

Hello Van Buren Families!!

This week I have included special messages from Ms. Knabe, Mrs. Barnes, PBIS team, and Girl Scouts.

Important Phone Numbers:

Main Office 558-2377

Attendance: 558-2736

Transportation: 558-2318

Dates to Remember:

March 1st - New Specials Rotation

March 2nd - 100th Day of School!!!

March 3rd - Van Buren Virtual Family Night for Conversation #4 - more details coming soon!

March 12th - Picture Day (Hours for Virtual students: 7:30am - 8:15 and 12 - 1pm in the gym)

March 15th - March 18th - Spring Break - No School

A message from Ms. Knabe:

Parents may apply now for an opportunity for their child (ages 6-11 years) to attend free overnight summer camp at Camp Tanager. The scholarships are awarded on a first come first served basis, so please act quickly! Click on the first session that says "Free Overnight Summer Camp Application" <https://www.ultracamp.com/info/upcomingsessions.aspx?idCamp=668&campCode=cti>

If you would rather, you can print out the paper form attached below and turn into Ms. Knabe at school.

A message from Girl Scouts -

If your daughter is interested in virtual Girl Scouts [please sign up here](#). They will provide all the materials you need to participate.

A message from Mrs. Barnes:

As with everything else this year, music looks and feels a lot different! We have made many changes to help keep everyone safe, but we continue to learn and grow our musical skills each

day. One benefit of having music every day for six weeks in a row has been the tremendous growth I have seen for individual students as they develop those new skills!

For safety purposes, we have drastically reduced the amount of singing we do in the music room. Never fear! In its place, we have incorporated tons of instrument playing. We are very fortunate at Van Buren to have enough mallet percussion instruments for each child to have their own for a class period. These are regularly sanitized, as are the mallets. Students have had many opportunities to play, although everyone may not have gotten the chance to play the exact instrument they want - they always gravitate towards the biggest ones! We also have a lovely collection of unpitched percussion instruments, and these have seen a great deal of use this year as well.

We have also altered the way we do movement activities. In a typical year, students move all over the classroom, often engaging in partner- or small group work. This year, we have done many individual movement activities within defined personal space, and we will continue to do this because research tells us that kids need to move during the school day! One of the hallmarks of the Van Buren music program is that it is deeply rooted in both creative and choreographed movement. That hasn't changed!

Creating is also one of the biggest pieces of what we do here, whether that is spontaneously improvising a rhythm, constructing a short melody, or creating a movement story to accompany or respond to a piece of music. My hope is to collect some video snippets of our creations, which I will then edit into one larger video. By the end of the year, we should have a collection of creations that we can share with families. I am still in the creative process myself, trying to figure out how to record, edit, and share - but in lieu of any programs this year, I hope you will still get to see what your students are working on in the music room. It is a shame that we cannot have any assemblies or performances this year, but we will find a way to "perform" for our families!

Music remains a strong part of your child's daily academic experience, even if it has to be constantly adjusted and refined. If nothing else, we have learned just how great we are at creative problem-solving!

PBIS News & Updates (from Miss Dvorak & the PBIS team)

Hello, VB families! More snow on the way today, but with the warmer temps forecasted this week, it won't stick around long. Hopefully, Spring is not too far away! Below are a few updates to pass along from the PBIS team. Thank you for your continued support.

The Importance of PBIS

PBIS creates a community within the school that respects students and teachers alike. But more than that, it levels the playing field for all students by maximizing their social, emotional, and behavioral self-management skills that help foster a safe and equitable educational environment that is conducive to learning. By focusing on PBIS, teachers and staff create an environment that helps all students achieve important behavior changes. At Van Buren, PBIS promotes a

positive school climate, safer learning environments, and more trusting and respectful student-teacher relationships. It's a win-win for all Chargers!

Be the One Expectations

Please continue to review our school-wide **Be the ONE** expectations below with your child and talk about them together. Thank you!

- **Take Ownership**
- **Make No Excuses**
- **Give Your Best Effort**

February Ticket Goal and Celebration

Chargers earned a ton of tickets last week and as a result, are now very close to reaching the **14,000** ticket goal for February! Our current count stands at **11,785** tickets!!! We hope to earn enough tickets this week to earn our Stop, Drop, & Play Games Day celebration on Friday. If the goal is met, the students will have a scheduled Covid-friendly game time in their individual classrooms on Friday, playing school games and following all safety guidelines. Just a friendly reminder that students are asked to leave all electronics and games at home on Friday, due to Covid. Thank you for your role in helping us keep all staff and students safe!

With March right around the corner, our PBIS team will meet this week to plan our school-wide ticket goal and celebration for March. Stay tuned for more details to be shared with you next week. Until then, keep Chargin' on!

Have a great week!

Mrs. Evans

Principal of Van Buren

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Amy Evans

Principal of Van Buren Elementary

319-558-1064

