

VBHS Smoke Signals

DECEMBER
2022

ISSUE 4
VOLUME 17

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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Apr, Jul, Sep, Dec, Feb, 22-23
School District of
Indian River County
1990 25th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960
Issue #4

A Message From The Chief

Dear Parents,

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. Here at school we can feel the energy during this short but busy month of December. We are proud of the outstanding achievements of our students. As we approach The Holiday Season, perhaps it would be an opportune time to discuss with our children the many things for which we can be thankful. There is so much negativity in the news these days there is a danger that we might forget or overlook all the good things we have in our lives. I am grateful to have such a talented, energetic staff who have a tireless commitment to students, supportive parents, and surrounding community that we couldn't do without. I am truly grateful to be working in such a wonderful school community.

As we move into December and approach Winter Break, the end of the semester (12/21) will be here before we know it, as we work with our students to remain focused and make the most of these last few weeks remaining. Please encourage your student are taking advantage of the wide range of academic supports we have in place, whether it is emailing a teacher for extra help, A2 and Tribe Tutoring, Counselor support, graduation coaching and assistance from our academic coaches, and more.

School safety is a top priority on our campus. VBHS students are trained for multiple threat events, and we drill for these monthly in an abundance of caution. We have Sherriff's Resource Deputies (SRD's) who are always on campus and highly trained, as well as 9 security persons who patrol all areas of our main campus and FLC all throughout each school day. Threats, weapons, drugs, and fighting are handled with zero tolerance. We check incoming and outgoing vehicles within our student parking lot using our security persons checking visitor's credentials are through our electronic Raptor System. We have a secure perimeter on both campuses. Students must also have a permission pass when leaving class or campus during the school day. We have significant security camera coverage across both campuses, and I thank our school district for its investments made to secure our campuses. We know that working together, we will continue to make our school a safer place.

The second semester is a "fresh start" for students to keep up good academic habits and make improvements where needed. Our 90% Attendance Policy continues with everyone starting fresh at 100% for the start of the second semester. Please keep track of your student's attendance on focus and call in any necessary absences, so that they are excused. Being in school is essential to positive academic outcomes.

In the meantime, I look forward to ending the first semester of the school year on a positive note with our students, staff, and community. I hope you and yours have a wonderful Holiday Season and joyous New Year.

For the VBHS Family,

Shawn D. 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.

Joyreah McNeal Chosen as School Related Employee of the Year

We are proud to announce Vero Beach High School's School Related Employee of the Year, Joyreah McNeal. We are so fortunate to have her with us. Ms. Joy has been the head custodian for 3 years and at our school for 17 years. She works very hard everyday to provide us a clean and safe learning environment. We are extremely lucky to have Joy as part of school family. Thank you for all that you do to support of faculty, staff, and students!



Amy Coonce Named Teacher of the Year

Amy started teaching at VBHS in 2015 and taught several years at the FLC before moving to the main campus and becoming the AP art teacher. She also helps with the band teaching low brass, and the last three years has served as the New Teacher Coordinator, leading the professional development offered to all new teachers and serving as mentor teacher with an open observation classroom. She completed her undergraduate degree at Stetson University in music education and German. Amy has a master's certificate from the Universität Salzburg in Austria in music history and performance, and a second master's degree from Florida State University in educational leadership with an additional certificate in educational policy studies. She is very proud to be here at VBHS, the same school her grandfather Dan Thweatt taught and coached at for many years, and her grandmother Paula Van Hooser served as choir director.



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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
Aug 27, 2022	Jul 29, 2022	Aug 16, 2022	Sept 9, 2022
Oct 1, 2022	Sept 2, 2022	Sept 20, 2022	Oct 14, 2022
Nov 5, 2022	Oct 7, 2022	Oct 25, 2022	Nov 18, 2022
Dec 3, 2022	Nov 3, 2022	Nov 22, 2022	Dec 16, 2022
Mar 11, 2023	Feb 10, 2023	Feb 28, 2023	Mar 24, 2023
May 6, 2023	Apr 7, 2023	Apr 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
Sept 10, 2022	Aug 5, 2022	Aug 19, 2022	Sept 20, 2022
Oct 22, 2022	Sept 16, 2022	Sept 30, 2022	Nov 1, 2022
Dec 10, 2022	Nov 4, 2022	Nov 11, 2022	Dec 20, 2022
Feb 11, 2023	Jan 6, 2023	Jan 20, 2023	Feb 21, 2023
Apr 15, 2023	Mar 10, 2023	Mar 24, 2023	Apr 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.

