

STUDENT~PARENT HANDBOOK

2022-2023



Vineyard Christian Middle School
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Daily Schedule:

VCMS Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

School begins at 8:00 a.m.

School dismissal is 2:30 p.m.

After School Program: 2:45 - 6:00 p.m.

Mission and Values

Mission Statement

Vineyard Christian Middle School is a partnership with Christian families and churches that prepares students to serve God responsibly in His world by equipping them with the academic knowledge, social skills, and Biblical vision for life, for the advancement of the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Core Values

Bible Centered– We believe the Bible to be inspired, the only infallible authoritative, inerrant Word of God.

Excellence Driven– We strive for excellence in all things as doing all things for the Lord Jesus. We believe in mutual accountability between VCMS staff, parents, students, board, and the Christian community as defined and modeled by Jesus Christ.

Servant Focused– We follow our Lord’s example in serving as He made Himself of no reputation and took upon Him the form of a servant – to death on the cross. We honor and serve our Lord Jesus Christ with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Training for Life - We seek to Biblically prepare our students for the future, for high school and beyond. We endeavor to be people of integrity who are wholesome, pure, and complete, pursuing uncompromising honesty, our greatest example being Jesus Christ.

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:5

The Staff

The staff of Vineyard Christian Middle School is a unique group with a diverse background. While each member brings their own distinctive personality to their work, collectively they share the vision of the school. Working with a commitment to the students and families of VCMS, the staff embraces new opportunities to incorporate the teachings of our Lord into every subject area. As a result, the youth who attend VCMS receive a complete education that includes lessons in academics and Christian principles.

Introducing the Vineyard Christian Middle School staff...

Principal/Science	Randal Oliver
Vice Principal/Finance Officer	Dustie Peterson
Administrative Assistant	Kristin Winter
Math/P.E.	Elizabeth Lowe
English/Literature	Chele Silva
Christian Living/History	Lauren Estrada
Athletic Director	Imani Mackie
Student Council Advisor	Chele Silva
After School Program Supervisor	Jonah Kellar

The School Board

Chad Reed

Megan Edens

Dustie Peterson

David Brock

Teri Lappe

Margaret Setberg

David Simpson

James Watt

Community

Vineyard Christian Middle School opened its doors on August 24, 2004. VCMS gives all the praise and glory to our Heavenly Father.

Affiliations/Commitments

Vineyard Christian Middle School is a nondenominational school. We desire to remain united in the salvation and love of Christ, rather than focusing on denominational issues. This is possible with the cooperation of family, church, and school.

- Vineyard Christian Middle School offers its program to sixth, seventh and eighth grade students.
- Vineyard Christian Middle School is a member of the Central Valley Christian Schools Athletic Conference.
- Vineyard Christian Middle School is a member of Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI).

Vineyard Christian Middle School is committed to numerous community service organizations including the Salvation Army, Grace & Mercy Charitable Foundation, Lodi House, the Directions Medical Clinic, Lodi Adopt-a-Child, “The Village”, Cure SMA, One-Eighty Teen Center, Lodi Cancer Kids, Upward Sports, and more.

Admission & Fellowship Policies

It is the desire of Vineyard Christian Middle School to provide an atmosphere that will challenge Christian young people to grow strong in their faith. This will be accomplished through:

- Christian teachers who teach and disciple
- Emphasis on Biblical foundation
- Strong academic curriculum
- Positive peer and family relationships

The students and families will express a desire to:

- Actively pursue a relationship with Jesus Christ
- Attend school and abide by its policies and procedures
- Attend church on a regular basis

Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy as to Students

Vineyard Christian Middle School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate based on race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Church Attendance

Believing that our role at VCMS is to assist the home and church in the task of training young people, we feel the utmost importance for all students, with their families, to regularly attend church. The school works in partnership with Christian families and churches in the community to prepare students to live responsibly in God's world. Church fellowship and worship is an integral part of the process. Student church attendance is recorded for accountability purposes. Low church attendance will be addressed by the board.

School & Family Relations

The school-family relations approach shall be such that the family is fully informed about the educational program, the strengths and needs of the school and the services which are available to the school community. An informed citizenry is essential for complete cooperation and support.

Vineyard Christian Middle School believes that:

- Students are gifts of the Lord and belong to their parents, not to the state or VCMS.
- Parents are responsible for the conduct of their children.
- The school derives its educational authority from the parents and stands in “loco parentis” during the school day.

Vineyard Christian Middle School encourages parental participation in as many programs and activities as possible. (See pages

Parental Cooperation

Vineyard Christian Middle School’s educational mission involves working with the family in the overall Christian education of students. On occasion the relationship between the school and home may become hard to navigate. To help in these situations, the school asks parents to support and cooperate with the staff by agreeing to the following:

- I agree to support the school with my prayers and with a positive attitude. Complaints, concerns, or negative comments will be shared only with the teacher, administrator, or person involved and not with my child or other people, following the Matthew 18 principle.
- I understand that if at any time the school determines, in its sole discretion, that my actions do not support the ministry, or reflect a lack of cooperation and commitment to the home and school, the school has the right to request the withdrawal of my child(ren).

