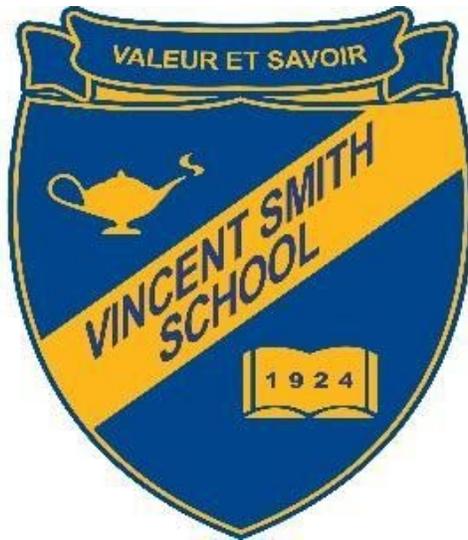


STUDENT HANDBOOK

2020-2021



VINCENT SMITH SCHOOL
322 PORT WASHINGTON BLVD
PORT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK 11050

Tel (516) 365-4900
Fax (516) 627-5648
www.vincent-smith-school.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview

Mission Statement.....	3
Educational Climate.....	3
School History and Accreditation.....	3
Educational Objectives.....	4
Board of Trustees.....	4
Administration.....	5
Faculty.....	5
School Hours.....	5
Policy of Nondiscrimination.....	5

Academic Program

Program of Study.....	6
Reading Program.....	6
Social Emotional Learning Program.....	7
Related Services.....	7
Physical Education Program.....	7
Art Program.....	7
Music Program.....	7
Computer Science Education.....	8
Benchmark Testing.....	8
Homework Policy.....	8
Grading Policy and System.....	8
Interim Academic Reports.....	9
Academic Honors.....	9
Academic Remediation.....	9

Rules and Regulations

Student Discipline Code.....	10
Uncooperative/Noncompliant Behavior.....	10
Disorderly Behavior.....	10
Aggressive or Injurious/Harmful Behavior.....	11
Excessive/Intensive: Aggressive or Injurious/Harmful Behavior	12
Student Disciplinary Action.....	12
Prevention and Intervention Support Services.....	12
Functional Behavioral Assessments and Behavior Intervention Plans.....	13

Policies and Procedures

Accidents.....	14
Attendance.....	14
Cellular Phones/Electronic Devices.....	15
Clubs.....	15
College and Career Planning.....	15

Distribution of Parent-Generated Materials.....	15
Dress Code.....	16
Early Dismissal.....	16
Emergency Closing Procedures.....	17
Field Day.....	17
Fire Drills.....	17
Fundraising.....	17
Google Classroom.....	18
Grievances.....	18
Health Office.....	18
Impartial Hearings.....	18
Insurance.....	18
Internet Use.....	18
Lunch.....	19
Medications.....	19
Parent/Students' Rights to Review Records.....	20
Parent/Teacher Conferences.....	20
Parking.....	20
Photo, Internet, and Video Policy.....	20
Release of Records.....	20
School Trips and Fees.....	20
Senior Dinner Dance.....	21
Senior Privileges.....	21
Textbooks, School Supplies, and Furniture	21
Transportation.....	21
Vincent Smith Merchandise.....	22

OVERVIEW

The following policies and procedures apply to all school activities, whether via in-person (on campus) or remote learning.

Mission Statement

The Vincent Smith School is dedicated to providing a small, nurturing, and supportive setting for all our students. We are committed to the belief that "We Teach Differently Because Every Child Learns Differently," enabling each student to reach their highest potential and personal goals.

Educational Climate

The Vincent Smith School is a small learning community that provides an individualized, supportive and structured environment for our student population. Through integrated programs and a multi-sensory curriculum, students explore, learn, and meet New York State's approved curriculum. In addition to academic pursuits, students also learn essential social and emotional skills in an environment that encourages self-awareness, self-discipline and self-advocacy. With the guidance and support of the administrators and faculty, students are empowered to set personal and academic goals that will reflect their personal growth and their individual best.

School History and Accreditation

In 1923, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Elliott, Miss Adelaide V. Smith, and Miss Nellora A. Reeder founded the Harbor School on Bayview Avenue in Port Washington. In 1924, at the suggestion of Mr. Elliott, the name of the school was changed to the Vincent Smith School in honor of Miss Smith and relocated to 25 Main Street. In 1927, Mr. and Mrs. Elliott purchased a plot of land on Port Washington Boulevard and had the original two-story building erected. The School operated on a provisional charter in the beginning. Christopher Morley, Jr. was among the first eighth grade graduating class of the junior high department in 1931. In 1951, a permanent charter was granted by the Board of Regents of the State of New York. The first high school senior class graduated in June of 1974, and the Regents registered (accredited) the School on September 5, 1980. In 1989, the Vincent Smith School received accreditation from the New York State Association of Independent Schools.

