

May 8, 2023

Dear Grade 5 Craig & Hillside Families:

On behalf of our faculty and staff, welcome to Van Antwerp Middle School! We look forward to having you as part of our school community. There are a number of orientation activities planned between May and October to help students and families get to know our middle school program.

Our Annual **Grade 5 Parent Orientation** will be held on **Wednesday, May 31 at 6:30 p.m. in the Van Antwerp MS Auditorium.** This is an invitation to all incoming 6th grade parents to learn more about VA. The evening will present basic information about our grade 6 program, the orientation process and the middle years in general. There will also be opportunity for questions. This event is not intended for students or siblings.

We will be providing optional tours of Van Antwerp at **6:00 p.m.** with the evening's program beginning **at 6:30 p.m.** Please arrive by 6:00 p.m. if interested in a tour to allow touring families and teachers to be back to the auditorium by 6:30 p.m.

The orientation will also include an introduction to our Van Antwerp MS PTO. Our PTO does a great job of supporting student learning, events and activities. They are in need of officers and volunteers for the 23-24 school year. Volunteers are both necessary and appreciated. If interested or able, please contact Vanantwerpmspto@gmail.com.

We look forward to working with you in the coming years. Best wishes for a smooth transition to middle school. Please feel free to contact me at lrakoczy@niskyschools.org or 370-1243 if I can be of help.

Sincerely,

Luke Rakoczy
Principal- Van Antwerp MS

Van Antwerp Middle School

Grade 6 Orientation Activities

2023

The following is a list of activities aimed at helping our 2023-24 sixth graders and families get acclimated to middle school. We also maintain an [orientation page](#) where you can go to see information shared last year and upcoming orientation dates.

Tuesday, May 16 - Hillside Students Visit VA

Thursday, May 18- Craig/Hillside Friendship Games

Tuesday, May 23 - Craig Students Visit VA

Wednesday, May 24- Counselors Visit Students at Hillside

Friday, May 26- Counselors Visit Students at Craig

Wednesday, May 31- **Grade 5 Parent Orientation** ([Letter](#))

- Optional tour of VA at 6:00 p.m.
- Program begins at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 29 - 6th Grade Summer Orientation at VA**

Wednesday, September 6- **Classes Begin/First Day of School**

Wednesday, September 20- VA Back-To-School Night**

Friday, September 29 – Grade 6 Dance- 7 p.m.**

**Tentative and not finalized until the 23-24 district calendar is released.