Discipline Policy

The discipline policy of the school is intended to establish an optimum school/classroom learning environment. Discipline is training that develops self-control and character, as well as an attitude of submission to authority. The school's discipline policies include instruction, correction, consequence, and reward. All these elements are Biblical principles. A balance between consequence and reward is essential.

Administrators and teachers will use the VCMS discipline policy as a guideline for the basic structure of discipline at our school. This philosophy establishes reasonable expectations and consistently holds students accountable. Detentions are served during lunch and issued at the discretion of the teachers/administration. Three or more detentions results in a conduct referral. Three conduct referrals result in a suspension. A suspension can be issued prior to a detention in accordance with the discipline code of the policy manual.

Probation -

- Academic probation occurs when insufficient academic progress is made and/or failure of the parents to follow through post consultation.
- Probation occurs if a student has an inappropriate attitude or a rebellious spirit unchanged after efforts by staff.
- Disciplinary probation is a result of deliberate disobedience, a serious breach of misconduct and/or failure of parents to comply with the disciplinary procedures of the school.

Probation is at the discretion of the administration and the school board will be notified.

Fees

As a family attending Vineyard Christian Middle School, the following fees are collected throughout 6th – 8th grades:

- A non-refundable registration/re-enrollment fee of \$400.00 is required each year.
- A \$50.00 student activity fee for the Parent Club is used to provide enrichment opportunities for the students.
- Tuition is \$5,500.00 annually. Please consult your acceptance paperwork for tuition plans available. Tuition is late after the 15th of each month, and subject to a \$25 late fee.
- A sports fee of \$150.00 per player per sport will be paid by each participant of the VCMS Warrior Athletic program.
- Tuition and all fees need to be paid in full, the Monday prior to graduation in May for 8th grade students.
- A bank fee of \$10.00 will be charged for any returned check.

Attendance & Tardy Policy

Regular school attendance provides a student with the classroom experience composed of participation in class activities and direct instruction conducted by the teacher. The instructional program designed by each teacher is a progressive and sequential experience.

Daily Attendance -

Attendance is taken daily at 8:00 a.m. by the first period teacher. If a student is going to be absent, parents/guardians are to call **prior to 9:00a.m.** to inform the school office of a students' absence.

Tardy -

If a parent knows that their student will be late, they are required to call the office **prior to 9:00 am**. He/she must check in at the school office upon arrival. After three (3) unexcused tardies in a quarter, the student will receive one unit of detention. Each additional tardy will result in an additional detention. After serving 3 detentions related to tardies, a student will receive a Conduct Referral. Continual tardiness will result in a one-day suspension and may affect reenrollment and/or graduation. Excessive tardiness is considered a serious problem. In severe cases, the School Board shall be informed. Excused tardies include doctor/dental appointments, funerals, court appearances and illnesses with a phone call or note are considered excused.

Sick Policy -

In the event the student is absent for more than one day, a student must email the teachers directly and consult Google Classroom throughout the day. Upon returning to school, the student is given one day for each day absent to make up missed work. Any special circumstances must be discussed with the teacher. **It is the**

responsibility of the student to meet with each teacher regarding make-up opportunities. If the missed work is not completed and/or not turned in according to policy, the student will receive an incomplete.

Pre-Arranged Absence -

Parents/Guardians MUST inform the school of a students' absence due to vacation, camp, bereavement, etc using the form provided in the office. Advanced notice is requested to prepare for a student's absence from classroom instruction and assignments. The teacher will use his/her discretion regarding the issuing of homework and setting due dates prior to the trip. **It is the responsibility of the students to meet with each teacher regarding class work, assessments, and due dates.**

Academic Standards

It is the belief of VCMS that a quality education is the result of:

- a curriculum that integrates God’s Truth into all courses and adequately prepares the student for future educational endeavors
- teachers that are Christian in philosophy and practice
- classes of 28-30 students or less per teacher, which enables the student to derive maximum benefit from his/her academic exposure.

Each student is expected to use all available school and home resources to perform at his/her highest level to take full advantage of the educational program. His or her originality and creativity is encouraged within the organized framework of the classroom. While parent involvement in the classroom is not needed at this grade level, studies indicate that parent participation in campus volunteer activities is a major factor in the success of junior high students overall. VCMS encourages parents to be actively involved in their student’s education in an advisory capacity.

Homework Policy

Vineyard Christian Middle School recognizes the educational value and importance of homework as it is a purposeful extension of the school day. It provides the student with additional reinforcement of the school’s instructional objectives. Christ-like character qualities of responsibility, initiative, orderliness, and thoroughness are also developed because of homework. The homework assigned will be within reasonable limits requiring approximately two hours per night. Special circumstances and projects may dictate that more homework than normal, be assigned. Time will be provided within the class period for students to begin the assignment and ask questions. Planners are distributed to each student at the beginning of the school year. Students are required to use their planner daily to develop successful organizational skills.

