



# NEW PARENT HANDBOOK



16445 Los Gatos Blvd, Los Gatos, CA 95032

PHONE: (408) 335-2250

FAX: (408)356-9487

SCHOOL WEBSITE: [www.vm.lgusd.org/](http://www.vm.lgusd.org/)

HOME & SCHOOL CLUB WEBSITE: [www.lvmhsc.com](http://www.lvmhsc.com)

ATTENDANCE LINE: (408) 335-2285

ATTENDANCE EMAIL: [lvmattend@lgusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:lvmattend@lgusd.k12.ca.us)



# Table of Contents

---

Welcome to Van Meter	Page 3
Home & School Club	Page 4
The Bulldog Way	Page 5
Communication	Page 6
Annual Events	Page 7
Community Programs	Page 8
Fundraising Programs	Page 9
One Community	Page 10
Home & School Club and LGEF	Page 11
School Lunch & Childcare	Page 12
Childcare with Clubhouse	Page 13
School Calendar 2021-2022	Page 14
School Schedule	Page 15
Meet Our Staff	Page 16-17
School Policies & Procedures	Page 18
GO BULLDOGS!	Page 19



# Welcome to Van Meter

---



Dear Bulldog Students and Families,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our students, staff and community members back to Van Meter Elementary School. The mission of Van Meter Elementary School is to prepare each student to be successful in school and in life. This is accomplished by providing our students with a safe and positive environment that supports their learning. Through high expectations for behavior and academics, we will guide students as they acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that foster an enjoyment of learning as well as a respect for themselves and others.

Van Meter School is a great place for children to grow and develop as they progress from kindergarten through 5th grade. The staff at Van Meter is an extremely caring and motivated staff and continually challenges the students to be at their best each and every day.

We are continually changing to meet the needs of all of our learners as well as the needs of the world around us.

Go Bulldogs!

**Rick Rauscher**  
**Principal- Louise Van Meter Elementary School**  
**Los Gatos Union School District**  
**(408) 335-2280**

**16445 Los Gatos Blvd, Los Gatos, CA 95032**  
**Phone: (408) 335-2250 | FAX: (408) 356-9487**



# LVM HSC Details

---

## WHO WE ARE

The Van Meter Home & School Club is a non-profit organization run by volunteers. We form the bridge between parents and the school. Our mission is twofold: (1) bring the Van Meter community- parents, teachers, and kids – closer together through community events and programs and (2) organize, staff, and fund supplemental equipment, classes, and people that enrich the educational experience for the children of Van Meter.

## WHAT WE SPEND

Yes, it's true, the H&SC and LGEF together will spend on average \$1,500 per child per year. Much of this funding goes toward essential staff, technology, programs, teacher development, and classroom supplies that you might assume your property taxes pay. But with state level funding cuts and other financial pressures, many key expenses are now paid by parents.

## WHAT WE NEED

Your support! You can help by volunteering and providing financial donations.

### 2021-2022 Executive Board

President, Holly Schroeder	<a href="mailto:holly.schroeder@vanmeterhsc.org">holly.schroeder@vanmeterhsc.org</a>
President Elect, Monique Orzechowski	<a href="mailto:monique.orzechowski@vanmeterhsc.org">monique.orzechowski@vanmeterhsc.org</a>
Treasurer, Renee Shaeffer	<a href="mailto:renee.shaeffer@vanmeterhsc.org">renee.shaeffer@vanmeterhsc.org</a>
Assistant Treasurer, Melissa Ackalloor	<a href="mailto:melissa.ackalloor@vanmeterhsc.org">melissa.ackalloor@vanmeterhsc.org</a>
Secretary, Jackie Kumar	<a href="mailto:jackie.kumar@vanmeterhsc.org">jackie.kumar@vanmeterhsc.org</a>
VP Community, Avery Kaufman	<a href="mailto:avery.kaufman@vanmeterhsc.org">avery.kaufman@vanmeterhsc.org</a>
VP Fundraising, Carrie Dean	<a href="mailto:carrie.dean@vanmeterhsc.org">carrie.dean@vanmeterhsc.org</a>
VP Programs, Shari Shanker	<a href="mailto:shari.shanker@vanmeterhsc.org">shari.shanker@vanmeterhsc.org</a>
VP Marketing, Jamie Fumia	<a href="mailto:jamie.fumia@vanmeterhsc.org">jamie.fumia@vanmeterhsc.org</a>
VP Ecology, Jessica Williams	<a href="mailto:jessica.williams@vanmeterhsc.org">jessica.williams@vanmeterhsc.org</a>

