

# VEA *Action Line*

Vancouver Education Association

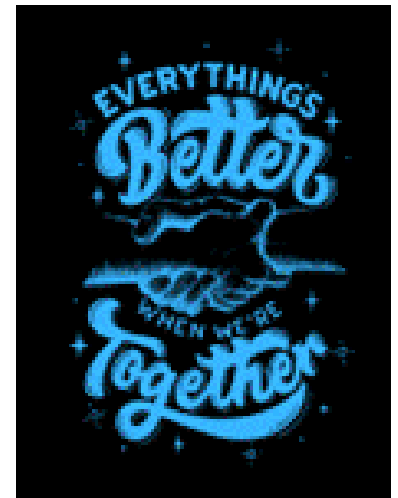
Welcome Back!

September 2022

## Welcome to the 2022-23 School Year!!

The excitement (and uncertainty) of a new beginning is here! Whether you are a first-year educator or a seasoned educator, there are a number of new things to navigate...ongoing health, safety, and instructional impacts of COVID-19, resources, deadlines, workload parameters, etc. The VEA is your professional organization, and we are here to help work through any small bumps or large obstacles that surface over the course of the 2022-23 school year and beyond. Our work is possible through the benefit of strength in numbers and a connection with fellow educators who share a belief in the promise of public education. **EVERYTHING'S BETTER WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER!**

Your VEA Executive Board has been hard at work developing goals and planning for this year's experience that will then be shared with Rep Council and solidified following their September meeting. Your VEA board members also welcomed over 70 new members into the VEA family at the new educator orientation in mid-August. We can accomplish great things **WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER** that one simply cannot do alone!



VEA is proud to start the 2022-23 year with a 7.5% increase in salary. Your VEA Bargaining Team is also continuing to advocate for you at the current bargaining table around Safety & Discipline and protecting educator-directed time. Even in a smaller interim bargain, the larger voice is integral to the work we do. In the Spring of 2023 we will bargain salary as well as additional non-monetary topics. Your input on bargaining priorities and participation is integral to the process. Watch for more information via the Bargaining Updates for how your voice can be amplified **WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER!**

Thank you again to Karina Rocha for providing the winning t-shirt design that the VEA Executive Board adopted for the overarching theme for this year. VEA is a member-driven organization. We want to support your growth and development as educators and union members while also supporting you with day-to-day issues that impact student learning and staff working conditions!



Please keep an eye out for ongoing opportunities to engage with VEA as the year progresses, communicated through this monthly newsletter and our more frequent VEA Updates, via emails or text alerts, on our website ([www.vancouverea.org](http://www.vancouverea.org)), and on Facebook (Vancouver Education Association).

Have an excellent school year and don't hesitate to reach out!

*Kari Van Nostran*

Vancouver EA President

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360-624-7245 (cell) or 360-695-3397 (office)

## *Student Focused Activities*

**10.8B Student body activities:** The Board and the Association agree that the certificated staff should share the responsibilities involved in student body activities. It is recognized that certificated employee participation in student body activities will be expected.

**Hours of student body service:** Early in each year a building administrator will identify for the building certificated faculty the student activities planned for the ensuing year and the number of adults that will be required to be in attendance to assure adequate supervision. Adults from the community should be recruited by the building administration by all reasonable methods to fill as many assignments as are prudent from that source. The preferences of teachers must be considered in making duty assignments. Individuals will sign up for up to three (3) events totaling no more than eight (8) hours. Individuals are welcome to truly volunteer for more hours of student body service. Jointly the VEA representative and building administrator will co-facilitate this process. A sample list of activities would include dances, carnivals, sporting events (non-paid), book fairs, VEA building representative/executive board.

**10.8C Parent nights:** Teachers are required to meet with parents at one (1) evening meeting each year to explain the curriculum program and/or the instructional procedures to be followed in class. (Note: The date of such meeting will be communicated to teachers not later than the first week of school.)

## **22-23 WEA Membership Cards**



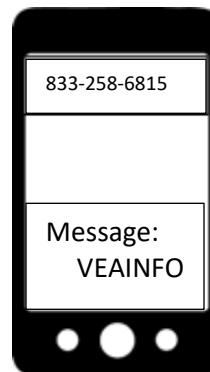
The 22-23 membership cards are appearing in home post boxes of continuing members. New members will receive your card with the next printing of cards in late September. Please let [Cindy](#) know if yours did not arrive.