Educational Objectives

Faculty, trustees and administrators affirm the following educational objectives for the Vincent Smith School:

- To integrate our mission into the daily culture of the school by meeting the needs of the student with learning disabilities throughout the social and intellectual process of education. We endeavor to make learning, for all our students, a positive and engaging experience.
- To create a school-wide and classroom environment where all students can reach their highest potential. Some examples of making this environment are: scaffolding of lessons to ensure all students' understanding and engagement; extra help available during 9th period for students who need additional support; modeling of appropriate social and academic processes; multi-sensory approach to learning to align with our mission and offer students the best method of instruction coordinated to their specific needs and learning styles; faculty training in special education practices of methodology and pedagogy.
- To align with our mission statement, students will learn self-advocacy skills through facilitation of self-discovery, self-awareness, and self-acceptance.
- To maintain small class sizes in order to optimize a student's ability to gain the knowledge, skill-sets and attitudes needed to cope with the changing world and the transition into a global community.
- To provide students with a program of academic rigor whose pace is brisk but not pressured, and one that is sympathetic to each students' educational needs.
- To help students apply critical thinking skills and ethical standards to learning, living and problem- solving. This is evident by adopting the Six Pillars of Character, by following the Code of Conduct in the Student/Parent Handbook, and by fostering altruistic and community minded endeavors.
- To assist students in the mastery of basic skills aligned with the New York State curriculum so that students will have the necessary proficiency for transition to post-secondary education or the workplace.
- To promote in all students, through formal and informal learning, self-discipline, self-motivation, self-esteem, and self-efficacy.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees, as the policy-making body, promotes the welfare of the school, especially in the areas of finance, fundraising, and public relations. The Board is composed of parents, former parents, and selected members of the community. The Board calendar is set yearly by the Board and traditionally meets during the third week of the month, at the School. For the 2020-2021 school year, the members of the Board of Trustees are as follows: Mrs Stacy Grimm, Chairperson, Dr. Andrea Carlson, Dr. Peter Lewis, Dr. Lauren Schwartz, Mrs. Christine Marquino, Ms. Lauren Rothchild, and Mr. John Baldi (Ex Officio).

Administration

The administrators for the 2020-2021 school year are as follows: Mr. John Baldi, Head of School, Mrs. Lois Dierlam, Dean of Students, Ms. Carla Preston, School Psychologist; Ms. Michele Hoyos; Administrative Assistant; Ms. Diane Rosen-Toy, Business Manager; Mrs. Peggy Spacek, Executive Assistant to the Head of School; Mr. Martell Young, Director of Facilities; Ms. Lynda Bekore, Director of Communications & Marketing.

Faculty

The Vincent Smith School is staffed by New York State certified Special Education and content area specialized teachers, with over 90% holding advanced degrees. All of our faculty and staff are highly trained and dedicated to the mission and philosophy of the school.

School Hours

The Vincent Smith School is open weekdays from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. All students are expected to be in attendance from 8:30 A.M. to 3:10 P.M. **Please call the main office prior to 8:30 A.M. if your child will not be attending school or will be late and indicate the reason.**

Policy of Nondiscrimination

The Vincent Smith School admits students of any actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin citizenship/immigration status, weight, religion, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or disability who have all rights to the privileges, programs, and activities of the School. The Vincent Smith School welcomes students of all ethnic groups and recognizes their valuable contributions to the life and character of the school.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Programs of Study

Students in the Lower School carry the normal required courses under programs set forth by New York State, with emphasis placed on English Language Arts and Math. Students also take at least two periods each of Physical Education and Art, and at least one period per week of Music, Social Skills and Computers.

In the Middle School, students are required to take English, Math, Social Studies, Science, Health, Physical Education, Foreign Language, Art, Music, Social Skills, and Computers.

High School students must meet the following criteria for graduation:

1. A minimum of 22 credits, including the following units:
 - 4 credits in English
 - 4 credits in Social Studies
 - 4 credits in Mathematics
 - 4 credits in Science
 - 3 credits in Foreign Language
 - 2 credits Physical Education
 - 1 ½ credits in Art
 - 1 credit in Social Skills
 - 1 credit in an Elective/VEEP
 - ½ credit in Health
2. A passing score on the ELA and Mathematics Exit Exams

Credit requirements of transfer students will be evaluated upon admission.

Reading Program

The remedial reading program is an integral part of the school curriculum. This program is guided by our reading specialists and assisted by classroom teachers. To assure continued growth and progress in reading, the students are given explicit and systematic instruction using the Wilson Reading program. Students tend to become eager and able readers when reading is enjoyed and respected in the home. It is essential that parents encourage their children to engage in recreational reading outside of the school requirements.

