

Smoke Signals

SEPTEMBER
2023

ISSUE 3
VOLUME 18

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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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 #3

A Message From The Chief

Dear Parents and Friends

October is here already, and these next few months are critical for everyone here at school. As we approach the end of the first quarter, I want to compliment your children on their smooth transition into a new and exciting school year. At the start of this school year, we created some necessary focus on the new "Code of Student Conduct" rules related to cell phone use as well as addressing the epidemic of teen vaping that are intended to keep our students safe and our climate positive. Also, please be reminded that good attendance is critical to your student's success in high school.

Our goal is to support each student's academic and extracurricular pursuits in any way that we can. We know that you share our pride in all that they accomplish along the way, and in the promise of their future. So many of our student are positively involved outside of academics. Our performing arts department, including band, drama, chorus, and orchestra have been rehearsing hard, and will give us all great entertainment in performances this year. Our clubs and student organizations keep student life here on campus constantly "on the move" with so many fun activities to take part in. Fall sports are mid-season and doing extremely well in competition. Homecoming week begins October 16th and our homecoming parade will be on Thursday October 19th routing down 16th Street and 14th Ave. Join us for the opportunities sponsored by these groups that showcase just how talented our students are at VBHS. You will be amazed!

Our freshmen have "settled in" and our sophomores are now adjusted to the main campus. Our juniors are well into their most challenging year of high school, and our seniors are a bit anxious at times, thinking about all that needs to be done in preparing for life beyond high school. We share in your pride for all that they accomplish along the way, and in the promise of their future!

As always communication is key during each year of your high school student's academic career. I encourage you to stay connected with what is happenings here at school as a parent or guardian. Our school's website, your parent Focus account to review daily attendance and grades, connect call communications, and these newsletters are a great source of updated information to stay tuned to your student's world. Stay in touch with teachers through e-mail and set up conferences with any teachers you wish to meet in person on conference night October 26th or any other time that is best suited for you to visit.

Looking at the rest of this first semester, our 1st Quarter of the school year ends on 10/11/23 with report cards available in Focus on 10/23/23. We are "off and running" with our start to this school year. We have a great faculty and staff, outstanding students, and a superb group of dedicated parents. Imagine what we can accomplish as we continue to work together for our common goals. Thank you for your continued support of our educational mission at VBHS and for sharing your children with us.

For the VBHS Family,

Shawn O'Keefe

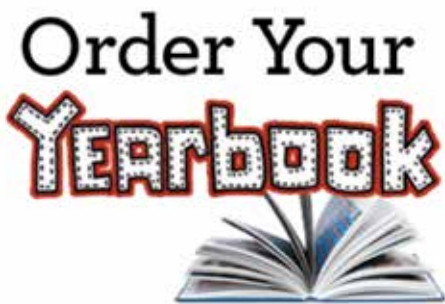
Principal



Shawn O'Keefe

Yearbook

- Scheduling senior pictures through dsp-photo.com. The deadline to take a picture is Saturday, Nov. 11th
- Senior Ads can be purchased for the yearbook until Friday, November 3rd. See Ms. Potter in room 1-205 or the front office for more information.
- Underclass picture retakes are scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 25th for the Main Campus and Thursday, Oct. 26th for the FLC.
- Yearbook pre-orders are available for \$60 until Sunday Oct. 29th at yearbookforever.com



PRESENTING

VBHS
Performing Arts
2023-2024

October 24 ~ 7:00 p.m.
Orchestral Spooktacular | Orchestra Concert*

October 27-28 ~ 7:00 p.m.
October 29 ~ 2:00 p.m.
Ghostlight | Theatre*

November 9 ~ 7:00 p.m.
Fall Band Concert | Concert & Jazz Bands

November 14 ~ 7:00 p.m.
Concerto Competition | Orchestra**

December 12-13 ~ 7:00 p.m.
Winter Holiday Concert

February 1 ~ 7:00 p.m.
Big Band Bash | Jazz

February 16-17 ~ 7:00 p.m.
February 18 ~ 2:00 p.m.
Into the Woods | Musical Theatre*

February 27 ~ 7:00 p.m.
Choral Pre-MPA Concert

February 28 ~ 7:00 p.m.
Orchestra Pre-MPA Concert

March 20-21 ~ 7:00 p.m.
31st Annual Red, White & Blue Concert*

April 14 ~ 4:00 p.m.
The Armed Man | VBHS/VBHS Choral**

April 30 ~ 7:00 p.m.
Spring Orchestra Concert

May 2 ~ 7:00 p.m.
Spring Band Concert | Concert & Jazz Bands

May 7 ~ 7:00 p.m.
One Day at a Time | 4th Annual Chroma Choral Concert*

*Not included in subscriptions
**Free to the public, but donations are welcome.

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Shows, dates, and times subject to change.

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42nd Annual Crown
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Saturday, October 14, 2023 ~ 3pm,
\$14 Adult General Admission
\$6 Youth Tickets/ 5 and under free

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September is Attendance Awareness Month

September is Attendance Awareness month. Our superintendent Dr. Moore has challenged all schools across the district to achieve a 95% attendance rate.

