

Volume 27  
Issue 3

November 2023



For the Parents, Students and Community of Venice High School

## Principal's Message

Dear Families,

Our 2023-2024 school year is moving along. During my visits to several classes, I have seen great learning and instruction. We are about to end our second nine-week grading period on December 21st. Please visit your parent portal for up-to-date information regarding your student's grades and attendance. For more information on how to use the parental portal, please visit <https://parentportal.sarasotacountyschools.net/>.

It was awesome to have our very own Mrs. Elizabeth Donofrio selected as a 2023 Ripple Effect Award winner by the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation and Sarasota County Schools.

We are proud of the amazing work she does every day in our school. I truly believe we have the best students and teachers in the county.

While our fall sports teams head into playoff games, our winter sports teams have started their respective seasons. Our sports teams are offering great athletic games and exciting

events for our students and community. I appreciate our community and parental representation at these events. Our kids love to see the fans and appreciate everyone's support.

VHS truly has something for everyone. Our fall concerts and our most recent play, *Our Town* were incredible. Coming up in December we have our Madrigal on Dec 2nd and 3rd. We have Winter concerts starting on December 5th, please check out our website under the announcements section for more performance dates in December. How about volunteering for Service Saturdays? We invite our entire community to join us on January 20th from 9-noon to help beautify our campus. Sign-up is required.

I hope everyone has a restful holiday season and a happy new year! We want every student to graduate on time, college and career-ready. Our mission is to create lifelong learners and engaged citizens. If your child needs extra support, please reach out to your student's teacher and/or your student's school counselor for extra help.

Best Regards,

Zoltan Kerestely  
*Principal*



## Venice High School Resources

**Student and Family Handbook**

**Code of  
Student Conduct**

[www.sarasotacountyschools.net/Page/2548](http://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/Page/2548)

**Equity Handbooks for Employees/Applicants & Students**

**Located on the district website under  
*Human Resources / Equity***

[www.sarasotacountyschools.net/Page/2613](http://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/Page/2613)

## Water Polo



Please join us on **Wednesday, December 6th at 5:30 pm in the VHS cafeteria** for an informational meeting on playing water polo in the spring season. The coaches, booster members, and players will be available to answer all your questions. We are looking forward to having the best season yet!

If you have any questions, please see Ms. Lacera in 4-156 or Ms. Schmucker in 4-230.

adriana.lacera@  
sarasotacountyschools.net  
eileen.schmucker@  
sarasotacountyschools.net



"Pathfinder"  
November 2023  
Published Five Times Per Year  
Venice High School  
1 Indian Avenue  
Venice, FL 34285  
Issue # 3

# GUIDANCE CORNER

Seniors are finishing their college applications and waiting for acceptance letters. Please make sure you are visiting the Rotary Futures College Resource Center to receive expert help on your college applications and scholarship applications. Please speak with your counselor or one of the counselors in Rotary Futures to help with post-secondary planning. We have information on STC, vocational schools, colleges, universities and the military.

If your student has not passed the FSA ELA or one of the EOC tests, we encourage you to see your counselor to find out about websites that offer test preparation. The fall FSA ELA scores should be available prior to the winter break. Students may use an acceptable ACT or SAT concordant score to meet graduation requirements. Please see your counselor if you have not passed the FSA ELA, yet.

VHS continues to be a testing site for the SAT. Students can register online or obtain a registration form in the guidance department. Students who are planning to attend a 4- year university will need either an ACT or SAT score for admission. Please see your guidance counselor if you need assistance with registering for a test.

Please know the SUS (State University System of Florida) does not count ALG 1A and ALG 1B as 2 separate math credits for university acceptance. The SUS will count this combination as 1 math credit.

Athletes---stay aware of your NCAA status. If you need assistance, please speak with your coach or guidance counselor. Please remember the approved course listing has changed, so make sure your courses comply with the requirements of NCAA. Liberal Arts Math does not count as a NCAA math and ALG 1A and ALG 1B are only .5 credits with NCAA.