Grading Policy & Grade Calculations

Students at VCMS are graded on a four-point grade scale with an A equal to a 4.0. Students not maintaining the minimum expected 2.0 standard GPA may be placed on academic probation. **Assignments turned in without a heading will receive a 0%.** Incomplete, messy, illegible, and unorganized work may be reassigned, and will be graded at the discretion of the teacher. To participate in the sports program, a student must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA and not have an “F” in any subject area. Grades will be reviewed every two weeks. Grades are weighted as follows: 45% assessments, 35% practical application (classwork & homework), 10% class participation, 10% preparedness and citizenship.

How to figure Grade Point Average:

Formula: **Class Credit x Grade Value = Points**

Class Credit:	Christian Living	= 4	PE	= 2
	English	= 4	Electives	= 2
	History	= 4		
	Literature	= 4		
	Math	= 4		
	Science	= 4		

Grade Value: A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, F & Inc = 0.

Example:

Subject	Class Credits X Grade Value					=	Points
Christian Living	4	x	4	=	16		
English		4	x	3	=	12	
History		4	x	3	=	12	
Literature		4	x	4	=	16	
Math		4	x	2	=	8	
Science		4	x	4	=	16	
PE		2	x	4	=	8	
Elective		2	x	4	=	8	

Total points = 96 / 28 (the number of total class credits) = 3.43% GPA

Rewards & Awards

Honor Roll

A VCMS student who earns a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.50% to 3.99% on his/her quarterly report card will attain Honor Roll status. Honor Roll students are acknowledged in the Vineyard Press and celebrated during a breakfast held in their honor.

Principal's List

A VCMS student who earns a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 4.00% on his/her quarterly report card will attain Principal's List status. Students on the Principal's List are acknowledged in the Vineyard Press. In addition, Mr. Oliver & Mrs. Peterson will take the group to lunch at a local establishment where they are celebrated for their accomplishment.

Perfect Church Attendance

A VCMS student, who attends church every Sunday and has it reflected on his/her quarterly report card, is to be commended. Students who have earned perfect church attendance are acknowledged in the Vineyard Press, rewarded with a test pass, and celebrated for their commitment and faith to Christ's command.

Warrior Award

A VCMS student who exemplifies the model of a Christian by performing an act or deed clearly in accordance with Christ's commands and without solicitation or desire for notoriety is awarded the Warrior Award. Students who have earned the Warrior Award are acknowledged by the staff and given a token for Warrior Window Café.

Course of Study

A breakdown of subject according to grade level is as follows:

Sixth Grade-

Christian Living	Bible/Old Testament
Science	Earth Science
Language Arts	Grammar/Writing/Literature
Math	Core Mathematics
History	World & Geography
Physical Education	Exercise/Athletics

Seventh Grade-

Christian Living	Bible/New Testament
Science	Life Science
Language Arts	Grammar/Writing/Literature
Math	Pre-Algebra
History	Medieval & European
Physical Education	Exercise/Athletics

Eighth Grade-

Christian Living	Biblical Application
Science	Physical Science
Language Arts	Grammar/Writing/Literature
Math	Algebra I/Pre-Geometry
History	United States
Physical Education	Exercise/Athletics

VCMS curriculum meets and often exceeds California State Standards. Academics are taught with the high school/college bound student in mind. A student is taught time management, organization, prioritization, note-taking, comprehension, and study skills inside of the curriculum administered. A deviation from lesson plans is encouraged when current events demand, providing opportunity for discussion, explanation and/or action. Prescreened videos are G or PG rated and related to the subject matter in the curriculum. On occasion, a PG13 rated movie is shown ONLY with prior parental permission and often the offensive scene(s) is removed from viewing.

Standardized Testing

VCMS acts in accordance with and supports *national academic testing* by offering baseline and benchmark testing for all grade levels. Testing is done at the beginning of the school year, assessed per subject regularly throughout the school year, with a final assessment during the spring.

Technology and VCMS

FACTS - VCMS uses FACTS School Management Software. This software program gives parents access to your child's academic progress, daily announcements, calendars, events, grades, homework assignments, email access to all teachers, report cards, attendance, as well as tuition & financial information. There is even free access for your mobile phone!

VCMS Website - On our webpage you will find a wealth of additional information including school calendars, scholarship information, enrollment information and forms, dress code, school supplies, and much more information. Please visit our website at www.vcmslodi.com

VCMS Facebook & Instagram - Become a friend and “like us” on the VCMS Facebook page and follow us on Instagram! We update Facebook and Instagram on a regular basis with student birthdays, class parties, spirit days, school events, and class/campus fun! We have a special place in our hearts for alumni too so connect with us and don’t miss out. Tell your family too!