2022-2023 School Calendar

12/21/2022	End of Quarter 2
12/22/2022-1/6/2023	Winter Break
1/9/2023	Students return from Winter Break
1/16/2023	Dr. M.L.King, Jr Day; No School
1/30/2023	No School
2/14/2023	High School Conferences
2/17/2023	No School
2/20/2023	All Presidents Day; No School
3/1/2023	End of Quarter 3
3/20-24/2023	Spring Break
4/7/2023	No School
5/20/2023	Graduation
5/29/2023	Memorial Day, No School
5/31/2023	Last Day of School for Students; End of Quarter 4

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.

Dual Enrollment

Please submit your book order before Winter break!

Dual enrollment students:

Please send in your college book order to:
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 or please call 772-564-5531

Include the following information:

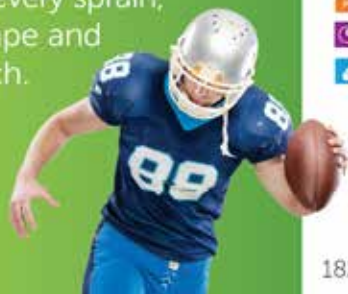
- Your name and phone number
- VBHS id #
- IRSC id #
- List all your courses with professor's name.
- example: ENC 1102 1V-002 Glover, Jonathan

Yearbook

Yearbooks are on sale at yearbookforever.com for \$65 until January 1st, 2023. Last chance for senior ads! You may pick up a form in Indian Outfitters during both lunches. If you have any questions, see Ms. Potter in room 1-205.

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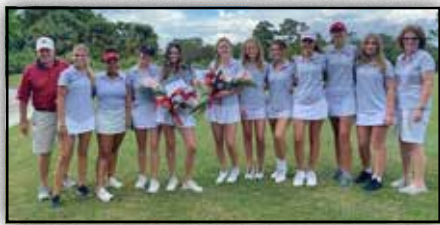
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Athletics



Girls Golf:

- Won Treasure Lakes Con. Golf Tournament
- Finished 2nd in the District and finished 5th in the Regional
- Dounia Bezzari played number 1 position throughout the year. Hailey Eisert best performance in the regionals shooting 79. Darci Wagner was the leading player for the freshman.
- Renie Calkin was welcomed as the assistant coach and Larry Stauss was a valuable volunteer. Coach Roger would like to the VBHS Girls Golf Booster's club for their wonderful support.

Boys Golf:

- Undefeated Regular Season
- District Champions
- 8th Straight Trip to the State Championships with an 8th place finish



Bowling:

- Lady Indians record was 11-1 for the season and won District Championship for the first time in school history they went on to play at States in Orlando
- Boys team record was 5-7 for the season

Cross Country:

- Boys and Girls Cross Country had an amazing season with a trip to State Cross Country Championships in Tallahassee.
- Girls team was led by Ava Baysura and Lilliana Elliott. Jordan Starr, Laiken Hoffman, and Gracie Fleming made huge impacts as well.
- Girls team placed 8th at Regionals
- Boys team was led by Kenan Willard, Sage Morrow, and Evan Dunham. Kenan set the school record at Tallahassee pre-state meet with a 16:01. Sage won the district meet with a 16:19.
- Boys team placed 4th at Regionals

Swimming and Diving Team:

- 17 girl district qualifiers, 8 boy district qualifiers- 1 District Champion, 2 District champ runner up
- 4 girl regional qualifiers 4 boy regional qualifiers-1 Regional champ runner up
- 1 State girl qualifier, 1 Boy State qualifier
- Madeline Shields: District Champion, Regional runner up, State finalist 100 Fly 9th, 50 Free 12th; Henry Hazell: District runner up, Regional 4th 100 Back State finalist 24th 100 Back; Kamila Branka: District champ runner up 500 free Regional qualifier 500 free and 100 breaststroke; Amy Arriagada: Top 8 finish district 200 free, Regional qualifier 200 Free

Volleyball:

- Finished their season with a record of 9-16
- Tied for 3rd place in District

Football:

- Finished season 11-2 record and District Champions
- Quarterbacks Tyler Aronson, Jake Whiteley, and EJ White combined for 2,685 yards passing and 29 touchdowns, with Aronson accounting for 1,683 of the yards and 21 Touchdowns.
- Quincy Rodgers, EJ White, Jonathan Hillsman, and Jaquone Jean combined to rush 211 times for 1238 yards and 18 TDs. Rodgers led the way with 637 yards and 5 TDs.
- Vandrevius Jacobs was the Indians leading receiver as he had 100 receptions for 1,511 yards and 21 touchdowns. Jacobs broke the Vero Beach High School career reception record, as he finished his career with 149 total receptions.
- Justin Woulard added 41 receptions for 395 yards and 3 Touchdowns on the season.
- Defensively the Indians were outstanding all year and were led by Linebacker Bucky Rojas who led the team in tackles with 115 total tackles.
- Keyshawn Campbell led the team with 7 sacks and 23 Tackles for Loss. Kezni Brown, Deuce Montgomery, and Matt Bacon were outstanding on the DLine. And the secondary was led by Camren Perez, Donquail Wesley, and Elijah Anderson.
- Jessie Lewis handled the kicking duties including the game winning Field Goal in overtime to clinch the District Championship.
- Several Seniors will be signing scholarships as Vandrevius Jacobs is committed to Florida State, Keyshawn Campbell is committed to Troy University, and Nate Guinn is committed to the University of Illinois. We also expect Kezni Brown, Dalton Jordan, Paul Parris, Bucky Rojas, Quincy Rodgers, Syllas Bachler, and Jaquone Jean to draw attention from the college coaches.



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*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**

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Unified Bowling

The VBHS Unified Bowling team won the State Championship in November. The Fighting Indians competed in Orlando against other high schools from around the state. They went 9-1 during the playoff format. The fighting Indians defeated Lely high school 3-0 in the quarterfinals. They followed it up by beating Fort Myers High school 3-1 to advance to the state championship round. In the championship round the Indians swept Eustis High school 3-0 with an incredible come from behind win in game 2. Jayce Wiley, Marquis Baskin, Tirell Baskin, Ellis Fernandez, Paul Parris, and Noah Molina all provided excellent teamwork. This is the 6th state championship for Vero Unified and first in bowling.



Boys Basketball

Boys Basketball will be hosting our Annual Holiday Hoopla Basketball tournament on 12/21-12/23/22. There will be 4 games a day. Participating teams are Vero Beach HS, Centennial HS, Palm Beach Central HS, Osceola HS, West Orange HS, Eau Gallie HS, Davenport HS & Lake Gibson HS. Game times each day will be 3pm, 430pm, 6pm and 730pm. Come out and support VBHS Boys Basketball.

National Signing Day

Due to Hurricane Nicole, our National Signing Day was on November 16, 2022, for all high school sports with the exception of football. VBHS proudly had 9 student athletes from 7 different athletic programs sign scholarships. Congratulations to the following students:

- **Cross Country:** Ava Baysura-University of Miami
- **Beach Volleyball:** Katy Dalton-Mercer University
- **Tennis:** Katherine Earnest-Ferris State University
- **Volleyball:** Madison Gravlee-University of Florida
- **Baseball:** Blake Holshouser-Erskine College
- **Golf:** James Hassell-University of South Florida
Jackson Hiller-Oglethorpe University
- **Lacrosse:** Kerrigan Gilmore-University of South Florida
Alexa Vega-Stony Brook University



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Technology in the Classroom

In October of 2022, Ms. Sommers' Leadership English III students enjoyed incorporating a 3D printer into their classroom technology. After reading Arthur Miller's "The Crucible," students worked in groups of 5 or 6, creating a 3D symbol from the play that they felt was the most important.

For most of the students, this was the first time interacting with a 3D printer. Students were required to design, scale, and paint the symbol they chose from the play, and then the groups presented their findings and explained their choices to the rest of the class.

Ms. Sommers leased the 3D printer from the district, and she plans to use it again in the future. She feels that using the technology was one of the highlights of the year.

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Homecoming

The Homecoming theme for this year was A Night in Paradise. Homecoming King Quincy Rodgers and Queen Elizabeth De Schouwer were announced at the football game. The events sponsored by Student Government were Boys volleyball, dodgeball, powder puff junior vs senior flag football, and pep rally. Students also dressed up for the theme days.



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Notifications of Parents Regarding Out-Of-Field Teachers

Included in this memo is a list of teachers or long-term substitute teachers at Vero Beach High School and Freshman Learning Center who have been reported as teaching out-of-field 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 the school or Adalia Medina-Graham, Certification Analyst (772)564-3116.

