

Veterans High School

New Student Guide

Welcome to the Warhawk Family!



Where excellence is the standard, not the goal.

Our Mission Statement

To develop graduates of character in an environment of excellence.

Our Vision Statement

To be the standard for all facets of student achievement, producing successful, active citizens.

Welcome to Veterans High School! It is our hope that all students who enter our school find activities and classes where they are engaged with staff members who invest in relationships to build student capacity. We hope this guide will give you a preview of important facts and information to support success in transitioning to the high school setting.

Ways to Stay Engaged

- ✓ Keep your contact information current and on file with school staff ✓
Check our school marquee for updates ✓ Follow us on Facebook & Twitter:
[https://www.facebook.com/VHSWarhawks/](https://www.facebook.com/VHSWarhawks/@Veterans_High)
<https://vhs.hcbe.net/>
- ✓ Check our website: <https://vhs.hcbe.net/>
- ✓ Attend conferences, activities, and events @ VHS

Administrative Personnel

Dr. Amy Barbour, Principal
Mark Antley, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director
Ashley Brock, Assistant Principal for Instruction
Dr. Sherry Johnson, Assistant Principal/CTAE Supervisor
Chad Simmons, Assistant Principal Milan
Turner, Chief of Athletics

Kadie Griger, Guidance Counselor
Dr. Shirley Harmon, Guidance Counselor
Lisa Stewart, Guidance Counselor
Pamela White, Guidance Counselor

Stephanie Taylor, School Secretary
Connie Connell, Bookkeeper
Kim Martin, Receptionist
Lenora Spensley, Counseling Clerk
Ginger Towe, Administrative Technology Specialist
Latricia Pope, Attendance Clerk

Letters to New Warhawks from Seniors

Welcome to Warhawk nation! As a student at Veterans High School, you will be able to discover your interests, make long-lasting relationships with students and teachers, and achieve your goals.

The biggest piece of advice I would give you is to find what motivates or interests you. Find that “spark” that makes high school exciting. For me, that was the agriculture program and FFA. For you, that may be doing community service, being athletic, expressing yourself artistically, or even working with computers. The more you spend time doing what you love, the less you’ll worry about other things. Also, being active in extracurriculars can allow you to make friends with common interests, or even start looking into possible careers.

But while having fun is important, be sure to take time to make sure you are being successful academically. The teachers at VHS are always here for you if you need help, so don’t be afraid to ask them any questions you have. Your classmates will be there to encourage and support you as well. At first, I found it hard to make friends in a school full of new people, but once I pushed myself out of my comfort zone and started to talk to students, I surrounded myself with groups of people I could trust and enjoy time with. Your classes may be difficult and overwhelming at first, but having your peers there to push you to do your best will really pay off in the end.

I wish you the best of luck here at VHS! These years will go by fast

Carmen Mueller, Class of 2021

Welcome to Veterans High School! My name is Kristen Jones, one of the captains of the basketball cheer team. Here at the school, we have many things for you to do to be involved. Make sure that you stay on top of your work and use all of the resources that you can that are available to you. If you show that you care to your teachers, then the teachers will show that same energy back. Also, make sure you get to know your teachers and the faculty; they are always a huge help when you are in a time of need.

My advice to any upcoming freshman or new people joining the Warhawk family would be to get out there and do the extracurricular activities that they have for us, go to all the games and dances that you can go to, because these next four years will go by so fast! When you get that diploma you’re going to ask yourself, “Where did the time go?” So take it slow and enjoy your time here at the V.

Kristen Jones, Class of 2021

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

For freshmen entering high school, 24 Carnegie units are required to graduate. It is possible for students to earn 28 Carnegie units during four years of high school, grades 9-12.

