

VBHS Smoke Signals

J U L Y
2 0 2 4

ISSUE 2
VOLUME 19

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"*

'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 #2

A Message From The Chief

Dear Parents and Friends,

We welcome you to a new and exciting school year 2024-25 at Vero Beach High School! For those of you who are new to our VBHS Family, we extend a very special welcome and hope you will find a home here for the next few years. Our Freshman Learning Center (FLC), home to our freshman class of over 600 students come together from all our feeder middle schools, along with those new to our community to "gel" together, becoming the "class of 2028"! For returning parents and students, we are excited for you and the opportunities that the new school year has in store as upperclassmen on our "main campus"! The summers tend to pass quickly, and it seems like just yesterday that we celebrated the class of 2024, at their graduation ceremony. Here we are with a new start just around the corner!

Along with all other schools, VBHS is currently awaiting our most recent school grade to be issued from the State of Florida for the 2023-24 school year, expected in late July. I am very pleased with the initially reported scores. I believe that our results, when final will serve as a point of pride for our students, staff, and families, indicative of all the hard work that was accomplished last year. See VBHS scores as well as other school's scores in the table "2-Year FAST Comparison by School" from the district's July press release, included in this newsletter.

We invite and encourage you to attend our orientation evening and open house in August. Please see our back-to-school schedule posted in this newsletter. It sends a very powerful message to your children, our students, when the family and faculty are "on the same page" when it comes to the importance of a sound education. We enjoy seeing you all here on our campuses and hope you will continue to be frequent visitors to your children's "home away from home." Please know that you are always welcome.

Students will return for this 2024-25 school year on Monday August 12th! Please review this newsletter carefully, so that you are adequately prepared for the first days of school. Please make use of our website, www.vbhs.org for additional and updated information to "stay tuned". I hope you enjoy the last days of summer and return to us in August with renewed energy and enthusiasm for what promises to be another outstanding school year. Together we achieve success at VBHS!

For the VBHS Family,

Shawn O'Keefe
Principal



Shawn O'Keefe

2-Year FAST Comparison by School

School	ELA GD 3-10			ELA GD 3			Math Combined			Math 3-8			Algebra			Geometry			Science/Biology			Civics/US History		
	22-23	23-24	Grwth	22-23	23-24	Grwth	22-23	23-24	Grwth	22-23	23-24	Grwth	22-23	23-24	Grwth	22-23	23-24	Grwth	22-23	23-24	Grwth	22-23	23-24	Grwth
BES	67%	73%	6%	75%	83%	8%				67%	71%	4%							69%	78%	9%			
CES	55%	56%	1%	64%	59%	-5%				60%	68%	8%							56%	56%	0%			
DES	38%	35%	-3%	42%	41%	-1%				45%	36%	-9%							40%	48%	8%			
FES	47%	52%	5%	51%	53%	2%				50%	68%	18%							45%	61%	16%			
GES	52%	56%	4%	49%	53%	4%				56%	56%	0%							61%	57%	-4%			
IRA	49%	52%	3%	52%	54%	2%				52%	58%	6%							56%	70%	14%			
LMS	70%	76%	6%	73%	81%	8%				75%	79%	4%							67%	73%	6%			
OMS	80%	78%	-2%	73%	70%	-3%				79%	77%	-2%							81%	71%	-10%			
PIES	53%	59%	6%	60%	68%	8%				49%	58%	9%							60%	59%	-1%			
RMS	71%	81%	10%	81%	80%	-1%				73%	82%	9%							72%	73%	1%			
SES	54%	68%	14%	56%	67%	11%				68%	75%	7%							53%	68%	15%			
TCS	61%	69%	8%	68%	64%	-4%				75%	78%	3%							62%	80%	18%			
VBES	40%	47%	7%	37%	45%	8%				52%	56%	4%							38%	40%	2%			
ELEMENTARY	59%	62%	3%	63%	63%	0%				63%	67%	4%							59%	65%	6%			
STATE ELEMENTARY	50%	53%	3%	51%	55%	4%				56%	58%	2%							51%	53%	2%			
GMS	36%	47%	11%				43%	45%	2%	34%	36%	2%	87%	78%	-9%	87%	100%	13%	40%	40%	0%	61%	64%	3%
OMS	42%	46%	4%				52%	57%	5%	44%	51%	7%	83%	74%	-9%	97%	89%	-8%	49%	48%	-1%	66%	66%	0%
SRMS	39%	49%	10%				58%	65%	7%	49%	57%	8%	87%	89%	2%	91%	100%	9%	38%	54%	16%	53%	62%	9%
SGMS	47%	50%	3%				60%	65%	4%	49%	53%	4%	92%	86%	-6%	100%	100%	0%	56%	51%	-5%	68%	63%	-5%
MIDDLE	46%	52%	6%				58%	62%	4%	49%	53%	4%	89%	83%	-6%	95%	98%	3%	50%	53%	3%	67%	67%	0%
STATE MIDDLE	48%	52%	4%				55%	59%	4%	49%	53%	4%	83%	83%	0%	92%	94%	2%	47%	49%	2%	65%	67%	2%
SRHS	46%	52%	6%				27%	41%	15%				23%	25%	2%	29%	54%	25%	64%	76%	12%	59%	66%	7%
VBHS	46%	55%	9%				28%	42%	14%				17%	35%	18%	37%	47%	10%	70%	77%	7%	64%	71%	8%
HIGH	49%	56%	7%				31%	42%	11%				22%	31%	9%	38%	50%	12%	70%	77%	7%	65%	72%	7%
STATE HIGH	48%	53%	5%				36%	41%	5%				29%	33%	4%	41%	47%	6%	61%	64%	3%	62%	67%	5%
ISSV	66%	72%	6%	70%	78%	8%	70%	73%	3%	67%	70%	3%	90%	86%	-4%	100%	100%	0%	67%	65%	-2%	88%	84%	-4%
IRCHS	69%	74%	5%				59%	49%	-11%				48%	41%	-7%	67%	55%	-13%	83%	80%	-3%	87%	90%	3%
NCCS	56%	52%	-4%	51%	56%	4%	46%	55%	9%	46%	55%	9%							57%	54%	-3%			
SCJHS	74%	76%	2%				87%	85%	-2%	82%	79%	-2%	96%	91%	-6%	96%	100%	4%	81%	87%	6%	97%	91%	-6%
SPA	70%	41%	-29%	94%	50%	-44%	96%	55%	-42%	96%	55%	-42%							43%	50%	7%			
DISTRICT	51%	57%	6%	63%	63%	0%	55%	60%	5%	63%	67%	4%	53%	55%	2%	46%	59%	13%	60%	65%	5%	66%	69%	3%
STATE	49%	53%	4%	51%	55%	4%	51%	55%	4%	53%	56%	3%	50%	53%	3%	46%	52%	6%	53%	55%	2%	64%	67%	3%

