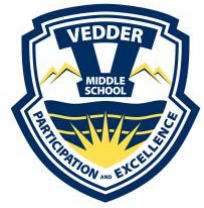


Vedder Middle Expectations



School Beliefs

The middle school years are a defining period in our students when they develop their identity, values and world views. In VMS we believe that young adolescent learners will succeed through developmentally appropriate educational experiences. VMS is committed to high quality instruction through a variety of meaningful learning experiences creating strong connections within a safe and inclusive community and providing access to multiple support systems to meet the diverse needs of our young adolescents.

MISSION STATEMENT

Vedder Middle School is a community of lifelong learners who participate and strive for excellence in a safe and caring environment.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND EXPECTATIONS

The Staff of Vedder Middle School is committed to providing a safe, comfortable environment to encourage effective learning. It is the expectation that all Vedder Middle School students will exhibit behavior that is consistent with the **Student Code of Conduct**, Guidelines for Success, and the principles of common decency and courtesy to others. Proper conduct is expected while on the school premises, on the way to and from school, at all school games, functions and field trips. Behaviour beyond these times (including on-line behavior) that negatively impacts the safe, caring, or orderly environment of the school, and/or student learning is also considered. Vedder Middle School promotes the values expressed in the **B.C. Charter of Human Rights and Freedom**, the **B.C. Human Rights Code**, and **provincial standards** respecting the rights of all individuals in accordance with the law-prohibiting discrimination based on race, colour, and ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation (homophobic behaviour), gender identity or expression - in respect of discriminatory publication and discrimination in accommodation, service and facility in the school environment.

Although we will take every opportunity to teach the positive behaviours outlined in the **Student Code of Conduct**, we expect each student to become familiar with all aspects of it. Parents will be notified of serious breaches of the **Student Code of Conduct**. When breaches occur, the following factors will be considered in determining appropriate disciplinary action: severity of unacceptable conduct, frequency of such conduct, age of the student, maturity level, and cognitive ability of the student.

While attending Vedder Middle School, there are a number of specific expectations which students and their parents should be aware:

LATES

Students are expected to arrive at school on time and to be on time for all classes.

Arriving at class on time is important for several reasons:

- a. it affects a student's performance.
- b. it is an essential pattern of behaviour for future employment.
- c. lateness is inconsiderate and unfair to other students, teachers and the learning environment.

The office will issue a late slip to students arriving late to school in the morning. Parents are required to contact the school for any "late" that is excused. If lates become excessive, students will be required to serve additional time during lunch and after school.

TRUANCY – Unexcused Absence

Truancy is an absence that occurs without valid parental or school consent such as when a student:

- a. leaves school without signing out at the office.
- b. is absent for any portion of the day without permission of the parents.
- c. leaves class without permission.
- d. becomes ill and goes home or stays in the washroom instead of reporting to the office.
- e. obtains a permission slip to go to a certain place and does not report there (eg. goes to use the phone or vending machines).
- f. comes to school but does not report to class.
- g. fails to attend an assembly.
- h.

Truancy is serious and will result in disciplinary action.

VIOLENCE

There is zero tolerance for violence at Vedder Middle School. Violence may take the form of **Physical Aggression**, punching, pushing, shoving, tripping, hitting, spitting, destroying property, use of or threat with a weapon, etc.

Verbal Aggression, for example, teasing, name calling, mocking, homophobic slurs, insults, putdowns, sarcastic remarks, threats, either in person or cyber bullying via social networking such as email, texting, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.

HARASSMENT

All school district pupils have the right to learn in an environment free of harassment.

Intimidation Pranks include such things as dirty tricks, graffiti, a public challenge, a dare (to do something), taking possessions, glaring, snickering, making intimidating gestures, homophobic behaviour, cyber bullying, etc.

Discrimination includes any action against a person because of his/her race, colour, and ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation (homophobic behaviour) gender identity or expression – prohibited grounds set out in the **B.C. Human Rights Code**.

Social Isolation includes such things as ignoring, excluding from a group, public humiliation, gossiping, spreading rumours, homophobic behaviour, gender identity or expression, cyber bullying, etc.

HANDS OFF POLICY

At Vedder Middle School we have a “**Hands and Feet-Off Policy**”. This means that there will be no kissing, hugging, holding hands, play fighting, pushing, shoving, tripping, punching, chasing, rough housing, etc. Horseplay often gets carried away and injury occurs, so students need to find productive ways of expending energy.

WEAPONS

Weapons are defined as any instrument that can be used to injure, harm, or intimidate another person. Weapons of any kind are prohibited on school premises, buses and at school sponsored events. Students who are found with knives, pellet guns, replicas of guns or other dangerous objects such as laser pointers, on their person, in bags, purses, or in their lockers will be subject to disciplinary action.

