



Valley Oaks Charter High School

2025/2026

Parent/Student Handbook & Information Guide

3501 Chester Avenue

Bakersfield, CA 93301

Phone: 661-852-6750

Office Hours: 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM

<https://valleyoakscharterschool.org/bakersfield-high-school/>

Kern County Superintendent of Schools

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Students:

It is with great honor and pleasure that I welcome you to the 2025-2026 school year. Valley Oaks High School is a unique schooling option composed of passionate educators, involved parents, and engaged students. At Valley Oaks you will be part of the culture of learning where everyone works together to meet individual student needs and prepare them to move to the next step of college or career. We look forward to providing all of the unique options that make VOCHS such a wonderful place.

In this guide you will find information that will assist the student and parents in navigating some of the intricacies of Valley Oaks High School. We realize that there are many items that this handbook does not cover and that you may have questions regarding these. You are encouraged to contact your counselor if any such questions should arise.

We are truly honored that you have chosen to entrust Valley Oaks with the education of your high school student.

Remy Rueda
Principal
Valley Oaks High School

Valley Oaks Motto

We **Own**

Our learning and behaviors

We **Achieve**

Our personal and academic goals

We **Know**

Our success is based on effort

We **Support**

One another as a community

We Are Valley **OAKS**

Mission Statement

Valley Oaks Charter School is a community that provides opportunities, support, and accountability for families seeking an alternative educational experience tailored to their students by providing programs rooted in parent choice.

Our Vision

Empowering student growth by fostering academic excellence, igniting curiosity, and inspiring innovation.

VOCHS Graduation Requirements

*220 total credits are the minimum for graduation. 1 year of a course equals 10 credits, 1 semester of a course equals 5 credits in most courses.

English - 40 Credits	Math - 30 Credits with 10 being Algebra
World History - 10 Credits	US History - 10 Credits
Life Science/Biology - 10 Credits	Physical Sci/Chemistry - 10 Credits
Physical Education - 20 credits	Fine Art or Foreign Lang. - 10 Credits
Senior Seminar or CTE Pathway - 5 Credits	Freshman Sem - 5 Credits
Government - 5 Credits	Economics - 5 Credits
Various Electives - 60 Credits	

Suggested Four Year Plan

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English 9	English 10	English 11 or English B1A	English 12 or English B1B (Dual Enrollment)
Math	Math	Math	Math <small>(CP Only)</small>
Freshman Sem	Biology	Phys. Sci./Chem	
	World History	US History	Gov't/Econ
P.E.	P.E.	Elective	Elective
Fine Art <small>(Gen Only)</small> Spanish 1 <small>(CP Only)</small>	Elective Spanish 2 <small>(CP Only)</small>	Elective	Fine Art Elective
Student Dev. (Dual Enrollment)	CTE Introductory	CTE Concentrator	CTE Capstone or Senior Seminar
	Dual Enrollment	Dual Enrollment	Dual Enrollment

College and Career Readiness

VOCHS graduates will be considered college and/or career (according to the CCI/ CA Dashboard) ready by:

1. Completing all VOCHS graduation requirements
2. Completing 1 or more of the following:
 - 2.1. Taking and passing 2 college level courses through dual or concurrent enrollment with a grade of C- or better.
 - 2.2. Completing a Career Technical Education (CTE) pathway **and** taking and passing 1 college level course through dual or concurrent enrollment with a grade of C- or better..
 - 2.3. Completing the CSU/UC system A-G requirements **and** taking and passing 1 college level course through dual or concurrent enrollment with a grade of C- or better.

A – G Requirements

If a student desires to qualify to enroll directly into a 4-year CSU, UC, or most private 4-year colleges, they must complete the A-G requirements as created by the CSU/UC system. These requirements may all be met through college prep level courses offered at VOCHS.

(A) History/Social Science – 2 years required

Two years of history/social science, including one year of world history, and one year of U.S. history.

(B) English – 4 years required

Four years of college-preparatory English that include frequent and regular writing, and reading of classic and modern literature.