Chromebooks - The Internet and Chromebooks are used in the classrooms on a regular basis by students. Please see our Procedures and Policies for more detailed information regarding the VCMS *Internet Policy, GoGuardian, and Chromebook User Agreement.*

School Supply List

- Sturdy backpack - Vineyard Christian Middle School does not have lockers or cubbies in the classrooms, so students must carry their belongings in a backpack and/or gym bag. A regular backpack is preferred.
- Binders with clear front pockets, AND dividers:
 - One 1 ½” white binder for Mrs. Silva.
 - One 2” white binder for Mrs. Lowe.
 - One 2” any color binder to be used for both Mrs. Estrada & Mr. Oliver
- Sturdy pencil pouch (nothing fancy) with the following supplies:
 - Mechanical #2 pencils with erasers
 - Pen with black or blue ink for writing
 - Pen with red ink for correcting
 - Colored Pencils
 - White Out tape (No liquid or pens)
 - 12” standard/metric ruler
 - Mini stapler
 - Pencil sharpener
 - Scientific calculator
 - 3 Portfolio Covers w/ a clear cover, 3-hole (1 each for Mr. Oliver, Mrs. Lowe & Mrs. Estrada)
 - Spiral bound 3 x 5 index cards (Mr. Oliver)
 - Bible (Translation of choice, NLT, NIV, CSP)
 - Crayola Classic markers – 10 pack, not fine tip (Mrs. Estrada)
 - 2 Composition Notebooks (Mrs. Estrada & Mrs. Silva)
 - Post It Notes both small sized and 3”x3” (Mrs. Silva)
 - Set of 1 ½ inch Happy Planner Mushroom Rings (Mrs. Silva)
 - Black Expo pens (Mrs. Lowe)
 - 1 pack of College Ruled binder paper to be kept in each homeroom
 - One box of Kleenex (School office/Classrooms)

Uniform & Dress Code Policy

At VCMS, it is our desire to uphold a high standard of excellence in all areas. Our policy is to enforce school uniform guidelines that reflect our high standard in modesty and professionalism. The VCMS colors are burgundy, black, white, gray, and pink (not salmon or coral) for the shirts and black, gray, and khaki for the bottoms.

PE uniforms - consist of only VCMS black nylon shorts, gray or burgundy VCMS t-shirts, socks, and laced athletic shoes. Students may wear plain, solid black sweatpants during cold weather. Black PE sweats are available for purchase in the school office.

Shorts/Pants – Students may wear shorts/pants in black, gray, or khaki. Shorts and pants are to be uniform style; no cargo style, multi pocketed, patch pocketed, frayed, top-stitched, or corduroy are permitted. Girls may wear capris. All styles are to be worn at the waist or mid-rise. No low-rise pants are permitted. Shorts are to be no shorter than 4 inches above the knee; no rolling, sagging or improperly fitted clothing items are permitted.

Skirts – Skirts are to be uniform color: black, gray, khaki or VCMS plaid. Skirts are to be worn at the waist or mid-rise. No low-rise skirts are permitted. Tights, leggings, or bike shorts are required in dress code colors to avoid the worry of the “skirt length issue” or playground mishaps.

Shirts/Blouses – Students must wear either collared shirts, blouses, and/or turtlenecks in black, burgundy, gray, white and pink (not salmon or coral). Logos must not be larger than 2 inches. VCMS t-shirts may be worn on Fridays only as their uniform shirt. Shirts must be the appropriate length– not too long or short and properly fitted! Undergarments of any kind must not be visible.

Sweatshirts/Sweaters – VCMS logo SWEATSHIRTS are the ONLY sweatshirts allowed to be worn at school. These sweatshirts are

available for purchase from the Parent Club, and a few are kept in stock in the school office. Sweaters, vests, and cardigans in solid school colors are to be in good condition – no frayed, torn, or unhemmed portions are permitted, however they must not have designs, stripes and/or visible logos.

Jackets and Coats - must be free of logos and are not to be worn during class. Jean jackets cannot be worn as part of the dress code.

Socks – Students must either wear solid black, white, or gray socks always; this includes Nike Elite socks. Fun socks may be worn on Fridays only. The length of the sock does not matter but socks must be worn. Logos should be no larger than one inch.

Shoes – Shoes must be closed toe, low heel, and rubber soled. “Vans” style shoes are acceptable. No sandals, boots (Uggs), or moccasin style (Crocs) shoes are permitted. Shoes with laces must be laced and tied. Athletic shoes must be worn during P.E.

Jewelry/Accessories – Students may wear appropriate jewelry. Large hoop earrings, costume jewelry, and expensive jewelry is not acceptable. Hair accessories can include headbands that are no wider than 2 inches. Hair bows or flower accessories must not be large enough to be considered a distraction. Painted nails should be appropriate in length for all school activities and must not be a distraction during class. Accessories need to be in VCMS school colors. Scarves can be worn in cold months.

Grooming – Students are to be well groomed. Hair needs to be clean, natural in color, no Kool-Aid or bleached, out of the eyes and off the collar. No tattoos, henna, ink writing, or drawings are permitted on skin. Teeth are to be brushed and deodorant should be used. Clothing is to be clean, good condition and checked often as junior high students grow quite a bit.

Parent Club

Parent Club is a vital component to the success of Vineyard Christian Middle School by providing enrichment opportunities to the students. Scrip, Warrior Wear sales, fundraiser dinners, fall apples, and student activity fees are just a few of the ways that funds are generated for Parent Club. Funds raised are designated for field trips, assemblies, class parties, student incentives and more.

