



# VPE FAQ'S



## Answers to Veterans Park Elementary School's most commonly asked questions

### ★ What is the PTA and why should I join?

The overall purpose of PTA is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. Our goal is to have one PTA member for each child enrolled in VPE. The PTA provides a student phone book to all registered members.

### ★ What is the SBDM Council?

SBDM Council stands for Site Based Decision Making Council. The Council is the governing body of the school that oversees and approves policies, budgets, and more. The Council consists of the principal, 3 elected teachers and 2 elected parents. The Council typically meets on the first Tuesday of each month in the library at 3:00 pm. All meetings are open to the public.

### ★ I hear the terms Lower Primary, Upper Primary and Intermediate used. What do they mean?

Lower Primary refers to children in Kindergarten and First Grade. Upper Primary refers to Second and Third graders. Intermediate are children in Fourth and Fifth Grades.

### ★ Will my child have the same teacher next year?

Typically we try to keep children in the same class for two years in Lower and Upper Primary. Each teacher will continue to the next grade and then loop back the following year. For example: If your child has Ms. Smith for Kindergarten, then Ms. Smith will loop to 1<sup>st</sup> grade the next year. After your child's 1<sup>st</sup> grade year, Ms. Smith would then loop back to Kindergarten and repeat. The same would be true for Upper Primary homerooms. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades do not loop.

### ★ What are Specials Classes and how are they scheduled?

Each day students will have a "Specials" class. Specials include PE, Chinese, Library, Science, Art, Guidance, and Music. We work on a 6-day rotation. You can always find out where we are in the rotation by checking the top of the VPE website ([www.veteransfcps.net](http://www.veteransfcps.net)).

### ★ I would like to volunteer at the school and chaperone on field trips. What do I need to do?

The first thing you will need to do before you can volunteer in the classroom or chaperone on a field trip is visit <https://webappsfcpsnet/volunteer/> and complete the Volunteer Application. Once the criminal background check is complete, you will be added to the approved volunteer list. This must be renewed every 5 years. Next, contact your homeroom teacher and/or any PTA officer for volunteer opportunities.

### ★ Can I walk my child to his/her class?

Yes and No. Yes, for the first two days of school you may walk your child to class, but after that, we ask that your child walk to class unassisted. This allows our students and teachers to start their instructional day smoothly. Teachers are available to answer questions or for conferences from 7:15-7:30 am, after 2:35 pm and during their planning times each day. All voicemails and emails will be answered within 24 hours.

### ★ How many field trips will my child go on and how much will it cost?

The number and dates of the fields trips vary from year to year and by grade; however, in a school year FCPS board policy says your total cost for all field trips and supplies will NOT exceed \$120 per child. If a field trip is scheduled and the cost poses a financial burden for your family, please contact Mrs. McVey. We will not allow cost to ever prohibit your child from attending a field trip.

### ★ My child woke up sick or we are going to be out of town. What do I need to do?

You will need to do two things. First, on the day of the absence (or each day of multiple day absences), call the school prior to 8:00 am and leave a message on the absence line. If you don't call us, we will call you. Second, upon your child's return we must have a written note from a parent or doctor to excuse the absence. Remember, vacations and family trips

are unexcused absences.

★ **What is VPE Spirit Wear?**

Each year (typically at the beginning of the year), clothing items featuring the VPE logo are made available to purchase for those who are interested.

★ **What is Spirit & Hat Day?**

The first Friday of each month is designated as Spirit & Hat Day. Kids are encouraged to wear their VPE Spirit Wear or anything red, white, blue or patriotic (since we are the Patriots!) and their favorite hat.

★ **What if my child forgot something?**

If your child forgot something, you may drop it off in the office by 10:00 am. to be delivered by the staff.

★ **Can I have lunch with my child?**

Yes! We encourage parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. to come eat lunch with your child. We have a designated area set up for children and their guests. Each student may choose one friend from their class to join them at the visitors' tables.

★ **My child LOVES Chick-Fil-A. Can I bring any type of fast food for lunch?**

No. Our school has a no fast food policy. Fast food and soft drinks are not allowed in the cafeteria for the children or their guests.

★ **I want to do something special for my child on his/her birthday. Can I bring treats for the whole class?**

No. We do not allow food treats (cupcakes, cakes, candy, etc.) at school for birthdays per our wellness policy and due to the many different food allergies. Instead of bringing cupcakes or treats to share you are welcome to donate a book to the library. Every book donated will have a sticker placed on the inside front cover with the child's name, birthdate, and grade. Each student will receive a birthday pencil for their donation and have their photo displayed in the hallway to recognize their donation. Please donate new, hardback books only. If you have questions, contact Ms. Ault.

★ **My child has non-school aged siblings. What am I allowed to bring them to?**

Siblings are always welcome to come for lunch and our evening events. They are not allowed when you are volunteering, chaperoning field trips or at school functions during the instructional day such as classroom parties, field trips, COSI, Fun Day, etc.