Our remedial reading program is available for those students who are found to be in need of reading assistance. Students work in small groups of one to four at least once per week. Each period is approximately forty minutes in length. In addition, classroom and core subject teachers coordinate their efforts to reinforce the above skills. In grades one through six, teachers further aid students by utilizing the Spire Reading Program™, an Orton-Gillingham based intervention program. During the designated reading block, students are further supported by flexible grouping in age appropriate groups. The reading program at the Vincent Smith School uses a multi-sensory approach, which provides help in the following areas:

Reading comprehension	Written expression	Oral expression
Decoding skills	Phonological skills	Spelling
Study skills		

Social Emotional Learning Program

Social Emotional Learning is an integral part of development and well-being. In every grade, a Social Emotional Learning Program (e.g. *Overcoming Obstacles*) is guided by our School Psychologist and Social Worker. The program focuses on communication, coping, decision-making, problem solving and organizational skills while promoting self-regulation, safety, and support for our students.

Related Services

Students receive related services, including but not limited to speech/language therapy, occupational therapy, counseling, physical therapy, and resource room, as warranted by the needs of the student during the course of the school day. Related services are provided by the school and are included in tuition for all students who require them. These service providers are employees of the school and services are scheduled into the school day.

Physical Education Program

Physical Education and athletics are required for graduation, and all students are required to participate in gym class unless excused by a doctor's note. Physical activity is essential to healthy physical, social, and emotional growth. Students at the Vincent Smith School are required to attend at least two periods of physical education per week.

Art Program

Art is offered to all students at the Vincent Smith School. The aim of the program is to contribute to the development of art skills, appreciation and personal enjoyment by our students. At times, the classroom teacher integrates the art program with other subject areas. A competitive Student Art Show is held every Spring. Both faculty and staff judge the work by category and prizes are awarded. Every attempt is made to schedule all students at least two periods of Art per week.

Music Program

As research continues to show the correlation between music and speech and language development, the Vincent Smith School music program will help students develop and appreciate music. Through listening and movement, students will explore the many aspects of music. Every attempt is made to schedule all students at least one period of music per week.

Computer Science Education

The Vincent Smith School continues upgraded computer equipment and assistive technology will have a positive impact on students and student development. Students in the Lower School are scheduled to take Computer Lab weekly. Additionally, subject teachers incorporate technology as part of their classes.

Benchmark Testing

All students will be administered three times per year benchmark testing. The purpose of benchmark testing is to establish a baseline of student functioning in specific academic areas and monitor student progress throughout the school year, and teach to deficits.

Homework Policy

At the Vincent Smith School, homework is assigned almost every evening in every subject. This includes weekends, holidays, and vacation days. (When homework conflicts with a religious observance and the school has received a letter to that fact from a parent/guardian, the student may make up the homework at the conclusion of the religious observance.) If a parent is in doubt as to the homework, please log onto Google Classroom for additional information. Google Classroom is used to communicate with parents and students on a daily basis. The preparation of homework is a shared responsibility – student-parent-teacher. Please contact the specific teacher as soon as possible with any problem concerning the homework. If homework is not completed or inadequately prepared, parents will be notified by the teacher. Continued failure to prepare and turn in homework will be considered a deficiency, which can lead to detention and affect a student’s final grade.

Grading Policy and System

In order to achieve academic success, students must be aware of the criteria for grading all work. Each academic grade has been tabulated based on the following schedule:

Tests and Quizzes.....	50%
Classwork/Projects.....	15%
Homework.....	15%
Class Participation/Classwork.....	20%

The academic year is divided into three terms or trimesters. Achievement grades are awarded at the end of each term and a report card is mailed to the student’s home. The three term grades, along with the trimester examination grades, comprise the final grade. Finals are given in the Upper School during the last week of classes. That grade counts as two tests grades in the third trimester grade. In the Upper School, a numeric scale has been adopted for the achievement grade, providing greater accuracy and flexibility in the evaluations. The passing grade is 65. An effort (1-4) is also given. In the Lower School, students earn #1-4, which are described on the report card.

Interim Academic Reports

An Interim Academic Report will be completed for each student in every academic subject at the middle of the first trimester and will be mailed to the student's home. In subsequent trimesters, Interim Academic Reports will be generated for students whose average is below 75% and/or are in danger of failing. The intent of this report is to give the parent an estimate of the student's current grade and inform the parent of any corrective efforts that have been instituted by the teaching staff.

Academic Honors

Honor Roll status is determined by averaging all grades received in all academic courses, in which the student was enrolled, at the end of each trimester. Students who meet the following criteria are placed on the Honor Roll. Honor Roll students receive letters of recognition.

- High Honors - at least a 95 average with no grade below an 80
- Honors - at least a 90 average with no grade below an 80
- Trimester Exams - no grade below a 70

Academic Remediation

Grades are continuously monitored for remediation and tutorial services. When a student is not performing up to academic standards, or when grades drop significantly from term to term, students are required to attend tutorial services during club period.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Vincent Smith School is a drug and gun-free zone.