Students who will be taking DE classes need to see their guidance counselor asap in order to make sure they have all the necessary paperwork and test scores in place for their spring courses. The final deadline for enrolling in spring classes at SCF is December 1, 2023. Remember some History and Science classes at SCF only count as .5 high school credit.

The graduating class of 2024 will need to make sure they have met the 26 credit requirement and have passed the FSA ELA, passed the Algebra 1 EOC and have taken the Geometry, Biology, and US History EOC. The 2023 graduates will also need to have an online course and at least a 2.0 gpa.

Nicole Wolfe- A-CI

Nancy Hopper-Co-G

Mike Bartlett-H-Le

Brenda Bartlett- Li-O

Mia Slaton- P-Sk

Lori Barton-SI-Z



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## SARASOTA COUNTY SCHOOLS 2023-2024 DISTRICT ACADEMIC CALENDAR

1960 Landings Blvd. Sarasota, FL 34231 Phone (941) 927-9000

### JULY 2023

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

3rd - 7th - 240 Staff Non-Work Days  
18th - 220 Staff Return

### AUGUST 2023

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

3rd - 196 Staff Return  
10th - First Day for Students, 186 Staff

### SEPTEMBER 2023

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

4th - Labor Day - Students, All Staff

### OCTOBER 2023

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

12th - End of 1st Grading Period  
16th - Professional Day - Students, 186 Staff

### NOVEMBER 2023

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

20th - 24th - Thanksgiving Break -  
Students, 186, 196, 220 Staff  
23rd - 24th - Thanksgiving Break - 240 Staff

### DECEMBER 2023

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

21st - End of 2nd Grading Period  
22nd - Professional Day - Students, 186 Staff  
25th - 29th - Winter Break - Students, All Staff

### JANUARY 2024

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

1st - 5th - Winter Break - Students, All Staff  
15th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Students, All Staff

### FEBRUARY 2024

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	

19th - Presidents Day - Students, All Staff

### MARCH 2024

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

7th - End of 3rd Grading Period  
8th - Professional Day - Students, 186 Staff  
11th - 15th - Spring Break - Students, All Staff  
29th - Mini Break - Students, 186, 196, 220 Staff

### APRIL 2024

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

### MAY 2024

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

24th - Last Day for Students, 186 Staff  
27th - Memorial Day - All Staff  
29th - Last Day for 196 Staff

### JUNE 2024

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

14th - Last Day for 220 Staff

\*Orange highlighted days will be used as inclement weather makeup days if needed.

# 2024



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION Requirements to Attend Prom and/or Grad Bash

### Prom Dance (April 20th) and Grad Bash (April 12th)

- No more than **9 unexcused absences**
- No Out of School Suspensions
- No Serious discipline referrals (VAPE/Tobacco, Alcohol, Drug-related, Bullying, Fighting, Harassment, Battery....)
- No Second Chance Behavior Contracts
- Minimum 2.0 unweighted GPA at time of purchase



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**OPERATING HOURS:**

Closed Mondays and most school holidays  
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**NOVEMBER 2023:**

**PATHFINDER** from Caitlin Joyner, *Director of Rotary Futures*

Like our pages on Facebook and Instagram for more updates!

**Mark Your Calendars for the following upcoming meetings:****FINANCIAL AID INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

Rotary Futures will host a FAFSA and Financial Aid Informational Meeting on Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 6:00pm in the TEL Lab (4-262). We will discuss the new FAFSA and its upcoming changes (we hope that the FAFSA will officially release in December...date TBA!)

**FAFSA HELP NIGHT WORKSHOP**

We will host a FAFSA Help Night on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 from 6pm until 8pm in the Media Center. Parents and students, please create an FSA ID before coming to the workshop. Students cannot complete the FAFSA and create the FSA ID on the same night!

- Parents and Students may create their FSA ID using the following website: <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/personal-info>
- Parents and Students need to create separate FSA IDs to complete the FAFSA.

**SENIOR CLASS OF 2024 MEETING**

A Senior Class Student and parent informational meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 6:00pm in the VPAC.

