

Tanagers' Nest News

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Off and Running!

by **Jon Frey** on August 29

With our first full week in the rear view mirror, we can confidently state we are *off and running!* Activities are in full swing and the new enrollments, schedule changes and general craziness of the first week of school seems to be settled down.

All high school students should now have their new Chromebooks and should be settled into their schedules. We spent time last week reviewing the student handbook and getting familiar with the Minga platform. Classes are full with high school enrollment at a strong 440 students as of the writing of this newsletter.



This month's newsletter will focus on our upcoming Homecoming activities and a bit on the work ahead of us in 2022-23 as we work to make VHS the strongest high school it can be.

It's been great welcoming your students back to VHS and we're all looking forward to the year ahead! As always, Go, Tanagers!

Jon



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Volunteer Day ~ the “What” and “Why”

by [Lenni Billberg, VHS Social Studies Teacher](#) on August 28

The Vermillion School District mission statement states “students will build relationships that empower students to learn and optimize their potential.” One of the easiest ways to help students and staff meet this goal is to volunteer. Our students really are the best ambassadors for our schools and volunteering gives them a chance to show their

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community how to make a difference in simple ways. Tanager Volunteer day is one of those opportunities.



For the last 14 years our high school students have taken one day during homecoming week to go out into the community and provide assistance. Students volunteer in just about every way you can imagine. They help homebound residents, elderly, churches, civic organizations, clubs, our elementary schools, and more. We paint, we rake, we wash windows, we play bingo, we visit with the residents and provide so much more help to Vermillion. On a typical day our high

school students provide 3,000 man hours of help to the city. In total in over a decade we have given almost 40,000 man-hours of assistance to the Vermillion Community. Graduates of Vermillion have been inspired to take the day with them and have started programs across the country including Brown University, North Dakota State, and the University of Mary to name a few.

September 21 is our date for 2022. As a reward for their efforts, students are given a t-shirt sponsored by area businesses and provided with a Pizza Ranch lunch sponsored by the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce. We can't wait to see the difference our students will make in 2022!





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Homecoming 2022 ~ “Verm’s Got Game!”

by **Maya Radigan - VHS Student Council President** on August 31, 2022

The theme for the Homecoming celebration this school year is Verm’s Got Game! The idea with this is to assign a classic board game to each day of the week for students to use as inspiration to dress up. To start off the week on Monday we are using the game Guess Who and having students dress up as their favorite celebrity and other students will guess who they are. The activities for Monday include Coronation in the evening. Tuesday is inspired by the game Scrabble. Students will dress up as something that starts with the letter of their first name. Wednesday is volunteer day so instead of dressing up we are going to celebrate the game Operation, help people out/pimp your ride. Students will be out all around town volunteering. Thursday the game is Battleship and each class is assigned a class color to dress up as. The activity for Thursday is a Peach Fuzz Volleyball match and a Class Kickball matchup. Friday is “Custer is in Trouble” - SPIRIT DAY!!!! On Friday we will celebrate with the Tanager Olympics, Powderpuff Football Game, the parade and then we will cheer on the Tangers at the Dakota Dome, Friday night!

- **Monday, September 19th - Guess Who** (Dress as your favorite celebrity)
 - Coronation - 7:00pm, VHS Auditorium - Burning of the “V” to follow outside
- **Tuesday, September 20th - Scrabble**
(Dress as something beginning with the first letter of your name)
- **Wednesday, September 21st - Operation** (Operation: Help People Out - Volunteer Day)
- **Thursday, September 22nd - Battleship** (Class Colors)
 - Pep Rally at VHS - Time TBD
- **Friday, September 23rd - Trouble** (Custer’s in trouble! - Spirit Day)
 - Parade - 1:30pm from VHS to Clay County Courthouse
 - Football Game vs. Custer HS - 6:00pm, Dakota Dome

Minga ~ An Update

by **Jon Frey** on August 26, 2022

I’m happy to report that our student body is doing a great job adjusting to the Minga app and utilizing it as a centralized location for their school ID, hall pass requests and information and messaging from teachers, teams, activities and coaches. We are not fully



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implemented yet, but some things our students can see and have been utilizing already in the app include:

- The digital school ID - it displays not just the student's name (and pictures will come once we get "Picture Day" done) but also an icon indicating privileges the student has such as -
 - The Unplanned Period Pass (UPP) for a given period of the day.
 - An Online Dual Credit class and corresponding free period.
 - An On-Campus Dual Credit class.
 - A classroom Tutoring period.
 - Even a Student Work Release period.
- A notification right at the top of the app's message "wall" that states the bell schedule for the day.
- Surveys to gather quick feedback from students on miscellaneous topics.
- Push notifications to let them know there is news in a group to which they belong, or an update has been sent out to all students.

There is more to come. Later this month, I hope to roll out invitations to parents to login to Minga from a computer or phone to see and receive the same messaging we are sharing with your students!

Why am I getting an Attendance Letter?

by [Jon Frey & Jason Huska](#) on August 31, 2022

Part of our focus at VHS this year is to bring back regular, daily attendance as a priority with our students. The issues of COVID, remote learning, and not wanting to pressure students to attend when not feeling 100% healthy made regular attendance at school essentially optional! It is very important that we instill regular school attendance once again as a benchmark toward a quality education.

As we transition into our third full week of classes, we are beginning to send out attendance letters notifying parents that we have recorded three days or more of absenteeism for students that have reached that threshold. These letters are courtesy notices to you, the parent, just to keep you informed that your student has missed a set number of school days - excused or unexcused - so far this year. Please know that at VHS, students who exceed ten absences in a class can be denied credit for that purpose. As always, please check the Infinite Campus Parent Portal frequently to ensure that we have absences recorded correctly, but also to monitor your student's performance in his/her/their classes. Should significant or chronic illness become an issue, I want to



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encourage you to reach out to your student's school counselor and explore the steps that we can take as a school to support your student through that illness.