Student Discipline Code

In conjunction with prevention and intervention support services, a student may be subjected to disciplinary action when the student engages in specific behaviors that are uncooperative/noncompliant, disorderly, disruptive, aggressive or injurious/harmful, and/or excessive/intensive:

Uncooperative/Noncompliant Behavior

1. Unexcused absence from School
2. Excessive lateness
3. Bringing items to or using items in School in violation of School policy
4. Behaving in a manner which disrupts the educational process (e.g., making excessive noise in a classroom, library, or hallway)
5. Engaging in verbally rude or disrespectful behavior
6. Wearing clothing, headgear (e.g., caps or hats), or other items that are unsafe or disruptive to the educational process
7. Posting or distributing material on School premises in violation of school rules
8. Using School computers, fax machines, telephones or other electronic equipment or devices without appropriate permission

Disorderly Behavior

9. Smoking and/or use of electronic cigarettes and/or possession of matches or lighters
10. Gambling
11. Using profane, obscene, vulgar, or lewd language, gestures, or behavior
12. Lying to, giving false information to, and/or misleading School personnel
13. Misusing property belonging to others
14. Engaging in or causing disruptive behavior on the School bus
15. Leaving class or School premises without permission of supervising School personnel
16. Engaging in inappropriate or unwanted physical contact.
17. Use of the Internet and/or computing system for non-educational purposes, and/or security/privacy violations.
18. Engaging in dishonesty, scholastic or otherwise which includes but is not limited to: a. Cheating, b. Plagiarizing
19. Inappropriate use of electronic technology (e.g., unauthorized audio/video recording).
20. Defying or disobeying the lawful authority or directive of School personnel or School safety agents in a way that substantially disrupts the educational process and/or poses a danger to the School community.
21. Using slurs based upon actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, national origin, citizenship and/or immigration status, weight, religion, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or disability.

22. Shoving, pushing, or engaging in a minor altercation or similar physical confrontational behavior towards students or School personnel (e.g., pushing past another person), or throwing an object (e.g., chalk) or spitting at another person (for more serious physically aggressive behavior, see #30.).
23. Bringing unauthorized persons to School or allowing unauthorized visitors to enter School in violation of written School rules.
24. Knowingly possessing property belonging to another without authorization.
25. Tampering with, changing, or altering a record or document of a School by any method, including, but not limited to, computer access or other electronic means.
26. Engaging in inappropriate or unwanted physical contact or touching someone in a private part of body.
27. Engaging in vandalism, graffiti or other intentional damage to School property or property belonging to staff, students or others.
28. Posting or distributing libelous material or literature (including posting such material on the Internet).

Aggressive or Injurious/Harmful Behavior

29. Posting or distributing, displaying, or sharing literature or material containing a threat of violence, injury or harm, or depicting violent actions against or obscene, vulgar or lewd pictures of students or staff (including posting such material on the Internet).
30. Engaging in physically aggressive behavior other than minor altercations as described under #22., which creates a substantial risk of or results in minor injury.
31. Engaging in an act of coercion or threatening or instigating violence, injury or harm to another or others.
32. Engaging in behavior on the School bus which creates a substantial risk of or results in injury.
33. Engaging in harassing, intimidating, and/or bullying behavior, including using electronic communication to engage in such behavior (cyber-bullying); such behavior includes, but is not limited to: physical violence; stalking; verbal, written, or physical conduct that threatens another with harm; seeking to coerce or compel a student or staff member to do something; hazing; taunting; exclusion from peer groups designed to humiliate or isolate; using derogatory language or making derogatory jokes or name calling to humiliate or harass.
34. Engaging in harassing, intimidating and/or bullying behavior, including using electronic communication to engage in such behavior (cyber-bullying) based on an individual's actual or perceived race, weight, religion, religious practices, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or disability; such behavior includes, but is not limited to: physical violence; stalking; verbal, written, or physical conduct that threatens another with harm; seeking to coerce or compel a student or staff member to do something; hazing; taunting; exclusion from peer groups designed to humiliate or isolate; using derogatory language or making derogatory jokes or name calling to humiliate or harass.
35. Making sexually suggestive comments, innuendoes, propositions or similar remarks, or engaging in nonverbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature (e.g. touching, patting, pinching, lewd or indecent public behavior, or sending or posting sexually suggestive messages or images).
36. Possessing controlled substances or prescription medications (without appropriate authorization) illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, and/or alcohol.

