



Valley Oaks Charter High School

2026/2027

Student Handbook & Information Guide

20419 Brian Way

Tehachapi, CA 93561

Phone: 661-825-2200

Office Hours: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Kern County Superintendent of Schools

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Students:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2026/2027 school year. Valley Oaks Charter 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 memorable experiences and opportunities that make VOCS 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 Charter High School. If any questions should arise, please reach out to your advisor, school office, or administration. Our doors are always open!

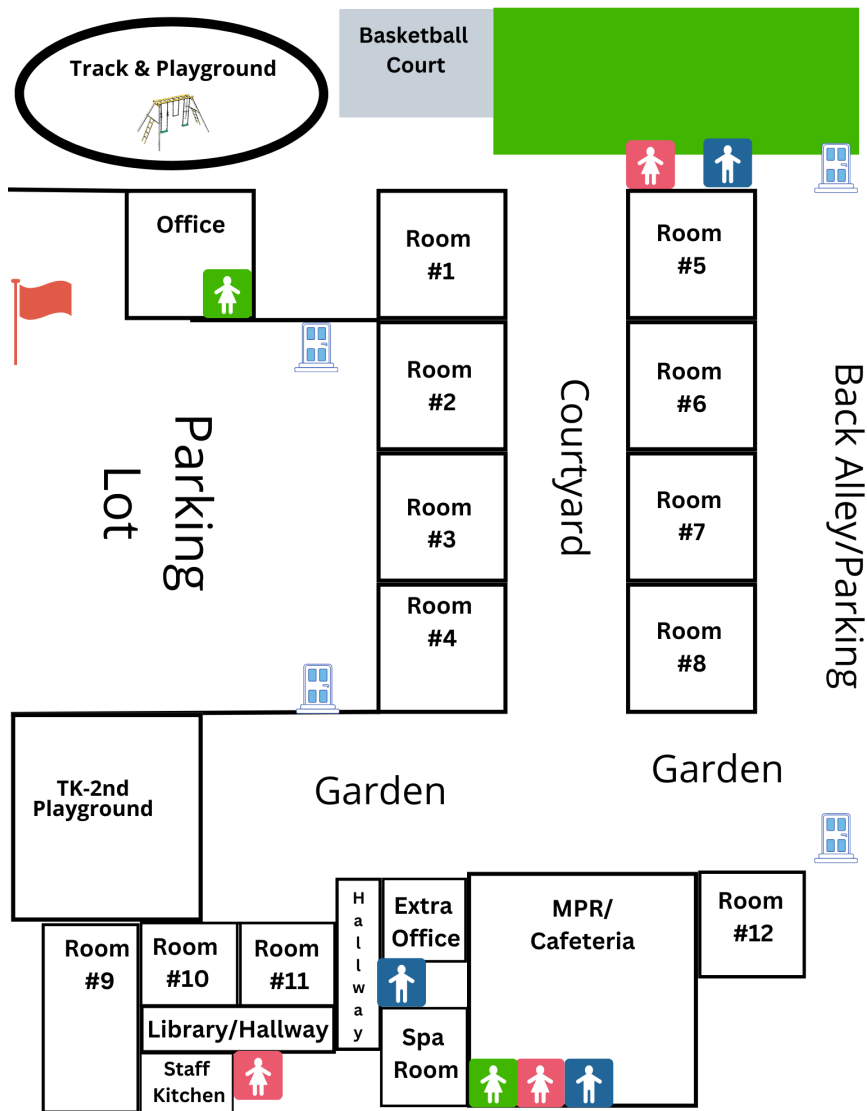
We are truly honored that you have chosen to entrust Valley Oaks with the education of your high school student. Let's have a great year!

GO COYOTES!

Kristi Henry
Principal
Valley Oaks High School



Valley Oaks Charter School—Tehachapi Map



Our Vision

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

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.

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!

VOCS Graduation Requirements

English - 40 credits	Math - 30 credits (10 of 30 must be Algebra)
World History - 10 credits	US History - 10 credits
Government - 5 credits	Economics - 5 credits
Life Science or Biology - 10 credits	Earth Science or Conceptual Physics or Chemistry - 10 credits
Fine Arts or Foreign Language or Career Technical Education - 10 credits	Physical Education - 20 credits
Electives - 65 credits	Senior Seminar or Career Technical Education Capstone - 5 credits

220 total credits are the minimum needed for graduation.

1 year of a course equals 10 credits.

1 semester of a course equals 5 credits.

Graduation Accolades

Students may earn special recognition at Senior Awards and obtain cords and/or sashes to be worn during graduation. Each award has specific criteria that must be met. For more information— students should consult with their Advisor.

Valedictorian/Salutatorian

Interact

College & Career Readiness

CSF

Academic Excellence

Academic Achievement

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
- Tehachapi Police Department (661) 822-2222
- 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 Closed on Holidays RED

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 VOCS.

