

# Smoke Signals

FEBRUARY  
2022

ISSUE 5  
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](http://www.vbhs.org)

*"Home of the  
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 #5

## A Message From The Chief

February marks a point in our school year where a great deal of progress has been made and there is still more to come. Our focus remains on cultivating a positive climate and create the best learning environment possible. High quality instruction and student learning are our highest priorities. Everything that we do at VBHS is designed to help students learn in all areas and be successful well beyond their time in high school. This year has been tremendously challenging for our school, our community, and our nation. If you have questions and or concerns, we want to hear from you.

It is hard to believe that we have passed the halfway point of the year. Students are settled in routines and understand our school- wide expectations. Our partnership between school and home is a key ingredient for student success. With that said, we hope that your students are feeling safe and supported. Social media, especially Tic Toc has not been an asset to a student's mindset this past year with their advertised and destructive "challenges" they have allowed to be presented to students nationwide and you should be aware of these. I recommend talks with your student about the "Tic Toc challenges" as well as other negative social media and I hope that we can all be consistent in our message; so that students learn to "think before they act" and not make destructive decisions. Consistency and predictability are key factors for student success, as well as a calm learning environment to better focus on learning.

We want our students to realize the tremendous importance of attending school daily, and the terribly negative impact that "non-attendance" has on a student's academic outcomes. Parents, we ask that you closely monitor your student's attendance. We find too often, that parents of truant students do not realize how much school their child is missing, until it is a big problem with irreparable repercussions. Please encourage your child to be in school every day.

Winter sports and performing arts seasons are finishing up in Vero tradition with successful seasons. Both basketball teams and wrestling are in districts competition, boys' soccer are district runner ups, and girls' weightlifting won districts and regionals heading to states. Band participated in the Florida Bandmasters Association District Solo and Ensemble and Color Guard Music Performance Assessment where over 75 musicians and 18 color guard performed solos and small ensembles at this event. A total of 80 superior medals were awarded to musicians. Color guard earned a superior for their floor show and 4 members earned superiors for solos.

With so much ahead of us to be accomplished, we can all look forward to a "breather" with Spring Break set for the week of March 21st. Also, an activity letter is being mailed home to Seniors as a reminder for all the important events coming their way in the final third of this school year.

For the VBHS Family,  
*Shawn D. O'Keefe*  
Shawn O'Keefe



*Shawn O'Keefe*

**act computers**  
 Your Local Computer Center & IT Solution Provider Since 1995  
 (772) 567-7888  
 www.actcomp.us

**Congratulations!**  
**VBHS Top 10 Class of 2022**  
 Andrew (Valedictorian), Katherine, Ethan (Salutatorian), Robert, Kayleen, Dylan, Sally, Kathan, Owen, and Ava  
 (in alphabetical order)



**Top Ten Seniors**  
 Congratulations to the top ten seniors graduating class of 2022. Andrew Baudo (Valedictorian), Katherine Bounassi, Ethan Campbell (Salutatorian), Robert Craig, Kayleen Diaz, Dylan Goldfarb, Sally Lloyd, Kathan Patel, Owen Stanton, and Ava Wilke. We congratulate them and wish them luck as they pursue their dreams.

**St. Helen CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
 proudly supports Vero Beach High School  
**GO INDIANS!**  
 www.sthelenvero.org  
 Mass Times: Saturday Vigil 4 pm  
 Sunday 7:15 am, 8:45 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 pm (Spanish) & 5 pm  
 2085 Tallahassee Ave. / 772-567-5129

**Teen Driver Challenge**

The Indian River County Sheriff's Office held a Teen Driver Challenge class at the Treasure Coast Public Safety Training Complex. All participants learned new skills to make them safer and more confident drivers.

The Teen Driver Challenge is a defensive driving program that covers various topics, including:

- Teen crash facts
- Knowing your vehicle
- Using your senses
- Vehicle dynamics
- Drug and alcohol use
- Aggressive driving and road rage
- Figure 8
- Threshold/Emergency Braking
- Backing
- Cornering
- Forward and reverse serpentine
- Off-road recovery
- Evasive maneuvers
- Skid control



The Teen Driver Challenge class is open to participants who are 15 to 19 years old, with a learner's permit, and have at least six months of driving experience. For more information, go to [www.ircsheriff.org/teen-driver-challenge](http://www.ircsheriff.org/teen-driver-challenge).


