

Advanced After School Programming



Helping Students Travel Safely

The Escorted Walker Program provides a safe, guided walking option for two groups: students with a parent or guardian who works in downtown Middleton and middle school students participating in VHS programs.



This Program Is Complimentary

The Escorted Walker Program is provided at no cost to eligible participants.



Middleton Residents May Walk Home

Students who live in Middleton are welcome to walk home after school.

Students **may not** be unattended in downtown Middleton and must be under the supervision of a parent, guardian, or authorized adult.



All Other Students Must Be in Buffalo Adventures or Picked Up

For student safety, all students not participating in the Escorted Walker Program must be enrolled in Buffalo Adventures, picked up through carline or walk home to Middleton.



BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL STUDENT PICK-UP/TRANSPORTATION

The Villages Charter School (VCS) is committed to student safety on the charter school campus. Due to our unique student eligibility policy, whereby students can reside in any county, VCS does not provide general transportation to school. Except where transportation is required by law, an individual student plan, or the VCS charter, parents are responsible for daily drop-off and pick-up of their children. VCS will implement this policy consistent with each student's IEP or Section 504 plan, the American with Disabilities Act, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, applicable court orders, and other applicable law. An alternative dismissal procedure will be available when use of PikMyKid is not reasonably available.

PLEASE NOTE: Middleton *Campus Speed Limit = 15 mph during school hours. It is illegal to stop your vehicle in a roadway to load or unload passengers.*

The Villages Charter School will not accept students who arrive at or depart from school on foot or by bike or scooter at the Buffalo Ridge campus. Only students that are residents of Middleton will be allowed to walk / bike home before or after school. Parents are responsible for providing their home address as part of school registration. Any VCS student who does not reside in Middleton and is unaccompanied by an adult in downtown Middleton during dismissal while under VCS supervision will be escorted to their school of attendance and entered into the Buffalo Adventures / VHS BASE program. Parents will be responsible for all charges, subject to the exceptions stated below.

Students who reside in Middleton and attend the Middleton campus will be permitted to walk or ride a bike* or a scooter to and from school within the following guidelines:

- Students in 5th through 12th grade may walk or ride a bike* or a scooter to or from school.
- Kindergarten through 4th grade students may walk or ride a bike* or scooter to or from school if accompanied by an approved adult or a sibling in 5th grade or above.
- Upon arrival to campus, students must walk (not ride) their bike, scooter or any other personal transportation device to the rack provided. It is strongly recommended that students have a lock and use it.
- All students choosing to ride a bike* or scooter will be required to apply for a K-8 student parking permit and adhere a decal to their vehicle. Applications can be

accessed through the “Forms and Documents” section in the Administration tab of tvcs.org, under both the Elementary School and Middle School sections.

- All students traveling on bikes* or scooters must follow Florida state statutes regarding proper operation and required safety equipment.
- All students must wear helmets when operating bikes* or scooters.
- Students are only authorized to park their bike* or scooter in the approved bike rack areas.

The use of golf carts on VCS campuses will be allowed for student drop-off and pick-up only by adults or students with a valid Class “E” Florida drivers’ license. Student drivers and adults coming on campus using a golf cart must follow all traffic laws and must use the same car line regulations as all other motor vehicles.

Before School Procedures

All campuses are open at 6:30 a.m. for student drop-off. K-8 students will be directed to a designated area with supervision.

Note: There is no fee for before school supervision.

After School Procedures

K-8 Buffalo Ridge & Middleton Carline Procedures

- All students will be dismissed through the PikMyKid app.
- If picking up in a motorized vehicle, assigned PikMyKid numbers should be visible in the windshield.
- Pets brought to campus for the purpose of dropping off or picking up students must remain in the vehicle at all times except for service animals permitted by law.

Middleton Only

- Students 5th through 12th grade with a registered address in Middleton may walk or ride a bike* or scooter to or from school.
- Kindergarten through 4th grade students with a registered address in Middleton may walk or ride a bike* to or from school if accompanied by an approved adult or a sibling in 5th grade or above.
- Students walking or riding a bike* or scooter will not be permitted to leave the building prior to dismissal time unless they are checked out with a parent who picks up the student.
- Parents, approved adults, or grade 5 and above siblings walking their student/sibling from school should meet the student at a Buffalo Gathering Spot.

- Pets brought to campus for the purpose of dropping off or picking up students must remain in the vehicle at all times except for service animals permitted by law.
- Students with a registered address in Middleton indicated as walkers in PIKMYKID who walk, ride a bike* or scooter, may not remain on campus after dismissal unless enrolled in a Buffalo Adventures activity or on an official roster for a VCMS sports team.
- Students returning to campus after dismissal for any reason other than a Buffalo Adventures activity or being required to attend an official school-sponsored activity **must be accompanied by an adult.**
 - K-8 students are not permitted to attend any after school events (sports or performances) during the after school time window (3:00 pm - 6:30 pm) as a spectator without an adult accompanying them.
- Programs are provided to keep students safe after school hours who remain on campus due to parents' employment hours. Students at the high school are to be enrolled in the BASE program. Students at the elementary and middle school building are to be enrolled in Buffalo Adventures. Students remaining on campus for an academic session or school-sponsored activity, and picked up by parents afterward do not have to enroll in Buffalo Adventures.