It is important for your student to be present and on time each and every school day. Students with regular attendance are more likely to be successful in all academic areas. Research shows that missing 10 percent of the school year – just 18 days – negatively affects a student's academic performance.

Attendance matters here at Vero Beach High School. Parents, to obtain an excused absence for your student, report the absence in writing or by phone within 48 hours. The attendance line at the main campus is 772-564-5555. The attendance line at the Freshman Learning Campus is 772-564-5676. A list of approved excused absence types can be found in the SDIRC Code of Student Conduct.

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.

HOSA Blood Drive

HOSA would like to say a thank you to all those students and staff who donated at the August Blood Drive. One Blood collected 89 units of Packed Red Blood Cells and 7 units of Platelets. We look forward to seeing you again at our Halloween Blood Drive on Oct 26th.

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Congratulations AP Teachers

VBHS Advanced Placement Program Coordinator, Mr. Johnson, recognized the following teachers for having exceptional pass rates on last year's AP Exams:

1. Jonnette Wingate - AP Seminar
2. Hillary Johnston - AP Calculus AB
3. Dr. Nikki Mosblech - AP Environmental Science
4. Amy Coonce - AP Art 2D, AP Art History and AP Drawing
5. Dr. Omaira Pineda - AP Spanish Language and Culture and AP Spanish Literature and Culture
6. Carrie Adams - AP English Language and Composition
7. Victoria Bayless - AP European History
8. Dr. Carole Butler - AP Chemistry



Congratulations!



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Port St. Lucie, FL 34953

FORT PIERCE

1900 S Federal Hwy
Fort Pierce, FL 34950

VERO BEACH

2050 40th Ave, Ste 4
Vero Beach, FL 32960

PALM BAY

2099 Palm Bay Road NE, Ste. 2
Palm Bay, FL 32905

Important Upcoming SAT/ACT Testing Dates

ACT Test Dates (National)

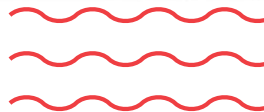
Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
Oct. 28, 2023	Sep. 22	Oct. 6
Dec. 9, 2023	Nov. 3	Nov. 17
Feb. 10, 2024	Jan. 5	Jan. 19
Apr. 13, 2024	Mar. 8	Mar. 22
June 8, 2024	May 3	May 17
July 13, 2024	June 7	June 21

SAT Test Dates (National)

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Changes
Oct. 7, 2023	Sep. 7, 2023	Sep. 26, 2023
Nov. 4, 2023	Oct. 5, 2023	Oct. 24, 2023
Dec. 2, 2023	Nov. 2, 2023	Nov. 21, 2023
Mar. 9, 2024	Feb. 23, 2024	Coming soon
May 6, 2024	Apr. 19, 2024	Coming soon
June 3, 2024	May 17, 2024	Coming soon

Swim Team

The Vero Beach Girls and Boys kicked off their season September 6th at the Sailfish Splash water park in Stuart. Both teams defeated the Pine School 116-33 and 62-59 respectively. Individual event winners included Kamila Branka, Aniela Kelly, Kylie Jelfimow, and Henry Hazel. The team also enjoyed their annual get to know everybody, Off The Blocks party. The team will travel to Martin County September 26th and continue competitions October 3rd and 12th at the North County pool in Sebastian, 4:30pm start time. Come out and support your swimming Indians!



ATTENTION INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SENIORS - CLASS OF 2024

Scholarship Foundation
of Indian River County

DID YOU KNOW
37 Indian River County Students from the Class of 2023
Received \$725,400 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 2023-2024
Aug 26, October 7, Nov. 4 and , Dec 2*

ACT TESTING DATES for 2023-2024
Sept 9, Oct 28, Dec 9*

*last testing date accepted for SF application

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

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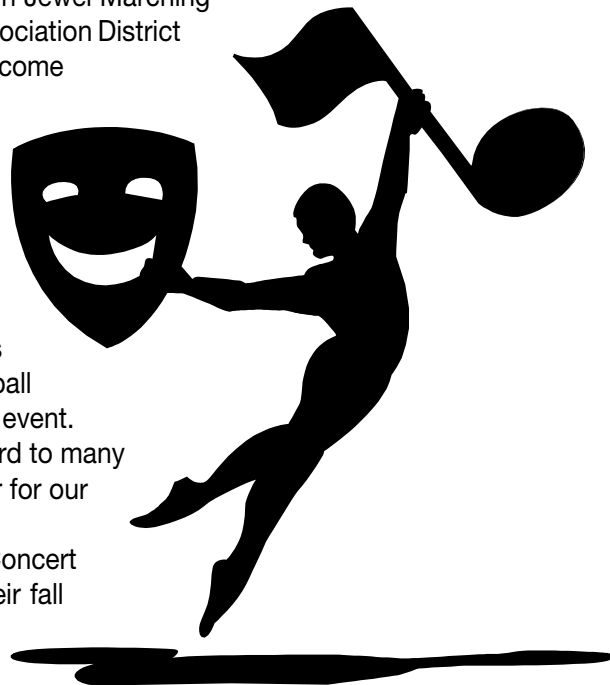
Performing Arts Department Happenings

The VBHS Performing Arts Department is excited to begin another performance filled year. In September, several of our band, choir, and orchestra students will be auditioning for spots in the Florida Music Education Association All State Ensembles. If selected, these students will travel to Tampa in January and spend three days rehearsing and giving performances at the FMEA In Service Conference.