- **Units required for promotion:**

- **9th Grade:** 5 Carnegie Units required for promotion to 10th grade
- **10th Grade:** 11 Carnegie Units required for promotion to 11th grade
- **11th Grade:** 17 Carnegie Units required for promotion to 12th grade
- All students will register for seven classes, four core content classes (English, Math, Science & Social Studies,) and three elective/CTAE classes. Each class is .5 Carnegie Unit.
- Students should develop and complete an individual graduation program or Career Pathway. The Career Pathways include Academic, Fine Arts, World Language, and CTAE.
- The University System of Georgia strongly recommends those students who are planning to attend a post-secondary college should take a 4th year of math above Advanced Algebra and 2 years of the same Foreign Language, no matter your graduation year.

- **AREAS OF STUDY**

A course shall count only once for satisfying any unit of credit requirement for graduation. See the following chart:

Areas of Study	Unit Required
a. English/Language Arts* (must include 9 th Literature and American Literature)	4
b. Mathematics*	4
c. Science* The 4th Science unit may be used to meet both the science and requirement (must include Biology, Physical Science or Physics, Chemistry or Environmental Science)	4 elective
d. Social Studies* (must include American Government, World History, US 3 History and Economics)	
e. CTAE and/or Modern Language/Latin and/or Fine Arts (any combination)	3
f. Health and Physical Education**	1
g. Electives	5
State Required Units	24

*Required courses and/or Core Courses

**Three (3) units of credit in JROTC may be used to satisfy this requirement (requires signed letter).

** The 4th science unit may be selected from academic science courses or from approved CTAE courses. This course will earn one Carnegie unit of science credit; however, this same 4th science course could also be used to meet a requirement of a career pathway course.*

Student's Name _____

Graduation Requirements Checklist

<i>Class of 20____</i> <i>24 units required for graduation</i>				
ENGLISH-4 UNITS (9th Lit and American Lit req.)				
9A _____	10A _____	11A _____	12A _____	
9B _____	10B _____	11B _____	12B _____	
MATH-4 UNITS				
Alg/H. Alg Geom/H. Geom Adv. Alg/Pre Cal _____				
A _____	A _____	A _____	A _____	
B _____	B _____	B _____	B _____	
SOCIAL STUDIES-3 UNITS				
Am. Govt. _____ World History U.S. History				
A _____ A _____ A _____				
Economics _____ B _____ B _____				
SCIENCE-4 UNITS				
Biology Phys. Sci./Physics Chemistry/ _____				
Environmental				
A _____	A _____	A _____	A _____	
B _____	B _____	B _____	B _____	
For. Lang./Fine Arts/CTAE (3Units total)			PE/HEALTH-1 UNIT	
1A _____ 2A _____ 3A _____			Personal Fitness _____	
1B _____ 2B _____ 3B _____			Health _____	
Or 3 units of ROTC				
ELECTIVE-5 UNITS				
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

_____ Total units as of _____	_____ Total units as of _____
_____ Total units as of _____	_____ Total units as of _____
_____ Total units as of _____	_____ Total units as of _____

10th Grade 1st Semester

English _____
Math _____
SS _____
Sci _____
For Lang _____
Elec _____
Elec _____

10th Grade 2nd Semester

English _____
Math _____
SS _____
Sci _____
For Lang _____
Elec _____
Elec _____

11th Grade 1st Semester

English _____
Math _____
SS _____
Sci _____
For Lang _____
Elec _____
Elec _____

11th Grade 2nd Semester

English _____
Math _____
SS _____
Sci _____
For Lang _____
Elec _____
Elec _____

12th Grade 1st Semester

English _____
Math _____
SS _____
Sci _____
Elec _____
Elec _____
Elec _____

12th Grade 2nd Semester

English _____
Math _____
SS _____
Sci _____
Elec _____
Elec _____
Elec _____

Post-Secondary Plans _____

Must have 17 units to be promoted to 12th grade
Must have 11 units to be promoted to 11th grade
Must have 5 units to be promoted to 10th grade

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

DUAL ENROLLMENT:

Earning college credit while in high school is an option for students in the Houston County School System through Dual Enrollment. Eligible high school students may enroll full-time or part-time in college-level approved courses through Dual Enrollment. Dual Enrollment provides opportunities for Georgia high school students to take college-level approved courses, which earn both high school and college credit simultaneously. Houston County Board of Education will set a registration deadline that is different from the postsecondary institutions. Deadlines will not be waived due to college entrance exams score reports.

