

VB Smoke Signals

APRIL
2021

ISSUE 1
VOLUME 16

Vero Beach High School

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

ADMINISTRATION

Principal
Shawn O'Keefe

Vice Principal
Denny Hart

Assistant Principals
Greg Ahrens

David Erickson

Vanessa Gonzalez

Joy Griffin

Rahshard Morgan

www.vbhs.org

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Fighting
Indians"*

'Smoke Signals'
Published Five Times Per Year
Feb., Apr., Jul., Oct., Dec. 2021
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 amid COVID my goal remains steadfast, that our students continue to have a high school experience that is as "normal" as possible. We are preparing numerous events to commemorate the hard work our students have put forth this school year, including graduation for our "Class of 2021" Seniors. Mid-Spring also means "testing season", and our students will be hard at work with numerous assessments including the FSA for English LA, Algebra, Geometry, US History, and Biology EOC's (End of Course Exams), all throughout April and May. You can find our full testing calendar on our school website. Our spring sports teams are producing great competitive results, including a few of possible runs for state titles, and our performing arts programs have been busy with Solo/Ensemble, MPA's, and state level competitions.

The months of April and May will mark both an end and a beginning for our Graduating Class of 2021. They will gather in celebration for Prom on Saturday April 24th in the Citrus Bowl. VBHS 2021 Graduation Commencement Exercises will be on the morning of Saturday, May 22nd at 8AM in the Citrus Bowl. We salute the Class of 2021, their parents, teachers, performing arts directors, guidance counselors, coaches, etc. on the combined efforts that have brought these fine young people to this point in their academic careers. We wish our graduates well and hope they will take with them fond memories of their days at Vero Beach High School. Scholarship night for seniors is April 28th at 7PM in the PAC. Our National Merit Scholarship finalists were also declared. Congratulations to finalists Tessa Johnson, Andrew Miller, and Mathew Villafuerte. They will be receiving final notifications officially in May.

At this year's Scholars Ceremony (Top 10% and/or 3.75 Unweighted GPA's Recognized) on April 7, I presented the John B. Witt Principal's Award. John B. Witt served as Vero Beach High School's principal from 1966 to 1983. When he retired, he left behind a legacy that continues to live on. During his tenure, he initiated an award that is given each year to the graduating senior who exemplifies all that a student can be. The award is based on having a good academic record, good school attendance, the absence of a discipline record, being a leader, and serving one's school and community. Although Mr. Witt is no longer with us, the John B. Witt Principal's Award continues to be a way to recognize the all-around student we all so admire. This student, who receives the award, also receives a \$1000 scholarship and a picture plaque of themselves along the historical wall in our front office that commemorates all recipients over the years.

As always, it will be an extremely busy end to the school year 2020-21 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 3rd. 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 work and support for 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 D. O'Keefe
Shawn O'Keefe



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Scholar's Night "Pride of the Tribe" Ceremony

On April 7th, VBHS celebrated the academic achievements of 483 students with our Scholar's Night "Pride of the Tribe" Ceremony. Pride of the Tribe recognizes the academic success of students throughout their high school academic career. This year we celebrated: 128 seniors, 98 juniors, 105 sophomores, and 152 freshman students.

At "Pride of the Tribe" we also celebrated 23 seniors who maintained a 4.0 GPA for the entirety of their high school academic career.

Our 3 National Merit Scholars were also announced at the ceremony. Tessa Johnson, Andrew Miller and Matthew Villafuerte were awarded this prestigious honor which is determined by the PSAT scores. Students who are eligible for the award must score in the top 1% of students in the nation. Congratulations to this amazing group of students. You have made VBHS proud!

Our Valedictorian and Salutatorian were also announced on this night. Valedictorian Mackenzie Cooley and Salutatorian Mychaela Mathews were celebrated for their hard work and dedication to their scholastic achievements.

The senior scholars recognized 50 different teachers who impacted their educational journey within Indian River County. The students shared meaningful anecdotes and praise about the impact that each of these teachers had on the lives of their students. It was a great night celebrating the amazing achievements of our students.



Prom

The Prom will be in the Citrus Bowl as an Outdoor Evening Event on Saturday April 24. The evening will include a significant photo area, food trucks, a DJ and dance floor, as well as a screen on the green event

The Prom will be from 8pm to 11pm.

Tickets for Junior and Guests are \$30.00 and all Obligations/Textbooks must be cleared or paid before you can get a Prom Ticket!