16445 Los Gatos Blvd, Los Gatos, CA 95032  
Phone: (408) 335-2250 | FAX: (408) 356-9487





# THE BULLDOG WAY

BE SAFE, BE RESPECTFUL, BE RESPONSIBLE, BE KIND

---



If you haven't yet heard of "The Bulldog Way" you probably will soon. Whether it is from your child singing the song at home, seeing posters around our school's campus, hearing your child celebrate that they received a Bulldog ticket at school that day, or walking by the giant ball wall in the heart of the school's blacktop, the Bulldog Way is everywhere and for a great reason. It reminds us to consistently be safe, respectful, responsible, and kind to all people. This positive messaging not only has an enormous impact on self-worth and self-esteem, but it also has a great impact on academic success.

16445 Los Gatos Blvd, Los Gatos, CA 95032  
Phone: (408) 335-2250 | FAX: (408) 356-9487



# THE BULLDOG WAY

## COMMUNICATION








---

PROGRAM/ REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE INFO
Staff Reference Guide	Teacher & Administration Contacts.	<a href="http://vm.lgusd.org/apps/staff/">lvm.lgusd.org/apps/staff/</a>
Van Meter Home & School Club	Our H&SC website has information on community events and programs.	<a href="https://vanmeterhsc.org/">https://vanmeterhsc.org/</a>
The Bulldog Beat	You will receive an email every Wednesday from the front office that includes a weekly school bulletin.	Administrative Assistant, Christine Frank
Van Meter Facebook Page	Make sure to “like” us so you receive event & program reminders.	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/LVMHSC">https://www.facebook.com/LVMHSC</a>
A to Z Connect Van Meter School Directory	Need to schedule a playdate, plan a birthday, organize a carpool, or set up a mom’s night out? You have the option to control what information you share.	<a href="https://atozconnect.com">https://atozconnect.com</a>



# QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

ONCE SCHOOL IS SAFE THESE ARE OUR ANNUAL EVENTS









ICON	PROGRAM/REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE INFO
	Family Picnic and Movie Night	School-wide back to school event for the whole family, including food trucks, dessert and a movie on the lawn.	<a href="https://vanmeterhsc.org/family-picnic-and-movie-night">https://vanmeterhsc.org/family-picnic-and-movie-night</a>
	Pumpkin Patch	Annual fall carnival for the whole family.	<a href="https://vanmeterhsc.org/pumpkin-patch">https://vanmeterhsc.org/pumpkin-patch</a>
	The WAG	A fun adult evening of cocktails, dinner, dancing, and auction to raise funds for Van Meter.	<a href="https://vanmeterhsc.org/the-wag">https://vanmeterhsc.org/the-wag</a>
	Science Fair	Annual Science Fair for K-5th Graders.	<a href="https://vanmeterhsc.org/science-fair">https://vanmeterhsc.org/science-fair</a>
	Bulldog Stampede	Beloved student walk, jog, run event.	<a href="https://vanmeterhsc.org/bulldog-stampede">https://vanmeterhsc.org/bulldog-stampede</a>
	Book Fair	Fall and Spring Book Fair in the school library where students & families are able to browse a variety of reading and other educational materials available for purchase.	<a href="https://vanmeterhsc.org/book-fair">https://vanmeterhsc.org/book-fair</a>
	The Play	(4th & 5th grade ONLY) Van Meter's yearly theater production.	<a href="https://vanmeterhsc.org/the-play">https://vanmeterhsc.org/the-play</a>