The VBHS Band had two great weeks of band camp in July. The band's halftime show this season is entitled "Fire" and features *Ritual Fire Dance* by Manuel de Falla, *Fire* by the Ohio Players, *Set Fire to the Rain* by Adele, and Billy Joe's *We Didn't Start the Fire*. The band will be hosting the 42nd annual Crown Jewel Marching Festival on October 14th and will also be attending the Florida Bandmasters Association District Marching Band Music Performance Assessment. The band is also pleased to welcome our new Associate Director of Bands, Mr. Sean Srigley. Mr. Srigley is a 1995 graduate of VBHS and was a member of the band. For the past 14 years he has served as Director of Bands at Storm Grove Middle School. Prior to that, he was Director of Bands at Gifford Middle School and Oslo Middle School.

The VBHS Choir is off to a great start for the 2023-24 school year. After a productive boot camp with our upper level choirs (Voices of Vero, Chorale and Harmonia) before school started, we hit the ground running preparing to audition for Disney Candlelight. You may be able to see VBHS choirs this holiday season at Epcot. Also this fall Voices will be performing at the football game September 15 and for the BOCC meeting at their "College Game Day" event. We are hosting Florida Vocal Association All State auditions and looking forward to many opportunities to serve our community this season. Put May 7 on your calendar for our 4th annual Chroma Concert "One Day at a Time".

The VBHS Orchestra is preparing for their fall Halloween Spooktacular Concert that will be held on October 24th. Our Drama Department is preparing for their fall show *Ghostlight*. Tickets for our performances go on sale in October. Call the box office at 564-5537



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Fighting Indians Basketball 3rd Annual Golf Tournament

Saturday, October 21, 2023

8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start Scramble

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3 Point Sponsor level - \$600 includes foursome, name on sponsor sign at tournament and 1 tee sign.

Slam dunk level - \$1000 includes foursome, name on sponsor sign at tournament, 2 tee signs. Also recognized at all home basketball games.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Company: _____ Total Sponsorship: _____

All sponsors will be listed at golf tournament and recognized at the VBHS basketball Holiday Hoopla tournament

Gift donations will also be gladly accepted.

Promotional materials and recognized during the luncheon award ceremony.

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT VBHS Basketball

Foursome Registration - \$85 per player

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Deadline for golf registration and sponsorship opportunities is 10/14/23.

Please make checks payable to FIBB and mail your registration forms to:

Sandridge Golf Club

5300 73rd Street

Vero Beach, FL 32967

ATTN: Bela Nagy, JR

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WHO IS SAFIR? (Substance Abuse Free Indian River)

SAFIR is a prevention coalition, which is a collaboration between groups in a community that all agree to work together toward a common goal of building a safe, healthy, and drug-free community.

SAFIR is YOUR Community Coalition! So Join Us at:

www.safirc.org
www.facebook.com/SubstanceAbuseFreeIndianRiver

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Sunday 7:15 am, 8:45 am, 10:30 am,
12:15 pm in Spanish & 5 pm

JP

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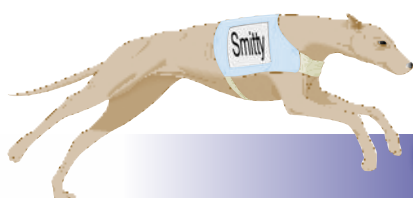
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2023-2024 School Calendar

9/25/2023	No School
10/11/2023	End of Quarter 1
10/23/2023	Quarter 1 Report Cards
10/26/2023	High School Conferences
10/27/2023	No School
11/3/2023	No School for Students/Teachers PD Day
11/11/2022	Veteran's Day; No School
11/20-24/2023	Thanksgiving Week; No School
12/19/2023	Modified Instructional Day
12/20/2023	Modified Instructional Day
12/20/2023	End of Quarter 2
12/21/2023-1/5/2024	Winter Break
1/10/2024	Students return from Winter Break
1/15/2024	Dr. M.L.King, Jr Day; No School
1/16/2024	Quarter 2 Report Cards
2/2/2024	No School for Students/PD for Teachers
2/15/2024	High School Conferences
2/16/2024	No School
2/19/2024	All Presidents Day; No School
3/19/2024	End of Quarter 3
3/25-29/2024	Spring Break
4/5/2024	Quarter 3 Report Cards
4/19/2024	No School
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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Yearbook

HOSA Blood Drive

AP Teachers

Testing Dates

Performing Arts

and more!