**STAMP OUT**  
 RECYCLING CART CONTAMINATION

Please, the **BLUE CART** is **ONLY** for **RECYCLABLE** materials.



**NO** garbage.  
**NO** plastic bags.

For more info visit [irrecycles.com](http://irrecycles.com)

**VAKANI**  
 orthodontics  
 VAKANIORTHO.COM • 772-400-1304  
 "Serving Vero Beach"  
 FREE CONSULTATIONS • *Hablamos Español*



## Performing Arts Department Happenings

The VBHS Performing Arts Department began its busiest part of the school year in January. Three VBHS students participated in Florida All State ensembles in early January. The VBHS Band had 18 students participate in the Four County Honor Band and Jazz Band at IRSC in mid-January. Our Associate Director of Bands, Ms. Jessica Russell, was the clinician for the Four County Honors Jazz Ensemble. The Fighting Indians Band once again participated in the Martin Luther King Day Parade in Gifford. On January 24th, the VBHS Jazz Bands were fortunate to have a clinic with trumpeter Charles Lazurus from the Minnesota Symphony Orchestra.

On January 29th, 75 band musicians and 18 color guard members participated in the Florida Bandmasters Association District Solo and Ensemble/Color Guard Music Performance Assessment at St. Lucie West Centennial HS. Over 80 superior medals were awarded to musicians. Four guard members received superior medals for solos. The VBHS Indoor Color Guard earned a superior rating for their floor show. During January and February, the VBHS Jazz Bands have been preparing for a jazz concert and the FBA District Jazz Music Performance Assessment.

Both the VBHS Choir and the VBHS Orchestra have been preparing for their music performance assessments that will be happening in March. The entire performing arts department is currently working on the all school musical. This year's show is Disney's The Little Mermaid. This full-scale production involves band, orchestra, choir, and drama students.

The department has a full slate of performances scheduled for this semester. If you would like to purchase season tickets, please contact our box office at 772-564-5537. Season tickets may be purchased for \$65. Individual show tickets are \$12 and \$10.



## Incoming 9th Graders

Please visit our website, [vbhs.indianriverschools.org](http://vbhs.indianriverschools.org), for more information and a presentation in the scroll about scheduling, Advance Placement (AP), course offerings, electives, athletics, performing arts and extracurricular activities.



**COLLEGE APPLICATION CONSULTANTS**

Private College Admissions Consulting

**SAT • ACT • PSAT Prep**  
**Ivy League • UF • Essays**

**Pam Proctor**


*Author of The College Hook: Second Edition*  
*E-book for Amazon Kindle and Barnes & Noble Nook*

[www.pamproctor.net](http://www.pamproctor.net) • 772-231-2221

**Orthopaedic Center of Vero Beach**

**Richard Steinfeld, MD**  
**Miguel Rivera, MD**  
**Carl P. DiLella, DO**

- Arthritis Management
- Arthroscopy
- Total Joint Replacement
- Sports Injuries
- Fracture Care
- Pain Management
- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Physical Therapy





1285 36th St. Ste 100  
Vero Beach, FL 32960  
[www.orthocentervb.com](http://www.orthocentervb.com)  
772.778.2009

S K Y B O R N E

V E R O B E A C H

A I R L I N E A C A D E M Y



  
[www.skyborneacademy.com](http://www.skyborneacademy.com)

TELEPHONE: +1 800 800 1411  
EMAIL: [flyvero@skyborne.com](mailto:flyvero@skyborne.com)  
2805 Airport Drive · Vero Beach, FL 32961

**URGENT CARE**

for every sprain, scrape and stitch.



**From Aches to X-rays, We've Got You Covered.**

- Broad range of urgent care & wellness services
- Open 7 days a week, 8 am to 8 pm
- CareSpot.com**: schedule online right from the field, ballpark, or court

*Proud supporter of the Fighting Indians*

**VERO BEACH**  
**772.257.3200**  
 1820 58th Avenue, Unit 110



**CareSpot**  
URGENT CARE



## 2022 School Calendar

- 2/21 .....All Presidents Day;  
No School
  - 3/18 .....End of Quarter 3
  - 3/21-25.....Spring Break
  - 4/15 .....No School
  - 5/20 .....Graduation
  - 5/27.....Last Day of School for Students
- Report Cards & Progress Reports**  
All report card and progress reports will be available on FOCUS
- 4/4 .....3rd Quarter report cards
  - 4/29 .....4th Quarter progress reports
  - 6/1 .....4th Quarter Report Cards