SMOKING

Smoking is not permitted on the school grounds or anywhere within the immediate vicinity of the school before, during and after school (including on or in the vicinity of Sardis Secondary property and Fire Hall). If students are found in possession of cigarettes, e-cigarettes (vapour), and/or lighters or matches, the material will be confiscated.

ALCOHOL AND ILLEGAL DRUGS

Students using, under the influence of, or in possession of illegal or non-prescription drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol in the school, on the school grounds, on the way to and from school, or at school sponsored functions are in violation of Chilliwack School Board policy and the Public Schools Act.

POP, SLURPEES AND SUGAR/CAFFEINE INFUSED ENERGY DRINKS

In keeping with the Ministry of Education Guidelines for healthy dietary choices in schools, pop, slurpees and sugar/caffeine infused energy drinks are prohibited at Vedder Middle School.

DRESS CODE

Students should dress sensibly in clothing that is appropriate to the school or work setting. Students are not to wear hat inside the building. Clothing should be suitable for a school learning environment. Clothing and footwear should be comfortable and appropriate for students to participate safely in all school activities including physical education, science, cooking, and shops. Clothing should demonstrate a respect for the school community and the B.C. Human Rights Code. For example, articles of clothing that promote direct or indirect messages or graphics referring to alcohol, drugs, gang culture, sex, weapons, violence, or profanity will not be permitted. Clothing may not encourage sexism, racism, homophobia, or discrimination regarding gender identity, sexual preference, race, religion, or origin. Clothing fabric must cover private parts, and not be transparent in those areas. Any person dressed in an inappropriate manner, will be advised personally and discretely, and given an opportunity to meet the school dress code.

COMPUTER / INTERNET USE

Students must make appropriate use of the school computers and internet access. Prior to using the internet, students must become familiar with the '**Internet Use Policy**', have their parent/guardian complete the '**Permission Click Agreement online form**'.

Inappropriate use such as downloading unauthorized files, visiting unauthorized web sites, misuse of the equipment/system, cyber bullying, etc. will mean withdrawal from the computer course, loss of computer privileges in the school, suspension, and possible police involvement.

SKATEBOARDS / LONGBOARDS / IN-LINE SKATES / SCOOTERS

Skateboards, longboards, in-line skates and scooters **may not** be used on school grounds or in the school. **Once a student arrives on school grounds, these items must not be used. Please note that the school is not responsible for damage or theft of these items.**

BICYCLES

In accordance with provincial law, students who ride bicycles to school are required to wear a **bicycle helmet**. Students should **securely lock** their bicycles in the racks located in the courtyard by the shops. Riding of bicycles in the front parking area and bus lane is strictly prohibited. **Please note that the school is not responsible for damage to bicycles or for theft of bicycles.**

BACK PACKS

To avoid classroom congestion students must leave their back packs in their lockers for the entire school day. Students will carry binders, textbooks, etc. to classrooms and use their lockers for storage of back packs and school materials.

VENDING MACHINES

Vending machines are not to be used during class time and are not to be used after the warning bell in the morning or after lunch.

Plagiarism:

Is copying someone else's written words or ideas and passing them off as your own. It is considered cheating. Sometimes, a student may plagiarize by using someone else's words or ideas in the report or essay without being fully aware of his/her actions. Even though this may be unintentional on the part of the student, plagiarism is still considered cheating.

In order for students to avoid even mistakenly using another's words as their own, there are steps that students can take when they write a report or essay to avoid plagiarism.

These steps include:

- Note-taking while researching (not "cut and paste" but taking point form notes from what you've read and where you have found that information). Keep your notes. Your teacher may ask for them.
- Using a variety of sources for your information (internet, books, articles, encyclopedias, etc.).
- Use *quotation marks* or *block quotes* to show when information has been taken directly from another source.
- **Create an accurate list of the sources of information you used** for the essay or project (a bibliography). Be sure to note: author's first and last name, title of the text, page number, publisher, and date.
- Consequences will be determined at the teacher's/administrator's discretion. Students will be required to re-write the assignment as a minimum.

Cheating:

Cheating occurs in a number of ways, including the following:

- Using a memory aid or electronic device in a test situation without the permission of the teacher.
- Giving or receiving answers during a test or quiz or on assignments that are supposed to be completed individually.
- Accessing a test or quiz, including the use of any electronic device, before the assessment date in order to determine the content of the exam.
- Consequences will be determined at the teacher's/administrator's discretion. A student may have the opportunity to rewrite or redo an assignment. Depending upon the severity of the incident, the student may be suspended from school.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is extremely important to a student's achievement in school. Attendance will be closely checked by the school, and parents will be notified about absences and irregular attendance. If a student is absent, parents are requested to either:

1. Telephone the school on the morning of the absence at 604-858-7141, or
2. Send a note stating the date and reason for absence when the student returns to school.