(C) Mathematics – 3 years required, 4 years recommended

Three years of college-preparatory mathematics

(D) Laboratory Science – 2 years required

Two years of laboratory science providing fundamental knowledge in at least two of these three foundational subjects: biology, chemistry and physics.

(E) Language Other than English – 2 years required, 3 years recommended

Two years of the same language other than English.

(F) Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) – 1 year required

A single yearlong approved arts course from a single VPA discipline: dance, drama/theater, music or visual art.

(G) College-Preparatory Electives – 1 year required

One year (two semesters), in addition to those required in “a-f” above, chosen from the following areas: visual and performing arts, history, social science, English, advanced mathematics, laboratory science and language other than English

Dual/Concurrent Enrollment

Dual/Concurrent enrollment is an opportunity where a student may be authorized, with parent/guardian consent, to enroll in one or more courses of instruction offered at the community college level. Courses earn college and high school credit.

Dual enrollment:

- BC classes offered specifically for VOCHS students held on the VOCHS campus or virtually
- All fees are covered by Bakersfield College and textbooks are provided
- Classes may include:
 - STDV B6, MUSC B27, MUSC B22, COMM B1, COMM B5, ENGL B1A, ENGL B1B

Concurrent Enrollment:

- BC classes available to all BC students and held on the BC campus or virtually
- Tuition is free, but the student will be responsible for any fees or any required class materials

Dual/Concurrent enrollment process:

- Attend a concurrent enrollment orientation provided at the VOCHS campus
- Complete the matriculation steps with the community college
- Fill out the appropriate electronic paperwork and school signatures
- And finally, register and attend class.

For more information contact Mrs. Lieske, gelieske@kern.org or 852-6772

Career Technical Education (CTE)

CTE is education that combines academic and technical skills with the knowledge and training needed to succeed in today's labor market and introduces them to workplace competencies in a real-world, applied context.

At Valley Oaks, students can participate in and complete a CTE pathway in 2 ways:

- On the VOCHS campus:
 - Complete an introductory, concentrator, and a capstone course within a CTE pathway
 - These courses are available to all students and begin in 10th grade
 - Current pathways:
 - Architectural Design
 - Engineering Technology
 - Residential and Commercial Construction
 - Cabinetry, Millwork, and Woodworking
 - Design, Visual, and Media Arts
 - HVAC
 - Welding
- Through KHSD's ROC or CTEC Program
 - ROC/CTEC are programs through KHSD that offer a variety of CTE programs
 - Classes are 3-hours, Monday-Friday
 - Classes at ROC are open to Valley Oaks High 11th and 12th graders
 - Students need to plan with their counselor prior to enrollment
 - A listing of course options can be found at roc.kernhigh.org under the 'Programs' menu.

Contact your counselor for more information regarding CTE courses and/or Joe Gonzales for CTEC/ROC questions.

Honor Cord Criteria

These awards recognize outstanding academic success.

President's Awards	
Excellence	Student has a 3.5 or higher GPA and a score of three in the ELA, Math & Science state test with one of the three tests being a four.
Achievement	Student has a 3.5 or higher GPA, but did not meet the testing requirements for Excellence.
CA CCI Dashboard	
College Class	College Class Completion (2 transfer classes minimum) College GPA: 3.0 High School GPA: 3.0
A-G Completion + 1 College Class	Complete A-G (15 courses) and 1 Transferable College Class College GPA: 3.0 HS GPA: 3.0
CTE Pathway + 1 College Class	Complete a CTE Pathway and 1 Transferable College Class HS GPA: 2.5 CTE Pathway GPA: 3.0 College GPA: 3.0
Statewide Academic Honors Organization	
CSF	California Scholarship Federation's mission is to recognize and encourage academic achievement among high school students in California. Eligible students must submit an application by the deadline to earn points based on their report card grades of college prep classes combined with core vs. elective classes. Each student must earn 10 points. Students must be members for 4 semesters out of 10th 11th and 12th grade. One semester must be from the 12th grade year.

