Welcome Van Hise Families to the 2018-19 School Year!

On behalf of our entire school community, we are enthusiastic and committed to providing each and every one of our students with an excellent education and experience this year. We embrace partnering with both our families and community and believe in helping all members feel valued and involved in their children’s education.

Our school’s vision is “Every student, family, and staff member works together to create conditions that maximize participation, inclusion, and achievement of all. As a result, all experience a sense of belonging, are engaged in rigorous learning, and are actively participating in the life of the school.” We are committed to partnering with parents and the community to continue to develop and implement this vision. Through this we will create a nurturing, disciplined, and challenging environment in which all students can learn at optimum levels and graduate college, career, and community ready.

Our School Improvement Plan (SIP) is developed annually by a team that includes school staff along with a parent. This year the SIP focuses on supporting teaching teams in implementing quality, research-based instructional practices. Teachers collaborate to prepare well-planned lessons that make the content accessible and valuable for each and every one of our students. Using ongoing assessments, teachers at Van Hise Elementary (VHE) differentiate instruction based on students’ learning styles, abilities, and interests. Staff are committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment that promotes respect for all individuals.

This year we will continue the long-standing traditions that support a strong sense of community among families, staff, and students. The diversity of our community is one of our greatest assets. All students and families are encouraged to be active participants in the learning process. We welcome you to visit often and volunteer at VHE. The partnerships that we form between students, families, community members, and staff provide a foundation for learning, engagement, and relationships to thrive.

We hope to see you soon at Van Hise Elementary – where children come first!

Sincerely,

Mary Seidl
Interim Principal

About our school
Van Hise Elementary is a quiet K-5 neighborhood school in the University Hill Farms area on the near west side of Madison. The campus is shared with Velma Hamilton Middle School.

School mission statement
Van Hise Elementary School is a thriving school that prepares every student to graduate from high school college, career, and community ready. We strive to ensure that every student and adult is recognized for their strengths, challenged to do better, and supported to succeed. We are organized around collaborative work and mutual accountability.
Key Policies and Guidelines

Calendar
September 4th: 8:35 New Family Breakfast (in the garden, weather permitting)
See all upcoming events at https://vanhise.madison.k12.wi.us/calendar

Child care / after-school information
On-site child care is provided by Wisconsin Youth Company after school, and also in the morning as long as there is enough interest in the morning program. It is a private company, and there is a cost. For information please contact them at (608)276-9782 or visit their website at www.wisconsinyouthcompany.org.

Traffic safety (parking lot, pick up/drop off information)
Children are to be dropped off at the front of school on Waukesha Street. The parking lot is unsafe with no sidewalk to the building. There are adult crossing guards at Mineral Point Rd. & Segoe Rd., Mineral Point Rd. & Midvale Blvd, and Waukesha St. & Lafayette starting at 7:10am and from 1:45-2:50pm Mondays; 2:25-3:55pm Tuesday-Friday.

Supervision of building / grounds
Supervision begins at 8:15am daily; students should not be dropped off before 8:15am. Students may go into the cafeteria for breakfast or out to the playground until the bell rings at 8:25. There is no supervision after school; all students should be picked up when school dismisses.

Field trips
Students are expected to participate in field trips as part of the curriculum. Teachers send home information about trips regarding costs, destination and dates, and encourage parents to volunteer as chaperones.

Picking up your child during the school day
To ensure the safety of your child, please send a note or email in advance to your child’s teacher and the office. District policy requires that parents come into our office and sign out the student. We will call the classroom to have the student sent down to the office to meet the parents. Please remember anyone picking up a student must be authorized and listed in Infinite Campus. Once school is in session, no non-school staff (including parents) will be allowed to go to a classroom unaccompanied and pick up a child.

Find more information in the district policy guide, found at www.mmsd.org/policy-guide.