## Main Campus Laptop Return in the Media Center/Library

- Senior/Grade 12 laptop return dates: May 2nd- May 6th, 2022.
- No appointment or schedule necessary /walk-in
- Grades 10 and 11- May 16-May 27, 2022.
- Students will be scheduled to return their device during their English class.
- Students who do not return laptops will be charged \$350 for the laptop and \$25 for the charger

## FLC Campus Laptop Return in the Media Center/Library

- 9th grade laptop return dates May 23rd- May 27th, 2022.
- Students will be scheduled to return their device during their English class.
- Students who do not return laptops will be charged \$350 for the laptop and \$25 for the charger

## 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 1:25pm.

## 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.

9th GRADE

**Retake Algebra 1 EOC:** February 22-23  
**FSA Writing:** April 5  
**FSA Reading:** May 3-May 4  
**Algebra 1 EOC:** May 9-May 10  
**Geometry EOC:** May 11-May 12  
**Biology EOC:** May 18

10TH GRADE

**FSA Writing:** April 5  
**FSA Reading:** May 3-May 4  
**Algebra 1 EOC:** May 9-May 10  
**Geometry EOC:** May 9-May 10  
**Biology EOC:** May 18

VBHS and FLC

## 2022 Grade Level Testing Schedule

11th Grade

**Retake FSA Writing:** February 22  
**Retake FSA Reading:** February 23-24  
**SAT School Day:** March 2  
**US History EOC:** May 5  
**Algebra 1 EOC:** May 9-May 10  
**Geometry EOC:** May 11-May 12  
**Biology EOC:** May 18

12th Grade

**Retake FSA Writing:** February 22  
**Retake FSA Reading:** February 23-24  
**Retake Algebra 1 EOC:** February 28-March 11  
**ACT School Day:** March 8 (select students)  
**SAT School Day:** April 26 (select students)  
**Florida Civics Literacy Exam:** April 28

### Morgan Stanley

**Vincent J. Celano CFP®**  
Branch Manager  
Financial Advisor

3525 Ocean Drive | Vero Beach, FL 32963  
**772-234-1813 • 800-347-4203**  
 vincent.celano@morganstanley.com  
 advisor.morganstanley.com/vincent.celano



## Dual Enrollment

Dual Enrollment students, please make sure you include all the following information:

- Full name, phone number, VBHS id #, IRSC id #, and the course name and code with the professor's name.
- Email this info to: [Laura.Attwood@indianriverschools.org](mailto:Laura.Attwood@indianriverschools.org)
- Please remember, all books are purchased for Dual enrolled students. We order the materials for the students.
- Students interested in taking Dual Enrollment courses next year, should start the process of applying to IRSC. Directions and information can be found at [https://www.indianriverschools.org/departments/academic\\_success/dual\\_enrollment](https://www.indianriverschools.org/departments/academic_success/dual_enrollment).

## Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement exams start May 2- May 13. Check [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org) for the entire calendar.

If your student is interested in Advanced Placement classes, contact Kere Minton at [Kere.Minton@indianriverschools.org](mailto:Kere.Minton@indianriverschools.org).

Taking AP courses and exams can help students stand out on college applications. AP courses on a student's transcript show 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.

## SCOIR

**SCOIR** is a college and career exploration platform focused on finding the right fit for you. Visit college campuses virtually, compare college costs, acceptance rates, schedule virtual appointments with college representatives and build a resume. Students can login and invite parents to join them on the college and career journey. Visit [www.scoir.com](http://www.scoir.com).

# SCOIR

## A2 Tutoring

VBHS is offering tutoring on both campuses in the Media Center after school on Tuesdays and Thursday until 4pm. Snacks and transportation are provided



# Need care now? Just walk in.

Pointe West Walk-In Care is open, safe and ready to care for you.  
No appointment necessary.