Valley Oaks Recipe for Student Success

Success at VOCHS depends on:

- **Daily Engagement**
 - Dedicate 4-6 hours to work/learning every school day
- **Work Completion**
 - Complete all assigned work on or before due date
- **Class/Meeting Attendance**
 - Attend all scheduled classes, support sessions & meetings
- **Use of Student Supports**
 - Communicate with teachers, counselors & tutors often
 - Attended Thursday Support Program
- **Parent/Home-Educator Engagement**
 - Help create a daily schedule and ensure work is completed
 - Monitor student progress through Aeries weekly
 - Seek student support as needed

Tiered Levels of Support

We believe our primary role is to support the student and home-educator in making meaningful academic progress as well as meeting the Recipe for Student Success mentioned above, Valley Oaks implements a Multi-Tiered system of support.

Tier I - Monitoring and Intervention

The subject teacher monitors all students for progress in meeting the standards mentioned above and intervenes as necessary to support students and home educators. If support/intervention does not rectify an issue, the student may be placed in Tier II Intervention.

Tier II - Structured Intervention (Re-engagement)

A counselor and support team member will work with the student and home-educator to create specific goals and intervention to meet specific needs. During this 4-week period:

- The student and home-educator will attend a planning meeting
- The student must attend Monday Support to meet with their counselor and complete assignments.

- The student must attend the Thursday Support Program each Thursday to meet with their subject teachers.

The student will be moved back to Tier I if they meet the stated goals. If the student does not meet the stated goals, they will be placed on Tier III academic probation.

Tier III - Academic Probation and Urgent Intervention

An administrator will work with the student and home-educator to continue to work on specific goals. During this 4-week period:

- The student and home-educator will be closely monitored for progress through weekly meetings with the assigned administrator.
- The student must attend Monday Support to meet with their counselor and complete assignments.
- The student must attend the Thursday Support Program each Thursday.
- The home-educator must attend twice to review progress.
- The student may not attend extracurricular activities.

The student will be moved back to Tier II if they meet the stated goals. If the student does not meet the specific goals during the 4-week period, they may be involuntarily disenrolled. Should involuntary disenrollment take place, the student will be referred to their district school.

Communication is Key

As stated in the Recipe for Student Success, communication is a key aspect to student success at VOCHS.

Remind is a texting application in which students, parents, and teachers can communicate in a safe environment in which individual numbers are not exchanged and administration can monitor all communications.

The list below is the Remind groups for the grade levels based on graduation year.

Parents and students are encouraged to join the appropriate class group for each student enrolled at VOCHS.

Send the appropriate code to **81010** or join in the Remind app

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028	Class of 2029
@vohs2026	@vohs2027	@vohs2028	@vohs2029

Class Schedule

Tuesday Regular Class Schedule

- 1st Period 8:30 AM – 9:45 AM
- 2nd Period 9:50 AM – 11:05 AM
- 3rd Period 11:10 AM – 12:25 AM
- Lunch 12:25 PM – 12:55 PM
- 4th Period 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM
- 5th Period 2:20 PM – 3:35 PM

Wednesday Schedule

- Wed. Support 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Lunch 12:00 PM - 12:35 PM
- Wed. Support 12:35 PM - 2:00 PM

Thursday Schedule

- Appointment Only 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM
- Open Tutoring 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Lunch 12:00 PM – 12:55 PM
- 4th Period 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM
- 5th Period 2:20 PM – 3:35 PM

Friday Regular Class Schedule

- 1st Period 8:30 AM – 9:45 AM
- 2nd Period 9:50 AM – 11:05 AM
- 3rd Period 11:10 AM – 12:25 AM
- Lunch 12:25 PM – 12:55 PM
- 4th Period 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

Thursday Support Program

The purpose of this program is to add another layer of support for students and parents/home-educators. Teachers, tutors, and counselors will be available to help families with the organization of home-school studies and academic content.

Who qualifies to participate in Thursday Support Program?

- Optional for all students
- Mandatory for all students on Tier II or III Intervention
- Mandatory for students who are recommended by subject teachers

Why participate in Thursday Support Program?

- Get individual help in academic classes
- To improve deficient grades by making up missing assignments/tests
- Teachers are available to check work, give additional tutoring and help students' complete required weekly work.
- If a student was absent on a class day, they are able to complete make-up quizzes, tests, and pick up assignments.

How do I prepare for the Thursday Support Program?