The meeting will cover spring senior activities, the next steps for college/community college/technical school, scholarships (including Bright Futures), graduation requirements, commencement, and Project Graduation.

**JUNIOR CLASS OF 2024 MEETING**

A Junior Class student and parent informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 6:00pm in the VPAC.

We will provide valuable information to prepare students for their Senior year. Topics will include upcoming Senior activities, Senior schedules, SAT and ACT information, college visits, college and technical school admission process, the Bright Futures scholarship program, and more!

**COLLEGE FAIR AT VENICE HIGH**

On Monday, March 4, 2024, Rotary Futures and Gulf Coast Community Foundation will sponsor the 22ND annual South Sarasota County College Night at Venice High School.

The tentative plan is as follows (but check our website at [rotaryfutures.org](http://rotaryfutures.org) for any updates or changes):

5:30 – 6:30 pm “Big 5” Presentation in the VHS Gym: Hear from admissions representatives from the Univ. of Florida, Florida State, Univ. of Central Florida, Univ. of South Florida, and Florida Southern College (for a private college).

6:00 – 7:30 pm: Approximately 70+ schools will be in attendance from Florida and around the country.

Our college fair is free and open to anyone in the area. Our College Night is MUCH LESS crowded than the county college fair held at Robarts Arena. Last year, 750 students and parents attended! Don’t miss the opportunity visit with college representatives here on our own campus.

**CLASS of 2024 BRIGHT FUTURES & STATE AID INFORMATION**

ANY SENIOR who wants to be considered for one of the many State of Florida grants INCLUDING the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, MUST complete the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) prior to graduation (not to be confused with the Federal Aid Application—FAFSA).

ONLY SENIORS MAY COMPLETE THE APPLICATION, which opened in October of senior year.

You do NOT need to have met the requirements for Bright Futures to apply! Seniors, APPLY NOW!

Seniors have until July after graduation to get a qualifying SAT, ACT, or CLT score. They must send their test score to at least one Florida public university in order for Bright Futures to receive the test results.

Rotary Futures will be visiting seniors in their Gov and Econ classes to complete the quick Bright Futures application; the application is simple and only takes 10 minutes to complete (no financial questions). Once your application is submitted, corrections can be VERY difficult, and you may have to make the corrections directly with the State of Florida – Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA.)

To complete the ONLINE application at home:

1. Go to [FloridaStudentFinancialAidSG.org](http://FloridaStudentFinancialAidSG.org)
2. Under First Time Applicants, click on “Create Student Account.”
3. After creating the account and submitting, click on the link to complete the FFAA (Florida Financial Aid Application.) This step is VERY important.
4. Students should receive 2 emails from OSFA within the next 2-3 days. The first email will indicate the Student Account was created. The second email will indicate the application was submitted.
5. Follow the steps in the email to access the account and reset the password.

For more information on the recent changes to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, go to their website: [www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/)

*continued on the next page*

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## Rotaryfutures.org

...continued from the previous page

### SENIORS—START YOUR SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH NOW!

The Rotary Futures College Resource Center offers a scholarship database that houses approximately 250 scholarships—local, state, national and institutional. Seniors should be accessing this scholarship program NOW! Most scholarships have February and March deadlines, and these deadlines will pass quickly after the first of the year.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE/EMPLOYMENT HOUR TRACKING

Please remember that Mrs. Michele Tippman (michele.tippman@sarasotacountyschools.net) is Venice High's community service coordinator. There are new rules for employment hours counting towards Bright Futures. Please send her an email or have students visit her office (she is located in 4-241) with any questions.

Complete instructions are available on the VHS website > School Resources > Community Service Hours Info.

### REMAINING 2023-2024 SAT AND ACT DATES

SAT: Register at [www.CollegeBoard.org](http://www.CollegeBoard.org)

- December 2, 2023
- March 9, 2024 (SAT will be a digital exam from this point forward)
- May 4, 2024
- June 1, 2024

ACT: Register at [www.ACT.org](http://www.ACT.org)

- December 9, 2023
- February 10, 2024
- April 13, 2024
- June 8, 2024
- July 13, 2024

Check websites for up-to-date information. SAT and ACT writing/essay is Optional. NO Florida college or university requires the optional writing/essay, nor does the Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

\*\*\*Waivers for test fees are available for juniors and seniors who receive Free or Reduced Lunch. Go to Rotary Futures to get the waivers.