Orientation

Orientation will be held on Wednesday, August 7, 2024 from 8am-12:00pm. Prior to orientation, schedules will be released on FOCUS. Students will be able to come on campus and walk their schedules. There will be tables set up with information from IRSC, Scholarship Foundation, and other important information. Counselors will be available in the courtyard for schedule corrections. For students new to the main campus, we will have campus tours starting at 11:00am.

- 10th grade at 8:00-9:00am
- 11th grade at 9:00-10:00am
- 12th grade at 10:00-11:00am
- 9th grade at 12:00pm at FLC

School Bus Transportation

Attention parents, if needing school bus transportation for 2024-2025 school year, the Online School Bus Registration Form is now available for submission! Simply sign in to your students FOCUS account and locate the FORMS menu to select the Transportation Request Form. Simple instructions will guide you through the process. Thank you for getting your students registered in advance!

*Choice school students can't use the link to find a bus stop but should enter their assigned depot stop location instead.



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Mass Times: Saturday Vigil 4 pm

Sunday 7:15 am, 8:45 am, 10:30 am,

12:15 pm in Spanish & 5 pm

ATTENTION INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SENIORS - CLASS OF 2025

Scholarship Foundation
of Indian River County

DID YOU KNOW

38 Indian River County Students from the Class of 2024
Received \$727,750 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 2023 may change for Class of 2024

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND SIGN UP FOR THE UPCOMING TESTING DATES

SAT TESTING DATES for 2024-2025

Aug 9, Sep 20, Oct 18, Nov, 22*

ACT TESTING DATES for 2024-2025

Aug 9, Sept 20, Nov 11, Jan 3*

*last testing date accepted for SF application

Scholarship Applications Available Online Beginning November 1, 2024 @ www.sfindianriver.org • Absolute Deadline February 9, 2025

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

Parking Sticker Sales For 2024-2025 School Year

Parking permit applications must be completely filled out and signed by both student and a parent/guardian. In addition to the two forms, the following must be brought in at the time the application is submitted: Proof of on-line payment, valid driver's license (not a learner's permit), current insurance card, and current vehicle registration. If all paperwork is not complete and current, you will **NOT** be issued a permit. If you do not have a license yet, but will have a license on or before **October 18, 2024**, you may reserve a parking spot by submitting all other paperwork and making payment. Reserved spots will be held only until October 25, 2024. At that time, the spot may be sold to another student and there will be NO refund of the parking fee.