- Decide on the support(s) you need and with the help of your home educator, plan your goals for the day.
 - The home educator should review these goals after the student attends
- If needed, contact a tutor and/or teacher through Remind to schedule a tutoring session.
- Bring textbooks and supplies, class agendas, and lunch, if desired.
*Prepared lunches will be available.

Thursday Support Program schedule:

- **8:30 –11:00 *By appointment only***
Individual meeting time – All teachers, tutors, advisors, and counselors will use this time as needed to review student's progress, develop study skills to improve academic success, etc.
- **11:00 – 12:00 *Open tutoring time***
Course Tutoring Block – Math/Science/English/Social Studies/Elective teachers will provide small group instruction, one-on-one tutoring, make-up testing, and other support.

Dress Code Policy

Students will wear clothing that is in good taste while on school grounds and/or involved in school activities. Decisions as to appropriate school dress, consistent with the following definitions/guidelines, will be at the discretion of the Valley Oaks administration.

Valley Oaks defines “appropriate” dress as:

- Pants (undergarments not visible)
- Shorts (mid-thigh or longer)
- Skirt / Dress (mid-thigh or longer)
- Top/Shirt/Dress (not revealing; no midriffs showing, undergarments not visible)
- T-shirt (appropriate words/logos)

Dress that may NOT be appropriate:

- Any type of clothing with inappropriate or vulgar graphics or words.
- Any type of clothing that is ripped or torn in which the ripped area exposes the undergarments or is deemed exposing an inappropriate area of the body.
- Any type of clothing that is revealing. No part of any undergarment should be showing.
- Any clothing related to gang activity.
- Wearing of hats indoors unless allowed by a teacher or the person responsible for an indoor area.
- Any clothing that could be dangerous with spikes, studs, chains, etc.
- Makeup, if worn, should be applied in a manner that is neat, modest, and not distracting for the learning environment. Extreme or theatrical makeup styles (e.g., heavy glitter, bold face paint, or overly dramatic effects) will be considered inappropriate in the school setting, unless part of a school-sanctioned event.
- Anything that is deemed by administration as having a negative impact on the learning of other students. Students will wear clothing that is in good taste while on school grounds and/or involved in school activities. Decisions as to appropriate school dress, consistent with the following definitions/guidelines, will be at the discretion of the Valley Oaks administration.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty Policy

Valley Oaks Charter School believes that academic honesty and personal integrity are fundamental components of a student's education and character development. We expect that students, parents, and school staff will not cheat, lie, plagiarize or commit other acts of academic dishonesty.

The school will not accept work submitted that is not the original work of the student. When a resource is being cited, care must be given to give credit to the originator of the work. When parents are given teachers editions, they are to use them to plan lessons, assist students with concepts, and evaluate lessons. Teacher Editions and supplemental answer documents shall not be misused.

Students found to have committed an act of academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary action set forth by the criteria listed below or that which is deemed appropriate by school administration.

First Offense	Second Offense	Third Offense
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Meeting with teacher, student, and parent.2. Verbal and/or written warning.3. F on assignment with ability to retake the assignment/quiz /test for partial credit which is left to the teacher's discretion.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Meeting with teacher, parent, student, counselor, and administrator.2. F on assignment with no opportunity to retake for credit.3. Possible suspension from extracurricular activities as deemed appropriate by administration.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Meeting with teacher, parent, student, counselor and administrator.2. Failing grade in the class.3. Possible suspension from extracurricular activities as deemed appropriate by administration.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Usage Policy

Purpose:

This policy outlines the appropriate and responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools by students at Valley Oaks Charter School to ensure academic integrity, digital responsibility, and ethical engagement with technology.

Acceptable Use (this list is not exhaustive):

- AI tools may be used for educational purposes, including research, brainstorming, and enhancing learning experiences.
- Students must verify the accuracy of AI-generated content and use it as a supplement rather than a replacement for their own work.
- AI-generated work must be properly cited when applicable.
- AI tools should not be used to complete assignments, essays, or projects without teacher permission.