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS:

Financial Aid information (grants, scholarships & loans) can be located in the counseling office, VHS Website and at www.gafutures.org. Students and parents are responsible for contacting the counseling department and viewing the websites to obtain information.

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP AND HOPE GRANT:

- **HOPE Scholarship** ○ A merit-based award available to Georgia residents who have demonstrated academic achievement. A HOPE Scholarship recipient must graduate from high school with a minimum 3.00 grade point average (as calculated by GSFC) and maintain a minimum 3.00 cumulative postsecondary grade point average to remain eligible. The scholarship provides tuition assistance to students pursuing an undergraduate degree at a HOPE Scholarship eligible college or university in Georgia. A ten-year limit exists for students first receiving the HOPE Scholarship during summer term 2019 (FY20) or later. A student is ineligible to receive HOPE Scholarship funds once the student has reached the 127 semester or 190 quarter hour limit.
- **Hope Grant**
 - HOPE Grant is available to Georgia residents who are pursuing a certificate or diploma. A HOPE Grant recipient must maintain a minimum 2.00 cumulative postsecondary grade point average to remain eligible. The grant provides tuition assistance to students enrolled at a HOPE Grant eligible college or university in Georgia. A student is ineligible to receive HOPE Grant funds once the student has reached the 63 semester or 95 quarter hour limit.
- **Zell Miller Scholarship** ○ A merit-based award available to Georgia residents, similar to the HOPE Scholarship, but with more stringent academic requirements. A Zell Miller Scholarship recipient must graduate from high school with a minimum 3.70 grade point average (as calculated by GSFC), combined with a minimum SAT score of 1200 on the math and reading portions or a minimum composite ACT score of 26 in a single national test administration, and maintain a minimum 3.30 cumulative postsecondary grade point average to remain eligible. Eligible students are provided a higher level of tuition assistance while pursuing an undergraduate degree at a Zell Miller Scholarship eligible college or university in Georgia. A ten-year limit exists for students first receiving the Zell Miller Scholarship during summer term 2019 (FY20) or later. A student is

ineligible to receive Zell Miller Scholarship funds once the student has reached the 127 semester or 190 quarter hour limit.

- **Zell Miller Grant** ○ A merit-based program available to Georgia residents pursuing a certificate or diploma. A Zell Miller Grant recipient must maintain a minimum 3.50 cumulative postsecondary grade point average to remain eligible. Eligible students are provided full standard tuition assistance while enrolled at a Zell Miller Grant eligible college or university in Georgia. A student is ineligible to receive Zell Miller Grant funds once the student has reached the 63 semester or 95 quarter hour limit.

INFINITE CAMPUS:

Infinite Campus allows parents to access the grades and attendance of their children daily through the internet. You can access this center by going to the county's main web page, www.hcbe.net, and then "Parents". You can also contact Mrs. Ginger Towe, the VHS ATS Clerk, at 218-7537 ext. 64012 or ginger.towe@hcbe.net for additional assistance.

VIRTUAL SCHOOL

CREDIT RECOVERY OPTION

- The Credit Recovery program is to provide Georgia public school students an opportunity to recover credit for selected courses previously attempted and failed. Houston County School System has established regulations and guidelines for students to participate in the credit recovery courses. The online courses must be approved by the student's counselor and are FREE.
- The guidelines require the student to have previously failed the course with a final grade or EOC score of 60 to 69. The online courses are offered in language arts, math, science, and social studies. See your child's counselor for more information and registration form. This opportunity is not available during the summer.

*Although Credit Recovery courses may meet Georgia graduation requirements, the NCAA will no longer accept the GADOE's Credit Recovery Program course credits for student athletes.