**JUNIORS—DO NOT WAIT** until your senior year to take your first test! Take one SAT and one ACT before the end of your junior year. We suggest you take both the SAT and ACT once you have completed Algebra 2 (or are about to complete Algebra 2). Some students do much better on one test than the other, so take both to see on which you do the best. You may take each test multiple times, too! All Florida public universities and most colleges and schools will accept EITHER test, and they will superscore using the best combination of scores from all tests taken.



### SPREAD SOME KINDNESS

It's that time of year to spread KINDNESS! Would you like to put a smile on a child's face and help make their Holiday dream become a reality? We are looking for donations in the form of gift cards. Please feel free to drop off a gift card at the Venice High School Attendance Office or 1st Floor Admin Suite. Together we can make sure no student goes without during the holidays! Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

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## 2023-24 - Important Testing Dates/Windows as of 10-31-23

When?	What?	Who?
Nov 7 – 8	PERT – Post Secondary Ed Readiness	Students interested in Dual Enrollment
Nov 13 – 17	Benchmarks – Alg 1, Geo, Bio, US Hist	All students enrolled in these classes
Nov 29 – 30	FCLE – Florida Civics Literacy Exam	All students enrolled in Gov
Dec 4 – 15	Winter FAST/BEST Retakes and EOC's	Seniors/Juniors for Grad & Others for Credit
Dec 18 – 21	LEOC's and Mid-Term Exams	Gov/Econ and other classes as scheduled
Jan 8 – 26	FAST Progress Monitoring – PM2	All 9th and 10th Graders
Feb 19 – March 7	FSA ELA and FSA Alg 1 Retakes	Seniors as needed for Graduation
*Feb 27	ACT State Testing	All Juniors in 2025 cohort
Feb 29 – March 7	Benchmarks – Alg 1, Geo, Bio, US Hist	All students enrolled in these classes
March 26	ACT NCR (Non College Reportable)	Seniors as needed for Graduation
Apr 1 – 12	BEST Writing	All 9th and 10th Graders
Apr 15 – 26	FCLE – Florida Civics Literacy Exam	All students enrolled in Gov
May 1 – 17	FAST, BEST, and EOC Assessments	All students enrolled in associated courses
*May 21 – 24	Final Exams	9th – 11th Graders as scheduled

\*A Modified Bell will be necessary for this Assessment



VENICE HIGH SCHOOL

# SPIN

STUDENT  
PARENT  
INFORMATION  
NIGHT

THURS., FEB. 8TH  
5:00-5:45 PRESENTATION IN VPAC  
5:45-6:30 CAMPUS TOURS  
FOR INCOMING STUDENTS FOR FALL OF 2024

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VHS Class of 2028 SPIN (Student and Parent Information Night)





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## VHS Performing Arts

Please join us for our VHS Performing Arts Events!

Date	Time	Event	Location	Cost	Description
12/2/23	2:00pm	VHS Chorus Madrigal Dinner	VHS Cafeteria and VPAC	\$30.00	A three course meal, Renaissance skits, songs, and a concert in the VPAC. Purchase tickets at <a href="http://www.vhschorus.org">www.vhschorus.org</a> . Warning - this event causes repeat attendance and a new holiday tradition!
12/2/23	7:00pm	VHS Chorus Madrigal Dinner	VHS Cafeteria and VPAC	\$30.00	A three course meal, Renaissance skits, songs, and a concert in the VPAC. Purchase tickets at <a href="http://www.vhschorus.org">www.vhschorus.org</a> . Warning - this event causes repeat attendance and a new holiday tradition!
12/3/23	5:00pm	VHS Chorus Madrigal Dinner	VHS Cafeteria and VPAC	\$30.00	A three course meal, Renaissance skits, songs, and a concert in the VPAC. Purchase tickets at <a href="http://www.vhschorus.org">www.vhschorus.org</a> . Warning - this event causes repeat attendance and a new holiday tradition!
12/5/23	6:00pm	VHS Orchestra Winter Concert	VPAC	\$0.00	Winter Orchestra Concert featuring all orchestra ensembles.
12/11/23	7:00pm	VHS Jazz/JV Band Winter Concert	VPAC	\$0.00	Jazz 1, 2 and JV Bands
12/12/23	7:00pm	VHS Bands Winter Concert	VPAC	\$0.00	Concert, Symphonic, Wind Ensemble
12/14/23	6:00pm	VHS Winter Prism Concert	VPAC	\$0.00	All performing arts students participate in a winter extravaganza!

