

VB Smoke Signals

APRIL
2023

ISSUE 1
VOLUME 18

Vero Beach High School

1707 16th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960
Main: 564-5600
Attendance: 564-5555

ADMINISTRATION

Principal
Shawn O'Keefe

Vice Principal
Rahshard Morgan

Assistant Principals
Greg Ahrens
Vanessa Gonzalez
Joy Griffin
Denny Hart
Juliette Thelusma
Meghan Teachout

www.vbhs.org

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'Smoke Signals'
Published Five Times Per Year
Apr, Jul, Sep, Dec, Feb 2023-24
School District of
Indian River County
1990 25th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960
Issue #1

A Message From The Chief

Dear Parents and Friends,

The end of our school year is just around the corner, and we are preparing numerous events to commemorate the hard work our students have put forth this school year, including graduation for our "Class of 2023" Seniors. Mid-Spring also means "testing season," and our students will be hard at work with numerous assessments including FAST (replaced FSA/ELA), Algebra, Geometry, Us History, and Biology EOC's (End of Course Exams) all throughout April and May. We cannot stress enough how important these tests are for a student's outcome and standing in high school. EOC's in Algebra, Geometry, Biology, and US History count for 30% of a student's final grade for the course, and students must pass one of the math EOC's and the FSA/FAST to receive a high school diploma. All accountability measures for high school graduation are in place. You can find our full testing calendar on our school website along with newly published information on the FAST (adaptive test). Our spring sports teams are producing great competitive results, including a couple of possible runs for state titles, and our performing arts programs have been extremely busy with Solo/Ensemble, MPA's, and State level competitions.

The months of April and May will mark both an end and new beginnings for our Graduating Class of 2023. They will gather in celebration for Prom on Saturday April 22nd at the IG Center from 8-11PM. In order to attend Prom students must have 90% attendance by class periods, no more than 5 days of suspension for the SY, and all obligations cleared. VBHS Graduation Commencement Exercises 2023 will be on the morning of Saturday, May 20th at 8AM in the Citrus Bowl with gates opening at 6:30AM. There is no number limit for attendees and seating is general admission. Seniors are to report at 6:30AM to the FLC gymnasium that morning. Seniors only; last day of school is Friday May 12th with the week of May 15th reserved for Senior "catch-up" and graduation practices. They must return to attend their graduation practices on Tuesday May 16, Wednesday May 17, and Thursday May 18 from 8-9:30AM. Reporting to the FLC gym. The last day of school for all other students is Wednesday May 31st.

As always, it will be an extremely busy end to the school year 2022-23 as we celebrate and reflect on all the accomplishments our students have made in their academic careers thus far. Also, "Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week" for our district is the week of May 1st. I thank our teachers and staff for their continuous efforts and providing outstanding educational opportunities here at VBHS. THANK YOU! To our "graduating" parents, we especially thank you for your support over the past four years, and we certainly hope you will always feel at home here in the years to come.

For the VBHS Family,

Shawn O'Keefe
Principal



Shawn O'Keefe



Attendance Matters!

Chronic unexcused absences will negatively affect a student's progress in high school, keep them from eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities, suspend privileges, and in fact the State of Florida may suspend their driver's license. In addition to all this, there is a new district wide attendance policy for secondary students (grades 6-12) who are "habitually truant" which is defined as; "10 unexcused absences in any one core course per semester". According to policy; for habitually truant students, the school attendance committee will meet at the end of each semester and may withhold credits for students who are habitually truant. Students are regularly reminded of this policy at school and encouraged to attend their classes, so that they do not lose credits towards graduation due to habitual truancy.

90% Attendance, Tardy Policies, and Procedures

VBHS has a 90% Attendance Policy, which means students must attend 90% of their classes in order to participate in sports, extracurricular activities, clubs and/or privileges (parking, dances, Grad Bash, Prom, etc.). Students may participate in practices, rehearsals, etc. but may not participate, compete, or perform in athletic games, performances, and extracurricular events until they are in compliance with the 90% Attendance Policy.

Please note that for a tardy to be excused, a parent/guardian must physically sign the student in at the attendance desk or the student needs to provide a medical or court note for the time missed. NO phone calls to excuse a tardy. If a student has been called out of class by attendance to be able to leave campus, the student must sign out at the attendance desk and receive a pass to leave campus for the absence to be excused. To have a student called to leave campus, you must be on the contact list in Focus. There is also no early release for students after 1:22pm.

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Important Upcoming SAT/ACT Testing Dates

SAT: www.collegeboard.org

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Late Registration (Late Fee), Changes, and Regular Cancellation	Expected Score Release
May 6, 2023	April 7, 2023	April 25, 2023	May 19, 2023
June 3, 2023	May 4, 2023	May 23, 2023	June 16, 2023

The SAT test does require the student to sign up on their own, pay the testing fee, and have a printed test ticket along with a valid photo id to enter the testing location on Saturday.

