



Middle School

Important Dates for the 2026-2027 School Year

This information is **Subject to Change**. This is the initial calendar for the 26/27 school year. For a complete calendar and to see additional events added throughout the year, please visit the school's online calendar at <http://www.valleycatholic.org>.

As a reminder, students have early dismissal days several times during the year. Those days are noted below.

Please see the excerpts about missing school (excessive absences) and missing final exams on p. 5

August	10-21	VCMS office	Open 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (M-F)
	14	Start of school and registration material e-mailed	
	24-28	The VCMS office is closed to in-person visits	(Staff are attending start-of-year training)
	28	SSMO Missioning for all campus employees	
	31	Orientation and Back to School for 6th-grade families: (students should wear Free Dress) Students and at least one parent should attend	12:00 – 4:00 p.m.
	TBD	VCS Foundation Staff hosts a New Parent Social - <i>Details will come from the Foundation staff, not VCMS staff</i>	
September	1-4	Week One: Starting School Orientation Courses, Community Building	No after-school study or activities
	1	First day of School: All Grades Half Day: Uniform Dress	Half Day: 7:50 - 12:15 p.m. Dismissal
	2	Half Day: Uniform dress	Half Day: 7:50 - 12:15 p.m. Dismissal
	3	Half Day Dismissal: Uniform Dress Evening Event: IN PERSON Back to School for Grades 7 & 8	Half Day: 7:50 - 12:15 p.m. Dismissal 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
	4	Full Day: Spirit Dress All Campus - Welcome Back Mass	7:50 - 3:20 p.m. 9:25 a.m.
	7	Labor Day	No School
	8-11	Week Two: Starting Coursework Academic classes begin – all grades	No after-school study or activities
	8	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m. Dismissal
	8	Picture day (All students) Free dress Scholastic Testing	No after-school study or activities
	11	Spirit dress or uniform	
	11	Field Trip: Camp Howard All Grades	7:50 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.
	14-18	Week Three: Getting Involved After-school study hall begins	After-school study hall and activities begin
	15	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
	18	Half Day Dismissal Spirit Dress or Uniform	Half Day: 12:15 p.m. Dismissal No after-school study or activities
	22	“Good-Bye Summer” Special Dress Day	
	22	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
	24	VCMS Lock-In (Gala Fundraiser)	6:00 - 10:00 p.m.
	25	No School: In-service	
	29	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
	30	Picture Retakes: Free Dress	

October	2	All Campus - Blue Mass	9:25 a.m.
	6	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
	8	Tentative Field Trip - (TBD)	
	9	No School: Statewide Inservice	
	13	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
	22	Extended Day Field Trip: Camp Howard 6th Gr. Asynchronous 7th & 8th	7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m..
	27	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
	30	Halloween Colors: Special Dress Day	
November	1	VCHS hosts the Valley Catholic High School Open House - Details will come from VCHS	
	2	Extended Day Field Trip: Camp Howard, 8th grade, 6th and 7th grade Asynchronous	7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
	3	Special Dress: Lazy Dress	
	3	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
	6	No School: End of 1st Quarter	
	9	6th Grade Field Trip to BizTown	
	11	No School – Veterans Day	
	14	VCS Gala - <i>Details will come from the Foundation staff, not VCMS staff</i>	
	17	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
	20	Half-Day Dismissal and Thanksgiving Mass	12:15 p.m.
		Conferences: Round Table (invitation only)	1:00 -3:30 p.m.
	23-	No School: Conferences In Person	9:00 a.m. -- 8:00 p.m.
	24	No School: Conferences In Person	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
	24	No School” Conferences via Google Meet	1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
	25	No School: Conferences via Google Meet	9:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.
	26-27	No School: Thanksgiving Break	
December		<i>Please note: As part of the food drive, there will be special “red” and “green” dress days on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and specific food drive items will be collected. Details will be announced in mid-November.</i>	
	1	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
		Giving Tuesday - <i>Details will come from the Foundation staff, not VCMS staff</i>	
	5 or 6	HSPT testing - required attendance for all 8th-grade students	Regular school day (7:50 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.)
	8	All Campus - Immaculate Conception Mass	9:25 a.m.
	8	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
	9	Very Valiant Christmas and Tree Lighting event	(Evening event - Time TBD)
	15	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
		Foundation Young Alumni Day - <i>Details will come from the Foundation staff, not VCMS staff</i>	
	16	VCMS Christmas Concert and Art Fair	6:00 - 8:30 p.m. VCHS Auditorium
	18	All Campus - Christmas Mass	9:00 a.m.
		Special Early Release – Food Drive	10:00 a.m. Dismissal
	18 - Jan.4	Christmas Break	
January	4	Classes Resumes	
	5	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
	12	Half Day Dismissal – Final Exams	12:15 p.m.
	13	Half Day Dismissal – Final Exams	12:15 p.m.
	14	Half Day Dismissal – Final Exams	12:15 p.m.
	15	No School: End of 2Q - first semester (Inservice) Applicant Q&A - In person	8:15 a.m. or 7:00 p.m.
	18	No School: Martin Luther King, Jr.	