(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, 3 years recommended

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

Valley Oaks Recipe for Student Success

- **Daily Engagement**
Dedicate 5-6 hours to work/learning every school day.
- **Work Completion**
Complete all assigned work on or before due date.
- **Attendance**
Attend all scheduled classes, tutoring, and meetings.
- **Use of Student Supports**
Communicate with parents, teachers, and counselors often.
Attend Monday tutoring.
- **Parent/Home-Educator Engagement**
Help create a daily schedule and ensure work is completed.
Monitor student progress through Aeries weekly.
Seek support for student as needed.

Tobacco, Vaping, and Nicotine Use Policy

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.

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.

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 Darla Lambeth at dalambeth@kern.org
3. Paperwork is signed by the student, parent, and employer and is turned into Mrs. Lambeth.
4. An official Work Permit is issued.

Class Schedule

Tuesday / Thursday 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 12:55 PM – 2:10 PM
- 5th Period 2:15 PM – 3:30 PM

Tuesday / Thursday 1 hr Delay Class Schedule

- 1st Period 9:30 AM – 10:35 AM
- 2nd Period 10:40 AM – 11:45 AM
- 3rd Period 11:50 AM – 12:55 PM
- Lunch 12:55 PM – 1:20 PM
- 4th Period 1:20 PM – 2:25 PM
- 5th Period 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Off Campus Policy

VOCS places safety of students on campus as our number one priority. All students are to remain on campus during the school day. Students may leave campus if they are done for the day (schedule finishes early, prior to 3:30pm) by signing out of the front office.

Juniors and Seniors may leave campus for lunch only with a signed and approved Off Campus Lunch Form on file.

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 and Thursday.

Breakfast snacks and prepared lunches will be free of cost to all students this year.

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

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.

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 cover 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, 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.

Consequences/Dress Code Enforcement:

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

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.

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.

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

Interact Club

The Interact club is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Tehachapi dedicated to the motto "service above self." The main focus is to better the community of Tehachapi through outreach and community service projects. Projects include Community Clean-up day, helping to host a holiday luncheon for the seniors of Tehachapi, working the Apple Festival doing children's rides and attractions, working with the Salvation Army, volunteering at community events such as Breakfast with Santa, Tehachapi Hometown Christmas event, and many other services to benefit our community.

Follow us on Instagram: ic_vochs

Schoolwide Learner Outcomes

By graduation, Valley Oaks Charter School students will be:

Academic Achievers who...

- Strive to meet or exceed California State Standards
- Demonstrate academic growth toward standards
- Will be exposed to state standards through a variety of experiences.

Communicators who...

- Use multiple modalities to demonstrate competence as active listeners, speakers, readers, and writers.

Critical Thinkers who...

- Identify and assess problems and find solutions using complex reasoning processes such as comparison, classification, induction, deduction, analysis, synthesis, investigation, inquiry, and invention.
- Collect, evaluate and use information from varied sources.
- Know how to test hypotheses, solve problems, and form conclusions based on relevant, reliable data and information.
- Demonstrate a capacity to apply acquired knowledge to changing conditions.

Technologically literate students who...

- Know VOCS internet policies and procedures.
- Use technology and telecommunications in a way that demonstrates an understanding of legal and ethical implications and expectations.
- Are fluent consumers of technology and apply their knowledge in society.
- Critically evaluate the context, subject matter, and validity of internet resources.

Culturally aware and productive citizens who...

- Contribute time, energy, and talents to improve their school, community and the world.
- Have a general understanding and appreciating for our diverse society.
- Demonstrate individual responsibility, personal integrity, and perseverance.
- Understand the principles required to be productive citizens in a democratic society.

Motivated, Self-Directed students who...

- Strive to learn and apply goal setting techniques, organize and manage time efficiently, and assume responsibility for their personal life-long learning.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty Policy

VOCS 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 teacher 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 discipline, up to and including, a failing grade in the class.

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 at 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.

Cell Phone Policy– Board Approved

BP 5131.8 – Mobile Communication Devices

Authority: California Education Code 48901.5; Assembly Bill 3216

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Purpose

Valley Oaks Charter School is committed to maintaining a safe, focused, and engaging learning environment. Personal electronic devices can be valuable tools but may also disrupt the educational process. This policy establishes expectations for the possession and use of student cell phones and personal electronic communication devices while students are on campus or participating in school activities.

This policy applies to personal electronic communication devices including, but not limited to:

- Cell phones and smartphones
- Smartwatches capable of messaging or internet access
- Tablets
- Personal gaming or media devices
- Any device capable of communication, internet access, photography, or recording

***School-issued devices used for instructional purposes are not subject to this policy when used under staff supervision.

Students may possess personal electronic devices while on campus or while participating in school-sponsored activities. During the instructional day, devices must be powered off or in silent mode and stored out of sight unless expressly permitted by school staff.

Use During the School Day

Personal electronic devices may not be used during instructional time except when a teacher or administrator specifically authorizes their use for educational purposes. Teacher approval applies only to the specific activity and timeframe identified. Staff retain discretion to allow or deny device use at any time.