Parent Club meetings are held monthly.

Your 2022-2023 Parent Club Officers -

President	Valerie Pennino
Vice President	Laree Arreola
Secretary	Jaclyn Powell
Treasurer	Jennifer Pinnell

Committees

Scrip	Nancy Wallace
Harvest Festival	Shandi Hunt
Speech Meet	Megan Edens
Fundraising Dinners	Laree Arreola
Hope 4 Tomorrow	Shannon Stallings
SOS	Sarah Duncan
Warrior Wear	Amy Elson
Clothes Closet	Julie Dinkel
Room Parent Chair	
Movie Night	Mandie Bayless
Spring Fundraiser	Stacy Cochran & Emily Marino

Scrip is very important to the fundraising efforts of VCMS. Purchasing gift cards for grocery stores, retail stores, gas stations, restaurants, etc., returns a percentage of profit to VCMS. Scrip uses this income for special assemblies, field trips, and enrichment opportunities. A student incentive accompanies each bimonthly Scrip order.

Harvest Festival - The annual fall festival is an amazing event that is a fan favorite. The VCMS basketball court and blacktop are

transformed into an amazing Harvest Festival with booths, games, a student parade, and a chance to dress up your homeroom teacher!

Speech Meet - VCMS hosts a speech meet once a year to showcase and encourage the skills of our amazing students.

Fundraising Dinners - Each month, parent club picks a restaurant location to dine in or take out as a fundraiser; Chipotle, Casa Mexicana, Honey Treat Yogurt, and Panda, to name a few. These restaurants, in turn, give us a percentage of the profit to VCMS parent club.

Hope for Tomorrow - VCMS is passionate about community outreach and Hope for Tomorrow provides both parents and students an opportunity to reach those in need.

- Each Fall, an event is organized to help non-profit entities like Wounded Warriors, SMA, Grace & Mercy, etc.
- In addition, individual class projects or field trips occur one time per semester. Class activities range from helping/serving at Grace & Mercy, collecting books & reading to students at an underserved school, helping at a local animal shelter, making crafts at the Village.

Support our Staff (SOS) - This committee coordinates volunteers to provide lunch for the staff each Common Planning Day for their working lunch meeting. On staff birthdays, the committee puts together a small tchotchke for them. In the spring, we honor our teachers and staff during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Clothes Closet - Parent Club operates a “gently used” clothes closet throughout the school year. Most items are \$1, sweatshirts are \$5.

Room Parent Chair - The Room Parent Chair is the communication liaison between the staff and each grade level room parent. Individual room parents will facilitate class participation in the Harvest Festival and the Christmas Party.

Movie Night - A fun family Movie Night is planned during the fall or spring featuring popcorn, movie candy, and a family friendly movie shown on a big screen on the back lawn.

VCMS Needs You ~ Our Volunteers!

Vineyard Christian Middle School depends on volunteer involvement for the organization, orchestration, implementation, and ultimate success of many of its undertakings. Volunteers are comprised of parents, older siblings, and grandparents! VCMS welcomes volunteers to our campus with the understanding that certain rules and restrictions may apply.

Drivers - are needed to drive students to and from field trips, community service events, and athletic events. Volunteer drivers must complete a driver's form, provide a copy of their valid driver's license, and proof of insurance to be kept on file in the school office.

Hot Lunch - VCMS serves hot lunch on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from a variety of restaurants. Ordered and paid for in advance, lunch is distributed on campus. Parents are asked to help with pick-up.

Noon Duty - Volunteers provide supervision and maintain order during the lunch break. This offers the staff a much-needed break.

Enrichment Opportunities

Off Campus Education - Field trips to a variety of locations may include the Sierra Mountains, the Gold Country, the Bay Area, Sacramento, and numerous local sites. Teachers are encouraged to take the classroom "outside" whenever possible and safe to do so to meet California state standards and enhance the learning opportunity.

Chapel - Chapel is held Wednesday afternoons after lunch, either outdoors or in the Calvary Lodi Sanctuary. Guest speakers from a

variety of local churches and local organizations are invited to campus to share their message of faith and love.

Community Service - Students serve God while serving the community through programs such as Salvation Army Bell Ringers, Directions Medical Clinic Walk for Life, Lodi Adopt-a-Child, PALS, “The Village” and other activities involving youth and seniors.

Student Council - Under the tutelage of Mrs. Silva, Student Council is run by leaders from each grade level. Interested students apply for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Rally Commissioners, Prayer Warrior, and Class Representatives.

Warrior Window Café (WWC) - is open Tuesday – Friday during lunch selling snacks and drinks for a dollar or less. Students may choose from Chex Mix, popcorn, Goldfish, pretzels, Gatorade, water, and more. Student Council operates the WWC, and profits are designated to the enrichment of VCMS students.

After School Program - includes homework time, with access to teachers and curriculum, along with engaging enrichment. It is offered daily through-out the school year for an additional fee. Program hours are Monday-Friday from 2:45-6:00 excluding holidays and from 12:30-6:00 on minimum days.