In addition:

1. We discourage long term absences as students must be in class in order to succeed.
2. It is the student's responsibility to see the teacher, a classmate or check our website to find out what was missed during his/her absence.
3. Counsellors will make contact with students in the event of a prolonged absence.
4. If a student needs to leave school during the day, a note must be brought from home requesting permission to sign out. Please bring the note to the office for a sign out slip.
5. Students must sign out with a secretary, at the office, to leave at any time during the school day.

MEDICAL/ILLNESS

1. Illness at School

Students who become ill at school should first inform their teacher and then report to the office, the office will then contact a parent. The medical room is for emergency use only and only when parent contact is not possible.

2. Medication

Aspirins or other types of medication are **NOT** available from the school.

3. Medical Alerts

Parents should contact the school and fill out a Medical Alert form if a student has a medical condition.

4. P.E. Excuses

Students who must be excused from P.E. for:

- a. Less than a week - bring an explanatory note from parent or guardian.
- b. More than a week - bring an explanatory note from your doctor stating the reason and duration of the exemption.

All notes must be presented to the P.E. teacher who will then assign the student to a particular area to complete an alternate activity.

CAMPUS BOUNDARIES

The campus boundaries are as follows: the sport court on the east side of the school, the main sidewalk in front of the school. Students are not allowed in the parking lot or on the west-side sidewalk during the school day or on the top playing field.

CLOSED CAMPUS POLICY

Vedder Middle School has a Closed Campus Policy. This means that students are not allowed to leave the school grounds once they arrive in the morning. Students should never leave classes or the school for any reason without permission. Students may not be given parental permission to leave school property to go to the **Shell Station** at any time.

Students who plan to leave school during the day **must** go to the office to sign out before they leave, otherwise they will be considered truant.

Students from other schools are not permitted on our school grounds between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

HALL PASS – HALT! WHO GOES THERE!

If you need to leave the classroom while class is in session, you must request the classroom hall pass from your teacher (and have it with you while out of class). Students must also fill out a sign out sheet.

HOME STUDY

Regular home study is essential for success. All work done during the school day should be reviewed that evening. Notebooks and course work should be monitored regularly by parents. Students are encouraged to use the student handbook to record their daily homework and to check their teacher's homework page on our website.

NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters are sent to parents by email on a regular basis. The newsletter is also posted on the school website.

SCHOOL I.D. CARDS & PICTURES

All students will be issued a Vedder Middle School student identification card. In order to produce these cards, students are **required** to have their photos taken by the school photographer in September. The pictures are also used for the yearbook and for the office management system.

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Each day we have Daily Student Announcements. Students are expected to listen carefully so that they do not miss instructions concerning their classes or school activities. Daily announcements are also posted on the school website.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Parent Advisory Council is open to all parents who have students in the school. Meeting dates and times are published in our yearly calendar and school website.

In general terms, the functions of the committee are as follows:

1. To review and discuss school facilities, policies, programs and procedures.
2. To provide a forum for parents to learn and make enquiries about processes and procedures affecting their children.
3. To help create a sense of community within our school neighbourhood so that we can work cooperatively in the interpretation of community attitudes and needs as they relate to the school.

FOOD SERVICES

Students are able to purchase food from both the school cafeteria and coin operated vending machines. Vedder Middle School promotes healthy dietary lifestyles by:

- a. Offering food and beverages that meet or exceed the Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in B.C. Schools.
- b. Offering healthy choices in our vending machines.**

Students are to eat their lunches in the cafeteria or seated on the benches in the hallways and must use the garbage cans and recycling bins. **Please note that food/drinks are not allowed in the gym.**

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are issued using a barcode system, and students are responsible for the specific text books issued to them. Some textbooks are issued for the duration of the course, while others are issued on a rotation basis. Students should print their name on the label inside the book.

The student is responsible for his or her textbooks. If a textbook is lost or damaged, a replacement cost will be charged to the student. There is a \$15.00 charge for graffiti in textbooks.

LOCKS AND LOCKERS

Each student is assigned a locker and is responsible for the contents and conditions of that locker.

- LOCK COMBINATIONS MUST BE KEPT SECRET! Do not tell anyone your combination!
- Lockers must be kept locked at all times.
- Lockers must be kept neat and tidy and ready for inspection at any time.
- If someone finds out your lock combination, you may change your lock combination, but there is a \$5.00 charge.
- Entering another student's locker may result in disciplinary action.
- You are responsible for any damage to your locker.

VALUABLES

Unfortunately, every year a few students have items go missing. To prevent this, follow these guidelines:

1. Do not bring anything of significant value to school.
2. Do not tell anyone your locker combination.
3. Leave all wallets, watches, rings and any other valuables locked in your locker when in P.E.
4. When using a P.E. locker, **provide a lock from home to secure your personal belongings**. Do not leave any belongings or textbooks in the P.E. lockers.
5. Lock your bicycle to the bicycle stand, using a u-shaped bar lock.

