

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 Juliette Carroll Vanessa Gonzalez Joy Griffin Denny Hart Meghan Teachout

www.vbhs.org

"Home of the Fighting Indians"

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A Message From The Chief

Dear VBHS Parents and Friends,

As we progress towards the end of the school year, we re-commit ourselves to our goal of educating our student so they may attain their future goals. The fourth quarter of our school year presents multiple opportunities for our students to be recognized for their success. This month we are very busy as we hold and prepare for events including our Scholars Ceremony April 3, Grad Bash April 20, Prom April 27 and Graduation May 27 for our "Class of 2024".



Shawn O'Keefe

Mid-Spring also means "testing season", and our students will be hard at work with numerous assessments including FAST ELA, Algebra, Geometry, Us History, and Biology EOC's (End of Course Exams) all throughout May. We cannot stress enough how important these tests are for a student 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 FAST in ELA to receive a high school diploma. Students who do not attain proficient on state assessments (scoring at least a level 3) will not be eligible for Honors or AP coursework within that same subject area next year. 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, State level competitions, and their spring concerts here at school.

The months of April and May will mark both an end and new beginnings for our Graduating Class of 2024. They will gather in celebration at Prom on Saturday April 27 in 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 in the second semester, and all obligations cleared. VBHS Graduation Commencement Exercises 2024 will be in the evening, Friday May 17th at 7PM 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 5:30PM to the FLC gymnasium that evening. Seniors only; last day of school is Friday May 10th with the week of May 13th utilized for Senior "catch-up" and graduation practices. They must return to attend their graduation practices on Tuesday May 14, Wednesday May 15, and Thursday May 16 from 8-9:30AM. Reporting to the FLC gym each morning. The last day of school for all other students (grades 9-11) is Friday May 31st.

As always, it will be a busy end to the school year 2023-24 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 6. 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, it has been our pleasure to contribute our part in the educational process, and we certainly hope you will always feel at home here in the years to come.

For the VBHS Family,

Shawn O'Keefe

Principal

2023-2024 School Calendar

- 5/17/2024 Graduation
- 5/27/2024 Memorial Day, No School
- 5/29/2024 Modified Instructional Day
- 5/30/2024 Modified Instructional Day
- 5/31/2024 Modified Instructional Day/ Last Day of School







Regalia:

If you have earned additional regalia for graduation such as honors stoles or Academic Collegiate Scholar cords, they will go on sale on 4/15. They can be purchased online through the school payment app but you must receive authorization in guidance. Please see Ms. Watson in guidance to confirm your order. There will be no refunds issued if you become ineligible due to any grades less than a C. https://osp.osmsinc.com/indianriverschools/

Senior Information

Final Transcripts

If you are planning on attending college after high school, it is your responsibility to order your final transcripts and send them to your university. You will need complete the form found at https://forms.office.com/r/TwWjXZa434. Transcripts cost \$2.00 and can be paid using the school online payment app. https://osp.osmsinc.com/indianriverschools/

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

- 4/25/24-Scholarship Night-6-8pm in the PAC
- 4/27/24-Prom-8-11pm at the IG Center
- 5/6-5/17/24-AP Exams
- 5/10/24-Senior Celebration-in the courtyard
- 5/13-5/17/24-Senior week/Senior Catch Up Week
- 5/14-5/16/24-Graduation practice at FLC from 8-9:30am
- 5/17/24-Graduation- 7pm in the Citrus Bowl

Obligations

Seniors, please start checking your obligations with the Media Center and with Ms. Lawson so that you may be cleared for Prom and to receive your diploma.

Upcoming Testing Dates

- Florida Civics Literacy Exam- 4/25
- F.A.S.T PM3- 5/9
 - Algebra and Geometry EOC's- 5/14
- Biology and US History EOC's- 5/16



Important Upcoming SAT/ACT Testing Dates

ACT Test Dates (National)

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
June 8, 2024	May 3	May 17
July 13, 2024	June 7	June 21

SAT Test Dates (National)

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Changes
May 6, 2024	April 19, 2024	Coming soon
June 3, 2024	May 17, 2024	Coming soon
		• •



Scholarship Applications Available Online **Beginning November 1, 2023** @ www.sfindianriver.org • **Absolute Deadline January 31, 2024** P.O. Box 1820 • Vero Beach, FL 32961 • For more info call **772-569-9869** or visit our website www.sfindianriver.org



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 if 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.

Students Improve

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.

Algebra and Geometry Bootcamp

Algebra bootcamp will be on Mondays in Ms. Anthony's room 607 and Geometry bootcamp will also be on Mondays at the main campus in Mr. Ross' classroom, 1-215 and will be until May 6th before the EOC. Students who attend will earn 5 extra credit points for each day you attend. A2 tutoring continues in the media center on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Transportation is provided.