## Interact Club News

Written By: Secretary - Miranda Miller

Interact has continued to make positive impacts to those around us and make a difference in our Venice community. We have conducted several fundraisers such as our Bogey's Carwash event and Pura Vida bracelet sales to help us raise donations. We will also be holding auditions in December and January, for our annual Follies Talent show that will be held in March. Be on the lookout on campus for those audition dates! Both our fundraising donations and Follies donations will help contribute to senior scholarships amongst our club, helping children in Third World Countries with our Rotary International Project: Sharing Smiles. The additional fundraising will also help boost our fundraising goal for Relay for Life, an honorary cancer walk. Additionally, to give back to Venice High School, we participated in the Service Saturday on November 11th to clean up campus.

Later in the second quarter, we are looking forward to the upcoming service plans in our agenda! We will be volunteering at "The Twiggs" annual Turkey Trot, it's one of our favorite organizations to volunteer with and such a fun event! We will be Bell Ringing at the Wellen Park and Nokomis Villages Publix in November and December to raise money for the Salvation Army and their organization's initiatives. Make sure to say "Hi!" if you see us out there with the bells! We will be participating in the Venice Christmas Parade with The Venice Nokomis Rotary Club on November 25th to represent our club and show some holiday spirit.

On November 9th, 2023, we had our annual Rotary Dinner. During this dinner we have a chance to get to know the Venice Nokomis Rotarians and they get to know us as well. Our theme was Italian Dinner, and it was held at the Parish Hall at Epiphany for the third year.

We hope to see you around during the holiday season at our many events. If you'd like our help in your local event please reach out to our club sponsor – Mrs. Cyndi Ray – [cynthia.ray2@sarasotacountyschools.net](mailto:cynthia.ray2@sarasotacountyschools.net)



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## VHS BELL SCHEDULE 2023-2024 Mon-Thurs

1st Lunch Schedule				2nd Lunch Schedule				3rd Lunch Schedule			
Period	Start	End	Minutes	Period	Start	End	Minutes	Period	Start	End	Minutes
Moment of Silence 7:30-7:31am											
1	7:31 AM	8:21 AM	0:50	1	7:31 AM	8:21 AM	0:50	1	7:31 AM	8:21 AM	0:50
2	8:26 AM	9:15 AM	0:49	2	8:26 AM	9:15 AM	0:49	2	8:26 AM	9:15 AM	0:49
3	9:20 AM	10:09 AM	0:49	3	9:20 AM	10:09 AM	0:49	3	9:20 AM	10:09 AM	0:49
<b>4th lunch</b>	<b>10:09 AM</b>	<b>10:39 AM</b>	0:30	4	10:14 AM	11:03 AM	0:49	4	10:14 AM	11:03 AM	0:49
5	10:44 AM	11:33 AM	0:49	<b>5th lunch</b>	<b>11:03 AM</b>	<b>11:33 AM</b>	0:30	5	11:08 AM	11:57 AM	0:49
6	11:38 AM	12:27 PM	0:49	6	11:38 AM	12:27 PM	0:49	<b>6th lunch</b>	<b>11:57 AM</b>	<b>12:27 PM</b>	0:30
7	12:32 PM	1:21 PM	0:49	7	12:32 PM	1:21 PM	0:49	7	12:32 PM	1:21 PM	0:49
8	1:26 PM	2:15 PM	0:49	8	1:26 PM	2:15 PM	0:49	8	1:26 PM	2:15 PM	0:49