END OF COURSE TEST (EOCs) & TEST-OUT

- All students are required to take End of Course tests in the following areas: American Literature & Composition, Algebra I/Coordinate Algebra, Biology, and US History.
- Students may be eligible to "test-out" of any course for which there is an associated EOC and earn credit for the course if a performance level of Distinguished Learner is achieved. Students cannot be currently or have been previously enrolled in the course and there are only certain times of the year they can attempt to test out. They must have earned a grade of B or better in the most recent course that is the same content area of the course in which they are attempting to test out.
- Students will need teacher and parent recommendations. The fee to test is \$50.00, which will be refunded if your child scores a performance level of "Distinguished Learner" on the test. For more information, contact our school's test coordinator.

PLAYING SPORTS IN COLLEGE:

- In order to be eligible to play college sports as a freshman, students must meet certain course requirements and meet certain standards in GPA and SAT or ACT scores. The student and

parents are responsible for being certain students take the proper courses to meet NCAA standards. The standards are in the counseling office.

- Students must complete the NCAA eligibility form online at the end of their junior year. It is the students' responsibility to be certain this form is completed online, and transcript is mailed. Registration form and more information can be found at www.ncaa.org.
- *Although Credit Recovery courses may meet Georgia graduation requirements, the NCAA will no longer accept the GADOE's Credit Recovery Program course credits for student athletes.

HONOR GRADUATES, VALEDICTORIAN, AND SALUTATORIAN:

The cumulative GPA is used to determine honor graduates, salutatorian, and valedictorian. To be an honor graduate, a student must have a cumulative GPA of at least 90, which is not rounded up. Determination of honor graduates, salutatorian, and valedictorian is made at the end of the first semester of the senior year.

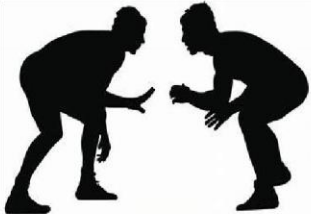
GRADUATION SPECIAL RECOGNITION

<input type="checkbox"/> Honors <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Placement (AP) <input type="checkbox"/> AFJROTC <input type="checkbox"/> American Red Cross Honor <input type="checkbox"/> Beta Club <input type="checkbox"/> Beta Club Officers <input type="checkbox"/> CTAE End of Pathway Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> DECA <input type="checkbox"/> FIRST Robotics <input type="checkbox"/> Future Business Leaders of America <input type="checkbox"/> Future Farmers of America <input type="checkbox"/> Family, Career and Community Leaders of America	<input type="checkbox"/> Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism <input type="checkbox"/> Georgia Governor's Honors Participant <input type="checkbox"/> Golden Eagle Nominees <input type="checkbox"/> HOSA, Future Health Professionals <input type="checkbox"/> International Thespian Society <input type="checkbox"/> National Art Honor Society <input type="checkbox"/> National English Honor Society <input type="checkbox"/> National French Honor Society <input type="checkbox"/> National Latin Honor Society <input type="checkbox"/> National Spanish Honor Society <input type="checkbox"/> National Technical Honor Society <input type="checkbox"/> Rho Kappa <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> SkillsUSA
---	--

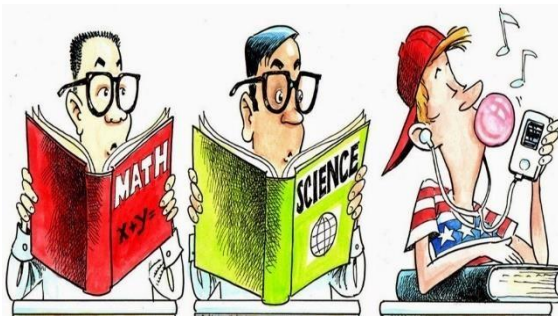
VHS ATHLETICS

All student-athletes are required by the Georgia High School Association (GHS) to have a physical examination on file in order to try-out for any sport. The form to be used for the physical can be obtained from the school or on-line at the school website or ghsa.net. Student-athletes are also required to maintain academic requirements in order to compete in GHS sanctioned events. Please visit the school website and select the Athletics tab to review the Athletic Handbook for expectations and procedures for VHS sports programming.