ACT: www.act.org

Test Date*	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline (Late Fee)	Expected Score Release
April 15, 2023	March 10, 2023	March 24, 2023	April 25, 2023
June 10, 2023	May 5, 2023	May 19, 2023	June 20, 2023
July 15, 2023*	June 16, 2023	June 23, 2023	July 25, 2023

The ACT test does require the student to sign up on their own, pay the testing fee, and have a printed test ticket along with a valid photo id to enter the testing location on Saturday.



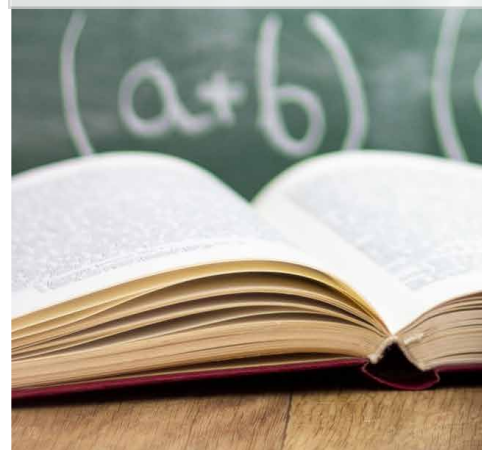
**Vero
Beach
High
School**



**2022
2023**

School Calendar

4/22Prom at the IG Center
5/20Graduation
5/29Memorial Day,
No School
5/31/2023Last Day of School
for Students;
End of Quarter 4



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Dual Enrollment

Last day to register for IRSC Summer A classes is April 24. Classes begin May 10. Do not wait until the last minute to order your books.

If your class or classes requires a book or code, please send the following information:

- Your full name & Your phone number
- The classes you are taking with the professor's name and class id.

Each class should be on a separate line

Do not **send a picture from the bookstore.**

Send your information to: Laura.Attwood@indianriverschools.org

A2 Tutoring

A2 tutoring at the Main Campus and the FLC is to provide your student academic support in the core areas of English and Math. If your student is struggling in other areas, please contact the teacher.

Bus Transportation Available— Students must have a pass from the A2 Tutoring Teachers to ride the bus home and remain in the library until the bus shows up between 4:15pm- 4:30pm. Tutoring is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays at both campuses from 2-4pm.

TOP SECRET MISSION

United States History Bootcamp

You have been drafted to attend to the US HIS Bootcamp starting on the following dates:



March 28

April 4

April 11

April 18

April 25

May 2

WE WANT YOU!

Location: Media Center
Time: 1400-1500(2-3PM)

Mission: This bootcamp will be to prepare you for the US HISTORY EOC (May 3rd)

DUTY CALLS

See Drill Instructor Watson (8-206) for more information.



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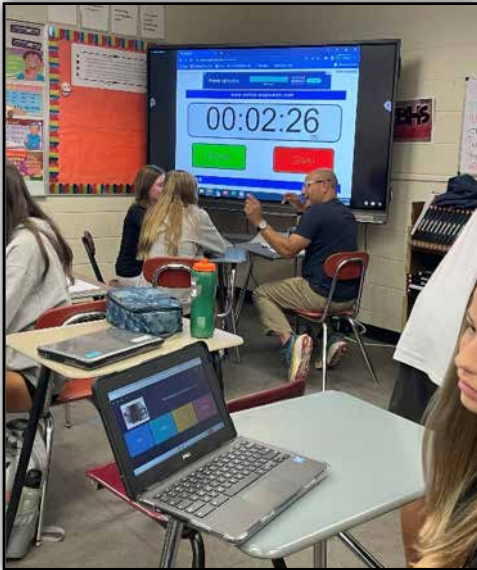
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Vero Beach, FL 32960

PALM BAY

2099 Palm Bay Road NE, Ste. 2
Palm Bay, FL 32905



Spanish 2 at the FLC

March 10th in Ms. Moroishi's classroom they had Hispanic guests, and the Spanish 2 students were able to practice their speaking with them. All students were interviewed in Spanish. Students and teachers had a lot of fun and students were so motivated that majority wanted to be interviewed twice. Thank you to our guests, Mr. Echeverria, Ms. Arce, Ms. Courtney, Ms. Solivan, Mr. Summerall, and Ms. Almeida!



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- ACT Scores 22 to 29 or Better

*Standards for Class of 2022 may change for Class of 2023

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND SIGN UP
FOR THE UPCOMING TESTING DATES**

SAT TESTING DATES for 2022-2023

Aug 27, Oct 1, Nov 5, Dec 3*

ACT TESTING DATES for 2022-2023

Sep 10, Oct 22, Dec 10*

*last testing date accepted for SF application

Scholarship Applications Available Online Beginning November 1, 2022 @ www.sfindianriver.org • Absolute Deadline January 31, 2023

P.O. Box 1820 • Vero Beach, FL 32961 • For more info call 772-569-9869 or visit our website www.sfindianriver.org



SENIOR TIMELINE

Senior Information

20
23

All Seniors need to check their Obligations in Guidance and Media Center because we do hold Diploma's and Transcripts!