Class Trips

Sixth Grade - Mission Springs Science Camp

This fall, Mr. Oliver will take the 6th grade class to spend a week at Mission Springs, nestled in the Santa Cruz Mountains, surrounded by majestic redwoods. The location provides an ideal setting for students to experience spiritual growth while having “tons of fun.” For additional information please visit their website at www.missionsprings.com. This trip is booked for the end of September. *In John 4:34-38, Jesus speaks of the harvest and how ripe the fields are.* In the camping ministry, the staff of Mission Springs is often used by the Lord to reap the harvest.

Seventh Grade - “Rapture”

This fall, the 7th grade class will take part in an expedition anchored off the coast of the Channel Islands. Exploring the intricate sea life of the underwater world, along with the terrain of this beautiful island, *Rapture* proves to be a life-changing experience. Horizons are expanded, barriers are broken, and growth is achieved. This trip will depart from the VCMS campus, bound for the pier in San Pedro where the students will board the ocean exploring vessel. Students will be accompanied by Mr. Oliver. We provide mental and physical challenges through instruction and discipline by total immersion in the marine environment. Participants leave our program prepared to be the future stewards of our Earth and hopefully better human beings.

Job 12: 7-10 “But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.”

Eighth Grade- Washington D.C.

Next Spring, the VCMS 8th graders will travel across our nation to visit the capital city, Washington D.C. led by Joshua Expeditions Christian Tour Company, accompanied by Mr. Oliver, Mrs. Estrada and supervised by parent chaperones. Students will enhance their knowledge, visiting its monuments, landmarks, and sites of historical value. They will experience the arts, government operations, and the opportunity to meet with a few popular political figures. Details of the trip are arranged by Mrs. Estrada and curriculum is taught prior to departure by Mrs. Estrada during history.

George Washington, 1776

I now make it my earnest prayer, that God would have you and the State over which you preside, in his holy protection, that he would incline the hearts of the Citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to Government, to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, for their fellow Citizens of the united States at large, and particularly for their brethren who have served in the Field, and finally, that he would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all, to do Justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that Charity, humility and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed Religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy Nation.

Warrior Athletics

Athletic Director -	Imani Mackie
League affiliation -	CVCSAC
Fall Sports -	Boys' and Girls' Volleyball
Winter Sports -	Girls' Basketball and Boys' Basketball
Spring Sports -	Track Meet, Softball Tournament
Fee -	\$150.00 per player per sport
Mascot-	Warriors
Colors-	Burgundy and Gray/Silver

Vineyard Christian Middle School is committed to using every aspect of athletics to help students grow and trust in Christ.

“And whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

Colossians 3:23,24.

Warrior Athletics is a natural avenue for discipleship as we will glorify God through team sports. We are committed to excellence because who we are as individuals and how we treat others will help define us as a team, and as a school. Whether we win or lose, we will always serve the Lord.

Sportsmanship and the character of a Christian go hand in hand. We are a new creation in Christ, therefore when “calls” do not go our way, we will remember who we are and be good models. As Christians, we are called to be thankful in all circumstances and situations. We accept adversity as a friend and allow it to smooth out our rough edges, so that in all things Jesus Christ will be lifted-up and glorified.

VCMS Warrior Athletic Competitors Manual

A copy of the Athletic Policy Manual will be given to each participating parent from the Athletic Director. Policies, procedures,

fees, and permission forms are included in the manual. Please refer to the manual for specific rules that pertain to attendance, behavior, grades, and commitment/participation of a player. Each student who desires to play for a VCMS team will be afforded the opportunity providing they meet and respect the rules as outlined in the manual. All coaches are subject to a background check.

Qualities of the Christian Athlete

The Christian Athlete:

- Plays hard, giving 100% all the time.
- Plays by the rules and does not seek to gain unfair advantage by breaking the spirit of the rules.
- Plays for God's glory and not for their own personal desire and glory.
- Does not boast of their accomplishments but directs the attention towards others.
- Is genuinely humble because of their recognition of who they are in the light of who God is.
- Is not a showman or showoff.
- Does not blame others, teammates, or officials for their own failures.
- Desires to see others succeed and does not become jealous of their success.
- Enjoys competition, never quits, and plays the game for the game itself.
- Practices diligently, working on their weaknesses and improving skills.
- Accepts unfair decisions graciously and handles adversity with self-control.
- Is willing to sacrifice for the good of the team.
- Becomes either a leader or one who supports the leadership of another.
- Reacts positively to discipline, never defiant toward authority.
- Always wins because winning is having played the game as well as possible.

Procedures (and More Policies...)

Cell Phones/Smart Devices - Students are required to check in their cell phones at the school office upon arrival to campus. The phones will be kept in the office for the duration of the school day. No cell phones are to be used at any time while the student is on the VCMS campus except for emergency calls that may be made from the school office or if directed by a teacher. If a student is discovered with a phone in his/her possession during the school day, the administration will keep the phone until a parent/guardian retrieves the phone and disciplinary action may be taken. We appreciate that students and parents wish to communicate with each other, however we cannot allow interruptions, misuse, and disregard for school rules to occur.