## Friday's Announcement VHS BELL SCHEDULE 2023-2024

1st Lunch Schedule				2nd Lunch Schedule				3rd Lunch Schedule			
Period	Start	End	Minutes	Period	Start	End	Minutes	Period	Start	End	Minutes
Moment of Silence 7:30-7:31am											
1	7:31 AM	8:30 AM	:59	1	7:31 AM	8:30 AM	:59	1	7:31 AM	8:30 AM	:59
2	8:35 AM	9:23 AM	0:48	2	8:35 AM	9:23 AM	0:48	2	8:35 AM	9:23 AM	0:48
3	9:28 AM	10:16 AM	0:48	3	9:28 AM	10:16 AM	0:48	3	9:28 AM	10:16 AM	0:48
<b>4th lunch</b>	<b>10:16 AM</b>	<b>10:46 AM</b>	0:30	4	10:21 AM	11:08 AM	0:47	4	10:21 AM	11:08 AM	0:47
5	10:51 AM	11:38 AM	0:47	<b>5th lunch</b>	<b>11:08 AM</b>	<b>11:38 AM</b>	0:30	5	11:13 AM	12:01 PM	0:48
6	11:43 AM	12:31 PM	0:48	6	11:43 AM	12:31 PM	0:48	<b>6th lunch</b>	<b>12:01 PM</b>	<b>12:31 PM</b>	0:30
7	12:36 PM	1:23 PM	0:47	7	12:36 PM	1:23 PM	0:47	7	12:36 PM	1:23 PM	0:47
8	1:28 PM	2:15 PM	0:47	8	1:28 PM	2:15 PM	0:47	8	1:28 PM	2:15 PM	0:47



## Dress Code Guide

2023-24

Individual schools are expected to use the District dress code guidelines as minimum standards and are encouraged to extend their own standards to meet the uniqueness of their school community. Minimum standard of dress code is expected. The principal's decision or principal designees on the appropriateness of dress will be final. Please check with your school for all additional dress code guidelines.

## SKIRTS, DRESSES &amp; SHORTS



Must be worn above the hips. Rips are allowed below mid-thigh.



No excessively short skirts, shorts, or dresses that at anytime expose underwear or body parts in an indecent or vulgar manner.

## SHIRTS &amp; TOPS



Straps must be minimum of 1 inch.

No low-cut tops.

No see-through clothing.

Gap below armpit must not be larger than 3 inches.

Clothing must cover the mid-riff when standing naturally.



## JEANS, PANTS, LEGGINGS &amp; EXPOSED UNDERGARMENTS



No exposed undergarments. No pajamas or slippers.

Rips are allowed below mid-thigh.



Students are not to wear items or markings which are offensive, suggestive, indecent, or associated with gangs; as identified by the Florida Gang Intent Act of 1990 or as outlined or provided by Chapter 874, Florida Statutes. Students are also not to wear items that encourage the use of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, violence, weapons, or support discrimination.

The Sarasota County School District has established procedural guidelines for student dress, in accordance with School Board Policy 5.37.

Individual schools are expected to use the District dress code guidelines as minimum standards and are encouraged to extend their own standards to meet the uniqueness of their school community. Schools are encouraged to obtain input from school stakeholders, including School Advisory Councils, parents, staff, and students as they establish a school dress code policy.

The principal's decision on the appropriateness of dress will be final. Refusal to comply with the school's dress code policy is an infraction under this code.

Students have a RIGHT to:

- Wear appropriate clothes or the school uniform, as long as those clothes or the way the clothes are worn are appropriate for the school setting, adhere to the school dress code, are not dangerous to health or safety, and do not disrupt the learning environment.
- Learn without a disruption to the school or classroom environment.