Throughout the school year, students will misplace/lose various items (clothing, shoes, gloves, etc.). We encourage all students to mark their belongings and check the lost and found area if they are missing anything.

LOST AND FOUND

The lost and found is located in the blue hallway where students may retrieve lost item(s). Please remember that **the school is not responsible for items that go missing, so do not bring valuables to school.** Articles not claimed after a few months are sent to the Salvation Army.

TEACHERS ON CALL

Our school is fortunate to have capable people fill in for our regular teachers when they are ill or are attending conferences. A **Teacher On Call** is an important visitor whose impressions of our school will be carried into the community. We ask students to help make sure that these are good impressions by being **respectful, polite** and **helpful**.

VISITORS

All visitors must check in at the office upon entering the school. Visitors from other schools **must have permission from a Vedder Middle School administrator** to be at our school. **Friends are not permitted at Vedder Middle during the school day.** Students from other schools are not permitted on Vedder Middle School property.

SCHOOL BUS

School District #33 (Chilliwack) operates the bus transportation system for the bus students of this school and has the regulations for students who travel to school on their bus system. Only students with bus passes will be allowed to ride the bus. **Students who do not abide by the bus rules will lose their bus privileges.**

PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

Pedestrians are asked to exercise caution and courtesy towards cars and buses. We ask bus students to remain on the sidewalk while waiting for the bus. Students must use the crosswalks. Students are not to visit or loiter on the nearby sidewalks.

TELEPHONE

A free telephone is provided for student use. The phone is located across from the office, this phone does not make long distance calls.

ASSEMBLIES

We regularly hold assemblies in our gym. Expectations for students include entering the gym quietly and orderly, sitting with their homeroom class in the designated area, being attentive and respectful, and leaving in an orderly fashion. Homeroom teachers will go over specific information with all students.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards shall be issued three times throughout the year.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

One of the keys to a successful and enjoyable Vedder Middle School experience is for students to become involved in many available activities at school. These are fun and interesting opportunities for students to try new things, to make new friends, and to create positive school spirit.

School Athletics

Sports offered to our students include soccer, field hockey, basketball, volleyball, track and field, cross country, rugby and golf. Team schedules are posted on the V.M.S. website.

Intramural Sports

The P.E. Leadership class organizes a wide variety of intramural sports which are scheduled in the gym during the lunch hour two days a week. Students are encouraged to sign up, form a team and have a great time. Some team activities include indoor soccer, badminton, handball, and beach ball volleyball.

School Clubs

Students are asked to listen to morning announcements, T.V. monitors and their homeroom teacher for updates on these and other clubs: Amazing Book Race Team, Debate, Drama, Gamer's, Library, Math, NoH8, P.A.W.S., Ski & Snowboarding and Tour Band.

H.I.S.S. AWARDS

High in Self Strength awards are given out to students who show exemplary behaviour and give of themselves without being asked. Students who have received a VIPER H.I.S.S. nomination may be recognized at our Recognition Assemblies.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Students who show exemplary behaviour, effort, citizenship and service and who stand out above the rest of the student body will receive the Student of the Month award that is presented at a special breakfast held by the Kiwanis Club of Chilliwack.

Positive Respectful Initiative Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behave nicely • Share with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use inside voice • Keep it clean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage self & others • Imaginative and creative • Be a steward • Be a good role model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willing to try • Be polite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use resources • Please your friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriately • Inappropriately • In assigned area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep comments • Avoid rude or • Be considerate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow actions & instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good sport 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in the setting • Care for property • Clean up after • Keep hands off • Be trustworthy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use appropriate • Line up in single file • No budging • Respect staff • No begging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to others • Be polite • Be inclusive • Give compliments • Care for school equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect other's • Follow school • Follow community rules • Respect people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be prepared to be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen & watch • Appropriately • Rationals with them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be polite to staff • Acknowledge the • Be helpful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use appropriate • Respect staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain things 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good sport • Be a good sport • Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good sport • Be a good sport • Be a good sport
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in the setting • Ask for and give • Be a good sport • Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer • Advocate for self • Know what needs • Use resources available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be what is right • Help others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be polite to staff • Acknowledge the • Be helpful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the garbage • Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good sport • Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good sport • Be a good sport
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never quit • Be a good sport • Practice self • Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a lifelong • Challenge • Be a good sport • Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be flexible • Accept change • Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure that 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep hands to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play safely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good sport • Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate • Be a good sport
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good sport • Be a good sport • Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a leader • Be a good sport • Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good sport • Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good sport • Be a good sport