PARKING IS A PRIVILEGE - No refunds will be given if parking privileges are revoked.

In addition to the specific parking lot rules contained on the signed Parking Permit Rules authorization form, the following apply to acquire and retain your parking privilege:

- You must maintain a 2.0 or above GPA.
- You must meet and maintain the 90% attendance requirement.
- You must not be on the school's Obligations List.
- A school suspension, 9 or more unexcused absences, or excessive tardies may result in the loss of your parking privilege.
- Leaving campus during the school day without authorization **WILL** result in the loss of your parking privilege.

Any vehicle parked on campus without a permit or in a spot belonging to another, will be given one written warning. A second offense may result in the vehicle being towed.

You must come on the date and time specified based upon your end of year unweighted GPA for advance parking selection. If you are unavailable on the assigned date, you may send all documentation with a third party. Keep in mind that the person who represents you will be choosing your parking spot. After the date assigned, students can get a parking spot from 7:30am to 2pm beginning on July 31st. Once school starts, you can get a parking spot before school, after school, or during lunch only.

SENIORS ONLY-Monday July 29th

- 8:00-9:00am - 3.75-4.0 GPA
- 9:00-10:00am - 3.50-3.74 GPA
- 10:00-11:00am - 3.25-3.49 GPA
- 11:00-12:00pm - 3.0-3.24 GPA

SENIORS ONLY-Tuesday July 30th

- 8:00-9:00am - 2.75-2.99 GPA
- 9:00-10:00am - 2.50-2.74 GPA
- 10:00-11:00am - 2.25-2.49 GPA
- 11:00-12:00pm - 2.0-2.24 GPA

JUNIORS ONLY-Wednesday July 31st

- 8:00-9:00am - 3.75-4.0 GPA
- 9:00-10:00am - 3.50-3.74 GPA
- 10:00-11:00am - 3.25-3.49 GPA
- 11:00-12:00pm - 3.0-3.24 GPA

JUNIORS ONLY-Thursday August 1st

- 8:00-9:00am - 2.75-2.99 GPA
- 9:00-10:00am - 2.50-2.74 GPA
- 10:00-11:00am - 2.25-2.49 GPA
- 11:00-12:00pm - 2.0-2.24 GPA

SOPHOMORES ONLY-Friday August 2nd

- 8:00-9:00am - 3.5-4.0 GPA
- 9:00-10:00am - 3.00-3.49 GPA
- 10:00-11:00am - 2.50-2.99 GPA
- 11:00-12:00pm - 2.00-2.49 GPA



You may check GPA and obligations before your scheduled date by coming to the front office any weekday between 9am and 2pm. This will decrease your wait time when you come on your scheduled day. If you have questions, contact Mrs. Plate at 772-564-5511 or at school email below: jennifer.plate@indianriverschools.org.

**** If you miss your assigned day, you will need to wait until Monday August 5th to apply for parking.**

Applications can be found on the school's website or at the front office of the main campus.



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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.

Tardy Policy

The following Tardy Policy is in place for the 2024-25 school year. We want all parents and students to be aware of it. This is a concern that we do all we can to help assist students getting to class on time!

All late students who are not signed in by a parent/guardian at the attendance desk or do not have verification of a medical appointment will report to the cafeteria and then be escorted back to class. If a student arrives at the tardy room twenty or more minutes after the late bell, the student will be coded as ABSENT for the entire period. Parents/guardians CANNOT phone in a tardy excuse. Upon the next class change the tardy students will then transition to their next class. When a student receives their 4th tardy (total, not per class) they will be assigned a detention or a Saturday School. If a student receives their 5th tardy they will receive another Saturday School. If a student receives 6 or more tardies per grading period, the student may be suspended for defiance/non-compliance for up to 2 days

Definition of Tardy per School Board: A late arrival is defined as arriving to school after the designated starting time. A tardy is defined as an arrival to class after the designated starting time or the tardy signal has sounded. When tardies become excessive (4) or more times per nine week grading period, the parent/guardian will be notified by administration and appropriate consequence administered. If the problem continues, a progression of actions will be taken by the administration to address the problem.

