



2017 - 2018 School Summer Newsletter

Summer Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:00 – 1:00. Closed on Fridays.

Office closed: June 26 – July 7

We welcome all of you to the 2017 - 2018 school year! We hope that the remaining weeks of your summer are relaxing and enjoyable for you and your family. This newsletter will provide you with all of the information you need to prepare for the upcoming school year. We apologize for the length of the letter, but there are many items of importance that need your attention.

The Principal's Newsletter will be the official source of our monthly communication with parents. The newsletter will be posted on Vandebilt's website and PlusPortals page at the beginning of each month, beginning in September. The activities calendar is also available on the sites throughout the year. Our annual Back to School Night is scheduled for Wednesday, August 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the Brother Alfred Kolb Center. All are invited.

Preparations for the 2017-2018 school year are underway, and we are looking forward to the possibilities that a new year brings. At the forefront of parent concerns for the 2016-2017 school year was communication. Our goal is to provide you with all necessary information to ensure that we are partners in your child's education. Working together makes us stronger, and creates a much more positive experience for all involved. We have one new member of our administrative team, Mr. Jason Daigle. Mr. Daigle will take over as Dean of Student Life, and he is already on campus and working hard to make improvements for our future. Mrs. Pellegrin returns as Dean of Academics, and Mrs. Vicknair returns as Dean of Student Programs and Admissions. As always, each member maintains an open-door policy, and we welcome all parents/guardians to come by and see us at any time.

FINANCE – TUITION: The school's finance office is located at the Brothers' Hall. Any financial obligations (tuition, loans, fees, etc.) to the school should be taken care of at that location.

TUITION REFUND POLICY: Tuition will be refunded for withdrawn students based on the scale listed below:

Weeks 1 – 4	75%
Weeks 5 – 9	50%
Weeks 10 – 13	25%
After 13 weeks	0%

Vandebilt Catholic High School will release records to other schools only after all financial obligations are met.

NSF CHECKS: Should the school receive an NSF check for payment of tuition or fees, cash or a cashier's check will be required for future transactions.

HAVE WE GOT A YEAR FOR YOU (Schedules)

Class schedules will be mailed out the week of July 17. All fees and tuition have to be current in order for a student's schedule to be issued. Questions about the status of the fees can be directed to Mrs. Penny LaFont or Ms. Mindy Ard at the Brothers' Hall at 580-1868. Coastal Commerce Bank can answer questions about your tuition loans.

SCHEDULE CHANGE DAYS: The following days have been set for schedule changes.

Please adhere to the following days and times!

Wednesday, July 26, 2017	12 th grade	8:00 – 10:00
	11 th grade	10:00 – 12:00
Thursday, July 27, 2017	8 th grade	8:00 – 9:00
	9 th grade	9:00 – 10:30
	10 th grade	10:30 – 12:30

Schedule changes will only be made if there is a scheduling error or conflict. Course drops/adds must have approval from the guidance office before any changes will be made. Changes requesting a specific teacher or subject/time convenience CANNOT be honored.

PLUG INTO THIS (iPads)

All students are required to supply their own iPad for school use. Acceptable iPads are the iPad Air or newer with Wi-Fi only. iPad Mini or iPad Pro 12" are not allowed. Students are not allowed to have a device with cellular capabilities. These iPads will be required to be managed through the school's management software. Students and parents will sign and return a new Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) for Technology/iPad use at VCHS.

All students must bring their iPad with them to orientation. Students in grades 9-12 should make sure that the management has been removed. Instructions were sent to the student's school email address in May. Eighth grade students will have their iPads set up during their scheduled iPad Orientation day.

All new students will need to create their own personal Apple ID. This allows for any apps put on the iPad to be owned by the student. Students should not use their school e-mail address or an existing family Apple ID.

HOW TO CREATE AN APPLE ID:

You must have an e-mail address already created that has not been used as a previous Apple ID. We suggest Google (gmail) as an e-mail provider.

To create an Apple ID:

- 1. Go to Apple.com**
- 2. Scroll to bottom of page and click "Manage Your Apple ID" under the "Account" section**
- 3. Scroll down midway and click "Create your Apple ID"**
- 4. Follow steps using an email address that is not already associated with another Apple ID**

It is recommended that when choosing cases for your iPad, **protection** be a priority.