## **Building Representative Leadership Training**

Thank you to the sites who have communicated your contingent of VEA representatives for 22-23. Each site or recognized constituent group is allocated one rep for every 15 members. This team of reps keeps you, the member, informed of important information!

Training opportunities for new reps are scheduled in early October. Reps will sign up at the September 12<sup>th</sup> Rep Council meeting. VEA will also offer an advanced rep training. This is a great opportunity to unleash your leadership potential and receive first-hand information. Contact VEA for more information!

## **Text VEAINFO to 833-258-6815**



TextMarks, the former texting platform used by VEA for member communications has been discontinued. WEA has assisted us in transferring all participants to the new MessageMedia format. A text message was dispatched August 25 at 8:54 am. If you did not receive the message, you are not yet enrolled.

Please text VEAINFO to 833-258-6815 to join! Messages will be kept to a minimum and include bargaining updates and time sensitive information for VEA members.



### **Adidas Pass Ends Soon**

VEA members and up to four guests have access to the Adidas Employee Store through Aug 27. Bring your work ID/paystub, Photo ID and [this letter](#).

## VEA National Board Cohort Sign up Now!



VEA is approved by OSPI to provide a cohort experience to association members pursuing their National Board Certification in 2022-23.

VEA is hosting an information session on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm via Zoom to provide an overview of the process and opportunity to answer questions you may have. Please [register](#) for this session to receive your personal access link. Clock Hours are provided.

Additional information on cohort meeting times, cost, and NBCT deadlines are available on the VEA website [www.vancouverea.org](http://www.vancouverea.org). The registration form (under the Documents tab) and survey monkey (under the News Flash section) are required for participation. Spaces are limited and will be filled by a first-paid basis.

Classes begin soon so don't delay in signing up!

## Know your class size!

*Comprehensive Agreement  
Articles 10.17 and 10.23*

The maximum contracted number of students you serve (ie class size or caseloads) is identified in this section regardless of whether instruction is provided in person or viturally. Overload compensation may apply if the daily student contact numbers are greater than those identified in 10.17 or 10.23.

**Elementary** individual classroom maximum and secondary student-teacher maximum daily contacts:

**Grades K-3** – Maximum of 24 students

**Grades 4-5** – Maximum of 27 students

Students placed in self-contained special education programs shall be figured in calculating the basic education class sizes at each grade level,

when one student spends more than 50% or if multiple students spend more than 25% of their day in a general education classroom to support meaningful participation and inclusion.

**Middle School and VSAA (subject to change pending ratification of TA):** The maximum number of student-teacher daily contacts is based on 28 times the number of classes a teacher is required to teach in his/her duty day, up to 168 students. This ratio is intended to result in maximum class sizes of 28:1 in a seven-period day and 29:1 in a six-period day. **Administrators will make every reasonable effort** not to assign more than one (1) instructional period per trimester in excess of thirty (30) students in a seven (7) period day, or thirty-one (31) students in a six (6) period day. A teacher shall be considered in overload if the total student-teacher count reaches more than one hundred sixty-eight (168) students in a seven (7) period day, or one hundred forty-five (145) students in a six (6) period day.

All classes, other than music (band and choral groups) and PE, that exceed these sizes will require review by the principals, VEA, and District administration.

**Special education students shall be figured in calculating the basic education class sizes when those students are receiving instruction from the basic education teacher.**

**Middle school and VSAA PE (subject to change pending ratification of TA):** - The maximum number of students per class is thirty-three (33) with a total aggregate of one hundred ninety-eight (198). When the aggregate exceeds one hundred ninety-eight (198), overload language shall be invoked. When regular PE classes exceed thirty-three (33) students, a safety review shall be conducted by the administrator with the teacher and a VEA building representative. Safety concerns that are not resolved in the review meeting shall be forwarded to the director of secondary education and the VEA executive director for further review and consultation. Class size and overload does not apply when a teacher requests a larger class size for a particular class.

**High School and iTech:** The maximum number of student-teacher daily contacts is based on thirty (30) times the number of classes a teacher is required to teach in their duty day up to one hundred fifty (150) students for high school or up to one hundred eighty (180) for iTech (90 students per day on an eight period block schedule). Administrators will make every reasonable effort not to assign more than one (1) instructional period per semester in excess of thirty-two (32) students. A teacher shall be considered in overload if the total student-teacher count reaches more than one hundred fifty (150) students for high school or more than one hundred eighty (180) for iTech (90 students per day on an eight period block schedule).