Cheating - Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated at VCMS. Cheating is a violation of the VCMS Code of Conduct, Core Values and of God's laws. Cheating (including plagiarism) will always result in disciplinary action. Cheating "cheats" the student by keeping him/her from an educational concept, lesson, experience, or goal.

Detention - Detention is held during lunch. One unit of detention is served during the entire lunch period. Detention will not be used as study hall, social time, tutoring opportunity, etc.

Dress Code Violations - Students are expected to monitor their own appearance, following the school dress code/uniform policy. Staff will note dress code violations and provide counsel and warning, and/or deliver a consequence/citation to the offending student. Repeated violations of the dress code may necessitate a student remaining in the office until the parents bring a change of clothing. The resulting absence from class is unexcused. For every 3 dress code violations, a student will be required to serve one unit of detention.

Drug Abuse - We believe that any non-medical involvement (i.e., consumption, procurement, provision) with controlled substances or material generally acknowledged to be harmful to an individual's physical, spiritual, or psychological health is inconsistent with the Christian lifestyle. Scripture speaks directly to the problem of drug abuse; it instructs individuals in the maintenance of healthful lifestyles and avoidance of harmful indulgences and excesses. **Galatians 5:20** As a matter of policy, Vineyard Christian Middle School will investigate fully any incident suggesting drug involvement on the part of students, faculty, staff, or parents. Confirmation of drug abuse, as defined above, will be reported to the appropriate legal authorities, and will subject the individual(s) involved to an immediate expulsion hearing.

Electronic Devices - Electronic devices such as hand-held game systems, earbuds iWatches, Smartwatches, Fitbits, recording device and the like are not allowed on campus. Kindles, iPads, Nooks, and other "book" devices can be used for classroom reading but must be turned into the office when not in used. Cameras, Go-Pros, and other devices will be confiscated, and the student will be disciplined if found to be possession of any said device. A student may use a calculator for the purpose in which it is intended. Using the internet on any of these devices during school hours is a violation of school policy and will result in disciplinary action.

Emergency/Disaster/Fire - A copy of the Vineyard Christian Middle School Disaster plan is available for review in the school office. Fire drills will be held frequently throughout the school year.

First Aid - A First Aid kit is kept in the school office and Mrs. Lowe will carry one with her during all PE classes.

Hats - Hats, caps, and sweatshirt hoods are not permitted in the classroom during the school day. Hats or caps may be worn during outdoor instruction with a doctor's note and/or the teacher's permission.

Internet - Internet/Chromebook access has been established for a limited educational purpose that shall be consistent with the school's curriculum and standards. All students and parents/guardians must sign a copy of this policy and return it to their teacher to be allowed use of the school's computers/Chromebooks. All Chromebooks are equipped with "Go Guardian" software which monitors and tracks students' usage while on the internet.

Lock Downs - In the event of a situation that requires students to be locked inside the school buildings, the Lodi Police Department will be notified. Students will remain in their classrooms until the administration and authorities deem the situation no longer a threat. Parents are asked to stay away from the school in this situation.

Medical Emergency - At the beginning of each school year, all students are required to file an "Emergency Card" which includes your doctor's name and phone number, as well as the name, address and phone number of the parent/guardian(s) and an alternate person to be notified if the need should arise. In case of more serious illness or injury, the family will be contacted by phone and the parents/alternate person may be requested to come to the school to pick up the ill student. In no case will the student be allowed to return home unaccompanied. In case of serious illness or injury, VCMS reserves the right to call 911. This may be done before consultation with the family.

Moral Misconduct - The potential for serious moral misconduct of students is real in Christian schools. It is the responsibility of Vineyard Christian Middle School to maintain Biblical standards and discipline. The thrust of the school's action must be the maintenance of conduct standards, the safety of the students and staff, and the presentation of the Biblical role model. Moral misconduct is defined as any verbal or physical behavior(s) seen as being immoral, sexual in nature and/or categorized as an act of sexual harassment or otherwise. This would also include unacceptable language, personal possession or distribution of any unacceptable music, pictures, or other materials. Disciplinary action will be taken.

Medicine - All medical supplies, OTC medicines, and prescription medications are to be kept in the school Office and are dispensed by the administration upon written direction from a parent/doctor. Exceptions with special circumstances may be approved by the principal. VCMS will not administer any medication without parental permission; VCMS will not provide medicine for the students. Students who do not adhere to these rules may be disciplined as to the Drug Abuse policy.

Prayer - Students at Vineyard Christian Middle School are trained in the importance of establishing a consistent daily prayer life. Teachers lead the students to understand how God is central to all of life and that continual communication with Him is essential to consistent Christian living.

Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences - Conferences are scheduled during November. At all other times, parents interested in arranging a meeting with a teacher should email the teacher directly to schedule a meeting. Parents are advised to communicate concerns with the teacher before contacting the principal.

Parking Lot - Adherence to Parking Lot rules and procedures is mandatory and will be enforced by Administration.