NEWS YOU CAN USE – LET'S GET STARTED

STUDENT ORIENTATION DATES:

Monday, August 7, 2017	8 th graders	7:55 a.m. – 2:54 p.m.
	NEW 9TH – 12TH GRADERS TO VCHS ONLY	7:55 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
	Seniors	12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 8, 2017	Juniors (11 th grade)	8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
	Sophomores (10 th grade)	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
	Freshmen (9 th grade)	12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Student orientation days are counted as school days, and attendance is mandatory. Students are to report to the Kolb Center dressed in school uniform, with young men wearing a Vanderbilt tie, long sleeve shirt and having appropriate haircuts. Students **without** a proper uniform or an appropriate haircut will be sent home.

School pictures for the yearbook and student IDs will be taken at orientation. Seniors will take graduation pictures for the yearbook at this time. Senior girls should not wear T-shirts under their blouses, as these will be visible in the cap and gown photograph. There is no sitting fee and no obligation to purchase any package.

RESOURCE: There will be a mandatory Resource orientation for all incoming 8th-grade Resource students on Thursday, July 20, 2017, from 9:15 to 10:00. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting. We will all meet in the front office and proceed to the Resource room together. Immediately after the Resource orientation, there will be an iPad orientation beginning at 10:00. Please have your parents waiting for you promptly at 11:00 in the front of school. Please contact Mrs. Heidi Dupre if you have any questions via e-mail (hdupre@hdiocese.org) or phone (985-876-2551 ext. 111).

THE STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK: This document will soon be available on both the school Web site, www.vandebiltcatholic.org, and on PlusPortals. The Handbook, Drug Policy, Technology Use, Social Media, and iPad Acceptable Use Policy signature form will be sent with the schedules. **The form should be signed and returned at orientation.**

SCHOOL UNIFORMS: School Time and Jake's are both vendors for our school uniforms for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year. School Time will be the only vendor that will sell the new boys' tie and the new lightweight cardigan for girls. Students can wear the Eastland Oxford shoes or the penny loafer. The girls' style penny loafer is Eastland Classic – Mecca – style #3924, and the boys' style is Rockport Shakespeare Circle – Burgundy – style #K53881. The Oxford shoes and the penny loafers can be purchased at Shoe Carnival and Felger's Footwear. The girls' style Oxford is the Eastland Plain View – style #3150 brown Oxford, and the boys' style is Eastland Plain View – style #7150 brown Oxford. Any sale information pertaining to school uniforms that we receive will be posted on our website under the tab Parent Information, School Uniform Sale Information.

***PARKING TAGS:** Any student who did not purchase a parking tag at the end of last school year can purchase one for \$60.00 at the times listed below:

12th grade: Starting Monday, August 7, from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

11th grade: Starting Tuesday, August 8, after orientation until 3:00 p.m.

10th grade: Starting Tuesday, August 8, after orientation until 3:00 p.m.

After these times, tags are available for purchase before school in Mr. Jason Daigle's office.

***LOCKER FEES:** New students are required to pay a \$10.00 locker fee at orientation.

***P. E. UNIFORMS:** Students taking P. E. are required to wear the school's P. E. uniforms. Shorts and shirts are \$12.00 each. P. E. uniforms may be purchased at orientation.

***CAFETERIA:** Meal prices for high school students are as follows: breakfast \$1.75 and lunch \$2.75. Applications for free/reduced lunch must be resubmitted each year; qualifications do not automatically carry over from last year. This application is available on the cafeteria's Web site (www.applyforlunch.com) and on Vanderbilt's website.

The cafeteria will be open during orientation to receive payments for lunches. **Eighth graders are to bring money for lunch on orientation day as lunch will be served.**

**Please write and send separate checks payable to Vanderbilt.*

LOOK WHAT'S COMING UP (Mark your Calendar)

8th GRADE INDUCTION CEREMONY: Our annual induction ceremony for eighth grade students and their families will be held on Wednesday, August 30, at 6:30 P.M. in the Kolb Center. We ask that all of our eighth graders and their families participate in this tradition. Students are to dress in school uniform.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT: This event will be held on Wednesday, August 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the Brother Alfred Kolb Center.

