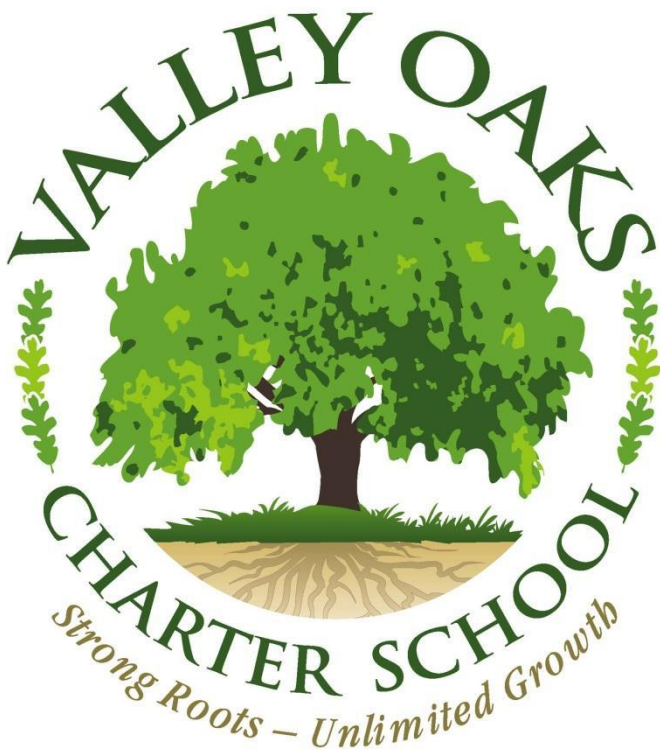




Valley Oaks Charter School

2026 / 2027

Parent/Student Handbook & Information Guide

3401 Chester Avenue

Bakersfield, CA 93301

Phone: 661-852-6700

Office Hours: 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

<https://valleyoakscharterschool.org/>

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year at Valley Oaks! We are excited to see all of our returning students and their families, and we are thrilled to meet all of our new students and families.

Valley Oaks is a special place where our resource teachers partner with all of our homeschooling educators to create a personalized learning experience for your students. This year, we hope to grow those experiences and continue to build our strong community of teaching and learning at VOCS. We are all here to help and support our homeschooling educators, ensuring that students are learning. Open communication with your resource teacher is paramount towards developing trusting relationships, which are necessary for learning and growth. Growth for every student is our goal!

Thank you for partnering with the Valley Oaks' staff to educate your students. Please feel free to reach out to anyone on our staff with questions at any time. We are here to support and guide you on your students' educational journeys.

Donna Smith
Principal
Valley Oaks Charter School/TK-8th
661-852-6711
dosmith@kern.org

Valley Oaks Motto

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**

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.

Website

<https://valleyoakscharterschool.org/>

Parent and Student Responsibilities

VOCS is a homeschool/independent study program that is an optional educational alternative that you have voluntarily selected for your child(ren). Putting student learning at the forefront, parents and students accept the following responsibilities to ensure student success.

Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Responsibilities:

- VOCS Teachers, parents/guardians/caretakers, and students work as partners to design and implement an educational plan for each student. The educational plan includes the Course of Study and the Assignment/Work Record developed for each term (a maximum of twenty (20) school days) which address the California State Standards.
- Parents/guardians/caregivers provide direct daily instruction and educational activities as planned by a VOCS Resource Teacher and the Parent Educator. Assignments are made or approved by the Resource Teacher prior to implementation.
- There must be a parent/guardian/caregiver or designated adult with the student(s) during the day to provide the direct daily instruction, Monday-Friday for approximately 4-6 hours daily depending on grade level.
- Parents/guardians/caregivers/students are responsible for keeping all appointments with the Resource Teacher(s) and submitting completed, reviewed, and corrected original work on or before the date due.
- Maximum assignment period is four weeks during which parents/guardians/caretakers/students must meet with a Resource Teacher a minimum of at least one time. When circumstances justify a longer time, the principal or designee may grant an extended period up to one semester.
- Attendance will be given after assignments are complete, graded, re-taught as needed, and an evaluation by the Resource Teacher(s) deems them satisfactory.
- Students who fail to satisfactorily complete a four-week assignment and/or meet with a Resource Teacher a minimum of at least one time within a reporting period will be placed on academic probation for one reporting period.

