



# VANDEGRIFT HIGH SCHOOL

"SECOND TO NONE"

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July 31st, 2017

Dear Viper Students and Parents,

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Vandegrift High School, welcome to the 2017-2018 school year. As the principal of Vandegrift, I am proud and honored to continue to be a part of the LISD tradition of excellence and to have the opportunity to share in this unique experience. This summer, our staff has been busy preparing for our largest enrollment to date. With a staff of 214 and a projected enrollment just over 2650 students, we have effectively exceeded our full building capacity of 2400.

I would like to share three significant changes related to our campus growth that will take place for next year at Vandegrift. Student parking, the "Annex," at FPMS and the current bell schedule, have all been impacted by the increase in enrollment at VHS. I have outlined these important changes below, as well as provided a link for feedback or questions that may arise. I will compile frequently asked questions and answers, and share this information back as appropriate.

We look forward to making the upcoming year a rewarding and memorable time for each student. The faculty and staff at VHS are committed to working to make sure each student receives a personalized education experience and the world class curriculum and programs that you have come to expect from LISD schools. Please feel free to contact me or a staff member if you have any questions, or if there is anything we can do to ensure that your student has a positive and rewarding high school experience at Vandegrift. I hope the following information helps you plan for back-to-school.

On behalf of the entire VHS staff, we wish you a restful and enjoyable summer. We will see you August 28th!

Sincerely,  
Charlie Little  
Principal, Vandegrift High School

## What's New for 2017-2018?

**The Annex:** For 2017-2018, we will use 10 classrooms, 6 ACC Classrooms, 3 Science labs and some office space at FPMS to accommodate our current student population that has exceeded the 2400 student building capacity. This satellite campus is referred to as the "Annex." We are fortunate to have accessible, useable space to us available at FPMS to address this concern. The use of FPMS saves considerable tax-payer dollars by not requiring the purchasing, moving, and installation of 11 double-classroom portables. In addition, students are familiar with using the Annex, since we utilized 6 classrooms for ACC classes last year.

The VHS “Annex” will be housed in the West end, upper level of the main FPMS building. It will be self-contained, separate from the middle school students, complete with a high school assistant principal on site-during the day. High school students will enter at the Annex entrance, and a security plan will be in place for student egress between the buildings.

The Annex is approximately a .1 tenth of a mile walk from the Annex classrooms to the main building. This is approximately the same distance from our front door to the back door at the end of building one. To accommodate the extra travel time, we have extended passing periods to 8 minutes for next year. A copy of the new bell schedule for 2017-2018 is below:

**DAILY BELL SCHEDULE**

8:40 – 10:02                      1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Period (82 min)  
10:10– 11:32                      2<sup>nd</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Period (82 min)  
11:40 - 12:22                      PIT and Announcements (42 min)  
12:30 – 2:22                      3<sup>rd</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Period

**A Lunch 12:22– 12:52**  
A Class 1:00 – 2:22

B Class 12:30 – 1:11  
**B Lunch 1:11 – 1:41**  
B Class 1:41 – 2:22

C Class 12:30 – 1:52  
**C Lunch 1:52 – 2:22**

2:30 – 3:52                      4<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Period (82 min)

**Parking:** Clearly, the scarcity of close-in parking at VHS has become a priority concern for students and staff. In the spring, we solicited student and community input and did a comprehensive review of the options available to help alleviate this problem. For 2017-2018 the decision has been made that Seniors will have first option to purchase a parking permit. After the timeframe for senior pre-sales, Juniors will have the option to purchase a permit. After both Senior and Junior pre-sales, eligible Sophomore drivers will be allowed to purchase a permit. We are very limited with available parking at VHS (approx. 900 student parking spots). Once capacity has been reached, no more permits will be sold. Every vehicle must have a parking permit in order to park on campus. Students must provide a valid driver license, proof of insurance and in good standing with the school (no obligations owed) to receive their permit. This is the only equitable, viable option to address the limited on-site parking for next year.

More information on permit pre-sales will be sent next week.

We understand this may be disappointing to some of our younger drivers, but they too will benefit when they become upperclassmen. Additional parking for juniors and seniors will also be available on the West side of FPMS near the annex entrance.

If you would like to provide any feedback on any of these changes for 2017-2018, [please click here.](#)

Additional, detailed information concerning the first day/week of school will be sent next week.

Thank you