Teacher	Current Certification	Out-of-Field Assignment
Masestro (a)	Certificaciòn	Fuera de Àrea en
Bell, Suzanna	ESE K-12, ESOL	ENGLISH 6-12
Branch, Jabbar	SOCIAL SCIENCE 6-12	ESE K-12
Burge, Maritza	WORLD LANGUAGE SPANISH	ESOL
Cisco, Anastasia	COMPUTER SCIENCE 6-12	MATH 6-12
Conner, Jamie	ELEMENTARY ED, ENGLISH 5-9	ESOL
Demsick, John-Peter	ENGLISH 6-12, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, HEALTH	ESOL
Ellis, Maxy	DRAMA, ENGLISH 5-9, READING	ESOL
Estes, Amy	BIOLOGY 6-12, ELEMENTARY ED	CHEMISTRY 6-12
Hape, Hannah	ENGLISH 6-12	ESOL
Ihnen, Brian	ESE K-12, PHYSICAL EDUCATION	SOCIAL SCIENCE 6-12
Lee, Jeffrey	MATH 5-9, MARKETING 6-12, BUSINESS ED 6-12	MATH 6-12
Nobles, Codi	SOCIAL SCIENCE 6-12	READING ENDORSEMENT, ENGLISH 6-12, ESOL
Pearson, Kayla	SOCIAL SCIENCE 5-9	SOCIAL SCIENCE 6-12
Rahal, Bryan	VARYING EXCEPTIONALITIES	SOCIAL SCIENCE 6-12, MATH 6-12, ENGLISH 6-12
Rahal, Christopher	ESE K-12	SOCIAL SCIENCE 6-12, EARTH SPACE 6-12
Russell, Amy	ENGLISH 6-12	ESOL
Scales, Jodie	ENGLISH 6-12	ESOL
Sommers, Valery	ENGLISH 6-12	ESOL
Welsh, James	ESE K-12	SCIENCE 5-9

Aviso Para Los Padres Sobre Maestros “Fuera Del Area”

Incluido en este aviso se encuentra una lista de maestros o maestros sustitutos a largo plazo en la escuela Vero Beach High School and Freshman Learning Center quienes han sido reportados como “fuera de àrea” como se requiere en Sección 1012.42 de Estatuto de Florida. Esto significa que los maestros estàn 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 estan enseñado “fuera de su àrea” requieren completar un curso adicional o tomar un examen para cumplir con los requerimientos. Si Ud. Tien preguntas sobre los requerimientos favor de hablar con la escuela o Adalia Medina-Graham, Analista de Certificaciòn (772)564-3116

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Performing Arts Department

The VBHS Performing Arts Department has had a very successful fall semester. The Fighting Indians Band competed in the Lion's Pride Band Invitational in Tampa at King's High School in October. The band placed 3rd out of 25 total bands and received superior ratings. On October 29th, the Fighting Indians Band participated in the Florida Bandmasters Association District Marching Band Music Performance Assessment and received straight superior ratings. In November, all 3 of our jazz bands and all 3 concert bands presented fall concerts.

Our Competition Drama Troupe earned straight superior ratings at the district level one act competition and received an invitation to perform at state in the spring. In October, both the VBHS Chorus and VBHS Orchestra presented fall concerts. We are excited to welcome our new orchestra director, Angie Dueñas, to Vero Beach HS. Ms. Dueñas comes to us from the Orlando area though she grew up in Brevard County.

Next semester promises to be a busy semester of performances. We will be presenting the all school musical, Matilda, February 17th, 18th, and 19th. Band, Chorus, and Orchestra will each be participating in Music Performance Assessments at the District level.



H.O.P.E Club

H.O.P.E. Club, which is its third year at VBHS, stands for Helping Others Each Day. We strive to create a safe environment for our peers to learn about coping with various mental health issues, as and learn about how to help others do the same. Our goal is to create a community for all different types of people to join, and to invite others to attend as well. Through our members and meetings, we can help destigmatize mental health discussion. This year, we have had discussion topics ranging from coping with depression to managing school and holiday stress. We meet on Thursdays every three weeks in the media center. For more information about specific meeting dates and topics, join our Remind Group by texting @vbhshope to 81010.

Student Leaders:

- Elizabeth De Schouwer, Co-President
- Liliana Elliott: Co-President
- Remi Heyer- Secretary
- Kerry Wynn: Treasurer
- Guidance Advisor: Mrs. Melissa Wiles, MS, MA, Mental Wellness Specialist
- Faculty Advisor: Carrie Adams