- Students who fail to meet the terms of probation after a maximum of two probation periods during the school year will be involuntarily disenrolled from VOCS and the district/school of residence will be notified.
- All materials are the property of VOCS and must be returned at the end of the school year, when leaving the program, or upon termination.
- Parents/guardians/caregivers are not provided with anything of value that is not provided for other students enrolled in similar public schools.
- Parents/guardians/caregivers and students agree to have student achievement assessed periodically.
- Manner of Reporting: In-Person and at least once every twenty (20) school days. Examples of manner of reporting will include but are not limited to: Meet with VOCS Teacher(s)/Support Staff, Submit completed and graded Student Work, Complete Assignment/Work Record which includes Time, Day, and Frequency of submitting student work.

Student Responsibilities:

- Complete my schoolwork and take tests to the best of my abilities.
- Complete my assigned work by its due date, as explained by my Parent Educator and/or my Resource Teacher and as described in my written assignments.
- Meet with my Resource Teacher and Parent Educator to discuss my progress.

Valley Oaks Recipe for Student Success

Success at VOCS 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 table meetings and classes-Enrichment and Junior High Academy
- **Use of Student Supports**
 - Communicate with resource teachers often
 - Attended scheduled table meetings
 - Participate in activities and field trips
- **Parent/Home-Educator Engagement**
 - Help create a daily schedule and ensure work is completed
 - Direct instruction daily
 - Grade all completed work
 - Monitor student progress through Google Classroom and Aeries weekly for JR High Academy
 - Seek student support as needed

Valley Oaks Charter School

Bakersfield Campuses Parking Lot Procedures

These procedures are being implemented to ensure student safety, reduce traffic congestion, and create a more efficient and organized routine. Please view the attached map.

Entry: All cars entering the high school/warehouse portion of the campus must enter through the **north gate off Chester Ave** (closest to the museum).

- **Two lanes:**

- **Drop-Off Lane:** Follow the cones for drop-off and pick-up. **No waiting or parking.**
- **Parking Lane:** Continue through and park **only in designated parking spaces.**

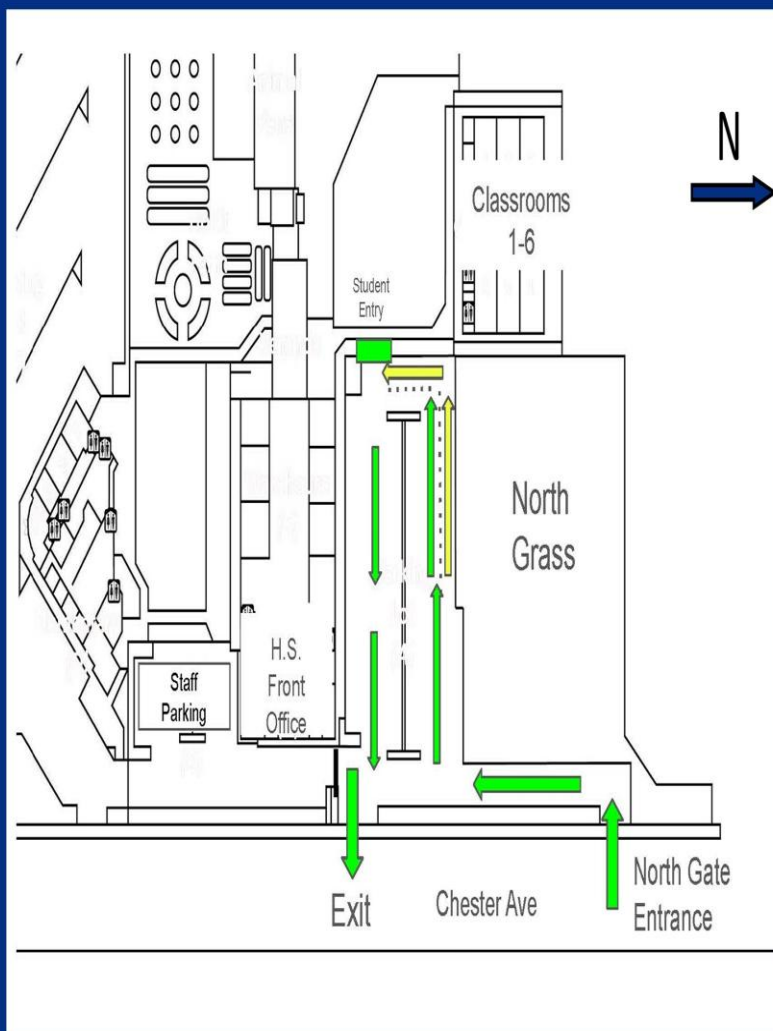
Exit: All cars will exit onto Chester Ave from the middle gate