Students have a RESPONSIBILITY to: Comply

- with the school dress code.
- Wear their current/valid student ID (visible at all times).
- Be respectful of their peers at all times regardless of what they are wearing.
- Come to school fully clothed and wear clothes which are not dangerous to health or safety, do not disrupt the learning process, and stay within the school dress code.
- Dress in a way not offensive to others at school or at school-sponsored events, including, but not limited to:
  - At all times, no:
    - exposed undergarments
    - jeans, shorts, skirts, dresses or pants worn below the hips
    - jeans, shorts, skirts, dresses or pants with rips above the mid-thigh
    - excessively short skirts, shorts, or dresses that at anytime expose underwear or body parts in an indecent or vulgar manner
    - pajamas or slippers
    - excessively low-cut tops
    - see-through clothing (includes mesh material mid-thigh and above) clothing of an ethnic or racially offensive nature
  - Clothing must cover the mid-riff when standing naturally
  - Sleeveless shirts must have straps with a minimum width of one inch (about two fingers) and the gap below the armpit cannot be excessive of three inches (about four fingers)
  - Not wear items or markings which are offensive, suggestive, indecent, or associated with gangs; as identified by the Florida Gang Intent Act of 1990.
  - Not wear items which encourage the use of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, violence, weapons, or support discrimination on account of race, color, religion, ethnic or national origin, age, disability, veteran or military status, marital status, pregnancy, sex, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic protected by federal or state law or School Board policy.



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## Seniors: Dates to Remember

Mrs. Nicole Wolfe, *Senior Activities Director*  
Nicole.Wolfe@SarasotaCountySchools.net



Vhs.Senior

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### Cap & Gown Package Payment. . . . . Deadline December 21st

- Cost is \$60 until December 21st
- www.Jostens.com
- Package includes cap, gown, diploma cover and tassel.
- Late fees apply after December 22nd

### Grad Bash 2024. . . . . Trip date April 12th

- Friday, April 12th Depart VHS at 2:30pm. Event 7pm-2am. Return to VHS by 4:30am
- Ticket includes admission to Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure and transportation.
- Permission slip packet available January 16th. Tickets on sale week of January 22nd ONLY.
- Cost is \$165

### Senior Prom. . . . . April 20th

- Saturday, April 20th at the Hyatt Sarasota
- Cost is \$90 includes appetizers, photo booth, dinner, dessert, games, and dancing.
- Invited guests from outside of Venice High School must complete a guest approval form.
- Venice High students in grades 9-11 may attend if invited by a senior.
- Each senior may purchase one guest ticket.

### MANDATORY Senior Class Meeting. . . . . May 3rd

- All textbooks must be returned and any outstanding fines paid prior to the meeting.
- Seniors will receive a "Ticket Out" on Monday, April 29th. The ticket must be completed and returned to the meeting on May 3rd to pick up cap/gown. The ticket includes the final transcript request.
- Cap/gown distribution
- Graduation information

### Senior Awards . . . . . May 14th

- Presented by Rotary Futures.

### Commencement

### Ceremony. . . . . May 16, 17th

- Mandatory Rehearsal – May 16th 3:30pm  
**MANDATORY** – Check in at the new gym
- Friday, May 17th at 8pm Graduation in Powell-Davis Stadium (VHS football field).
- Gates open at 7pm.
- No coolers, airhorns or noise makers.
- Graduates must arrive at 7pm and check in with school counselor in the new gym.
- Dress code for graduating seniors is business. No jeans
- This is NOT a ticketed event. All are welcome
- **Graduates will be seated in alphabetical order on the field for graduation with the exception of Graduation speakers.**





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For full schedule of events please see  
[www.FoxLeaFarm.com](http://www.FoxLeaFarm.com) and like us on Facebook!

## School Links

Dear Families,

We are very excited to introduce your district's college and career readiness platform, SchoolLinks! All of the SchoolLinks features are designed with students in mind to help them become career, college, and life ready. As a guardian, you will have the opportunity to join your student in their career and college exploration process and have conversations with them about their future. You will have access to SchoolLinks through your own account. SchoolLinks is a tool that gives you access to the bigger picture of your students' future.