**HS and iTech PE/Career Choices:** Maximum number of students per class is 38 with a total aggregate of 190. When the aggregate exceeds 190, overload language will be invoked. When regular PE classes exceed 38 students, overload relief will be invoked and a safety review will be conducted by the administrator with the teacher and a VEA building rep. Safety concerns that are not resolved in the review meeting shall be forwarded to the director of secondary education and the VEA executive director for further review and consultation. Class size and overload do not apply when a teacher requests a larger class size for a particular class.

Any classes, other than music (band and choral groups) and physical education, that exceed this size shall require review by the principals, VEA, and District administration unless the higher class size is requested or approved by the teacher.

**HS and iTech Science** Classes over 31 students per period will receive a safety review. Safety concerns not resolved in the review meeting shall be forwarded to VEA and the director of secondary education.

#### **OTHER SPECIALTY CLASSES:**

**Combination Classes:** 10.22E Combination Class K/1, 1/2, 2/3 and 3/4 - Maximum of 22 students

Combination 4/5 – Maximum of 25 students

10.23A-G **Jim Tangeman Center:** One (1) teacher and two (2) paraeducators for up to ten (10) students.

**Structured Learning Centers:** One (1) teacher, two (2) paraeducators for up to twelve (12) students.

**Developmental/Transitional Skills:** One (1) teacher and two (2) paraeducators for up to ten (10) students

**Intensive Academic Centers (IAC):** One (1) teacher and two (2) paraeducators for up to twelve (12) elementary students and fifteen (15) secondary students

**Structured Communications Centers:** One (1) teacher and two (2) paraeducators for up to nine (9) students.

**Supported Communications Programs:** One (1) teacher and two (2) paraeducators for up to thirteen (13) students.

**GATE:** Up to sixteen (16) students per FTE teacher and two (2) paraeducators.

**Hard of hearing/deaf:** one (1) teacher for up to twenty (20) students

#### **Elementary Learning Support**

Students already being served by 1:1 paraeducator shall not be included for staffing paraeducators.

1. .5 teacher, 0 para hours for 1-8 students, substitute days equivalent pay per semester – 0.
2. 1 teacher, 0 para hours for 9-15 students, substitute days equivalent pay per semester – 0.
3. 1 teacher, 3 para hours for 16-25 students, substitute days equivalent pay per semester – 2
4. 1 teacher, 6 para hours for 26-32 students, substitute days equivalent pay per semester – 3.
5. When student class size reaches the thirty-three to forty-two (33-42) range, a meeting shall be held with the principal and learning support teacher to select class size relief.

10.23H and I **Early Childhood/Special Education provisions** \*NOTE: *Inclusion/Co-teaching LOA is in process.*

One (1) teacher and two (2) paraeducators for up to eleven (11) students per one-half (½) day session, for a total of up to twenty-one (21) students per caseload.

## CASELOAD

### ESA Section 10.23M-Q

**Nurse** ratio 1:1100 students per full-time FTE

**Psychologists** ratio 1:950 students per full-time FTE

**Counselor** ratio 1:300 students per full-time FTE. 504 caseloads exceeding 10% prompts a meeting to mitigate overload.

**PT** ratio 1:5,000 students per full-time FTE

**OT** : 46 students per full-time FTE (subject to overload)

**SLP**: 50 students (subject to overload)



### Checkpoint to review class size & Overload

10.18 Overload is calculated monthly (Oct-May). Cumulative overloads earned for each semester will be paid in February and June respectively.

10.19B Five working days after the opening of school, the building principal will meet with the Association faculty representatives and/or building staff to review and discuss the reorganization of the building to alleviate areas of overload to equalize workload among staff.

Overload provisions shall not be in effect during the first 15 student attendance days of the school year, and at the beginning of the semester. During the first 10 days and on the earliest day possible, the building administrator will initiate a meeting with the teacher in an overload situation and the building rep to resolve the overload.

## VEA Activities and New PD



We are looking forward to seeing members at our social events this year. Save the date for VEA night with the

Winterhawks on October 8<sup>th</sup> with a 6 PM start. Please watch for a QR code in an upcoming VEA Update to access discount tickets!

The VEA is also excited to bring new PD to members this fall with VEA member Erin Hanson facilitating an overview of Student Growth Goals on Oct 27, TPEP Artifacts on Nov 17, and a SGG Cohort Series launching on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

## VEA Leadership Meeting Calendar for 22-23

VEA's governance meetings are open to the membership, however only the delegation of representatives is allowed to vote. All meetings will be held via Zoom and begin at 5:00.