- **High School Campus Access:**

- The gate between the elementary school and high school will be **closed for drop-off and pick-up.**
- Students must use the sidewalk/crosswalk and enter through the **open gate.** (see map)
- **No entrance or exit through the front office** when gates are open. If parents/students need to access the office, please park in a designated spot. There is a sidewalk that leads directly to the front office.

Valley Oaks Charter School

Bakersfield Campuses - Parking Lot Procedures



Valley Oaks Charter School

Bakersfield Campuses

Regular GATE Schedule

North Gate:

*Student access gate onto the campus
(between the warehouse and classrooms)*

Mondays:

8:40 - 9:05

11:40 - 12:15

Tuesdays:

8:00 - 8:35

3:30 - 3:45

Wednesdays:

8:40 - 9:05

11:40 - 12:15

2:45 - 3:00 (6-8 Enrichment Days)

Thursdays:

2:10 - 2:30

Fridays:

8:00 - 8:35

12:25 - 1:00

2:10 - 2:40

South Gate:

Gate West of Classroom #7

Wednesday

Enrichment:

8:40 - 9:10

11:45 - 12:15

Enrichment

Overview: The purpose of this program is to add another layer of support for students and parents. Students are encouraged to attend enrichment classes at their campus to help enhance their learning.

Who qualifies to participate in Enrichment classes?

- All students in grades TK-8 in good academic standing.

Why participate in Enrichment classes?

- To enhance their education while being able to socialize with their peers.
- To gain a different perspective on various topics.
- To learn something new.
- To cultivate a sense of community with staff and students at Valley Oaks.
- To foster and encourage a sense of independence

Materials to bring:

- Backpack, paper, pencil, bottle of water, small snack.
- Appropriate clothes if taking a PE, farm, industrial arts, or cooking class.

Materials Not to Bring:

- Foods that contain peanuts
- Toys

Enrichment schedule:

TK-6th Grade Wednesday Morning Classes:

- TK – 2nd (Lori Brock Campus): 9:00 AM – 11:45 AM
- 3rd-5th 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

7th – 8th Grade Wednesday Afternoon Classes:

- 1st Period 12:15 PM – 1:30 PM
- 2nd Period 1:30 PM – 2:45 PM

Academy

Overview: The purpose of this program is to add another layer of support for students and/or parents. VOCS teachers will teach writing and math to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students.

Who qualifies to participate in the Academy?

- All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students.
- Students who struggle in writing or math, or whose parents are not comfortable teaching those subjects.

Why participate in Jr. High Academy?

- To help prepare junior high students for high school.
- To improve writing and math grades.
- To develop a relationship between students and resource teachers as they work through the school year.