At Vero Beach High School, tardies are now concurrent for all classes (not per class) and will run through each nine weeks grading period. Teachers will be instructed to close their doors when the tardy bell rings and no student will be permitted in after the bell rings. All late students will report to the cafeteria and sign in and receive the generated pass so they can gain entrance to that period. Students will not be permitted into a class after the late bell without a generated pass in an effort to maintain student accountability.



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

Guidance – Scheduling

We are working on schedules for the 2024-2025 school year and would like to let you know about some exciting opportunities you may qualify for.

1. **Senior Privilege:** If you are an on track with your courses, passed all of your assessments, demonstrated CCA and have a GPA over a 2.3, you are eligible for a period off.
2. **Credit for Work:** If you are a junior or senior, have a job and maintain your employment throughout the school year, you are eligible for 1 period off. You must also be on track with your courses, passed all of your assessments, demonstrated CCA and have a GPA over a 2.3,
3. **Dual Enrollment courses through IRSC:** You must have a 3.0 GPA and the correct test scores to qualify. You may take your courses at the college and decrease the number of courses you need to take at VBHS. Four college courses equal a full course load.

If you are interested in any of these options, please reach out to your counselor. Counselor emails can be found on the FOCUS homepage.

Your parent will need to complete the VBHS Nontraditional Contract on FOCUS, we can assist you and complete the form over the phone as well.

2024-2025 School Calendar

8/7/2024	Orientation in AM
8/12/2024	First Day of School
9/2/2024	Labor Day; No School
9/17/2024	High School Open House
10/10/2024	End of Quarter 1
10/22/2024	High School Conferences
10/25/2024	No School
11/1/2024	No School for Students/Staff Professional Learning Day
11/11/2024	Veteran's Day; No School
11/25-29/2024	Thanksgiving Week; No School
12/19/2024	Modified Instructional Day
12/20/2024	Modified Instructional Day/End of Quarter 2
12/23/2024-1/7/2025	Winter Break
1/8/2025	Students return from Winter Break
1/20/2025	Dr. M.L.King, Jr Day; No School
1/31/2025	No School/Staff Professional Learning Day
2/11/2025	High School Conferences
2/14/2025	No School
2/17/2025	All Presidents Day; No School
3/17-21/2025	Spring Break
3/25/2025	End of Quarter 3
4/18/2025	No School
5/17/2025	Graduation
5/26/2025	Memorial Day, No School
5/28/2025	Modified Instructional Day
5/29/2025	Modified Instructional Day
5/30/2025	Modified Instructional Day/Last Day of School

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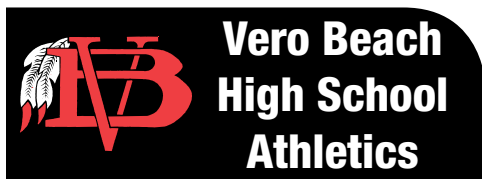
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Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Football Season Tickets

We are very excited about our upcoming 2024 Home Varsity Football Schedule. In our "6" Home games, we will host some of Florida's premier teams. Teams to watch include Gainesville Buchholz (13-1 in 2023). State powers Miami Booker T Washington and Homestead High School. And District Rivals Fort Pierce Central and Treasure Coast.

We are going back to our old ways and offering tickets to be purchased in person. You will be able to pay with cash or check and receive a ticket book identifying your seats.

Current season ticket holders can purchase their seats and receive ticket books from the VBHS front office, every Tuesday and Thursday starting on July 16th from 5:00-7:00pm. To secure your seats, there will be "4" available dates for Season Ticket purchases listed below.

- July 16th, July 18th, July 23rd, July 25th
- Cost of Season Tickets are \$50 for 6 Home Games. Or \$75 which includes a Season Parking Pass.

If you are NOT currently a season ticket holder, but interested in purchasing season tickets for this upcoming season, tickets will be available starting on Tuesday August 6th. Tickets will be available for purchase every Tuesday and Thursday, starting on Aug 6th from 5:00-7:00pm in the VBHS front office. The last date of purchase for season tickets will be Thursday August 15th.

Cost of Season Tickets are \$50 for 6 Home Games. Or \$75 which includes a Season Parking Pass.

First game of the season will be at Home on Friday August 16th vs Palm Beach Gardens at 7:00pm.