Buffalo Adventures After School Program

When carline ends, remaining students in grades K-8 will join the Buffalo Adventures aftercare programs for supervised snack and homework time with optional services that include various extracurricular activities, intramurals, sports, clubs, childcare, and much more. Buffalo Adventures services are available until 6:30 PM at the regular Buffalo Adventures daily fee. No fee will be charged when a student's continued presence is caused by VCS, an emergency, or a service or accommodation required by law, and unpaid fees will not result in exclusion from the regular instructional program.

Buffalo Adventures Walkers/Bike Riders- Middleton Campus for students with a registered address in Middleton

- Buffalo Adventures elementary students approved to walk or ride their bike home after activities will be escorted to a designated Buffalo Gathering Spot.
- Parents must change the Pickup mode in the PikMyKid app to a time-specific "Walker" mode.

- K-4th grade walkers/bikers will only be released if accompanied by an approved adult or sibling in 5th-12th grade.
- Walkers will not be released when inclement weather is present that may place students in harm's way.

Escorted Walker After-School Program for:

- 1. Parents who are employees of Middleton businesses**
- 2. Parents of VHS student athletes who are officially on a roster during the season of their sport(s).**
 - All "Escorted Walkers" will be supervised and escorted by a VCS Buffalo Adventures employee.
 - Parents must submit an Escorted Walker Application to the building principal at the VCMS @ Middleton and VCES @ Middleton to apply for permission to be escorted from the K8 campus to either the VHS campus or a designated area.
 - All K8 students who are designated as "Escorted Walkers" will be released and escorted in two groups. The first group being escorted to VHS will be escorted at 2:55 and the second group will be escorted to a location near downtown Middleton at 3:05 pm. The students will be transferred / handed off to the parent / adult (the name of parent / adult must be on the "Student Pick Up List" within PikMyKid and be prepared to show photo ID if requested). Parents who are employed in downtown Middleton can register to have their child(ren) walk to the designated "Escorted Walker" area near downtown Middleton. Students are required to go with their parents, guardians, or those on the pick up list and not loiter unaccompanied. The transfer will be documented, and VCS supervision under the program ends upon transfer to the authorized adult or release at the authorized destination identified in the parent authorization.
 - No VCS student from the K8 will be released to walk on their own toward downtown Middleton or VHS. All students that are given permission to be escorted to VHS or an area near downtown Middleton will be escorted by a VCS Buffalo Adventures employee.
 - VCMS @ Middleton students that are registered student-athletes will be escorted to VHS along with other students by a VCS Buffalo Adventures employee. VCMS @ Middleton student-athletes will register through the VHS Athletic Department and VCMS @ Middleton Administration.
 - VHS students may walk to the K8 Middleton campus with permission from the Buffalo Adventures Director, the VCES or VCMS principal.
 - No VHS student can loiter in downtown Middleton or in a VCS-supervised area and must leave campus, be in a supervised VHS sport, activity or club or in the VHS BASE program.

VHS

All high school students are expected to be off-campus, in an organized activity, or in the cafeteria for academic support time by 2:50 p.m. Students reporting to the cafeteria for academic support time will complete an hour of classwork with certified teachers, and, finally, an hour of supervised flex time. Students will not be charged for the 2:35 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. academic support time. Students remaining after 4:00 p.m. other than for a required academic session, school-sponsored activity, or service or accommodation required by law, will be charged at the published VHS BASE rate.

****Permits will be issued for Manual bicycles or pedal-assist e-bikes only. See Policy 5514 - USE OF PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION DEVICES for additional details.***

USE OF PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION DEVICES

The School Board regulates the utilization of bicycles, scooters, skateboards, hoverboards, and personal transportation devices, whether powered manually by an operator or powered by a mechanical means (including but not limited to gas engines or electric motors). For purposes of this policy, such items are collectively referred to as "personal transportation devices" but do not include personal transportation devices needed and/or used due to a disability. Personal transportation devices necessary for use due to a student's disability are governed by other policies of the Board. Additionally, this policy does not prevent the safe and reasonable utilization and operation of personal transportation devices when needed due to a disability.

Because of the clear and present danger of accidents in traffic, inherent to riding personal transportation devices, it shall be the policy of the Board to prohibit the use of personal transportation devices by students on Board Property.

The Board regards the use of personal transportation devices for travel to and from school, to school-sponsored events or activities on Board property, or to events held on Board property by students as an assumption of care, risk, and responsibility on the part of the students and parents of students.

The Board in no way regulates the utilization of personal transportation devices off Board property and in no way takes responsibility regarding the utilization of personal transportation devices on Board property, with the owner and operator of such devices being fully and wholly liable for any personal or property damage resulting from the operation of such devices.

The operator of a personal transportation device must observe all safety rules, display courtesy and consideration toward others, and must abide by this Policy as well as all laws and ordinances regarding the operation of the relevant device. Operating or bringing a personal transportation device on Board property is a privilege and not a right. An administrator may temporarily or permanently revoke such privilege to the extent that a personal transportation device is operated in a negligent, reckless, or other manner that creates a risk of harm to the operator or others, or in a fashion that otherwise fails to comply with safety rules, laws, or ordinances. The decision of the administrator is subject to a school-level appeal, as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct. Additional disciplinary action may result from the unsafe operation of a personal transportation device on Board property.

Upon the request of an administrator, the operator of an electronic powered transportation device will dismount the device and walk the device to the appropriate storage area. Failure to comply with an administrator's request to dismount and walk such a device may subject the student to disciplinary action.

Students under the age of sixteen (16) are required by State law to wear a helmet.

The Board will not be responsible for personal transportation devices that are lost, stolen, or damaged.