Non-Instructional Time

Device use during passing periods, lunch, breaks, assemblies, or school activities may be restricted or prohibited based on campus expecta-

Monday Tutoring Program

The purpose of this program is to add another layer of support for students and parents/home-educators. Teachers will be available to help students with the learning of academic content and the development of executive function skills necessary for success.

Who qualifies to participate in the Monday Tutoring Program?

- Optional for all students to drop in at any time of the schedule
- Mandatory for all students on Tier II or III Intervention
- Highly encouraged for students who are recommended by subject teachers

Why participate in the Monday Tutoring 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.
- Get help in organizing a daily schedule based on weekly agendas.
- Students can develop a relationship with teachers, tutors, and counselors as they work through topics such as scheduling and post-graduation planning.

Tiered Levels of Support

We believe our primary role is to support the student and home-educator in making meaningful academic progress. Valley Oaks implements a Multi-Tiered System of Supports to recognize when a student may need support and then to provide appropriate assistance.

Tier I - Monitoring and Intervention

The subject teacher and high school team monitors all students for progress in meeting the course standards 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

The counselor and subject teachers will work with the student and home-educator to create specific goals and intervention to meet specific needs. During this 4-week period:

- The counselor will regularly contact the parent and the student concerning placement on Tier II and to offer support.
- The student will attend Monday Tutoring, meet with their teachers, and complete assignments.
- The student will check in weekly with the counselor to evaluate progress and to get support as needed.

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 administrator will regularly contact the parent and the student concerning placement on Tier III and to offer support.
- The student will attend Monday Tutoring, meet with their teachers, and complete assignments.
- The student will follow an individualized plan for success as determined by the administrator, teachers, parent, and student.

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.

Exceptions

Nothing in this policy prohibits students from using a personal electronic device when necessary for:

- A documented medical condition
- Accommodations outlined in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan
- A school-approved health or safety purpose
- An emergency situation

In emergencies, school staff will facilitate communication between students and parents/guardians as appropriate.

Confiscation and Discipline

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

Confiscated devices will be returned according to site procedures, which may include return to the student at the end of the school day or release to a parent/guardian.

Parent/Guardian Communication

Parents and guardians are encouraged to communicate with students before and after the school day. If a parent needs to contact a student during the instructional day, they should contact the school office.

Administrative Authority

The administration may establish procedures to implement this policy and may restrict or modify device use when necessary to maintain campus safety, support student learning, or comply with state law.

Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically and updated as necessary to remain consistent with California law and best practices.

College and Career Readiness

VOCS graduates will be considered college and/or career ready by completing one of the following:

- Receiving a score of at least level 3 on both the state English Language Arts and mathematics exams.
- Completing two college academic or career technical courses through dual or concurrent enrollment with a grade of C- or better.
- Receiving a score of at least 3 on two AP exams.
- Completing the CSU/UC A-G requirements **and** one of the following:
 - Receiving at least a 3 on state ELA or math exam and at least a 2 on the other
 - Completing one college level course through dual or concurrent enrollment with a grade of C- or better.
 - Completing a Career Technical Education (CTE) pathway.
 - Receiving a score of at least 3 on an AP exam
- Completing a CTE pathway **and** one of the following:
 - Receiving at least a 3 on state ELA or math exam and at least a 2 on the other
 - Completing one college level course through dual or concurrent enrollment with a grade of C- or better.

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.

- Eligible students may take classes at Cerro Coso Community College, Bakersfield College, or any other California community college.
- Courses earn college and high school credit.
- Tuition is free, but the student may be responsible for any fees or any required class materials

Dual/Concurrent enrollment process:

- Discuss concurrent enrollment with your advisor or the counselor.
- Complete the steps to enroll in the community college. These steps can be found on the community college website.
- Register and attend class.

Career Technical Education (CTE) at VOCS

CTE combines academic and technical skills with the knowledge and training needed to succeed in the labor market and introduces the student to workplace competencies in a real-world, applied context. To complete a pathway, the student will complete three yearlong courses: an introductory, a concentrator, and a capstone course.

Pathways:

- Arts, Media, and Entertainment (Tehachapi and Bakersfield sites)
- Architectural Design (Bakersfield site)
- Engineering Design (Bakersfield site)
- Residential and Commercial Construction (Bakersfield site)
- Cabinetry, Millwork, and Woodworking (Bakersfield site)
- Welding Fabrication (Bakersfield site)
- Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (Bakersfield site)

There are also options for completing a portion of the VOCS CTE pathway through concurrent enrollment. Please see counselor for more information.

Career Technical Education at ROC and CTEC

The Regional Occupational Center and The Career Technical Education Center are public education career/technical training institutions run by Kern High School District (KHSD). Courses are run five days a week in the morning, afternoon, and evening.

For more information, go to roc.kernhigh.org. Look up the full range of programs they offer.