Unacceptable Use (this list is not exhaustive):

- Submitting AI-generated content as original work without proper attribution.
- Using AI to bypass academic integrity (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, or fabricating information).
- Engaging with AI tools in a way that promotes misinformation, bias, or inappropriate content.
- Using AI tools to generate harmful, misleading, or unethical content.

Student Responsibilities:

- Students must use AI ethically and in accordance with school guidelines.
- If uncertain about AI use in an assignment, students should seek teacher guidance.
- Students must be aware that improper use of AI will be considered a violation of the plagiarism and academic honesty policy.

Mobile Device Policy

As technology becomes more and more prevalent in the learning process, mobile devices (cellphones, tablets, and laptops) are allowed for use on the Valley Oaks campus.

In the classroom:

- The teachers have the final say as to whether or not students may use the mobile devices during class time
- Students are expected to have their mobile devices put away during class unless specifically directed to use them.

Device Use Policy

Please adhere to the DEVICE LOAN AGREEMENT signed in your Yearly Digital Forms. The student and home-educator agree that using the device is an important learning tool and is for educational purposes only. Students can only take their checked out devices home and will NOT take the classroom or Think Tank devices home.

School Meal Program

Students may be on campus for an extended period of time with scheduled classes and academic support. Students are more than welcome to bring their own food and/or drinks, but an option for breakfast and lunch will be available Tuesday-Friday.

Breakfast snacks and prepared lunches will be free of cost to all students this year. Meals will be available Tuesday-Friday in the Warehouse.

- Breakfast 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM
- Lunch: 12:25 PM - 12:55 PM

A menu of the prepared lunches may be found at <https://bit.ly/3iwbr2t>

Parents are also welcome to bring the students' lunch, during the lunch period. Parents must bring the lunch to the front office.

*Students are not allowed to leave the premises during our lunch period.

ASB

The Valley Oaks High School ASB consists of elected members as well as student volunteers. The ASB serves as the governing body of all student activities and clubs. All students are welcome to be part of the ASB either as an elected official or student volunteer.

2025-2026 ASB Board Members

President: Siena Martinez

Vice President: Kaitlyn Hance

Treasurer: Joseph Villarreal

Secretary: Juliann Berrigan

Commissioner of Events: Emery Blanco

Senior Class Representative: Kadyence Coonrod

Junior Class Representative: Saul Daniel Gonzales

Sophomore Class Representative: Zameer Boland

*Freshman Class Rep. will be voted on after the end of the 1st Quarter.

The ASB plans and promotes many activities for the students to promote school culture.

Valley Oaks Clubs

We have a variety of clubs that students may join in order to participate in hobbies they enjoy, gain skill in an activity, or provide a service to their community.

Students may also create their own club by following these steps:

- Complete a club request form
- Create a club constitution
- Find a teacher to be your club advisor

All form requests and questions can be directed to Mrs. Rueda at rerueda@kern.org

Work Permits

Students who wish to be employed while they attend school may do so under the conditions established by the State of California Department of Labor and Valley Oaks Charter School. The employment should never interfere with the required 4-6 daily hours necessary to complete required studies.

Conditions of issuing work permits include:

1. A student must be enrolled in good standing with the school and passing all classes.
2. The number of employed hours shall not exceed statutory limits nor interfere with the student's education.
3. New students may receive a work permit as soon as a Master Agreement is signed and it is determined that they were in good standing with their previous school.
4. The student must be enrolled in a full schedule of coursework and/ or be on track for graduation.

The principal or designee will call an employer and invalidate a work permit if any of the following conditions occur:

1. The student drops.
2. The student is not meeting the standards for student success.
3. The student is placed on Tier III Probation

Process of Getting a Work Permit:

1. Student gets verbal agreement of employment from their employer.
2. Student obtains a Request for Work Permit form from the Career Associate, Mr. Gonzales, jgonzaless@kern.org , 852-6764
3. Paperwork is signed by the student, parent, and employer and is turned into Mr. Gonzales
4. An official Work Permit is issued.

