318>

---

### **VFMS Athletics**

*Valley Forge Athletic programs are offered to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders only.*

**VFMS Athletics website:** <http://www.tesd.net/domain/512>

*Please contact the athletic office at 610-240-1311 if you have any additional questions.*

---

### **VFMS Music**

*Overview can be found here (how to sign up for emails, music programs, auditions, etc.)*

<http://www.vfmsmusic.com/>

### **Contacts:**

**Craig Gonci**

[GonciC@TESD.net](mailto:GonciC@TESD.net)

7/8 Orchestra

7/8 Concert Band

7/8 Jazz Ensemble

5/6 Jazz Band

Beginning Band

**Ben Green**

[GreenB@tesd.net](mailto:GreenB@tesd.net)

*5/6 Orchestra*

*5th Grade Concert Band*

*6th Grade Concert Band*

**Rebecca Johnson**

[JohnsonR@TESD.net](mailto:JohnsonR@TESD.net)

*5th Grade Chorus*

*6th Grade Chorus*

*7/8 Chorus*

*Valley Forge Singers*

**Joyanna Daniel**

[DanielJ@TESD.net](mailto:DanielJ@TESD.net)

*7/8 Handbells*

*6<sup>th</sup> Handbells*

**Music in Our Schools / a FLITE-TEMP joint program**

FLITE can provide the funds to cover instrument rental costs for selected students whose family does not have the financial means to obtain access to the instrument. TEMPO administers the program. *Contact your child's school counselor for details.*

---

**Tutors**

School Counselors have a list of private tutors from which they make referrals if parents are interested in hiring a private tutor at their own expense.

---

**Attendance**

<https://www.tesd.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=15>

**If your student cannot attend classes that day or will be late – parents can report this absence in the following ways:**

- *Call:* 610-240-1330 to report a child's absence on the morning that he/she will be absent.
- *Email:* [vfmattendance@tesd.net](mailto:vfmattendance@tesd.net)
- *Fax:* 610-240-1335 – fax
  - Upon returning to school, students should report to teachers and find out what work has been missed.
  - In order to participate in interscholastic sporting events, a student must be in attendance by 10:30am on the day of the event.

### **Request for Legal Absence From School for Student Travel**

Circumstances sometimes necessitate absence from school for reasons other than sickness or death in the family. As defined in the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District Regulation 5117, an excused absence may be granted for student educational travel by the respective building principal for absences up to five (5) school days per year. Any requests for absences for a longer duration but no more than 20 school days may be granted by the Superintendent of Schools after the recommendation of the principal. Any absences for students in excess of the approved number of days of an approved long-term absence shall be regarded as unexcused. Approval may be granted pending review of the individual request, the specific educational value of the trip, and the student's progress and attitude. The principal will consult with the student's teachers to evaluate these factors.

Requests for such long-term absences shall be received by the building principal two (2) weeks prior to the absence. The granting of an excused absence does not, however, assure a passing grade for any subject/course of study. The responsibility for the completion of any assignment rests entirely with the individual student and the discretion and convenience of the subject teacher. This request constitutes a commitment on the part of the student to contact each of his or her teachers to arrange for the completion of assignments following the trip. Teachers are not authorized to provide work prior to the trip and there should be no expectation that this will occur.

***Policy and Form can be found here:***

<https://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/Domain/14/R5117.pdf>

---

### **School Closings & Delays**

<https://www.tesd.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=115>

Serious weather conditions or other emergencies may make it necessary to delay the opening of school or dismiss school early. VFMS **utilizes the T/E All Call system to communicate automatically with parents when there are school closings and/or delays (see link above)**. Parents are urged to have a plan for when school is closed due to weather. Consider coordinating carpools and open lines of communication with neighbors, friends, and/or extended family members. You can call the main office to make changes to your contact information in the T/E All Call, ***and if you didn't get a T/E All Call notification, it's always good to double-check at:***

- TESD web site
  - T/E Information Hotline - (610) 240-1970
  - T/E TV on Comcast Cable Channel 14 and Verizon Channel 20
- 

### **Food and Nutrition Services**

<https://www.tesd.net/domain/34>

### **SchoolCafe online system**

- The SchoolCafe online system eliminates the need for daily cash or tickets to make cafeteria purchases as we parents to pre-pay money in their child's account.
- Students may still pay by cash on a daily basis (must still enter pin) for cafeteria purchases
- Alerts include purchasing/restrictions and food allergy information, therefore all students must use their pin to make a purchase.
- Children receive a personal identification number (pin) that remains with them from grade K-12.
- Each time a student enters his/her pin number, their picture and any alerts appear on the cashier's screen.
- You may place account restrictions on your child's account by emailing the school kitchen manager.

***More information on the lunch online account system can be found here:***

<https://www.tesd.net/Page/15624>

---

### **T&E CARE**

<http://www.tecare.org/>

*The mission of T&E Care is to maintain a network of people providing financial and other material assistance to persons in need in and around the Tredyffrin and Easttown township area.*

***T&E CARE provides financial assistance to needy families via the following programs:***

**Family Resources:** T&E Care also helps families in the community is by helping with housing or utility bills, car repair bills, budgeting, resume reviews, food, etc. This assistance is offered in emergency of specific situations, not on an ongoing basis.

**School Supplies Program:** provides school supplies and/or a back pack

**Kids Clothing Grab Bag:** clothing drive where clothes are made available to families at no cost or for a donation that the family can afford.

**Summer Camp Program:** provides financial assistance for a child to attend a local camp such as a sports camp, a cooking camp, a day camp, or any such fun camp

**Computers:** provide computer for his/her school work

**College Assistance:** for older students, if they are hard working in both school and in the community, and are serious about their education, T&E Care might be able to help with some of the costs related to tuition or books for college.

**Holiday Program:** provide gifts for the holidays for families

---

### **FLITE**

<http://www.flite-pa.org/>

**The Foundation for Learning in Tredyffrin/Easttown (FLITE)**, is a tax-exempt, non-profit educational foundation that serves preschool through high school students year-round in Tredyffrin/Easttown.

**FLITE's overall purpose** is to help to assure the continuation of educational excellence for all public school children in Tredyffrin and Easttown Townships. FLITE targets much of its funding toward programs that reach groups and individual students who are unable to take full advantage of the curriculum and activities that the District offers.

---

### **Upper Main Line YMCA Offers Free Memberships to 7th Graders**

The YMCA offers free memberships to all Chester County's 7th grade students. The goal of the 7th Grade Initiative is to provide a safe environment where youth can discover their passions, develop a healthy lifestyle, and gain the assets needed to avoid risky behaviors and succeed in school and life.

Join our YMCAs and enjoy the many recreational activities available - And your membership is FREE from September 1 through August 31.

***Stop by your local branch with your parent and proof of 7th grade status (report card, class schedule, etc.). Complete a membership application and you can immediately enjoy all the YMCA has to offer.***

---

### **HERO Meetings**

Students meet in small groups with a teacher on a regular basis throughout the school year to discuss topics that foster a positive school climate, decrease and prevent bullying, grow their digital citizenship skills, and build resilience. HERO stands for Honesty, Empathy, Respect, and Open-Mindedness – qualities that we hope our students demonstrate at VFMS.

---

### **Schoology**

<https://www.tesd.net/Page/14803>

is the primary online learning management system that VFMS uses so students can digitally access assignments and course content, submit homework assignments, take tests, review grades, and receive announcements and teacher feedback.

As a parent/guardian, you are able to access many of these features as well.