Excessive/Intensive: Aggressive or Injurious/Harmful Behavior

37. Taking or attempting to take property belonging to another or belonging to the School without authorization, without using force or intimidating behavior.
38. Falsely activating a fire alarm or other disaster alarm.
39. Making a bomb threat.
40. Creating a substantial risk of serious injury by either recklessly engaging in behavior, and/or using an object that appears capable of causing physical injury (e.g., lighter, belt buckle, umbrella, or laser pointer).
41. Causing a serious injury by either recklessly engaging in behavior, and/or using an object that appears capable of causing physical injury (e.g., lighter, belt buckle, umbrella, or laser pointer).
42. Inciting/causing misbehavior; false claims.
43. Possessing or selling any weapon.
44. Using controlled substances or prescription medication without appropriate authorization, or using illegal drugs, synthetic hallucinogens, and/or alcohol.
45. Refusal to follow directions/requests from teacher or administrator; arguing with teacher or administrator.

Student Disciplinary Actions

In conjunction with prevention and intervention support services, a student may be subjected to one or more of the following disciplinary actions when the student engages in the above-mentioned behaviors:

- A. Verbal warning from school staff
- B. Student/teacher conference
- C. Student/administrator (e.g. Head of School, Dean of Students, etc.) conference
- D. Student/parent/administrator (e.g. Head of School, Dean of Students, etc.) conference
- E. In-school disciplinary action (e.g., exclusion from club activities or lunchtime, and in-house detention or suspension)
- F. Head of School's suspension that results in student's immediate removal from school
- G. Suspension for 1-5 days
- H. Expulsion – When a student application for entrance to the Vincent Smith School is accepted, s/he thereby understands and agrees that the school reserves the right to expel him/her at any time if his/her conduct or academic standing is regarded by the Head of School or Administrative Staff as undesirable. The Student Contract and Statement of Policy explicitly set forth this condition.

Prevention and Intervention Support Services

To promote positive behavior, the Vincent Smith School provides a range of prevention and intervention support services for students during school hours throughout the school year. When a student engages in misconduct, various interventions must be considered based on the student and the type of behavior displayed. The Vincent Smith School will provide support services at all stages of the disciplinary process, including during or returning from suspension, to maximize

students' ability to meet social and academic standards within the school community. When used consistently and appropriately, counseling interventions help improve student behavior, lower the incidence of repeated misbehavior, and contribute to a more positive school environment. Support services may include any of the following, or a combination of the following, to best meet the needs of the individual student:

- Parent outreach
- Intervention by counseling staff
- Referral for services (counseling, both in or outside of school)
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- Individual/group counseling
- Peer mediation/conflict resolution
- Mentoring program
- Development of individual behavior contract/chart
- Short-term behavioral progress reports
- Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA)/Behavioral Intervention Plan (BIP)
- In-school community service (with parental/guardian consent)
- Supports for students transitioning from suspension

Functional Behavioral Assessments and Behavior Intervention Plans

A functional behavioral assessment (FBA) is the process of determining why a student engages in behaviors that impede learning and how the behavior relates to the environment. An FBA is based on direct observation, information from teachers, providers, and parents. It is used to understand the student's behavior, including when and why it occurs, and to develop recommendations to address the behavior. Parental consent is required. An FBA may be considered when a student:

1. Exhibits persistent behaviors that impede his or her learning or that of others, despite consistently implemented general school-wide, classroom-wide, or individual interventions
2. Engages in behavior that puts the student or others at risk of harm
3. Is being considered by administration for a more restrictive program because of the student's behavior

After completion of an FBA, the team must consider whether a behavioral intervention plan (BIP) is warranted. A BIP is a plan that is based on the results of an FBA and, at a minimum, includes a description of the problem behavior, hypotheses as to why the behavior occurs, and intervention strategies that include positive behavioral supports and services to address the behavior. Student progress is to be monitored throughout the plan's implementation and modifications may be made as necessary.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Accidents

Every accident or injury in the school building and/or on the school grounds must be reported immediately to the person in charge at the event, to the school nurse, and to the main office. In addition, an Injury Report form must be completed by the supervising staff member.

First aid is administered by the school nurse in case of accidents or sudden illness occurring at school. Parents are contacted if an accident of a serious nature occurs. Arrangements are made for the student to go home, to the family doctor, to the nearest physician, or to the emergency centers of local hospitals. In the event a student must be transported via ambulance to the hospital, a school administrator or designated school official will accompany and remain with the student until a parent or adult guardian arrives.

Attendance

Every student enrolled in the Vincent Smith School should attend school on a regular basis with no unexcused absences or latenesses. Good attendance and punctuality are life-long habits that are essential for success that will benefit students throughout their entire lives. Attendance is mandatory whether attending school on campus or via remote learning.

An excused absence or tardiness is one for which work may be made up, such as death or severe illness in the student's immediate family, sickness, and religious holidays/practices. **Please call the main office prior to 8:30 A.M. if your child will not be attending school or will be late and indicate the reason for their absence or lateness.** If a student is absent for more than two consecutive days with non-COVID symptoms, a doctor's note may be required.