Suggested Materials to bring:

- Student planner, binder, textbooks and supplies, class agendas, updated grade sheets, and completed assignments.
- ***Students are required to use the assigned curriculum.***

Academy schedule:

- 1st Period 9:00 AM –10:20 AM
- 2nd Period 10:25 AM – 11:45 AM

Tutoring:

- Friday—Check your teacher’s schedule

Camps/Special Events

Overview: Throughout the school year, Valley Oaks provides various grade level camps. Students in good academic standing are encouraged to participate in these multi-day camps. Camp grade level and topics are:

- TK: Give a Pig a Pancake/Teddy Bear Picnic
- K-2: STEAM Camp/Farm Camp
- 3-8: History/Americana/Olympic Camp

Procedures:

- Sign up for camp/events and follow procedures
- Bring your student to camp/event on the designated day and time
- Pack a snack and/or lunch for your student
- Pack a bottle of water

Music and Drama

Valley Oaks offers a variety of weekly brass and woodwind instrumental lessons, as well as piano and guitar lessons. Students can also participate in choral music. Valley Oaks offers a Tiny Trebles choir for students in first through the fourth grades, and a Glee Choir for students in the fifth through the eighth grades. In the spring, instrumental students have the opportunity to perform at the Spring Concerts, and piano students have class recitals.

Students who are interested in the performing arts can join the Valley Oaks Drama Club. This group puts on two productions each school year, one in the late fall and one in the spring.

If your student is interested in music and/or drama, please talk to your student's resource teachers and look for information about sign-ups on Parent Square.

Innovation Station

The Innovation Station Room hosts STEAM activities, history classes, and field trips to augment the curriculum at Valley Oaks. Parents and students are invited to attend these activities/classes together. Classes are offered in the afternoons. A monthly schedule of events is posted on Parent Square and the Valley Oaks Parents and Partners in Education Facebook page.

Field Trips

Overview: The purpose of field trips is to enhance your student's education. Field trips are scheduled throughout the year and vary by topic and age group. Families are encouraged to participate in field trips only if it does not take away from their core learning at home. Families are responsible for transportation to and from the field trip(s).

Procedures:

- Sign up (and pay if applicable) for the field trip of your choice at the front desk or on Stripe and pick up a Valley Oaks permission slip.
- Bring your permission slip to the field trip.
- Sign in with the teacher.
- You are responsible for each person who is signed up. Any additions or subtractions to the number of people you signed up needs to be made through the front desk prior to the field trip.
- To make our field trips the best they can be and to accommodate students on the waiting list, we ask that you notify the office if anyone in your party is unable to attend. After two "no-shows" without prior notification, your school related field trip privileges will be revoked for the remainder of the year.
- Valley Oaks occasionally pays in advance for field trips. Your payment may not be refunded.
- Out-of-Town field trips– please call the front desk if you are going to be late. Please be advised - some tours will not wait for late students.

Jr. ASB

Overview: The Valley Oaks, Jr. High School ASB consists of elected members as well as student volunteers. The focus of the Jr. ASB is community service. All 6th-8th grade students are welcome to be part of the Jr. ASB either as an elected official or student volunteer.

Also, the Jr. ASB plans and promotes many activities for the students that are meant to be either a free or reasonably-cost event to promote school culture. Elections are held every fall.

Valley Oaks Social Media

Valley Oaks social media is a great way to stay informed on news and special events from Elementary through High School.

You can visit our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/ValleyOaksCharterSchool/>

Or by visiting our website: www.valleyoakscharterschool.org/elementary/ and clicking on the Facebook icon under the Contact Us section on the homepage.

Or by Parent Square:

<https://www.parentsquare.com/schools/654/feeds>

Or by Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/valleyoakscharterschool>

or @valleyoakscharterschool on the app.

VOPTAC

Valley Oaks Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee (VOPTAC) is responsible for organizing fundraising events throughout the school year. Parents and/or guardians are invited to sign up at the beginning of every school year to become a VOPTAC member.

VOPTAC meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 1pm-2pm in the meeting room area. Childcare is provided.

School Board

VOCS Board Meeting are held in Classroom 8 at 2 pm on the following dates:

- September 14th
 - November 16th
 - January 25th
 - March 15th
 - May 10th
 - May 17th
-

All are welcome to attend these meetings.

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 Monday-Friday.

Breakfast snacks and prepared lunches are free of cost to all students. Meals will be available in the Warehouse Monday through Friday.

- Breakfast: 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM
- Lunch: 11:45 PM - 12:15 PM (Every day except Wednesday Enrichment days)
 - 11:25 PM - 12:30 PM (Wednesdays on Enrichment days only)

A menu of the prepared lunches may be found at

<https://www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/webmenus2/#!/view?id=63c6f92fe96f1e9f014ff982&siteCode=3354>

*VOCS is a closed campus. Students are not allowed to leave the premises during our lunch period.