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Important Senior Dates

Date	Event	Location	Contact
3/3	SAT for Seniors who still to need pass ELA or Algebra EOC	TBD	Vanessa Gonzalez
3/15	VBHS Scholar Information Due	TBD	Jessica Wood
TBD	Cap and Gown Pick up	TBD	Andy Lewis
4/7	VBHS Scholar Ceremony	Citrus Bowl 7PM	Kristie Barnes
4/13	SAT for Seniors still needing Concordant Score	TBD	Vanessa Gonzalez
4/15	Order AP, Honors Regalia	Guidance	Karin Watson
4/22	Mock DUI	20th Ave	Linda Gaddis
4/24	Prom	Citrus Bowl	Carrie Nino
4/28	Scholarship Night	PAC	Jessica Wood
5/3-5/17	AP Exams	TBD	Kere Minton
5/10-5/14	Senior week	SGA	Andy Lewis
5/10-5/13	Senior Exams	In Class	Teacher
5/13	Senior Walkout	Courtyard	Counselors
TBD	Graduation Practice	TBD	
5/22	Graduation	Citrus Bowl 8AM	Guidance Counselor



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COVID Reminders

It is school district policy that students wear face coverings as follows: in the hallways of every building; during school arrival and dismissal times; during transitions across the campus during all class changes, and when social distancing of 6 feet cannot be maintained inside the classroom.

Please do a self-wellness check before coming to school. Ask yourself the following questions and do not come to school if you are experiencing symptoms. Do you have a new cough, nasal congestion, or runny nose? Are you experiencing shortness of breath or difficulty breathing? Are you having new muscle pain or fatigue? Do you have a headache (that is not normal for you)? Do you have a fever of 100.4 F or higher? Do you have a sore throat? Are you experiencing a new loss of taste or smell? Are you experiencing nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, or diarrhea? Do you have a new rash? Have you been exposed to anyone who has been tested positive for COVID-19 in the last two weeks? Do you have a Covid-19 test pending? If any of these symptoms develop after you arrive at school, please see our school nurse.

CHEERLEADING TRYOUTS

for Vero Beach H.S. Cheerleading



Starts **Tuesday April 19th**
4:00-6:00

You must pick up an Application from Mrs. Kouns in the Administration Building prior to tryouts.

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<https://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=verovarsitycheerleading>

Dance Marathon

The Dance Marathon was a success. A van load of U. of Fla. students was here to help with the evening – they were very happy to do so as **VBHS was the only high school in south Florida to host an in-person event.** The hardworking Dance Marathon members from VBHS raised over \$13,000. Special thanks to all teachers and admin (especially Rahshard Morgan, who was instrumental in helping organize the event) and who contributed. Thank You to our Students for all their work: Mary Bennett and Stephanie Buell, co-leaders. Maddie Chavers, Emma Jankowski, Haylee Jones, Alondra Munoz, Emily Olsson, Angela Rada, Emily Olsson, Angela Rada, Lily Shields, Kylie Stephens.



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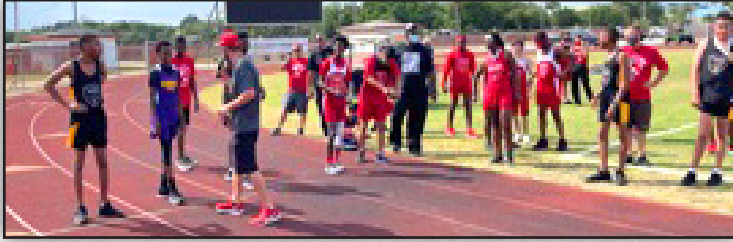
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Unified Track Team

The Unified track team scored multiple victories in yesterday's track event. The boys and girls both won the 4x100 and 4x400 relay race. Vero also had the fastest 100 meter race and furthest softball throw. Their next meet is away at Port St Lucie high next Thursday April 8th.



VBHS Track Team

Boys and Girls Track Team both won the TLC championship at Sebastian River High School. Boys scoring 130 points and girls scoring 100 points and on a very windy day.