VERO BEACH

5820 20th St Vero Beach, FL 32966 (772) 794-9411

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2023–2024 FHSAA Academic Team Champion

Congratulations to our Fighting Indians Winter Sports Teams for their outstanding academic achievements in the FHSAA Academic Team Champions for 2023-2024.

- Basketball
- Soccer
- Weightlifting
- Wrestling

The FHSAA Academic Team Champion recognition program honors teamwork not only in competition, but in the classroom as well. The program recognizes teams in each of the Association's sanctioned and recognized sports, naming an Academic Team Champion in each classification based off GPA.

A special extra congratulations to the boys' soccer team for earning the FHSAA Academic Team Champion Honors for the 7A Classification in Boys' Soccer and an additional congratulations to the girls' soccer team for earning the #2 spot for the 7A Classification in Girls Soccer.

VBHS is currently ranked ninth in the overall classification standings.

VBHS Writers Club

Led by seniors Rachel Estillore and Maurine Occeus, the VBHS Young Writers Club is a student-led creative writing club that aims to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for highschoolers to share their passions for writing. Over the last three years, the group has welcomed a variety of guest speakers like poets Joseph Mills, Chelsea Rathburn, Rosemary Royston, and many others. With more than 45 officially registered club members, the VBHS Young Writers Club allows students to meet others with similar interests and helps put creativity back into classrooms.

Photo: In addition to lively student-led sessions, club members often have guest presenters who share their knowledge and experience. Here the members participate in a creative writing workshop led by Joe Mills, professor of English at UNC School of the Arts. (Faculty advisor: Carrie Adams)







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Treatments

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- ✓ WildSmiles Braces
- ✓ Same-Day Braces
- ✓ Six Month Smiles
- Teeth Whitening



• Tuesdays and Thursday 2-4pm

EOC-US History & Biology

- A2 Tutoring afterschool
 - Tuesdays and Thursdays 2-4pm
- Bootcamps during electives
- Growth Incentives (PM2)
- Growth/Proficiency Incentives PM3



Reach out to your classroom teacher if you have any concerns or want to know more specifics about how your student can get extra help.



VBHS TESTING INCENTI

EARN A PASSING SCORE ON THE FOLLOWING STATE ASSESSMENTS AND RECEIVE THE REWARD LISTED BELOW.

Score Rewards

Level 3

• \$10 off parking or \$10 off Homecoming ticket & 1 Kong ice voucher

Level 4

• \$20 off parking, 2 Kona ice vouchers, \$15 off Homecoming ticket, and 3 sports tickets

Level 5

• \$30 off parking, All Sports Season Pass, \$20 off (FREE) Homecoming ticket, & 3 Kona ice vouchers

(Reward given for the one highest score per student. All rewards are redeemable immediately for the 2024-2025 school year.)

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Vero Beach High School Athletics

Winter Sports

Boys Wrestling

The Boys Varsity Wrestling Team had a solid season. The Team was crowned Tournament Champions at e different Tournaments. Team Runner-up once and a Team 3rd Place finish in their final Tournament.

- They finished 3-2 in Dual Meets.
- The Team wrestled in the District Tournament and qualified 8 wrestlers into the Regional Championships. No State Qualifiers this season.
- The Team returns the majority of their wrestlers back for next season and optimism is high.
- The Team started out with a record high 65 wrestlers in the beginning of the season and finished out with approximately 40.

Girls Wrestling

The 23-24 Girls Wrestling Season had a fantastic season finishing Runner Up at Districts with only 9 out of 14 weight classes competing. VBHS Girls Wrestling Team had their first Districts Champs, Brenda Gomez and Jayla Benjamin. This team was tough and made it through a very competitive season. The team consisted of Head Coach: Jerry Knight. Assistant Coaches: Lynn Esposito-Knight and Adam Knight. Freshmans: Kaydence Ahlers, Lacy Nichols and Jaylyn West; Sophomore: Jayla Benjamin; Juniors: Brenda Gomez, Shyonte Stinson, Kelis Tawzer, Sofia Vargas and Mya Wallace. Volunteers for the team: Mia Garcia, Serenity King-Roberts and John West. Awards given:

Varsity Awards: Kaydence Ahlers, Lacy Nichols, Jaylyn West, Kelis Tawzer, and Sofia Vargas. Three Year Varsity Award: Brenda Gomez. Coach's Award: Kelis Tawzer. Rookie of the Year: Kaydence Ahlers. Most Improved Wrestler: Mya Wallace. Pin Queen "25 Pins": Jayla Benjamin. Tomahawk of the Room: Brenda Gomez and Most Valuable Wrestlers: Brenda Gomez and Jayla Benjamin. Team Captain Awards: Jayla Benjamin, Brenda Gomez, Shyonte Stinson, and Kelis Tawzer. Appreciation Certificates: Serenity King-Roberts, Mia Garcia and John West. Appreciation Award: Adam Knight

Girls Weightlifting

The Girls Weightlifting continued its winning tradition and had its 9th undefeated regular season. The team won its 8th consecutive District Championship and qualified all twenty lifters to Regionals which won its 7th consecutive Regional Championship. Nine girls qualified for FHSAA State Championships and Jada Mosley finished 5th in her weight class and Enyjai Tyson won the State Championship in Traditional and Olympic. Enyjai also broke the state record in the Snatch Lift and overall total in the Olympic division. Enyjai was TCPalm's Weightlifter of the Year.