If absence is due to symptoms of COVID-19, the student will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days as advised by the CDC.

To return to school after positive COVID results, the student will need to:

- Be free of symptoms for at least 10 days
- Have no signs of fever, without fever reducing medication, for at least three days
- Display improved symptoms, including absence of cough or shortness of breath), for at least three days

The individual will also require a doctor's note indicating negative COVID results after a mandatory 14-day quarantine.

If a student has symptoms that could be COVID-19 but does not get evaluated/tested by a medical professional for COVID-19, it shall be assumed that the student has COVID and may not return to work/school until the three criteria listed above have been met and proper COVID testing has been completed.

Parents will be required to submit daily screening questionnaires regarding COVID symptoms and exposure prior to their child's departure for school in the morning.

Cellular Phones/ Electronic Devices

Cellular phones and electronic devices are to be stored in the student's homeroom. a disruption in all classes. In addition, they become misplaced, broken, or stolen. However, there are times when cell phones are useful tools to a child's education. Unless being used for academic reasons as per teacher request, students place their cell phones baskets on teacher desk throughout the day. If a cell phone is visible during school hours, it will be confiscated and held until the end of the day by the Head of School. Parents wishing to reach their child may do so by calling the school's main office. Should a student need to contact a parent in an emergency, he or she may do so by using the phone in the main office with permission.

Electronic devices, such as iPods, video games, etc., are not to be used during the school day including lunch. Electronic devices, audible or visible to school staff, will be confiscated and held in the office until the end of the day.

Clubs

During 9th period, students are required to sign up for and attend clubs. This provides students with an opportunity to engage in social and academic activities. Club offerings vary during the course of the school year. Club options can include sports, art, computers, cooking, meditation, circuit training, gardening, yearbook, homework, Zumba, music, games, and many more. If the school is required to go remote, clubs will be replaced by tutorials.

College and Career Planning

College and career guidance is provided through a program overseen by the Dean of Students. Students will engage in classes geared towards college and career planning. A College and Career Night is usually offered to students and parents in the Fall. However, this year we may offer either a virtual College and Career night or meetings individually.

Students in grade eleven are requested to take the Preliminary College Board Test (PSAT) in October. Students planning to attend a two- or four-year college are asked to take the SAT in November of their junior year and again in May. In addition, students are able to take the SAT in November of their senior year. The student can also choose to take the American College Testing test (ACT). If students are eligible as determined by the testing company, accommodations are offered for both tests.

Distribution of Parent-Generated Materials

It is the policy of the Vincent Smith School to prohibit the distribution of personal invitations, sales materials, etc., in school. Distribution of any educational surveys or references for students that need to be completed by faculty members must be sent to the main office for distribution.

Dress Code

The Vincent Smith School dress code is designed to set appropriate standards for a school environment. Appropriate dress for school is a shared responsibility between the parent and the student. The school uniform consists of blue and white shirts and khaki or blue pants/skirts. While any sweatshirt may be worn, please ensure that it is a **solid color** and free of graphic design. Absolutely No Political or offensive language shirts/sweatshirt may be worn or exhibited at any time. **Coats may not be worn in the classrooms.** We do understand that regulation of room temperature is difficult, as every student's preference does vary. If the student needs a sweatshirt in school, s/he should leave a non-graphic, solid color garment or the Vincent Smith School sweatshirt in his/her locker for easy access.

Students are expected to abide by the dress code at all times, unless specifically permitted by the school otherwise. Exceptions to the dress code for activities, including physical education classes, sports, certain field trips, and dress down or themed days, will be announced. Summer dress code (e.g., khaki/navy chino shorts) may be worn until October 27th and after April 2nd.

Guidelines for school attire are outlined below:

Boy's Attire

Chino or cotton/twill pants – khaki or classic navy (no cargo pants or jeans)

Polo shirts (long- or short-sleeved) – white, light blue, classic navy

Girl's Attire

Chino or cotton/twill pants – khaki or classic navy (no cargo pants or jeans)

Skirts 3" above the knee or lower (pleated, A-line, straight) – classic navy, khaki

Polo shirts (long or short sleeved) – white, light blue, classic navy

Upper School physical education classes require a change of clothing. Students are required to dress in activewear, including t-shirt, shorts, sweatpants, and sneakers. Students not dressed in the appropriate physical education attire will not be permitted to participate in class that day. Please be aware that New York State requires participation in physical education class to graduate from high school. Failure to change into gym clothes could jeopardize passing class. This year, locker rooms will be closed to all students. Consequently, students will not be required to change for physical education at this time.

Any adornment that could be distracting or inappropriate will not be permitted. Students in violation of the dress code will be given a warning. In severe cases, at the discretion of the school, parents will be required to remove the student from school and/or bring proper attire to the school for the student. Any school work missed because of a dress code violation must be made up.