Boys accomplishment's:

- Williame Ylance - 1st place in the long jump, 110 meter hurdles and 300 meter hurdles
- Tromance Smith - 1st place 200 meter and 4 X 100 relay team
- Maxfield Patrick - 2nd place 400 meter and 3rd place 200 meter
- Jorel Lesage - 2nd 110 hurdles and 2nd 300 hurdles
- Nehema Cross - 2nd high jump
- 4 X 100 relay team - 1st place
- 4 X 800 and 4 X 400 team - both 3rd place

Girls accomplishment's:

- Jada Rolle - 1st place 100 meter
- Brianna Carter - 1st place long jump and triple jump
- Alyana Harrington - 2nd place shot put and discus
- Stephancy Alayo - 3rd place 400 meter
- JaMya Brown - 3rd place 300 meter hurdles
- 4 X 100 relay team - 1st place
- 4 X 800 relay team - 3rd place
- Cetirria Evans - 3rd place high jump




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Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement exams start May 3-May 14th Check collegeboard.org for the entire calendar.

If your student is Interested in Advanced Placement classes, contact Kere Minton at Kere.Minton@indinariverschools.org.

Taking AP courses and exams can help students to stand out on college applications. AP courses on a student's transcript shows that they've challenged themselves with the most rigorous courses available to them. And success on an AP Exam shows that they're ready for college-level coursework.

AP courses also offer a way to earn college credit and/or skip introductory courses in college. Most four-year colleges and universities in the United States—as well as many institutions in more than 100 other countries—grant students credit, placement, or both for qualifying AP Exam scores.



Notification Of Parents Regarding Out-Of-Field

February 4, 2021

Included in this newsletter/memo is a list of teachers or long-term substitute teachers at Vero Beach High School who have been reported as teaching out-of-field or not highly qualified as required by Section 1012.42 of Florida Statute. Those teaching out-of-field are qualified to teach, however, all or part of their teaching assignment is not covered by their current certification. Individuals teaching out-of-field are required to complete additional coursework or testing until the coverage/endorsement is added to their certificate. Should you have any questions about these requirements, please call William Fritz, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources (772-564-3195) or Laurie Silvia, Certification Analyst (772-564-3116).

A parent whose student is assigned an out-of-field teacher may request that his or her child be transferred to an in-field classroom teacher within the school and grade in which the student is currently enrolled. The school district must approve or deny the parent's request and transfer the student to a different classroom teacher within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 2 weeks, if an in-field teacher for that course or grade level is employed by the school and the transfer does not violate Florida maximum class size limits. Please contact your school's principal, in writing, if your child's teacher is out of field and you wish to request a transfer.

Aviso Para Los Padres Sobre Maestros “Fuera Del Area”/ No Altamente Calificados

4 de Febrero de 2021

Incluido en este aviso se encuentra una lista de maestros o maestros sustitutos a largo plazo en la escuela Vero Beach High School quienes han sido reportados como “fuera de área” o no están altamente calificados como se requiere en Sección 1012.42 de Estatuto de Florida. Esto significa que los maestros están calificados para enseñar y tienen su certificado sin embargo les hace falta completar algunos requerimientos que *solo aplican a su asignado trabajo de enseñanza*. Estos individuos que están enseñando “fuera de su área” requieren completar un curso adicional o tomar un examen para cumplir con los requerimientos. Si Ud. tiene preguntas sobre los requerimientos favor de hablar con William Fritz, Asistente de Superintendente de Recursos Humanos (772) 564-3195 o Laurie Silvia, Analista de Certificación (772) 564-3116.

Un padre que su estudiante se le asigna a un profesor fuera de campo puede solicitar que su hijo se transfiera a un maestro en el campo dentro de la escuela y el grado en que el estudiante está inscrito actualmente. El distrito escolar debe aprobar o negar la petición de los padres y transferir al alumno a un maestro diferente dentro de un período razonable de tiempo, no debe exceder de 2 semanas, si un profesor en el campo para ese nivel de curso o grado es empleado de la escuela y la transferencia no viola los límites de tamaño máximo de clase Florida. Póngase en contacto con el director de su escuela, por escrito, si el maestro está fuera de campo y desea solicitar a una transferencia.

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ACT TESTING DATES
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*last testing date accepted for SF application

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Out-Of-Field Teachers

Teacher: <i>Maestro (a):</i>	Area of Out-of-Field Assignment: <i>Fuera de Área en:</i>
Randy Bethel	Health
Stephen Byrd	Elementary Education
John-Peter Demsick	ESOL
Brian Ihnen	Elementary Education
Brandy Kealoha	ESOL
Bryan Rahal	Elementary Education
Bayard Robb	Social Sciences 6-12
Elaine Sauerman	Health, Physical Education 6-12, Science 5-9
Edward Watkins	CTE-Drafting or Building Construction



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Fort Pierce: Massey (Main) Campus - 772-462-7401

Fellsmere: Fellsmere City Hall - 772-646-6320

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