4/10/23	Order AP, Honors Regalia in Guidance
4/22/23	Prom-8-11pm at the IG Center
4/25/23	Scholarship Night-6-8pm in the PAC
5/1/-5/12/23.....	AP Exams
5/15-5/19/23.....	Senior week/Senior Catch Up Week
5/12/23.....	Senior Celebration-in the courtyard
5/16-5/18/23.....	Graduation practice at FLC from 8-9:30am
5/20/23	Graduation- 8am in the Citrus Bowl

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Performing Arts Department

The VBHS Performing Arts Department has had a busy 3rd nine weeks. Band, Chorus, and Orchestra all participated in Music Performance Assessments in February and March. The VBHS Indoor Color Guard received a superior rating at the FBA Auxiliary MPA. All VBHS Band students participated in the FBA Solo and Ensemble MPA in January. 77 superior medals were awarded to student musicians who performed solos or small ensembles and 9 Color Guard soloists received superior ratings. The VBHS Jazz Ensemble and Studio Jazz Band received superior ratings at the Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA) District Jazz Music Performance Assessment in February. In March, all three of our concert bands participated in the FBA Concert MPA. The Philharmonic Band and Symphonic Bands both received straight superior ratings. During Spring Break, several band students participated in the FBA State Solo and Ensemble MPA. Three ensembles received superior ratings and three soloists received superior ratings. The Indoor Guard and several soloists participated in the FBA State Auxiliary MPA. In addition to the Indoor Guard earning straight superiors, five guard soloists earned superiors. The VBHS Symphonic Band will be traveling to Sarasota in late April to participate in the FBA State Concert MPA.

The VBHS Chorus participated in their District MPA in March. The Women's Choir earned an overall superior rating. Voices of Vero earned a superior at District Solo and Ensemble and attended State Solo and Ensemble on April 1st. Our choirs will conclude their concert season with their Spring Concert called *River of Dreams* on May 2nd at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are available at the PAC Box Office.

All three of our orchestras participated in the Florida Orchestra Association District MPA in March. Philharmonic Orchestra earned straight superior ratings and qualified for state MPA. Their concert season concludes with the Symphony Orchestra Concert on May 10th at 7:00 p.m.

The week before spring break, the theatre troupe students went to Tampa at The Florida State Thespian Festival. They received a superior rating for their one act "Dark Road". Senior Kristina Gregg earned Top Honors and received a perfect score of Straight Superiors in the category of Solo Musical. Juniors Jessah Moore and Emily Barnett also received Top Honors for their Duet Musical with a perfect score of Straight Superiors. The Ensemble Scene from "Cheating Death", featuring Marcos Vioria, Rachel Estillore, Terrance Taylor, Christopher Spalding, Aubrey Dunham, Bronwyn Segal, Kalea Pfeiffer, and Katelyn Ragen received a superior rating.

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WHO IS SAFIR? (Substance Abuse Free Indian River)

SAFIR is a prevention coalition, which is a collaboration between groups in a community that all agree to work together toward a common goal of building a safe, healthy, and drug-free community.

SAFIR is YOUR Community Coalition! So Join Us at:

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12:15 pm in Spanish & 5 pm



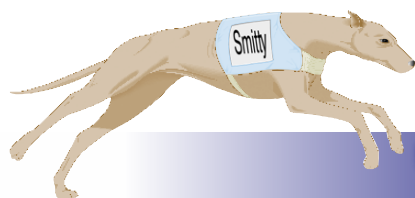

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9th GRADE
FAST Reading: May 2
BEST Algebra 1 EOC: May 9
BEST Geometry EOC: May 9
Biology EOC: May 11

10TH GRADE
FAST Reading: May 3
Biology EOC: May 4
Algebra 1 EOC: May 10
Geometry EOC: May 10

11th Grade
US History EOC: May 3
Biology EOC: May 4
BEST Algebra 1 EOC: May 10
BEST Geometry EOC: May 10

12th Grade
SAT School Day: April 25(select students)
Florida Civics Literacy Exam: April 27

VBHS and FLC
2023 Spring Testing Schedule
AP Exam Schedule
May 1- Government / Chemistry/Spanish Lit
May 2- Environmental & Psychology
May 3- English Lit & Comp. Science
May 4- Human Geo. & Seminar
May 4- Macroeconomics & Statistics
May 5- European History/ Art History/US History
May 8- Calculus & Computer Science Principles
May 9- English Language and Composition
May 10-Spanish Language & Culture / Biology
May 11- World History & Physics