Early Dismissal

All students must obtain official approval for any early dismissal that may be necessary. Doctor, dental, and personal business appointments should be made after school hours, whenever possible. Except in extreme emergencies, permission for early dismissal may not be granted.

When such dismissal is necessary, the student must give the main office a note bearing the signature of the parent/guardian, stating the reason for the request and giving the exact time of dismissal. Parents must sign the child out at the security booth when picking them up early. Ninth period offerings are just as important as regular classes.

Emergency Closing Procedures

News 12 Long Island will broadcast school closings due to inclement weather. In addition, every parent will receive a pre-recorded phone message from the Head of School or a school designee. The school website is updated accordingly. The school will make every effort to announce a snow day as early as possible. Because of the difficulty and confusion delayed openings cause, the school will make every effort, under suitable and safe travel conditions, to avoid delayed openings whenever possible. Parents of those students traveling via bus should communicate with their bus companies to understand their regulations for emergency closings/delayed openings.

If it is deemed advisable to dismiss school prior to the regular dismissal time, the school will act accordingly and attempt to alert parents of all emergency or early school closings. Parents of bus students should know or make alternative arrangements in the event of an early or emergency closing. A telephone call will be placed to the emergency contact number provided to the school by the parent. It is the parent's responsibility to make sure all contact numbers are current.

This year, the school may close due to Covid related reasons. These reasons could include but are not limited to: State and Local officials

Emergency evacuation procedures, as required by law, are on file at the school and are reviewed by the administration, faculty and staff at the beginning of each school year.

Field Day

The annual Blue and Gold Field Day competition is held at the end of each year. This includes a full day of field events for all students and lunch is provided. Parents are invited to attend, participate and volunteer.

Due to COVID-19, a decision about Field Day 2021 will be made later in the Spring.

Fire Drills

Fire drills are necessary to insure the safe exit of students and staff in the case of an actual emergency. Students must leave the room silently in a single file and go quickly to the designated exit, following the directions of their teacher. In the event that the classroom door cannot be used to exit the room, exit through the emergency window/door and proceed to the area designated for each class.

Fundraising

Throughout the school year, families may be asked to assist and take part in the fundraising efforts of the Vincent Smith School. At no time are students to solicit door-to-door, without the

supervision of a parent or guardian. In order to make fundraising a safe experience, it is suggested that students solicit family members. Parents may wish to solicit acquaintances and co-workers.

Google Classroom

Every student receives a Google account (email address). This account enables students to access Google Classroom. Google Classroom allows teachers and students to communicate, share work/homework, ask questions, or simply view posted classwork/activities/homework. Using the student's account, parents are able to view homework and classwork.

Grievances

If questions arise regarding school policy or disciplinary matters, an appeal may be made to the Head of School.

Health Office

The health office, staffed by a certified school nurse, is available to students during the school day. Students must obtain a pass before going to the nurse's office, except for those students receiving daily medication. Students will be examined, and if leaving school is warranted, a parent will be contacted. Those students who remain in school will be sent back to class.

If a student exhibits COVID-like symptoms while in school, they will be sent directly to the nurse and await pick-up by parent or guardian in a quarantined safe room, located in the science lab next to the nurse's office. Access to the safe room will only be via the outside, separate door, not through the middle school hallway.

Impartial Hearings

In the event of an impartial hearing, records of school attendance, affidavits attesting to payment of tuition and faculty/staff participation in the hearing are provided without fee.

Insurance

Student accident insurance is provided by the Vincent Smith School without any premium cost to parents. Parents are responsible for all medical costs, which go beyond the limits of the accident policy. Protection is provided for students while they are in school, or engaged in school-sponsored activities. This policy is meant to cover out-of-pocket expenses that are not covered by the parent's or guardian's primary insurance.

Internet Use

Students using computer resources must adhere to the guidelines listed below which govern the use of school resources. Failure to use computer resources appropriately may result in disciplinary action, beginning with a suspension of privileges. Should any infraction require

action beyond a warning, administrative involvement will be deemed necessary. Guidelines for general use include:

- Material that may visually offend others or promotes hate, racism, etc., is not permitted.
- Students will report any use of the Internet to obtain inappropriate or offensive material.
- Material obtained and used in a manner that violates copyright law is prohibited.
- All material obtained from the Internet must be properly cited.
- Participation in “chat” groups is prohibited.
- Students will not give out any personal information. Be aware that divulging such information may be dangerous.
- Additional rules, as stated by the administration and the computer room teacher may apply, as required throughout the school year.
- Posting inappropriate, hurtful, offensive or disparaging remarks toward any student/staff member/administrator or anyone connected with the school on the Internet is not permitted.

Lunch

Appropriate student behavior is required at all times in the cafeteria. Any questions or issues should be reported to the teachers on lunch duty.