*Students are not allowed to order lunch from services such as DoorDash, UberEats, or GrubHub

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.
-

Academic Probation Policy

At Valley Oaks Charter School (VOCS), the parent and student are responsible for keeping all appointments with their resource teacher. Submitting satisfactory completed graded original work, in all subject areas, on or before the due date, submitting lesson plans, and showing academic progress as determined by the resource is required. Maximum assignment period is twenty (20) school days, aka one reporting period.

Academic probation will take effect if parent and/or student fail to meet the above criteria as well as the terms of probation listed below.

The terms of probation include:

- If parent and student fail to meet scheduled appointments, fail to turn in satisfactory graded completed work, and/or fail to show academic progress during any assignment period, the parent and student will be placed on academic probation for a minimum of four school weeks.
- Per Master Agreement, further grounds for academic probation are habitual tardiness and frequent appointment cancellations/reschedules as determined and documented by the resource teacher.

- Students earning less than 70% of days possible as reported on the Assignment Work Record (AWR) for any report period will be placed on academic probation.
- During the probation period, the parent and student must meet weekly with their resource teacher. All assigned work must be provided, graded and completed, and evaluated as satisfactory by the resource teacher.
- The parent and student may not attend extracurricular activities, as determined by their resource teacher and administrator during the probation period including but not limited to: vendor services (student will be removed from vendor services and will not be able to enroll again until the next semester), field trips, enrichment classes, workshops, and/or other extracurricular activities, unless otherwise approved by the administrator.
- Parents and students who have been on academic probation (one or two times) during the year will not be eligible for the Core Subject Instructional Grant (special orders) for the following year.
- Academic probation may also include additional responsibilities designed by the administrator and/or the resource teacher with the approval of the administrator (i.e. attending Jr. High Academy, tutoring).
- If parent and student fail to meet the terms of a single probation, the student will be dropped from VOCS and referred to his/her district of residence.
- The parent and student may be on academic probation no more than two times in one academic school year. If after two probations (a maximum of eight school weeks), the student's performance is again unsatisfactory he/she will be dropped from VOCS and referred to his/her district of residence.
- If parent and student successfully meet the terms of academic probation as outlined, probation will no longer be in effect.

New Enrollees:

- Students enrolling for the first time with Valley Oaks Charter School may be put on an initial trial period, at the discretion of the designee/administrator. This probationary period will be 20 days or approximately four (4) weeks. If the student is meeting scheduled appointments and turning in satisfactory work, then the student will be taken off probation.

- If the student fails to meet these expectations, then the student will be dropped from the program and referred to their district of residence.

Re-enrollees:

- A student who failed to meet the terms of probation and was dropped from Valley Oaks Charter School may not request enrollment any sooner than the last day of the semester following the semester in which the academic probation occurred. Students must seek approval from administration prior to re-enrollment.
- When re-enrolling, students must meet the terms of probation for a period of four school weeks to continue enrollment at Valley Oaks Charter School.

VOCS Plagiarism and Academic Honesty 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
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.	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.	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.

Valley Oaks Charter School 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):

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

Unacceptable Use (this list is not exhaustive):

1. Submitting AI-generated content as original work without proper attribution.
2. Using AI to bypass academic integrity (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, or fabricating information).
3. Engaging with AI tools in a way that promotes misinformation, bias, or inappropriate content.
4. 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.

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment:

We acknowledge that AI is a growing tool in education, and we support Valley Oaks Charter School in guiding students toward responsible and ethical AI use.

Dress Code Policy

Students must wear clothing that complies with established dress code standards while on school grounds or participating in school activities. Final determinations regarding compliance, based on the criteria below, are made by Valley Oaks administration.

Dress Code Standards

- **Pants:** Undergarments must not be visible.
- **Shorts, Skirts, Dresses:** Must be mid-thigh length or longer and fully covering the buttocks at all times.
- **Tops/Shirts/Dresses:** Must fully cover the midriff and chest. Undergarments must not be visible. Straps must be at least 1 inch wide. Strapless or tube-style garments are not permitted.