16445 Los Gatos Blvd, Los Gatos, CA 95032  
 Phone: (408) 335-2250 | FAX: (408) 356-9487



# QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

ONCE SCHOOL IS SAFE THESE ARE OUR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

ICON	PROGRAM/ REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE INFO
	Classroom Gardens	Plant flower and vegetable gardens in front of classrooms.	<a href="https://vanmeterhsc.org/classroom-gardens">https://vanmeterhsc.org/classroom-gardens</a>
	Clay Program	Clay program of forming and glazing sessions for k-5 students.	<a href="https://vanmeterhsc.org/clay-program">https://vanmeterhsc.org/clay-program</a>
	FunZone	Parent led activities during lunch time to provide a safe zone for children.	<a href="https://vanmeterhsc.org/fun-zone">https://vanmeterhsc.org/fun-zone</a>
	Lego Engineering	Competitive Robotics Team.	
	Math Fun	Organize fun math games for Van Meter kids, assisted by Fisher Middle School Kids.	
	Math Olympiad	(4th & 5th grade ONLY) Lead the student club and plan for national contest.	<a href="https://vanmeterhsc.org/math-olympiad">https://vanmeterhsc.org/math-olympiad</a>
	Project Cornerstone	Parent reading program teaching valuable social/emotional lessons through specially selected books and activities.	<a href="https://vanmeterhsc.org/project-cornerstone">https://vanmeterhsc.org/project-cornerstone</a>
	Green Team	Campus Environmental Team.	<a href="https://vanmeterhsc.org/green-team">https://vanmeterhsc.org/green-team</a>

16445 Los Gatos Blvd, Los Gatos, CA 95032  
Phone: (408) 335-2250 | FAX: (408) 356-9487



# QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

## FUNDRAISING

---

PROGRAM/ REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE INFO
One Community	Your combined donation of H&SC and LGEF to help fund essential staff and supplies to ensure our children get the education they deserve.	<a href="https://www.onecommunitylg.org/">https://www.onecommunitylg.org/</a>
Corporate Matching	Your employer may match your donation! Corporate Matching has tremendous impact on meeting our fundraising goals.	<a href="https://www.onecommunitylg.org/donate---company-matching.html">https://www.onecommunitylg.org/donate---company-matching.html</a>
Community Supporters	As a community supporter, we will ensure your presence on our campus and all HSC events.	<a href="https://vanmeterhsc.org/community-sponsors">https://vanmeterhsc.org/community-sponsors</a>
Spirit Wear	Buy Bulldog T-shirts, hats, bags and sweatshirts and help support your school.	<a href="https://vanmeterhsc.org/spirit-wear">https://vanmeterhsc.org/spirit-wear</a>
Restaurant Wednesday	Local restaurant days where a percentage of the proceeds go directly to our school.	Look for details in the Bulldog Beat
OhmConnect	Sign up for a free program offered by OhmConnect. Your energy savings can raise money for our HSC.	<a href="http://bit.ly/ohmvanmeter">http://bit.ly/ohmvanmeter</a>
AmazonSmile	Give to our HSC by shopping at Smile. When you shop smile.amazon.com, a small percentage of the purchase price of eligible products can be automatically donated to "Louise Van Meter Home and School Club."	<a href="http://smile.amazon.com">http://smile.amazon.com</a>  <a href="https://vanmeterhsc.org/giving-without-paying">https://vanmeterhsc.org/giving-without-paying</a>

16445 Los Gatos Blvd, Los Gatos, CA 95032  
 Phone: (408) 335-2250 | FAX: (408) 356-9487





# QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

ONE COMMUNITY

---



## One Community LG

One Community, One Contribution, One Great Education

- This year LGEF, Music Boosters, and our five Home and School Clubs (Blossom Hill, Daves Avenue, Lexington, Van Meter, and Fisher) have joined together to consolidate back-to-school fundraising in a single campaign.
- Your contribution still goes to the same place it always has- directly to your school to fund vital programs and essential staff. We have simply streamlined the process to make it easier for you to donate at once.