- Illnesses & Injuries
- School/Sport Physicals
- Immunizations
- X-Rays
- EKGs

**Pointe West Walk-In Care**  
1960 Pointe West Drive  
Vero Beach, FL 32966  
772.226.4250  
[ccirh.org/walkin](http://ccirh.org/walkin)

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. | Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

 **Cleveland Clinic**  
Indian River Hospital

## Parents/Guardians: Focus Parent Portal Form to be Completed

Next time you log into your FOCUS Parent Portal, please take a moment to complete the STUDENT RESIDENCY FORM. The form can be accessed under FORMS in the left-hand sidebar menu of your FOCUS Parent Portal and will take just 5 minutes to complete; only one form is needed per family. The STUDENT RESIDENCY FORM is required annually for all students. If you have any questions, please contact 772-564-3096



## Scholarships

Local Scholarships are now available on CANVAS. Scholarship Spotlights and directions are being emailed daily to students sdirc.org emails as well as their personal and parent emails if they are listed in FOCUS. Most scholarships require a counselor report that can be requested in guidance. Students should provide at least 1-2 weeks for the counselor reports to be completed. Scholarships must be postmarked prior to the due date. Counselors will be available on conference night to assist students in completing their applications. Also on conference night, we will have a representative from IRSC on campus from 2:30-7:30 to answer any financial aid questions. There will be a FASFA presentation at 6 in room 2-118.

## Scholars Ceremony

VBHS will be hosting our annual "Pride of the Tribe" Scholar Ceremony, Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 7pm in the PAC! Honorees should have received their invitations. Seniors, be sure to submit your required/additional submissions ASAP!

If there are any questions regarding donations, participation, or extra forms, please contact Ms. Zakarian at 564-5456 or jackie.zakarian@indianriverschools.org

## Upcoming Senior Events

- May 13th ..... Senior Celebration
- May 16th-20th ..... Senior "Catch-Up & Practice Week" 5/16-5/20. Catch up on campus if needed, and Graduation Practices for all.
- May 17th-19th ..... Graduation practice from 8-9:30am
- May 20th ..... Graduation (Friday) @ 7PM In the Citrus Bowl



**JP** Law Offices of  
**Jennifer D. Peshke, P.A.**  
4727 Hwy A1A • Vero Beach, FL 42963  
**772-231-1233**

*A general Civil Practice Law Firm specializing in:*  
Estate Planning Services including Wills, Trusts, & Probate as well as Full Real Estate Closing Services including Contract Review & Preparation, Closing Document Preparation & Issuance of Title Insurance.

**FREE INITIAL 30 MINUTE CONSULTATION TO READERS OF VB HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

[www.PeshkeLaw.com](http://www.PeshkeLaw.com)

**SHOP • DONATE • VOLUNTEER**

**WOMEN'S REFUGE RESALE SHOP**

**We Offer**  
Clothing • Accessories  
Household Items  
Art • Furniture  
Home Décor

**Our Hours**  
Mon-Fri 10-4 • Sat 10-3  
Donations are accepted during normal business hours.

**Chairish**

**POSHMARK**

**Unique Finds**

**We Offer**  
High-end, Vintage, and Antique Items

**Our Hours**  
Wed-Fri 11-4  
Sat 11-3

1609 10th Ave., Vero Beach, FL 32960 • (772) 610-5017

*Proceeds benefit the Women's Refuge!*

WomensRefugeVB.org • 1615 10th Ave., Vero Beach, FL 32960 • (772) 567-3598

**ATTENTION INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SENIORS - CLASS OF 2023**

**Scholarship Foundation**  
of Indian River County

**DID YOU KNOW**  
31 Indian River County Students from the Class of 2021 Received \$531,850.00 in College Scholarships

**IF YOU'D LIKE OUR HELP WITH COLLEGE FIRST STEPS TO QUALIFY\***

- Unweighted GPA of 3.0 or Better
- SAT Scores of 1110 to 1330 or Better
- 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](http://www.sfindianriver.org) • **Absolute Deadline February 1, 2023**

P.O. Box 1820 • Vero Beach, FL 32961 • For more info call **772-569-9869** or visit our website [www.sfindianriver.org](http://www.sfindianriver.org)





## National Signing Day

Six members of our football team and one girl's golfer took part in National Signing Day and will move on to their college athletics in the fall.

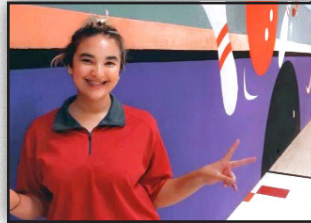
They are Annika Miller (Palm Beach Atlantic for Girls Golf); Reggie Ferguson (St. Thomas University); Giovanni Miele (Keiser University); Brandon Neely (Tusculum University); Keijuan Roberts (Keiser University); James Smith (St. Thomas University); Alex Tappen (Midland University). We wish them luck as they pursue their academic and athletic goals!