Prohibited Attire

- Clothing with inappropriate, vulgar, politically motivated or disruptive words or graphics
- Clothing that is torn or damaged in a way that exposes undergarments or inappropriate areas of the body
- Clothing that reveals undergarments
- Clothing associated with gang activity
- Hats worn indoors, unless permitted by staff
- Clothing or accessories that may pose a safety risk (e.g., spikes, chains)

Makeup

Makeup, if worn, must be neat and not disruptive to the learning environment. Extreme or theatrical styles are not permitted unless part of a school-approved event.

General Expectation

Student attire must not disrupt the educational environment.

Dress Code Enforcement

If a student is not in compliance, staff may:

- Require the student to modify their attire
- Provide appropriate school clothing
- Contact a parent/guardian to bring a change of clothes
- Send the student home to change

Valley Oaks 8th Grade Awards Guidelines

Valley Oaks Citizenship Award:

This award is presented to students that show outstanding participation in school and/or community service; display a positive attitude toward classmates and an understanding of civic responsibility; possess strength of character and the courage to do what's right; and promote citizenship within the school or community through a variety of activities.

Valley Oaks Award for Educational Achievement:

This award is presented to students that show a demonstration of outstanding educational growth, improvement, commitment, or intellectual development in academic subjects and are in the 65-84th percentile for Math and Reading STAR scores.

Valley Oaks Award for Educational Excellence:

This award is presented to students that earn a 90% or higher academic achievement in daily work and reported attendance; are in good standing as determined by their resource teacher; and are in the 85th percentile or higher for Math and Reading STAR scores.

Valley Oaks Growth Award:

This award is presented to students that have demonstrated hard work and outstanding growth for the 2024-2025 school year and have earned a 75% SGP for STAR Reading or Math.

Constitution Award:

This award is presented to students who receive a 90% overall average on the Constitution test.

Eighth Grade Graduation Guidelines

Please make note of the following important information regarding your 8th grade student's graduation ceremony.

1. Any eighth-grade student who is not in good standing with his/her daily work and attendance will not be eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony.
2. Any eighth-grade student whose books, materials, and other property/resources of Valley Oaks Charter School have not been returned and/or whose account has not been cleared of fines by noon on the Friday before graduation will NOT be permitted to participate (walk) in the graduation ceremony.
3. Any eighth-grade student who has not satisfactorily completed all portions of the Constitution exam will not be eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony.
4. Students will attend the mandatory rehearsal the day prior to graduation.
5. Eighth grade graduation is scheduled for the last Thursday in May.
6. The ceremony will take place at Valley Oaks Charter School.
7. Students should arrive by 9:00 a.m. for pictures.
8. The ceremony will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. and should conclude around 11:30 a.m.
9. Please be certain that your student follows the appropriate dress guidelines. The dress code will be enforced and students not complying will be asked to modify and/or change their appearance or not participate in the graduation ceremony. Hair and make-up that is out of the norm and clothing that is revealing, immodest, or out of the norm will not be allowed.

The Valley Oaks 8th grade graduation is a traditional, elegant ceremony that will be the culminating event in your student's education through elementary and middle school. Please be certain that your student follows the appropriate dress guidelines and encourage respectful behavior for this important event. Dress code will be monitored by Valley Oaks staff and administration.

Dress Code for Boys:

- Slacks (dress, khakis, corduroy, Dockers, no jeans)
- Tucked-in collared shirt
- Necktie
- Dress shoes

Dress Code for Girls:

- Dress (No shorter than two inches above the knee, non-prom, follows school dress code)
- Skirt and blouse (No shorter than two in above the knee, non-prom, follows school dress code)
- Dress slacks and blouse and/or jacket (No jeans)
- Dress shoes with heels under 3"
- Please remember the stage is above the audience and they will be looking up at you

10. In keeping with the dignity and solemnity of this special occasion we would like to ask the audience to show their pride in a respectful manner. Accordingly, we request there be no shouting of names, whistling, air horn blowing, waving of signs, hooting, hollering, or other distracting behavior that will detract from the graduates as they cross the stage to receive their diplomas or at any time during the graduation exercises.