Boys Soccer

The boys' soccer team had another successful season, however the season ended in dramatic fashion in the district semifinals.

Boys Basketball

The Boys basketball program got back on track this season as all 3 teams(Freshmen, JV and Varsity) posted winning seasons. The program has some nice young talent coming up that should bode well for the future. After a down season last year, the Varsity team got things headed back in the right direction with a winning season finishing out 13-12. Varsity had to overcome some late season obstacles and did it with GRIT. The team swept their county opponents 3-0, as they beat Sebastian River twice and knocked off St. Edwards. Another good win for the team was vs Martin County. Senior players that are graduating are Jaylen Shelly, Steven Darnell, Will Holderman, Cameron Ryan and Emmanuel Guirand.

Girls Soccer

The VBHS Girl's Soccer Team ended with a record of 6-9-1 this season. The girls did face some challenges throughout the season, but despite that, they still showed up and played hard. There were some freshmen that shined this season and impacted our team in a positive way, such as, Ameera Dayem, Raielle Lynch, and Hannah Hall. Senior players that will be graduating are Cece Lander, Dayna Dayem, Ashley Krieger, Kalani Wright, Journey Setzer, and Jasmine Taylor.

Girls Basketball

All in all, the Lady Fighting Indians Girls Basketball team finished this year's season with a 12-8 record. We loss in the second round of Districts to a well ranked team. However, there were not all losses but in fact there where some gains of the season. There are 8 seniors graduating and moving onto bigger opportunities with college in each of their forecast. We also had a few underclassmen that stepped up as leaders when needed. Which shows a promising future for this program. This being my first year of coaching, together we fought through adversities and humbled ourselves and made sacrifices while still displaying resiliency. I am so proud of this group of young ladies. The best is yet to come for each and every one of them.







Programs, credential levels, technology, and scheduling options vary by school and are subject to change. Not all programs are available to residents of all U.S. states. South University. West Palm Beach, University. Centre, 9801 Belvedere Rd., Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411. © 2023 South University. All rights reserved.

Performing Arts Department Happenings

February and March has been Music Performance Assessment (MPA) season for band, choir, and orchestra. In early February, the VBHS Band participated in the Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA) District Solo and Ensemble Music Performance Assessment. 124 superior medals were awarded to our student musicians. The Chamber Winds, Brass Ensemble, Woodwind Choir, Brass Choir, and Percussion Ensembles all received superior ratings. The Indoor Color Guard participated in the FBA Auxiliary MPA and Six color guard soloists received superior ratings and the Indoor Guard received a superior rating. All three jazz bands participated in the FBA District Jazz Band Music Performance Assessment in February. Jazz Band earned straight superior ratings and Studio Band received an overall superior. The VBHS Symphonic Band and Philharmonic Band participated in the FBA District Concert MPA in March. Both bands received straight superior ratings. Symphonic Band will be participating in the FBA State Concert MPA that is being hosted at VBHS in April.

The VBHS Orchestras also participated in their District Concert MPA in March. Concert Orchestra and Philharmonic Orchestra earned straight superior ratings and both will be participating in the Florida Orchestra Association State Concert MPA. This year is the first time the Concert Orchestra has attended the State MPA since 2014. In addition to preparing for state, the Philharmonic Orchestra is current combining with members of the Symphonic Band to form the VBHS Symphony Orchestra. The Symphony Orchestra will be performing on the April 30th Spring Orchestra Concert.

The VBHS Chorale and Concert Choir both received superior ratings at the Florida Vocal Association District MPA in March. Both of these groups will be participating in State MPA in April. The choirs are also preparing for the 4th Annual Chroma Choral concert "One Day At A Time" that will be held Tuesday, May 7th.

Just before Spring Break, the VBHS Drama Troupe 2047 traveled to their State Festival Competition in Downtown Tampa. Three events received superior ratings and several others earned excellent ratings. All the thespians competed with the one act #Censored.









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State Science Fair Winners

The State Science Fair awards ceremony was on April 4th in Lakeland. Ella Kilman & Jaya Vernese (10th graders) won 4th place in the Senior Earth and Environmental Sciences category for their research on the effect of microplastics on mangrove germination. Aniela Kelly (9th

grade) won the Florida Museum of Natural History \$50 cash award. Congratulations to these students for their well-deserved achievements in science!