Permission Slips for field trips - A school permission slip must be signed by a parent/guardian for every student and returned by the due date. Students will remain on campus if permission is not received as requested. No verbal approval will be accepted.

Phone Calls - The office telephone is not available for student use, unless in the case of an illness, emergency or at the discretion of the administration. Students who forget their lunch, binder, gym clothes, etc. will not be permitted to call home during the school day.

School Calendar - Vineyard Christian Middle School will maintain a published school year calendar.

Student Sign Out - When taking a student off campus during the school day, the responsible party must sign the child out on the sign out sheet located in the school office. The date, time of departure, reason for leaving and a signature are required for VCMS to release a child. Always call the school office if someone other than the expected party will be picking a child up after school.

Vineyard Press - Every Wednesday the *Vineyard Press* (VP) is distributed to VCMS students. This online and in-house publication contains important items including hot lunch order forms, field trip permission slips, and a variety of similar forms that may require a response. Remember to ask your student for your copy of the *Vineyard Press*, every Wednesday afternoon.

Visitors on Campus - All visitors/volunteers must check in at the school office before reporting to any classroom/building for duty or visit.

Volunteers - VCMS depends heavily on volunteers for many of the tasks that take place both on and off campus. To assure the safety of all VCMS students, all volunteers will be background checked through *Protect My Ministry*, prior to driving, coaching & volunteering on campus. This information is kept on file in the school office.

Weapons - Weapons of any kind are not permitted on campus. Students found to be carrying, brandishing, or threatening others with a weapon will be disciplined according to the School Discipline code and dealt with by local authorities.

Covid-19 Policies & Information

Sanitizing – Touchless hand sanitizers are installed on the inside of all classrooms and portables and are available for use by all students. Soap and water handwashing will be encouraged throughout the day. Commercial grade sanitizing will take place nightly on all surfaces, ramps, handrails, lunch areas, and counters/surfaces.

Temperature/Fever - A temperature of 100 degrees will be considered a fever and not eligible for a student to attend school that day. The school office will be equipped with scanning thermometers to assist with any sudden illness that may develop during the school day. Any student with a 100-degree fever (or higher) will be sent home.

Illness - Following an illness or more specifically a fever, a student will be asked to remain at home for a *minimum* of 24 hours following the

last day of the fever. If a student presents with a cough, even if there is no fever, we ask that the student remains at home until there is no more cough present before returning to school.

Student Cell Phone Check-in - As mentioned, students will be required to check in all cell phones. Students will be assigned a number and their cell phone will be placed in the corresponding numbered plastic sleeve on the side of the office counter. No need to sign phones in or out.

COVID-19 Waiver - All families must read and sign a COVID-19 protocol & policy waiver prior to attending VCMS each school year. This waiver is part of the first day packet and distributed prior to the first day of school.

Unforeseeable Circumstances - We know the climate of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to bring about many unforeseeable challenges. Our hope & prayer is to navigate this school year with a normal look to the year, with continued caution, cleanliness, and a reliance on our God, knowing he is the great physician. We cannot predict the future, but our plans are good, and if we follow a few basic principles, we will be able to have an amazing school year at VCMS. Please feel free to contact the school office with any questions, comments, or concerns you might have. But in the meantime, you can continue to expect the BEST at VCMS this year.

Campus Map



Lunch Area

Room 5
School Office

Sport Court and Grass Field



Room 4
Mrs. Lowe
Math/PE
7th Grade
Home Room

Vineyard Christian Middle School

Outdoor Classroom

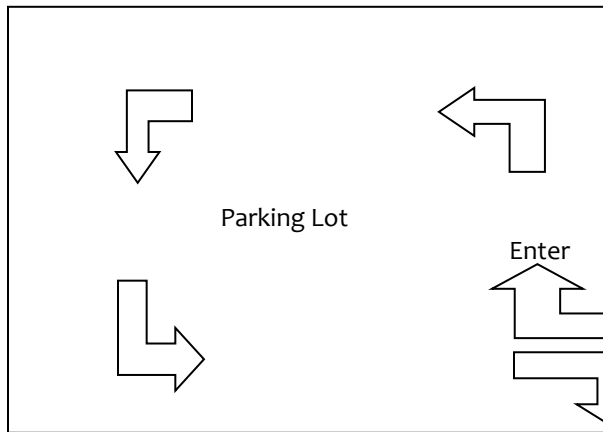


Restrooms

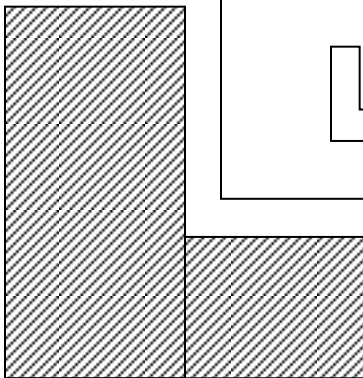
Room 1
Mr. Oliver
Science

Room 2
Mrs. Silva
English/Lit
6th Grade
Home Room

Room 3
Mrs. Estrada
CL/History
8th Grade
Home Room



S Allen Drive



Calvary Church Lodi

W Lodi Avenue