Kindergarten Graduation Guidelines

Kindergarten graduation ceremonies are held annually in May. Please talk to your resource teacher for specific details and participation requirements.

CRISIS INTERVENTION

Intervention protocols to assist students in a crisis involving suicidal thoughts or behaviors are a critical component of both the county office and site responses. These protocols aid school personnel in intervening effectively with suicidal students. Site administrators play a crucial role in establishing a school climate that requires key site personnel to be familiar with and responsive to a suicidal crisis in order to help prevent a death by suicide. Students may self-refer to counselors or be referred by staff, parents or peers. Intervention protocols will vary based on the determined degree of suicide risk.

Every school site has a Safety Team or Crisis Response Procedures. Staff members are trained to recognize potential risk factors for suicide. Exhibiting some of these behaviors does not necessarily indicate suicidal ideation.

For more information on warning signs, risks, and services, please visit our website and click on the Parent Resources tab, or call 988 for immediate assistance in an emergency.

BULLYING

Valley Oaks Charter School in conjunction with Kern County Superintendent of Schools recognizes the harmful effects of bullying on student learning and school attendance and desires to provide safe school environments that protect students from physical and emotional harm. No student or group of students shall, through physical, written, verbal, or other means, harass, sexually harass, threaten, intimidate, retaliate, cyberbully, cause bodily injury to, or commit hate violence against any other student or school personnel.

Any student who engages in bullying on school premises, or off campus in a manner that causes or is likely to cause a substantial disruption of a school activity or school attendance, shall be subject to corrective action, which may include counseling, behavioral intervention and education, and, if the behavior is severe or pervasive as defined in Education Code section 48900, may include suspension or expulsion, in accordance with Kern County Superintendent of Schools policies.

Sexual Harassment/Discrimination and Title IX Complaint Procedures (E.C. sections 212.5, 220, 231.3 and 48980; 20 USC 1681-1688; and 34 CFR 106.1-106.82)

The district's policy prohibiting sexual harassment of and by students (as well as others) in a school setting and related complaint procedures required by Title IX are set out by district board policy BP/AR 5145.7 and 5145.71 regarding students. Also, BP/AR 4119.11, 4219.11, 4329.11, 4119.12, 4219.12, and 4319.12 regarding employees. The district prohibits sexual discrimination and has procedures for the prompt and equitable resolution of sexual harassment/discrimination complaints. For more information, please visit our website and click on the Title IX tab.

Mental Health

If you have concerns about your student's mental health, please visit our website for available resources locally. Information regarding community resources and hotlines can be found under the Parent Resources tab.

Tobacco, Vaping, and Nicotine Use

Valley Oaks Charter School is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all students. The use of tobacco, nicotine, and vaping products is strictly prohibited.

Students may not use, possess, or be under the influence of any tobacco or nicotine product, including electronic cigarettes (vapes), at any time on school property or at any school-sponsored event. This applies to all VOCS campuses, in-person classes, field trips, dances, workshops, and any other school-related activity, regardless of location.

Students who violate this policy may be sent home and may lose the privilege of participating in VOCS enrichment activities, including but not limited to in-person classes, field trips, dances, and workshops. Repeated violations may result in further disciplinary action.

Valley Oaks Charter School (VOCS)

BP 5131.8 – Cell Phones, Smartwatches, and Other Electronic Devices

Authority: Education Code § 48901.5 and 48901.7; Assembly Bill 3216

Purpose

The Valley Oaks Charter School (“VOCS” or the “Charter School”) Governing Board recognizes the potential for cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, and other personal electronic communication devices (collectively, “private devices”) to disrupt the learning environment. This policy permits students to possess private devices while establishing limits on their use while students are on school grounds or participating in school-sponsored activities.

General Expectations

Students may possess private devices while on school grounds or participating in school-sponsored activities. Unless an exception in this policy applies or use is specifically authorized by a VOCS teacher, administrator, or staff member, private devices must be turned off or powered down, stored in a backpack or other appropriate location, and kept out of view.