★ **Can we use the playground after school hours?**

You may use the playground immediately following school until 3:00 pm. From 3:00 pm. to 5:30 pm. on school days it is reserved for our after school program, Patriot Place. Feel free to come play after that time or on non-school days.

★ **I signed my child up to walk home but would like to pick them up in my car on rainy/snowy days. How do I do that?**

Each time you deviate from your indicated transportation mode, you will need to provide written communication to your child's teacher alerting them of the change. It helps eliminate confusion and allows staff to get your child to the correct dismissal area if you make the decision before school each morning. If you have an emergency and must make a change during the day, it needs to be in the office before 2:00 pm. You may do this by fax to (859) 381-3151 or by stopping in the office and making the written request there.

★ **I pick my child up in the car line. Is there anything special I need to know?**

Car riders are dismissed after the bus riders and are expected to load carefully on the sidewalk side of the cars only. EVERY car must have a yellow number tag displayed on the rear view mirror, visor or dashboard. Parents are asked to remain in their cars and pull around with the flow of traffic. Remember not to stop for your child, instead pull all the way down and someone will bring your child to you. Parents may not park in the aisles or on Clearwater Way and cross the traffic to pick up students. To keep all our students safe, no child may walk into the parking lot during dismissal. At the beginning of dismissal, we leave space for our special needs' students to be picked up at the last door in the right turn lane.

★ **What is Wellness Wednesday?**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month VPE celebrates Wellness Wednesday to help promote a healthy, active lifestyle. Wellness Wednesdays include some or all of the following: everyone wears exercise/active clothing and gym shoes,

opportunity to purchase water bottles for \$1.00, extra exercise breaks during the day, walking laps as a class, taking the long way to lunch and specials, power walking between classes, and celebrating being active.

★ **What fundraisers do the VPE PTA participate in?**

Parents are NEVER required to participate in VPE's fundraisers. Our primary fundraiser is Boosterthon which is typically held just after the start of the school year. The PTA's working budget is based on the funds raised through Boosterthon. We also hold a Homeroom Basket raffle in the spring. We participate with two book fairs, but we do so as a community service for our families rather than as a fundraiser.

★ **What is the PTA Homeroom Raffle basket?**

In the spring each class will come up with a basket theme. Families will be asked to donate requested items to be a part of the basket for their class. Donations are always optional. The baskets will be on display prior to the raffle on Celebrate the Arts Night. Raffle tickets may be purchased for \$1 each and then entered into the drawing for the particular basket(s) they would like.

★ **What does the money that PTA raises pay for at VPE?**

Here is a list of some of the items/programs the PTA donations have covered: iPads for each teacher; sets of iPads for classes to check out (one for each student); guitars; an allowance for each teacher and special area to use on classroom supplies; playground; walking track; landscaping; after school clubs; COSI; active learning garden; Kentucky Kids Day; staff appreciation; student phone book; technology; and much more!

★ **Are there any ways I can support VPE without spending money?**

Yes! You can choose Veterans Park Elementary School as your Kroger Community Rewards partner ([www.kroger.com/topic/kroger-community-rewards-3](http://www.kroger.com/topic/kroger-community-rewards-3)), your Amazon Smile charitable organization ([www.smile.amazon.com/about](http://www.smile.amazon.com/about)) or your Target Red Card Take Charge of Education school rewards recipient ([www.Target.com/tcoe](http://www.Target.com/tcoe)). With every purchase you make, a small portion of what you spend will be sent directly to VPE.

★ **Are there portable classrooms at VPE?**

Yes, with the district rezoning our enrollment went from 650 students to no more than 805 students. The district is providing portable classrooms and our facilities committee determined that these would be used for 2-3 special classes depending on our final number of homerooms. The portables are just like any other classroom with telephones, intercoms, technology and more. Unfortunately, since it is a lengthy installation process with multiple state and city permits required, we do not anticipate that they will be ready by the first day of school for the 2016-17 school year. We hope to be able to start using them some time in the fall 2016. Special class schedules will not be disrupted as the teachers will travel to each homeroom. If you have specific questions feel free to email or call our principal, Mrs. McVey.

★ **How can I keep in touch with VPE?**

Our website ([www.veteransfcp.net](http://www.veteransfcp.net)) is always full of relevant and current information. When you scroll to the bottom of the page, you can sign up for our newsletter. This will also sign you up for our weekly Patriot Newsflash. Be sure to bookmark the website and sign up today!

You can also follow us on the VPE PTA Facebook Page (Veterans Park Elementary PTA), on Instagram (vpeinaction) and on Twitter (@vpepatriot).

★ **Who do I contact for information or if I have other questions?**

Start with your homeroom teacher then you can also always call the office (859) 381-3161 and speak to any of the following people:

Amy McVey, Principal

Kelly Fox, Child Guidance Specialist

Shannon Brehm, Attendance

Vickie Hickey, Patriot Place After School Care

Dale Coyle, Bookkeeper

Jessica Ault, Webmaster & Newsflash

Jennifer Castle, PTA President