January Cont.

19	Retreat (all grades)	
	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
26	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
29	No School: Inservice	

February

1-4	Catholic Schools / Spirit Week (Special dress all week)	
1	Catholic Schools Week Mass	9:25 a.m.
2	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
5	No School: Inservice	
9	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
	Special Dress: Mardi Gras Dress	
10	All Campus - Ash Wednesday Mass	9:25 a.m.
11	Spirit Dress	
12	Special Dress: Valentine's Colors	
15	No School: President's Day	
16	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
23	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.

March

2	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
9	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
15	Special Dress: Lazy Dress Day	
16	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
17	Special Dress: St. Patrick's colors	
19	SSMO Heritage Day Mass	9:25 a.m.
22-26	Spring Break	
29	No School: Easter Monday	
30	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.

April

2	Extended Day Field Trip: Camp Howard, 7th grade, 6th and 8th grade asynchronous	7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
6	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
9	No School: End of 3rd quarter	
13	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
19-23	Culture and Rejuvenation Week - Special dress	
20	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
21	Administrative Assistant's Day	
23	All Campus Mass	9:25 a.m.
23?	Extended Day Field Trip: Beach Clean-up Grades/Time TBD	8:00 am - 6:00 pm
24	Give 24 (<i>Details will come from the Foundation staff</i>)	All Day
27	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
30	No School: Inservice	

May

4	VCMS & VCHS - Prayer Service May Crowning	10:21 a.m.
3-7	Teacher Appreciation Week	
4	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
11	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
18	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
21	End of Year Mass	9:25 a.m.

	25	Early Dismissal (every Tuesday)	1:45 p.m.
	26	Spring Performance and Art Fair- VCHS Auditorium Band/Orchestra - Dance/Choir - Art Fair	6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
	28	No School: Inservice	
	31	No School: Memorial Day	
June	1	Half Day	12:15 p.m.
	2	Half Day	12:15 p.m.
	3	8th Grade Graduation Get-Away Trip No School 6 th and 7 th grade 8th Grade Sending Ceremony Final Prayer Service Parents welcome!	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
		Last day for 8th grade	
	4	Half Day for 6 th and 7 th	12:15 p.m.
	8	Half Day Dismissal – Final Exams	12:15 p.m.
	9	Half Day Dismissal – Final Exams	12:15 p.m.
		Last day for 6th & 7th Gr. June 9th	

Missing School for Reasons Other than Illness

Students cannot miss 10 days of school in a semester and still be in compliance with school policy and the State of Oregon's attendance (#339.065) requirement (as outlined in our Handbook Section 2.11).

Once a student misses the 10th day for any reason, the student will not receive credit for coursework unless the student has a Medical Learning Plan due to a medically verified reason (surgery, chemo, COVID, etc.). The student's transcript will show that the student did not meet the minimum seat-hour requirement; thus, no credit or grade will be awarded.

Missing Final Exams and Standardized Testing Days

Final exams are a key part of our program, and we do not make accommodations unless there are extenuating circumstances (as defined in our handbook). Extenuating circumstances would include bereavement, surgery for the child, medical treatments (chemotherapy), concussion, in-treatment program (such as eating disorders or mental health, for example), etc.