Football Schedule

2024 Vero Beach High School Varsity Football Schedule		
Aug 16- Kick Off Classic	Home vs Palm Beach Gardens	7:00 PM
Aug 23- Week 1	Away vs Eau Gallie	7:00 PM
Aug 30- Week 2	Home vs Buchholz	7:00 PM
Sept 9- Week 3	Home vs Homestead	
Sept 12-Week 4	Away vs Centennial	7:00 PM
Sept 20-Week 5	Away vs Heritage	7:00 PM
Sept 27-Week 6 -Homecoming	Home vs FP Central	7:00 PM
Oct 4-Week 7	Home vs Booker T. Washington	7:00 PM
Oct 11-Week 8	Away vs Rockledge	7:00 PM
Oct 18-Week 9	BYE Week	
Oct 25- Week 10	Home vs Treasure Coast	7:00 PM
Nov 1- Week 11	Away vs Palm Bay	7:00 PM

VBHS Sports Opportunities

FALL:	COACH NAME	Coach contact information
Bowling	Jeremy Pohl	Jeremy.Pohl@indianriverschools.org
Varsity Football	Lenny Jankowski	Lenny.Jankowski@indianriverschools.org
JV Football	Lance Roache	Lance.Roache@indianriverschools.org
Boys Golf	Bela Nagy	Bela.nagy@indianriverschools.org
Girls Golf	Roger Van Dyke	Roger.vandyke@indianriverschools.org
Cross Country	Zac Wyckoff	Zachary.wyckoff@indianriverschools.org
Swimming	Holly McClain	Holly.mcclain@indianriverschools.org
Volleyball	Heather Magelssen	Heather.magelssen@indianriverschools.org
Football Cheer (V)	Jessica Porter	Jessica.Porter@indianriverschools.org
Football Cheer (JV)	Jenna Schepers	Jenna.schepers@indianriverschools.org
WINTER:		
Boys Basketball	James Dawson	James.dawson@indianriverschools.org
Girls Basketball	Nikki Bray	
Boys Soccer	Chris Fonehouse	Christopher.Fonehouse@indianriverschools.org
Girls Soccer	Katie Kenward	Katie.kenward@indianriverschools.org
Girls Weightlifting	Pete DeLuke	Peter.DeLuke@indianriverschools.org
Boys Wrestling	Ken Colao	Kenneth.Colao@indianriverschools.org
Girls Wrestling	Ken Colao	Kenneth.colao@indianriverschools.org
SPRING:		
Baseball	Bryan Rahal	Bryan.Rahal@indianriverschools.org
Beach Volleyball	Wes Hawkins	Thomas.hawkins@indianriverschools.org
Flag Football	Addie Teske	Addison.teske@indianriverschools.org
Boys Lacrosse	Rory Whipple	Rory.whipple@indianriverschools.org
Girls Lacrosse	Shannon Dean	Shannon.Dean@indianriverschools.org
Softball	Aquaria Baines	aquaria.baines@indianriverschools.org
Boys & Girls Tennis	TBD	
Boys Track	Alonzo Phillips	Alonzia.phillips@indianriverschools.org
Girls Track	TBD	
Athletic Director	Lenny Jankowski	Lenny.Jankowski@indianriverschools.org
Athletic Trainer	AJ Bewersdorf	Allen.Bewersdorf@indianriverschools.org

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Class of 2025

You are about to enter your final year of high school and should be preparing to start the college application process. Most college applications are due no later than November 15. In the fall, you will be meeting with your counselor to assist you throughout the process. There will be a schedule of application and essay workshops sent out the first week of school as well.

Many applications will require a counselor email so that your transcripts and recommendations can be uploaded. We are requesting that all students use the following email address for their college applications this year instead of their individual counselor emails: dist.vbhs.collegeapp@sdir.onmicrosoft.com.

This common email address will provide a streamline approach to monitoring student applications and deadlines. If you have any questions, you may reach out to your student's counselor when they return on July 20 or to Mrs. Wood, Guidance Director.

We are looking forward to the upcoming year and see you soon.

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- Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Drama, and Color Guard

VBHS Club Opportunities

Acceptance Club	H.O.S.A.
African American Student Council	Inclusion Club
American Sign Language	International Club
Animal Rescue Club	Jam Club
Arrowhead/Yearbook	Key Club
Campus Life	Pickleballers
Chess Club	Masterminds
Chick-Fil-A	Math Team/Math Competition
Dance Marathon	Model United Nations
Debate Team	National Honor Society
Drama Club	Photography Club
Dungeons and Dragons Club	Science National Honor Society
First Priority	Stomp & Shake
Florida Future Educators of America	Student Government
Green Team (Environmental Club)	Tribe Tutors
Golden Indians Society	Unified Indians
HOPE	Young Writers Club

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