Because VOCS operates a nonclassroom-based independent study program, these expectations apply whenever a student is physically present on a VOCS campus or participating in a VOCS-sponsored class, activity, event, field trip, or excursion, as applicable.

Permitted Use and Exceptions

Private devices may be possessed or used:

- Off campus before or after the student’s on-campus school activities.
- In designated pickup or drop-off areas when permitted by staff.
- In the case of an emergency or in response to a perceived threat of danger.

- When a VOCS teacher, administrator, or staff member grants permission for a specific educational, health, safety, or other school-related purpose, subject to reasonable limitations.
- When a licensed physician or surgeon determines that possession or use is necessary for the student's health or well-being.
- When possession or use is required by the student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan.
- When otherwise required or permitted by applicable law.

Prohibited Use

Except as permitted above, private devices may not be used while a student is on school grounds or participating in school-sponsored activities. This includes instructional time, assemblies, breaks, recess, passing periods, breakfast or lunch, and other activities occurring during the student's time on campus.

Private device use during field trips, excursions, athletic events, performances, or other school-sponsored activities occurring on or off campus may be restricted by the supervising teacher or administrator. Staff may authorize use when appropriate based on the nature of the activity, supervision needs, student safety, or other circumstances.

Violations, Confiscation, and Discipline

Students who use private devices in violation of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action consistent with the student handbook and applicable school procedures. Responses may include a warning, confiscation of the device, parent/guardian notification, loss of device privileges, or other appropriate consequences.

When a device is confiscated, it will be returned in accordance with site procedures, which may include returning to the student at the end of the student's school activities or release to a parent/guardian.

Administration retains discretion to determine an appropriate response based on the circumstances and any repeated violations.

Parent/Guardian Communication

Parents and guardians are encouraged to communicate with students before or after the student's on-campus school activities. When a parent/guardian needs to contact a student while the student is participating in on-campus instruction or activities, the parent/guardian should contact the school office. School staff will facilitate communication as appropriate in an emergency.

Responsibility for Devices

Students who bring private devices onto school grounds or to school-sponsored activities do so at their own risk. VOCS is not responsible for the theft, loss, or damage of private devices.

Administrative Authority

The administration may establish procedures necessary to implement this policy and may further restrict or modify private device use when necessary to maintain campus safety, support student learning, address the needs of a particular activity or setting, or comply with applicable law.

Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically and updated as necessary to remain consistent with California law and the needs of Valley Oaks Charter School.

Important Dates to Remember:

August 11th - First Day of School and Back to School Morning

August 24th - 29th-Camp KEEP

September 4th - End of RP 1

September 7th - No School/Labor Day

September 9th 30th -1st Session of Enrichment

October 2nd - End of RP 2

October 14th - November 4th-2nd Session of Enrichment

October 30th- End of RP 3

November 11th - No School/Veterans' Day

November 19th-Christmas Play

November 23rd-27th - No School/ Thanksgiving Break

November 27th - End of RP 4

December 10th – Science Fair

December 8th-Christmas Concert

December 21st - January 1st-No School/Winter Break

January 1st- End of RP 5

January 7th – Spelling Bee in Tehachapi

January 18th - No School/MLK Day

January 20th - February 10th-3rd Session of Enrichment

January 29th - End of RP 6

February 1st-Oral language in Tehachapi

February 8th - No School/Lincoln's Birthday Observation

February 15th - No School/Presidents Day

February 24th-March 17th - 4th Session of Enrichment

February 26th - End of RP 7

March 22nd-March 29th - No School/Spring Break

April 2nd - End of RP 8

April 16th-All School Play

April 21st - 5th and 8th Grades Science CAASPP Test

April 22nd- Spring Concert

April 26th-April 30th- CAASPP Testing Week

April 30th- End of RP 9

May 1st- STEM Olympiad

May 13th - Extravaganza

May 19th - Kindergarten Graduation

May 20st - 8th Grade Awards

May 26th - Graduation

May 26th - End of RP 10/Last Day of School

May 31st - No School-Memorial Day