If a student misses a final exam without an extenuating circumstance, the student will be marked absent and receive a grade of "0" on the final exam for any course that offers a final exam during final exam week. Some classes, though, have culminating projects instead of or in addition to finals.

If a student misses class during these projects or if she/he is involved with a group project that requires the student's presence in order for the group to complete their task, the student will not be granted a "make-up" assignment, as we do not offer individual accommodations without an Individual Learning Plan.

Valley Catholic Middle School Outdoor Education Program

Program Preview

Valley Catholic Middle School's Outdoor Education initiative is designed to help students become confident, curious, and connected individuals. Grounded in our Catholic identity and school values, Outdoor Education at VCMS promotes personal growth, emotional wellness, and a deeper relationship with both nature and one another.

Mission Statement

Through Outdoor Education, students will become better communicators, more aware of their emotions and how to channel them constructively, and more deeply connected to both their community and the natural world.

Rooted in Our Catholic and Valiant Identity

The Outdoor Education Program reflects and reinforces the Pillars of Valley Catholic:

- Celebrating God, life, and creation
- Striving for excellence through balance and flow
- Honoring the unique gifts of each person
- Living valiantly by taking risks and embracing new experiences

Why Outdoor Education?

For the vast majority of human history, people have lived in close relationship with the natural world. In more recent centuries, that connection has diminished—often to the detriment of our emotional and physical well-being. Scholars like E.O. Wilson and Richard Louv have identified this disconnection as a contributing factor to Nature Deficit Disorder, with implications for human health and happiness.

At Valley Catholic, we believe that time spent in nature is not only healthy—it is holy. By offering meaningful, structured outdoor learning experiences, we invite our students to develop confidence, empathy, and stewardship for God's creation.

Key Goals of the Program

- Community Development: Strengthening belonging at VCMS
- Emotional Balance: Supporting emotional and spiritual growth
- Connection to Nature: Fostering awe, respect, and care for the environment
- Self-Reflection: Encouraging identity development and introspection
- Physical Activity: Promoting movement, exploration, and joy in outdoor spaces

More information about curricular connections and interdisciplinary activities will be shared later in the 2025–2026 school year.

Extended Day Field Trips – Save the Dates

A cornerstone of the Outdoor Education Program is our **Extended Day Field Trips**, one of which each grade level will experience during the 2025–2026 school year.

What Is an Extended Day Field Trip?

Each trip includes:

- Departure from VCMS at 7:30 a.m.
- Return to VCMS by approximately 7:30 p.m.

These full-day off-campus experiences provide students with a wide range of outdoor learning activities, shared meals, and time to gather around a campfire under the stars. Students build lasting memories and deeper connections with their classmates and teachers alike.

Asynchronous Days

To allow staff to accompany and support students on these trips:

- Students in the other two grades will have asynchronous learning days at home on the same date.
- Each student will have one Extended Day Field Trip and two asynchronous days throughout the year.
- Asynchronous assignments will be posted to Google Classroom and are expected to be completed independently.

This structure ensures full participation while also creating intentional space for staff and students to connect meaningfully during their time at camp.

Cost

There is no additional cost for the Extended Day Field Trip. All expenses are covered by the activities fee collected during registration.

Looking Ahead

Additional information—including specific dates, locations, what to bring, and family logistics—will be shared at **Back to School Night in September 2026**.

Tentative Dates include:

- September: All grades Introduction to Outdoor Education (7:30 a.m. - 3:20 p.m - Regular School day)
- October: Eighth Grade Outdoor Education (7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.); Sixth and seventh grade asynchronous work at home.
- April: Seventh Grade Outdoor Education (7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.); Sixth- and eighth-grade asynchronous work at home.
- April Sixth Grade Outdoor Education (7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.); Seventh and eighth grade asynchronous work at home.

We are thrilled to bring this renewed Outdoor Education Program to life for our students and look forward to a year filled with exploration, growth, and grace.

Warmly,

Dr. Jennifer Gfroerer

Principal, Valley Catholic Middle School