GET INVOLVED
MEET PEOPLE, MAKE FRIENDS, MAKE A DIFFERENCE



DEVELOP GOOD STUDY HABITS EARLY



The difference between students that get straight A's and students that struggle is usually the amount of effort they put into studying combined with the way that they study. Effective studying is NOT about cramming. You must Study SMARTER!

Look at the study habits below to help you throughout this journey called HIGH SCHOOL!

9 Ways to Study Like A Successful Student

Don't cram!

Cramming before an exam is not conducive in the long run. You are more likely to have a memory dump and be back to square one for finals week.

Turn off your phone!

Or at least put it on silent. You can also set a special ringtone for emergency calls from your family.

Cell phones are incredibly distracting, and the best way to procrastinate is to find distractions.

Read Your Textbooks!

And read them like a student...

How so?

- 1) Find the study questions at the end of the chapter.
- 2) Have a conversation with the text.
- 3) Write notes alongside important facts or ideas.

Focus on one subject at a time...but not for long periods of time.

If you feel mentally stuck, move on to a new subject.

Whenever possible, try to get 8 hours of sleep a night.

Better sleep habits usually lead to a higher GPA.

Use Methods that work for you!

Flash cards, self-quizzing, teaching others, rhymes, images, etc.

There are so many learning styles that trying only one might not work.

Give yourself a break!

One professor suggests: "An hour a day, then go out and play." So spend an hour a day on each course, then stop for the day.

Be an active learner!

Show up to class.
Do your homework.
Participate.
Ask questions.
Take notes.
Pay attention!

Find a dedicated study group - people that aren't meeting to socialize but rather to help each other and hold each other accountable to get work done.

College Success
for Moms

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social Media comes with great responsibility. If you use it, be smart and be kind. Irresponsible behavior on social media can cause harm to you, your family, and others.



REMEMBER:

- ❑ Don't post anything that you would not want your parents, grandparents, mentors or other trusted adults to see or hear.
- ❑ Don't share inappropriate pictures of yourself or others your age. It's destructive and **illegal**.
- ❑ Don't be cruel and hurtful online.
- ❑ *"What You Post Will Not Ghost."* Once it's out there, it doesn't go away!
- ❑ Social Media is not the "Real World."



Post-Secondary Options

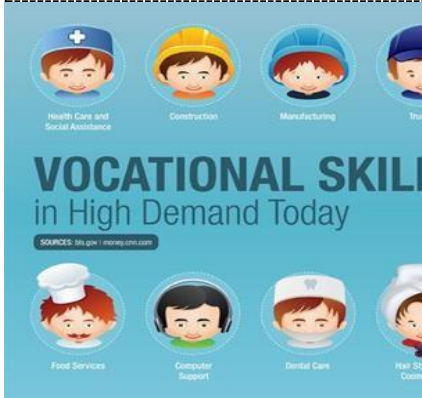
Two-year College:

Community colleges provide affordable, career-oriented programs that enable students to start their career after two years of college. Business, healthcare, and engineering technology are a few careers students can prepare for by attending two-year college. Students can also start here and transfer to a four-year university.



Career or Technical School:

Career & Technical schools offer short-term training programs in career fields such as auto body technology, cosmetology, and dental assisting. While some programs last only a few weeks, others take up to two years to finish. These schools are privately owned, and they can be expensive. Students need to apply for financial aid and make sure the school is accredited.