16445 Los Gatos Blvd, Los Gatos, CA 95032  
Phone: (408) 335-2250 | FAX: (408) 356-9487



# QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

VAN METER HOME & SCHOOL CLUB AND LGEF



**One Community LG**  
One Community.  
One Contribution.  
One Great Education.

Contribute at:  
[onecommunitylg.org](http://onecommunitylg.org)

LGEF	Van Meter Home & School Club
<p>Funds teachers and staff:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">   <small>Art Teacher and Art Docents</small> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   <small>Music Teacher</small> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   <small>PE Teacher and PE Specialists</small> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">   <small>Library Media Specialists</small> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   <small>Counselor</small> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   <small>Innovation Grants</small> </div> </div>	<p>Funds school programs and events:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">   <small>Student Enrichment</small> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   <small>Classroom Supplies</small> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   <small>Technology</small> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">   <small>Student Curriculum</small> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   <small>Community Building</small> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   <small>Operating Expenses</small> </div> </div>

Your single contribution of \$1500 (per student) funds all this!

LGEF Teacher and Staff Grants	\$ Per Student	Van Meter Home & School Club	\$ Per Student
Art Teacher	\$258	Student Enrichment	\$90
Music Teacher	\$258	Classroom Supplies	\$76
PE Teacher and PE Specialist	\$258	Technology	\$73
Library Media Specialist	\$258	Student Curriculum	\$66
Art Docents	\$55	Community Building	\$34
K-8 Counselor	\$33	Operating Expenses	\$11
K-8 Strategic Plan Innovation Grants	\$30		
Total	\$1150	Total	\$350

## LGEF AND VAN METER HOME & SCHOOL CLUB

*We often get the question, "how does LGEF work together with our Home & School Club"?*

The answer is straightforward: LGEF has funding responsibility for supplemental teachers and staff, while our Van Meter Home & School Club supports all other programs and events.

Both organizations are essential to providing the support our teachers and staff and schools need for student success.

**16445 Los Gatos Blvd, Los Gatos, CA 95032**  
**Phone: (408) 335-2250 | FAX: (408) 356-9487**



# QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

## SCHOOL LUNCH AND CHILDCARE

---

PROGRAM/ REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE INFO
School Lunch Program	Information for school lunches is being handed out by teachers during supply distribution. You may also find more information at the website.	<a href="https://family.titank12.com">https://family.titank12.com</a> Lupe Peña Food Services Manager Phone: (408) 335-2382 Email: <a href="mailto:lpna@lgusd.org">lpna@lgusd.org</a>
Parents on Campus	Parents can volunteer to provide supervision over students on campus during the lunch hour.	<a href="https://vanmeterhsc.org/parents-on-campus">https://vanmeterhsc.org/parents-on-campus</a>
Child Care Options CLUBHOUSE	On-site care for students.	Call (408) 335-2244 with questions. Website: <a href="http://www.lgsrecreation.org/clubhouse/">http://www.lgsrecreation.org/clubhouse/</a>  More information: <a href="http://www.lgsrecreation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Clubhouse-Parent-Handbook-20-21_V8.pdf">http://www.lgsrecreation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Clubhouse-Parent-Handbook-20-21_V8.pdf</a>



# QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

## CHILDCARE WITH CLUBHOUSE

# CLUBHOUSE

LGS RECREATION

### PRICING SHEET 2021/22

Los Gatos Union School District Sites

Enrollment Opens: July 12<sup>th</sup>

*\*Schedule and rates are subject to change with developing school schedule\**

Clubhouse Opens August 12<sup>th</sup>

Location	Fixed Tuition Plans	Grades	Any 3 Days	All 5 Days
All	Before School Care (7:00am-8:00am)	K-5	\$120	\$198
All	Kinder Care - Half Day (8:00am-2:20pm)	K	\$357	\$594
Daves Ave, Van Meter, Lexington	Kinder Care - AM Care (8:00am-9:30am)	K	\$179	\$297
Daves Ave, Van Meter, Lexington	Kinder Care - PM Care After School until 6:00pm	K	\$535	\$891
Daves Ave, Van Meter, Lexington	Kinder Care - PM Care After School Early Start (11:30am-6:00pm)	K	\$773	\$1287
All	After School Care Until 6:00pm	K-5	\$519	\$809

#### Additional Fees & Discounts

Drop In Care	\$18/hour
Registration Fee	\$50 per family
Sibling Discount	10%
JPA Member District Employee	10%

*\*Sibling discount not applicable to registration fee\**



408.354.8700  
clubhouse@lgsrecreation.org  
123 E. Main St, Los Gatos, CA 95030

16445 Los Gatos Blvd, Los Gatos, CA 95032  
Phone: (408) 335-2250 | FAX: (408) 356-9487



# SCHOOL CALENDAR

2021-2022



## GO BULLDOGS

2021-2022 CALENDAR

<b>AUGUST</b>	25 - 29 - Red Ribbon Week	<b>FEBRUARY</b>
10 - New Family Picnic	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	21-25 - February Recess
12 - Classes Begin	1-5 - K-5 Conference Week - Min Days	<b>MARCH</b>
19 - Back to School Night	11 - Veterans Day - NO SCHOOL	7-11 - K-5 Conference Week - Min. Days
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	22-26 - Thanksgiving Holiday Recess	<b>APRIL</b>
6 - Labor Day - NO SCHOOL	<b>DECEMBER</b>	11-15 - Spring Recess
Family Movie Night - TBA	17-31 - December Recess	<b>MAY</b>
20-24 - Walk & Bike to School Week	<b>JANUARY</b>	30 - Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL
<b>OCTOBER</b>	3 - School Resumes	<b>JUNE</b>
4 - Professional Dev. - NO SCHOOL	17 - MLK Day - NO SCHOOL	2 - Last Day of School - Min. Day
17 - Pumpkin Patch		2 - 5th Grade Graduation

For more information, visit [vanmeterhsc.org](http://vanmeterhsc.org)

16445 Los Gatos Blvd, Los Gatos, CA 95032  
 Phone: (408) 335-2250 | FAX: (408) 356-9487





# SCHOOL SCHEDULE

---

## Louise Van Meter Elementary School Daily Schedule 2021 – 2022

### Kindergarten A.M./P.M. Schedule

8:10 – 11:30 A.M.  
10:10 – 2:00 P.M.

### **Minutes**

125

### **Grade 1 - 3**

8:10 - 10:15  
10:15 – 10:30 Recess

75

10:30 - 11:45  
11:45 – 12:30 Lunch Recess

113

12:30 - **2:23**

**313**

**1st-2nd**

### **Grades 4 - 5**

125

8:10 - 10:15  
10:15 - 10:30 Recess

90

10:30 - 12:00  
12:00 - 12:45 Lunch Recess 4th & 5th grades

113

12:45 - **2:38**

**328**

**4th & 5th**

### **EARLY RELEASE WEDNESDAYS AND MINIMUM DAYS:**

8:10 - 12:05 P.M. dismissal Grades 1, 2, 3 (220)

8:10 - 12:10 P.M. dismissal Grades 4, 5 (225)

8:10 - 10:15  
10:15 - 10:30 Recess  
10:30 - 12:05 or 12:10

**08/05/21**

**8:10 - 11:30 A.M. dismissal for all Kindergartens**



# MEET OUR STAFF!

---



**Rick Rauscher**  
Principal



**Christine Frank**  
Administrative Assistant



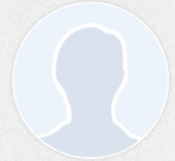
**Michelle Walton**  
Administrative Assistant