### Rep Council

September 12  
October 3 (joint meeting with VPS admin)  
November 7  
December 5  
January 9  
February 6  
March 6  
April 17  
May 1  
June 5

### Executive Board

August 9 Planning Retreat  
September 19  
October 24  
November 14  
December 12  
January 23  
February 27  
March 20  
April 24  
May 15  
June 12

## COVID-19 Updates for 22-23

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, so do the ways that we work to keep students and staff members safe at school. The 21-22 VEA-VPS MOU around COVID expired in June. VEA has issued a demand to bargain impacts around the continuing pandemic. VEA is also committed to regular meetings with Dr. Melnick (Clark County Public Health). Visit the [VEA website](#) for updated regulations and notices from the Department of Health, CDC, Clark County Public Health, EEOC, OSPI, and Labor and Industries

### VPS Health/Safety for 22-23

Following the latest guidance from public health officials, VPS health and safety practices will remain similar to the practices at the end of last school year.

**Masks and face coverings:** May be recommended during outbreaks, but in most cases they are optional. People may continue wearing masks or face coverings if they would like to do so. We will respect everyone's choice.

**Symptoms and testing:** Students and staff members who have symptoms are required to stay home, or will be sent home, and should get tested and/or see a health care provider.

Regardless of their vaccination status, any student or staff member who reports or has COVID-19-like symptoms at school or work is required to be isolated from others, sent home and tested as soon as possible.

While waiting to leave, the person with symptoms is required to be isolated and wear a face mask if they are 2 years of age or older and not exempted from wearing a mask.

[Students may be tested at school with consent](#), or families have the option to get free test kits at school and test at home. Testing will no longer be offered at the Jim Parsley Community Center.

**Return to school after a positive test:** Students and staff members who test positive for COVID-19 are required to stay at home for at least five days. Repeating initial tests does not change this requirement. People returning from isolation are recommended to wear a mask or face covering from days 6 to 10. They also are encouraged to test before returning to school. If the person continues to test positive after day 5, they must isolate for the full 10 days.

**Notification of cases:** An email notification will be sent to all VPS staff members and posted to a school's website generally within one business day of a case being reported to the COVID response team. Notifications will be sent when a staff member or student tests positive or is presumed positive for COVID-19 and the individual was in a VPS building or on a VPS bus 48 hours before they began showing symptoms. The [data dashboard showing all cases in the district](#) is updated weekly.

**Vaccination requirement:** Washington Gov. Jay Inslee continues to require all employees, volunteers and indoor contractors in educational settings to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have a medical or religious exemption.

COVID-19 vaccination is not required for student enrollment during the 2022-23 school year.

**Cleaning and ventilation:** The district will continue cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces. The district will continue to monitor and maintain HVAC systems to ensure systems are functioning as intended.

**Sports and after-school activities:** Should follow the same health and safety practices. Masking and testing may be recommended if there is an outbreak.

For more detailed information, please see the [District COVID plan](#).

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Page A. Todd, Executive Director \* Kari Van Nostran, President \* Cindy Brown, Admin. Assistant \* Sandy Kokko, WEA-Retired Liaison \* [www.vancouverea.org](http://www.vancouverea.org) \* Facebook: Vancouver Education Association

# Happy LABOR DAY

The Cowlitz ~ Wahkiakum Counties Central Labor Council  
And  
The Southwest Washington Central Labor Council  
Cordially invite you to bring your family out for the

## Labor Day Picnic of Southwest Washington!

An old-fashioned UNION Labor Day event for your Family and our Community!

**Day** ~ Monday September 5, 2022

**Time** ~ 11:00am – 3pm

**Location** ~ Haydu Park  
253 Kalama River Rd  
Kalama, WA 98625

*spin*  
events | catering

**Food Provided by our UNION Caterer!**

### Kids Games



### Local Politics



Designed and printed in House by UNION labor IAM W536-Myers

Tips for attending the Labor Day Picnic of SW Washington:

- 1) **Bring Shade.** There is a lot of space but not a lot of shade. Pop up tents are recommended. Don't forget your sunscreen. **CANNOT USE STAKES! Must use weights to hold down any tents. Strictly enforced!**
- 2) **Dress to have fun.** There are going to be games, music, and there is even a playground!
- 3) **Bring your own chairs, tables, blankets**
- 4) **No pets allowed.** Unfortunately no animals are allowed at the park