Military:

The military trains young men and women so they can defend and protect our country. The military offers qualified individuals free job training and provides discipline and structure, as well as opportunities for career advancement and travel. In addition to the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force, there are opportunities in the Reserves and National Guard. For more information visit www.todaysmilitary.com



Four-year College/University:

A four-year college education, or bachelor's degree, can open doors and provide a wide range of career options. While four-year colleges vary in size, costs, requirements, and in the majors they offer, all four-year colleges want students who are prepared for college-level work and responsibility. Students who plan to attend a four-year college, need to take college prep courses while in high school and work hard to get good grades.

Advice for parents of high schoolers from parents of seniors:

1. **Be the sleep police.** Most teens are running on empty when it comes to sleep; but we all know they need sufficient shut-eye to think straight, make solid decisions, keep cool under pressure, and to enjoy the moments. Keep electronics out of kids' bedrooms after 9 p.m., for example, and require devices to be charged in the common area.
2. **Don't discount their stress.** In today's world, high schoolers are under more stress than ever - getting good grades, excelling at sports and activities, preparing for SAT's, part-time jobs, trying to have a social life and meeting your expectations. Seek to understand what's going on below the surface and don't take everything personally. 99.5% of the time it's not about you! Be the sounding board and safe haven for the stress of high school life.
3. **Listen more than you lecture.** Like any of us, kids just want to be heard. They want to know that we "get them," and that we're listening. There are times when you'll have to sit down and have the difficult conversations - but MOST of the time, they just need you to be that place to land, the ear to bend, and the rudder that keeps them on the right course.
4. **Don't sweat all the small stuff.** Bed's not made? Room's a mess? Towel lying on the bathroom floor, AGAIN? Yeah, I know. It can be irritating, because if you've told them once you've told them a hundred times, right? So, tell them again if you must but please, please don't sweat the little stuff. Pretty soon they'll be out on their own and you'll miss them. Wet towels, rumpled bedsheets and all.
5. **Go to every event.** Every single one that you can. They want and need your support. Even though they may not say it, they love to see the wonder and pride you feel as you watch your teen flourish and create their own accomplishments. Be there for those moments. Celebrate who they are. Let them know you are their biggest fan, even when you can't be there!
6. **Spend one-on-one time with them as often as you can.** Even though they are teens and are biologically wired to "individualize" - your kids still crave emotional connection with you. Spend one-on-one time with them on a daily basis if possible. Be fully present - no distractions and do whatever they want to do - maybe shooting hoops, watching funny YouTube videos, taking a bike ride or yes, even playing video games. You'll both love the connection time and it will work wonders in making your teen more cooperative at other times.
7. **Push them out of their comfort zones.** High school is unique. It's the time for kids to figure out who they are and explore their passions. Give your kids the encouraging nudge to try something new - whether it's in the arts, sports, volunteering - anything that sparks their interest. You never know what will happen when they try something new.
8. **Create a "Decision-Rich Environment."** High school is the time to learn how to make decisions and do for themselves. The more practice they have making little decisions, the better they'll do making decisions when the stakes are much higher. Some decisions are still up to you, the parent, but let them take the leads on their lives as much as possible.
9. **It will work out.** Whatever it is. Breathe. Here's the thing - nothing lasts, not the good or the bad - so don't wrap every emotion and anxiety up in the problems. And please, don't try to control it all - because you can't. Your kids will make their own way. There will be missteps and consequences and lessons learned. They'll find the right path. They'll be just fine.

[illegible]

Veterans High School

Established 2010

Mission:

To develop graduates of character in an environment of excellence.

Vision:

To be the standard for all facets of student achievement, producing successful, active citizens.

Core Values:

- *We believe we are cultivating today's students into tomorrow's leaders.*
- *We believe we are developing character to empower students to define their successes.*
- *We believe we are enabling students through academics and extracurriculars to graduate.*

Alma Mater:

From the pride of our great nation,

Reared against the sky,

Proudly stands our Alma Mater

As the years go by.

Moving forward toward our future,

We shall never fail! Hail, to

thee, our Alma Mater,

Veterans High School, hail!