Visiting Campus

Parents or home-educators are welcome to visit campus at any time. To ensure the safety of all students we ask that all visitors adhere to the following guidelines:

- All visitors must have a valid ID to check in with our Raptor Visitor Management System at the front desk and receive a temporary visitor's sticker.
- Temporary stickers must be worn in plain sight.
- If visiting a class setting, the teacher should be notified prior to the visit.
- Seats in class will be given to the students before available to a visitor.
- All visitors must sign out at the front desk upon leaving the campus.

Resources

DURING A CRISIS: Consider these options when you or someone you care about is experiencing a mental health crisis:

- Call 9-1-1
- Call the Kern County Mental Health Hotline (800) 991-5272
- Kern County COVID-19 Mental Health Hotline (661) 525-5900
- Bakersfield Crisis Pregnancy Center (661) 326-1907
- Bakersfield Police Department (661) 327-7111
- CA Youth Crisis Hotline (800) 843-5200
- Crisis Text Line Text TWLOHA to 741-741
- The Eldercare Locator (800) 677-1116
- National Child Abuse Hotline (800) 422-4453
- National Domestic Violence Hotline (800) 799-7233
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800) 273-8255
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Español (888) 628-9454
- Self-Abuse Finally Ends (S.A.F.E.) Info Line (800) 366-8288
- Self-Harm Crisis Text Line Text HOME to 741-741
- Teen Crisis Hotline (800) 852-8336
- The Trevor Project Lifeline (LGBTQ+) (800) 488-7386
- Title IX WEBSITE <https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/di/eo/genequitytitleix.asp>

VOCS High School Calendar

Fall Semester

Friday, August 8 th	New Student Welcome
Friday, August 8 th	Home Educator Workshop
Tuesday, August 12 th	1 st Quarter / Fall Semester Begins
Friday, August 29 th	Last Day to Add/Drop a Class
Monday, September 1 st	Labor Day – No School
Monday, September 8 th	Kern County College Night
Wednesday, October 8 th	PSAT
Friday, October 10 th	1 st Quarter Ends
Monday October 13 th	2 nd Quarter Begins
Tuesday, November 11 th	Veterans' Day – No School
November 24 th - 28 th	Thanksgiving Break – No School
Friday, December 19 th	2nd Quarter / Fall Semester Ends
December 22 nd - January 2 nd	Winter Break - No School

Spring Semester

Monday, January 5 th	3rd Qtr / Spring Semester Begins
Monday, January 19 th	Dr. MLK Jr. Day – No School
Friday, January 16 th	Last Day to Add/Drop a Class
Monday, February 9 th	Lincoln Holiday – No School
Monday, February 16 th	President's Day – No School
Friday, March 13 th	3 rd Quarter Ends
Monday, March 16 th	4 th Quarter Begins
March 30 th - April 3 rd	Spring Break – No School
April 20 th -May 1 st	SBAC Testing for 11 th Grade
TBD	Grad Nite for Class of 2026
Thursday, May 14 th	Extravaganza
May 18 th -May 21 st	Finals Week
Monday, May 25 th	Memorial Day – No School
Thursday, May 28 th	4 th Quarter / Spring Semester Ends
Thursday, May 28 th	Graduation

At Valley Oaks Charter High School:

We **O**wn

Our learning and behaviors

We **A**chieve

Our personal and academic goals

We **K**now

Our success is based on effort

We **S**upport

One another as a community

We Are Valley **OAKS**

The Core Values of the VOCHS Staff

- **All individuals can learn and grow.**
 - We encourage individuals to have a growth mindset and high expectations, which are essential for resilience and progress towards goals.
- **Trusting relationships are essential to learning and growing.**
 - We are a community of learners committed to building relationships with students, home-educators, and colleagues to learn and grow together.
- **All students deserve rigorous, standards-based learning experiences.**
 - Learning should be engaging, challenging, and purposeful. Instructional opportunities should be high-quality and personalized to move students toward meeting state standards.
- **We value accountability, self-reflection and continuous improvement.**
 - All members of our learning community are accountable to the realization of our vision and each play an interdependent role. We know our goals and continually strive to meet them. We reflect on our progress and look for ways in which we can improve.
- **Individual support is essential to learning.**
 - We treat each other as unique individuals and work to engage and challenge each individual to meet their own potential.

Valley Oaks Charter School Drop-off and Campus Map