OPENING SCHOOL MASS: Our first school liturgy of the year will be held on Tuesday, August 15, at 9:15 a.m. The 2018 seniors will be recognized at Mass on Thursday, August 31. **Seniors will dress in school uniforms for this Mass.** A special reception will be held for seniors and their parents following the liturgy. All parents and friends of Vanderbilt are invited and welcome to attend all liturgies held at the school.

HOMECOMING WEEK is October 16 - 20: The **Homecoming Mass** will be celebrated on **Monday, October 16**, beginning at 9:15 a.m. in the Brother Alfred Kolb Center. The **game will be played on Friday, October 20**, starting at 7:00 p.m. against Assumption. The dance will be held on **Saturday, October 21**, in the Brother Alfred Kolb Center.

EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT (Miscellaneous)

SUMMER READING PACKETS: The required reading list is currently posted on www.vandebiltcatholic.org . The **Reading Logs** can be picked up in the front office, or contact Ami Trahan at atrahan@hdiocese.org for an electronic copy. Instructions for the logs are included. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Trahan at the email given above.

REQUIRED SERVICE HOURS:

All completed service hours are due by the end of the first quarter.

Only half of the service hours can be completed at Vanderbilt Catholic or any other school.

8th GRADERS: 10 hours

9th GRADERS: 15 hours

10th GRADERS: 20 hours

11th GRADERS: 25 hours

12th GRADERS: 30 hours

WEBSITE/PLUSPORTALS: Please visit our Web site (www.vandebiltcatholic.org) or PlusPortals (www.plusportals.com/vandebiltcatholic) for the school year calendar, service hour forms, monthly newsletter,

calendar, and other school information. Log in and activation information for PlusPortals will be e-mailed to parents of new students.

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL INSURANCE: Twenty-four hour insurance coverage is available to students. If you are interested, have your student pick up a form in the front office during the first week of school. This coverage is meant to supplement your own major medical insurance and will help with out-of-pocket expenses.

“STOP AND PAWS” BOOKSTORE: The bookstore is located on the VCHS campus and is run by the **MOTHERS’ CLUB**. The store is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:45 - 1:00 p.m. during school days only. Applications for the Mothers’ Club can be found in this packet and on the school Web site; they will also be available at Back-to-School Night on August 24.

TERRIER CLUB: The club will again sell memberships and season passes. Applications will be available at the school or on the school website and PlusPortals soon. They will also be available at Back-to-School Night on August 24.

ADDITIONAL FEES:

Seniors have additional fees due before graduation. Graduation fee is \$125.00.

Seniors graduating with honors have a deposit fee of \$25.00 EACH for honor cords and/or stoles. This deposit is refundable when the item is returned after graduation.

<u>SENIOR RETREAT FEE:</u>	\$90.00 for all seniors
<u>REGIMENT FEE:</u>	\$350.00 if a member. Please note that there are additional fees for Indoor Percussion, Winterguard, etc.
<u>CALCULUS AP COURSE:</u>	\$ 25.00 if enrolled in class
<u>ALL AP COURSES:</u>	\$ 95.00 (approximately) will be assessed in Semester 2 for those taking each AP exam
<u>ART FEE:</u>	\$ 90.00 if enrolled in class
<u>PHOTOGRAPHY FEE:</u>	\$ 50.00 if enrolled in class
<u>ACCOUNTING FEE:</u>	\$ 30.00 if enrolled in class
<u>GRAPHIC DESIGN FEE:</u>	\$ 50.00 if enrolled in class

TRAFFIC FLOW

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL TRAFFIC: Morning drop off and afternoon pick up at dismissal time can **ONLY** occur in the back of school for your child’s safety. Parents are asked to pull as far forward as possible when stopping in the pick-up line. At no time should the parking lot in front of the Kolb Center be used to turn around or drive through to avoid going around the circle.

DO NOT DROP OFF OR PICK UP YOUR CHILD ON HOLLYWOOD ROAD, IN THE FRONT OF SCHOOL, AT THE BROTHERS’ HALL, OR AT ANY NEIGHBORING BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS. This is for the safety of your child.

The driveway in the front of school is reserved for the school busses.

Students from any other school (elementary schools) ARE NOT to be picked up at Vanderbilt.