**Karen Anderson-Miller**  
Music Teacher



**Alyson Ancheta**  
Music Teacher



**Peg Anderson**  
Art Teacher



**Anna Kearney**  
Math Specialist



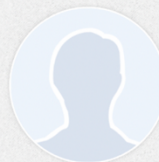
**Donna Campbell**  
Library Media Specialist



**Lisa Evans**  
Literacy Specialist



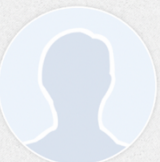
**Erica Roberts**  
Grade 2-5 SAI Teacher



**Katie Ciffone**  
Grade 1-2 SAI Teacher



**Marjene Louie**  
Health Clerk



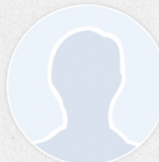
**Tricia Diaz**  
Counselor



**Erin White**  
ELL Teacher



**Daniella Sullivan**  
School Psychologist



**Matthew Smith**  
P.E. Teacher

**16445 Los Gatos Blvd, Los Gatos, CA 95032**  
**Phone: (408) 335-2250 | FAX: (408) 356-9487**



# MEET OUR STAFF!

---

## Kindergarten



Holly Benjamin

Jennifer Fink

Kelly Fowell

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade



Sharleen Maier

Erin McEnergy/Erika Peach

Ingrid O'Donoghue

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade



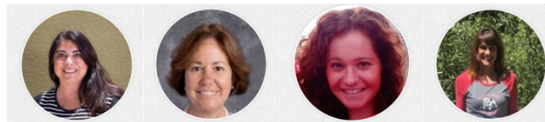
Lisa Comeau

Jamie Glanville

Vicki Schubert

Erin Scribner

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade



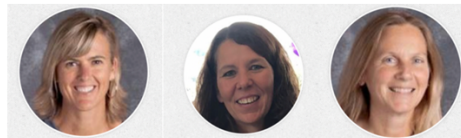
Tassia Babalis

Peggy Garland

Lucy Gorman

Colleen St. Denis

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade



Krissy Adams

Shelly Maselli

Stephanie Young

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade



Shannon Balan

Jeri Lynn Edgemon

Dianna Hill

Alex Lee

16445 Los Gatos Blvd, Los Gatos, CA 95032  
Phone: (408) 335-2250 | FAX: (408) 356-9487



# SCHOOL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

---

## ATTENDANCE

If your child will be absent or late for any reason, please call the school attendance line (408) 335-2285 to report the absence. An answering machine will be available for reporting absences when the school office is not open. You may also report absences via email to [lvattend@lgusd.org](mailto:lvattend@lgusd.org). Van Meter has an “operation safe call” system to ensure your child’s safe arrival at school. If your child’s absence has not been reported to the school office (either by note, phone call, or email) prior to 9:15 A.M., the school will contact you. Please help us to minimize the number of daily calls by notifying us as soon as possible.

School begins promptly at 8:10 A.M. Teachers will take attendance at the beginning of class. Ongoing attendance concerns will be referred to the Principal and the Child Assistance Team for support in promoting on time daily attendance.

Parents should plan vacations and time away from school for other purposes very carefully, taking advantage of the planned holidays and vacation days scheduled on the school calendar. It is important for parents to know that due to Compulsory School Attendance laws, the District is obligated to monitor student absences, both excused and unexcused, and to track all unexcused absences to check for possible student truancy. Student success depends greatly upon students being in school, on time, each day.

## ILLNESS

Any child with a fever (100.0) will be sent home. If your child has been absent due to an illness, s/he must be free of fever (without medication), episodes of vomiting, nausea, stomach cramps, or diarrhea for at least 24 hours prior to returning to school. If your child has a rash, please do not send him or her to school until your health care provider has stated that he/she is not contagious. Do not send your child to school ill.





# GO BULLDOGS!



16445 Los Gatos Blvd, Los Gatos, CA 95032  
Phone: (408) 335-2250 | FAX: (408) 356-9487