SchoolLinks allows **you** to:

- View the results of your student's career interest, strength, and mindset assessments to learn more about their interests and what careers might be right for them
- See what colleges and careers your student has favorited and set as goals
- Check your personalized dashboard for upcoming events as well as important reminders and to-dos for your student
- Complete your own research on colleges, careers, and more to help you have informed conversations with your student
- Compare college costs and explore expected financial aid, scholarships, and out of pocket expenses



SchoolLinks

SchoolLinks allows **students** to:



**Learn About Themselves**

- Take career interest inventory
- Learn their personality type and explore careers based on that personality type
- Set an initial career goal & major/training goal(s)



**Explore Careers**

- Career Center allows students to explore careers and career clusters
- Filter careers by industry market, degree, needed, military careers, and more
- Explore job openings and popular jobs by state



**Find the Right College**

- Explore colleges and universities and their diverse programming
- Take virtual tours of campuses
- Favorite colleges and majors
- Build a Final List of schools to plan the application process



**Find Scholarships**

- View scholarships from public sources (local and national)
- Create a Match Profile based on eligibility, interests, and colleges
- Sort scholarships based on "Best Match"
- Direct links to scholarship apps



**Financial Literacy**

- Begin to consider financial future by choosing paths and lifestyle expenses in the Game of Life
- Learn how future choices relation to education, debt, and career choice will impact long- term financial situations



**College Options**

- Organize and track college applications
- Understand individual college app requirements
- Request all app materials electronically
- Report application results
- Indicate enrollment plans

Be on the lookout for more updates.  
Any questions? Contact Michele.  
[Tippman@sarasotacountyschools.net](mailto:Tippman@sarasotacountyschools.net)

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## Guardian: How to Create an Account and Claim a Student

### Students must "invite" their guardian to create an account in SchoolLinks

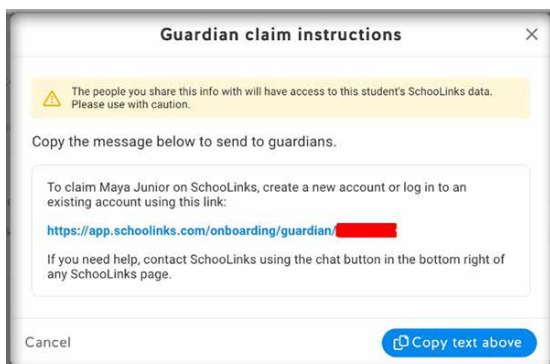
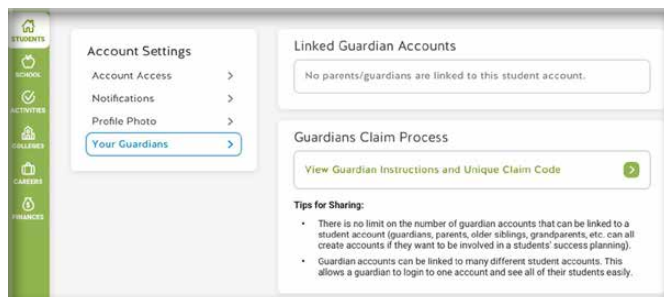
To create a guardian account (or to claim additional students), you must have a claim code. Your student will need to provide you with their unique claim code (instructions below) for you to create and link your account.

### Inviting your guardian to create an account in SchoolLinks:

When logged into your student account (MySCS → SchoolLinks tile), click the **Gear icon** in the top right-hand corner, then click **Account Settings**.

From here you will see and click on the section called **Your Guardians** pictured below:

Click on the **View Guardian Instructions and Unique Claim Code**, this will show a window like the one below, with instructions to send to your guardian. Copy the information and share it with the guardian who you're trying to add to SchoolLinks. See the example below:



Your guardian simply needs to enter the link into their browser and they'll be taken to a page where they can claim you as their student.

As an alternative option, at the end of the link, there's a code. Your guardian could go to [app.schoollinks.com/claim-student](https://app.schoollinks.com/onboarding/guardian/claim-student) and follow the onscreen steps to enter the code there.



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**INSIDE THIS ISSUE...**

- >> **Senior Dates to Remember**
- >> **Water Polo News**
- >> **School Calendar**
- >> **Spread Some Kindness**
- >> **& more!**