Lunch must be sent in from home each day. Due to COVID-19, food will not be available for purchase until further notice. Face masks will be required when not eating or drinking, and when moving about in common areas. Proper hand hygiene will be enforced before and after eating. Signage will be displayed to remind all persons not to share food and drink.

Recess is held for the last 20 minutes of each lunch period, weather permitting. Students should have the appropriate outerwear when necessary.

Medications

Parents are responsible for providing the school nurse with any medication their child must receive during the school day. The guidelines are as follows:

- Students requiring medication at school must have a written statement from a physician, which identifies the type, dosage, and purpose of medication (including over-the-counter medication). Medication must be in its original container/packaging.
- Written permission from the parents requesting the school to administer the medication prescribed by the physician or over-the-counter medications shall be required.
- The parent shall advise the school of any drug being taken by a child.
- All medication must be kept in the nurse’s office.
- Students should NOT be transporting medications to and from school. Parent are required to bring all necessary medications to the school.

Medication for temporary illness involving infections such as colds, coughs, and sore throats must be the responsibility of the parents. If circumstances are such that oral medication is

required during the school day, the student's presence in school should be questioned, as sick students do not belong in school.

Parent/Students' Rights to Review Records

Within two business days of receipt of a letter requesting a review of student records, arrangements will be made and a meeting will be scheduled with the Head of School.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Two parent conferences are scheduled each year (see school calendar). Ten minute conferences with each teacher in the Upper School are scheduled at this time to allow parents to discuss their child's academic performance and concerns with the teachers. Similarly, Lower School conferences are 20 minutes in duration. Both parents and teachers may request conferences at other times throughout the year. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher and the administration, at any time throughout the year, to discuss concerns.

Until further notice, all parent-teacher conferences will be held via Zoom.

Parking

Seniors: Seniors who register their vehicle in advance with the main office, and who have written parental approval to drive to and from school, must park in assigned parking spaces. Student drivers are to follow the guidelines for proper use of an automobile at all times. .

Photo, Internet, and Video Policy

From time to time, the opportunity may arise for your child to be photographed for use in local media, VSS promotional publications, on the school website, or in any other school medium. A photo release is included as part of the contract. In the event you do not wish your child to be photographed, please initial that section of the contract appropriately. Photographs covered in this release form are intended to only refer to identifiable (front facing) photos of your child.

Release of Records

Prior to the release of student records, the parent/guardian must obtain from the Vincent Smith School a Request for the Release of Records form. This form must be completed and submitted to the school. Only then will records be released to the person(s) or organizations listed on the form.

School Trips and Fees

This year, field trips are suspended until further notice.

Senior Dinner Dance

Prior to graduation, the seniors are honored by their parents, faculty, staff, and friends at a Senior Dinner Dance. A sit-down dinner is provided, along with musical entrainment to create an enjoyable atmosphere.

Due to COVID, a decision about a Senior event will be made later in the Spring.

Senior Privileges

Seniors are afforded the following privileges:

- Driving and parking on campus (see Parking section for rules)
- Leaving campus for lunch (with written permission from parents) Suspended due to Covid.
- Eating lunch in the library, computer room, or outside (see Library section for rules)
- Cell phone usage during lunch, outside of the cafeteria

Should any privilege be abused, it will be revoked.

Textbooks, School Supplies and Furniture

It is expected that students will take responsible care of the classroom desks, their books and other items supplied by the local school districts and the Vincent Smith School. If such materials are damaged or lost, the school sets the price for such articles and assesses the parents. Each student is given **one** set of binders or notebooks per school year and replacements can be purchased through the main office.

The school will collect all Vincent Smith School textbooks at the appropriate final exam (Upper School) or the last day of classes (Lower School). A schedule for the return of the school district texts from non-participating districts in Nassau County and Suffolk County will be posted for students in the Upper School building.

Transportation

Riding the bus is a privilege and a convenience. It is the student's responsibility to comply with the directions of the bus driver and bus matron. Acts of inappropriate behavior, including but not limited to, smoking, vandalism, use of vulgar language, rudeness, etc., may result in the revocation of transportation privileges.

Busses and parent drop-offs will be individually unloaded. Parents should not exit their cars or enter the building. Students will be required to wear masks when exiting the bus/cars and use hand sanitizer and undergo temperature checks before entering the building.

Students are required to take their assigned bus to and from school, and are not permitted to go home on a different school bus. If a student would like to go home with a classmate, written notes from both parents must be given to the office, containing a detailed explanation of

transportation. The school should be given as much notice as possible to avoid dismissal confusion. If a request for alternate transportation arrangements is not received by the office, students will be placed on their regular bus and sent home.

This year, students will not be allowed to enter the school until 8:15 each day.

Vincent Smith Merchandise

Vincent Smith apparel can be purchased through the school using the merchandise order form. Items available for purchase include gym shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts, outerwear, hats, etc. All Vincent Smith apparel can be worn as part of the school uniform.