## Cheerleading Tryouts

Cheerleading tryouts information: Parent/Cheerleader meeting will be held Wednesday, April 6th in the VBHS Main Campus Cafeteria from 6-7pm.

## All-Area Girls Bowling

Freshman Angeli Atayde was one of only six bowlers, and the only Freshman, selected to the TC Palm All-Area Girls Bowling Team. She finished 5th overall in the district championship out of over 60 bowlers participating.



## Girls Weightlifting

The Girls Weightlifting Team have won 6 Straight Traditional District and Regional Championships and their first ever Snatch District and Regional Championships. The team will be taking 13 lifters to the FHSAA Girls Weightlifting State Meet at Port St. Joe High School on February 10th.



Treasure Coast  
Pediatrics  
**Marc D. McCain, MD, FAAP**  
3745 11th Circle • Suite 108  
Vero Beach, FL 32960  
**772.567.1552**

More Than Just A Pool  
Residential • Commercial • Remodeling

**30 YEARS**  
OF  
EXCELLENCE  
CONCRETE  
POOLS, INC.  
**772-878-7752 • angpools.com**  
8880 Glades Cut-Off Rd., • Port St. Lucie, FL 34986

**ACNE IS PERSISTENT.  
SO ARE WE.**

**VERO BEACH**  
5820 20th St  
(772) 794-9411  
Acne.MessageEnvy.com

Disclaimer: Any statement pertaining to the treatment of acne is exclusively in reference to products manufactured by Proactiv Company LLC. Rates and services may vary by location and session. Not all Message Envy franchised locations offer every service or enhancement. See franchised location for additional details. Each location is independently owned and operated. ©2021 ME SPE Franchising, LLC. MM# 29628

**The Learning Tree, LLC**  
Tutoring & Enrichment Services  
"Branching out to meet all your child's educational needs!"  
thelearningtreevb@gmail.com • 772-205-2294  
**ACT/SAT Prep • PERT Test Prep**  
Tutoring for all grade levels in all subject areas  
110 43rd Avenue SW • Vero Beach, FL  
[www.thelearningtreeirc.com](http://www.thelearningtreeirc.com)

**PIZZA  
MIA**

**772.492.6151**  
1115 21st Street • Vero Beach, FL 32960



Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage PAID  
Orlando, FL  
Permit #2346

School District of Indian River County  
**Vero Beach High School**  
1707 16th Street  
Vero Beach, FL 32960

Return Service Requested



## Winter Athletics

### Boys Basketball:

The District tournament will start February 8th at Vero Beach High School. The Boys are currently 11-9 and seeded #3 in the district. Senior Timarion Bardwell leads the team in scoring, averaging 17 points per game.

### Girls Basketball:

Our Girls are currently 19-3 and seeded #1 in the district under 1st year Coach Kayla Woulard. Vero will play Centennial High School on February 4th at Palm Beach Lakes High School in the District Finals. Freshman Jaida Civil leads the team in scoring, averaging 16 points per game.

### Boys Soccer:

The Boys finished the regular season 11-7-3 and the #1 Seed headed into the District Tournament. After a tough 1-0 loss in the District Finals, the Boys are hoping for an At-Large bid to the State Tournament.

### Girls Soccer:

The Girls finished the season with a tough Double Overtime Loss to Centennial High School in the 1st Round of the District Tournament. A special thank you to Coach Dan Dickens who resigned following the season, after a very successful 7 year run as our Head Coach.

### Girls Weightlifting:

For the 6th consecutive season, the Girls are Regional Champions. In addition, the team championship, we had "8" individuals who were regional champs in their respective classes. The girls will compete in the 3A FHSAA Girls Weightlifting Championship at Port St. Joe High School on February 10th. Congratulations to Coach Pete Deluke and the Girls Weightlifting Team.

### Boys Wrestling:

Under the direction and guidance of Coach Ken Colao, the boys are having

an outstanding season. Currently Junior Keyshawn Campbell is undefeated 21-0 and ranked #1 in the state of Florida in the 195 lb. weight class.

### Girls Wrestling:

This is the inaugural season of the Girls Wrestling team at Vero Beach High School and Coach Lynn Esposito-Knight has done a great job in getting the program off the ground. We are looking forward to this sport continuing to grow.

