



## Valor Collegiate Academies Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Valor Collegiate Academies?

Valor Collegiate Academies is a network of free college preparatory charter schools. Charter schools like Valor are public schools and as such are open to all students and are accountable to the same academic standards as other public schools. However, as a charter, Valor has the freedom to design and implement our own curriculum, staffing, organization structure, and budget.

### Who can attend Valor Collegiate?

All students who will be entering 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grade in 2018-19 school year can enter the Valor Collegiate lottery. Students are not required to take entrance exams. Applicants must be Davidson County residents. Sibling preference will be giving to siblings of current Valor students.

### What is the application and enrollment process?

Anyone living in Davidson County can apply online at [www.valorcollegiate.org/enroll](http://www.valorcollegiate.org/enroll) or apply in-person at the main offices of both campuses. All applicants will go through a lottery process administered through MNPS to determine who is admitted and who will be placed on the waitlist. Families who are admitted will be notified and invited to complete the registration process to enroll at Valor. If you have additional questions, call the school at **615-823-7982**.

### What's the application deadline? When do families find out the lottery results?

September 15, 2017	Fall Application Opens
January 19th 2018	Application Deadline
February 5th 2018	Acceptance and Wait-list letters mailed to families. Online results will be available.
February 19th 2018	Acceptance / Intent to Enroll Letters must be returned to Valor.

### What makes Valor different from other schools?

#### ★ High-Quality Academics

- Valor was the top rated school in Nashville on MNPS' Academic Performance Framework (out of 182 schools)
- Valor was the only middle school in Tennessee to be in the Top 1% for both Achievement and Growth in the 2014-15 school year.
- In 2014-15, Valor was the only MNPS middle school to achieve "5 out of 5" in Achievement and Growth in all TCAP subjects (2015 TCAP scores for Davidson County).

#### ★ World-Class Teachers

- Valor has worked hard to attract, develop, and retain one of the top teaching faculties in the country. Valor teachers see their job as being more than teachers; they come to Valor to help scholars achieve their potential in all aspects of their lives.

#### ★ Balanced Education

- Valor balances our focus on high academic achievement with an explicit focus on scholar well-being and believes that helping scholars become strong, well-rounded people who are great in relationships is equally as important as having them excel academically.
- In Valor's unique model there is significant time dedicated to developing scholar's **social/emotional skills** through the Valor mentoring program. Every member of the Valor community "works the Compass" and aspires to having a Big Heart, Sharp Mind, Noble Purpose, and Aligned Actions.

#### ★ Diverse Community

- We are committed to fostering a racially and socioeconomically diverse community of families, scholars and educators to help our students be equipped to thrive in a diverse world.
- We believe high quality academics are enhanced in a diverse community (understanding multiple perspectives is a hallmark of critical thinking).

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**What are Enrichment & Arts courses?**

Valor students are enrolled in enrichment courses that rotate depending on the day as a part of a student's regular weekly schedule. In the 2017-18 school year the enrichment courses currently offered are Drama, Art, Compass (social-emotional learning), and Physical Education.

**What is Valor's academic curriculum?**

Valor's rigorous curriculum is carefully planned backwards using the Tennessee state standards and our ambitious goals for scholars' success in high school and beyond. Though we use textbooks as one resource in planning for instruction, we do not provide them to scholars. Instead, we provide them with guided notes or other digital instructional materials carefully designed by our teachers or curriculum designers. This approach allows us to pull from the best of a variety of resources and to more carefully integrate core content and instruction with our social-emotional framework, the Compass.

**Will Valor offer bus transportation?**

Valor supports transportation through limited bus seats within our transportation zone for Voyager and Flagship students. This zone is limited due to the state law that puts a cap on the length of time students can be on a bus and cannot be expanded. A current list of bus stops can be found on <http://valorcollegiate.org/schools/families> under the Important Documents section. The availability of stops may change with demand. High school students will be offered free MTA bus passes. Given that we will only have a ninth grade, growing out one grade-level per year, we may provide limited bus transportation for scholars, which could be limited to our immediate school zone.

**Are meals provided?**

Valor students can apply for free and reduced meals. Valor follows Federal and State guidelines to determine meal costs for students. Students can choose to purchase meals at school or bring their lunch from home. Valor partners with Revolution Foods to provide a nutritious meal for scholars. Learn more about the types of meals by visiting <http://revolutionfoods.com/>.

**What are Valor's hours of operation and will Valor offer before or after school care?**

Middle school scholars are welcome to arrive at Valor at 7:30 AM each day for breakfast, and classes begin at 8:00 AM and dismissal is at 3:45 PM on Mondays - Thursdays, dismissal on Fridays is at 1:35pm. The high school schedule is still being finalized. It will most likely be staggered from the middle school start and end times for parking lot and bussing logistics.

Although Valor does not offer after-school care, we do partner with community organizations (Boys & Girls Club) and parent-driven clubs like Art, Music, STEM, there are after-school enrichment options for every day of the week. Most of these options are fee-based, and fees vary by club. You can find a list of current clubs offered at <http://valorcollegiate.org/schools/families>.

**What is the difference between Valor | Flagship Academy and Valor | Voyager Academy? Where are the two schools located?**

There is no substantial difference between Valor's Flagship and Voyager campuses. Both school models are identical and offer the same academic and social opportunities. Both schools are located in the Southeast area directly across from one another.

Flagship Academy is located at 4527 Nolensville Pike, Nashville, TN 37211.

Voyager Academy is located at 4531 Nolensville Pike, Nashville, TN 37211.

**What grades-levels will be served?**

Valor Collegiate started with 5th grade in 2014-15 school year, added a 6th grade in 2015-16 year, a 7th grade in 2016-17, a 8th grade in 2017-18 and will be adding a 9th grade in 2018-19. We will continue to add one grade per year through 12th grade. We will graduate our first senior class in 2022.

**How big will each grade be?**

Valor's 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be capped at 128 students, 6th grade at 128, 7th grade at 125, 8th grade at 120 - per school. Valor's 9th grade will be capped at 220.

**Will Valor offer extra-curricular activities or enrichment programs?**

We value athletics and fine arts and will offer a range of activities to fit students' interests. Currently, Valor offers recess and Physical Education during the school day, and afterschool clubs (Soccer, Lacrosse, Basketball, Chess, and more) that are run by Valor families and faculty. Valor offers competitive athletics program to students starting in 7th grade (Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer, Cross-country, Lacrosse). In addition, students will take fine arts classes like Art and Drama during the school days.

**Who makes up the Valor TEAM?**

Our Valor faculty bring a wide range of experience in education as well as degrees from a range of universities, including Harvard, Stanford, Georgetown, Vanderbilt, Tennessee State University, and Lipscomb. You can learn more about our faculty at [www.valorcollegiate.org](http://www.valorcollegiate.org).