Feel free to reach out to us in the high school office if you have any questions about attendance!

Important Dates & Information for Fall & Winter

- September 5th - **No School, Labor Day**
- September 10th - Saturday School - 8:30-11:30am, VHS Library
- September 16th - **No School, Teacher Inservice**
- September 19th-23rd - **Homecoming Week**
- September 27th - **Picture Day**
- October 1st - Saturday School - 8:30-11:30am, VHS Library
- October 6th & 7th - **Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences**
- October 10th - **No School, Native American Heritage Day**
- October 15th - Saturday School - 8:30-11:30am, VHS Library
- October 18th - **End of Term 1**
- October 21st - **No School, Teacher Inservice**
- October 29th - Saturday School - 8:30-11:30am, VHS Library
- November 4th - **1:30 Dismissal - Teacher Professional Learning Teams**
- November 11th - 9:40am Veterans Day Assembly, VHS
- November 12th - Saturday School - 8:30-11:30am, VHS Library
- November 15th - **Picture Retake Day**
- November 23rd to 25th - **No School, Thanksgiving Break**
- December 3rd - Saturday School - 8:30-11:30am, VHS Library
- December 17th - Saturday School - 8:30-11:30am, VHS Library
- December 19th & 20th - Semester Tests
- December 21st to January 3, 2023 - **No School, Christmas Break**
- January 4, 2023 - **No School, Teacher Inservice**

VHS Teacher's Work Featured in S.C. Art Gallery

by **Jon Frey** on August 15, 2022

If you ask him, VHS Art teacher, Dr. Grant Riedel will tell you, "I'm not expecting anyone to travel down there; however, if anyone should find themselves in Sioux City looking to take in some culture, the gallery runs from 7/28 - 11/06. One of the best features of the art

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museum - it's free." Exactly. It's FREE and it features one of our own! What more incentive do you need to swing by the Sioux City Art Center and check out the [Local Perspectives Gallery](#) the next time you find yourself in Sioux City?

Local Perspectives is the ever-popular exhibition that celebrates the diversity, talent and enthusiasm of you, YES YOU, our local artists! This is an open invitation to ALL artists to submit their work for this important exhibition which showcases the quality of Siouxland's exciting creative communities.



siouxcityartcenter.org

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Activities News

Booster Bash ~ A Great Kick-off to the Year!

by [Jason Huska](#) on August 29, 2022

The annual athletic booster bash has been a tradition that has represented the beginning of the new athletic/activities year. We wish all the best to all activities. We would like to encourage students to find an activity and get involved. Studies show that students involved in activities get better grades and have fewer discipline issues. VHS has several fine art, athletic, and clubs that may be of interest. Students can check the daily announcements for information about starting dates of the various activities. Oral Interp, debate, and one act play are a few that will be starting soon. There is bound to be something for everyone! Go Tanagers!

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Student Services News

By [Luke Hayes & Laura Suing](#) on August 28, 2022

Dropping/Adding Classes

Students may drop a sixth (6th) class from their schedule anytime within one week following the issuance of the first and third quarter report cards. Students dropping a sixth (6th) class within the time limits must have a signed parental permission slip and will receive a **WP** or **WF** grade. Students wishing to drop a class after that time will receive a grade of **WF**. Students may not drop a fifth (5th) class from their schedule at any time.

Students may add a class to their schedule anytime during the *first two weeks* of each semester. Students wishing to add a class after that time must have permission from the instructor, a school counselor, and an administrator.

For help academically Mr. Hayes covers-(A-K), Ms. Suing covers-(L-Z) or students can stop in the Student Services office.

Dual Credit Courses

Dual Credit classes are up and running. Reminder, if your student is in need of a secure browser for his/her/their dual credit coursework, to stop into the Tech. Office at least two days in advance to check out a laptop that will support a secure browser.



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Stay current with your course work and communicate with your instructor if you have questions or fall behind. Reach out to dual credit advisor Claire Rizzio Claire.Rizzio@usd.edu with any concerns or questions if you are in need of help.

Scholarships

Scholarships are starting to become available. Make sure to have your student stop into Student Services or check his/her/their email for more information.

Dual Credit Speech and Pre-Calculus/Calculus

If your student is interested in taking care of that freshman speech requirement at the college or university level while still in high school, look to have them enroll in CMST 101 offered through USD, taught by USD faculty, here at VHS in the spring semester.

Additionally, Pre-Calculus and Calculus will also be offered for credit to be signed up for in the spring semester. These math courses will be taught by Mr. Settles. Have your student see his/her/their counselor for more details.

Student Services Important Date Reminders

ACT Testing

Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline	Standby Deadline - Photo Upload Deadline
September 10, 2022	August 5, 2022	September 2, 2022
October 22, 2022	September 16, 2022	October 14, 2022
December 10, 2022	November 4, 2022	December 2, 2022
February 11, 2023	January 6, 2023	February 3, 2023

FAFSA

What are the deadlines for filling out the FAFSA form?

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To be considered for federal student aid for the 2022–23 award year, you can complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form between Oct. 1, 2021, and 11:59 p.m. Central time (CT) on June 30, 2023.

Any FAFSA form corrections or updates must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CT on Sept. 10, 2023. However, many states and colleges have earlier deadlines for applying for state and institutional financial aid, use Find your state's deadline. Check with your college or career school about its deadlines. Because of the variation in state and college deadlines, it's highly recommended that you fill out the FAFSA form as soon as you can after Oct. 1 to ensure that you don't miss out on available aid.¹

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

Vermillion High School

1001 East Main Street, Vermillion, SD, 57069
605-677-7035

¹ Federal Student Aid Website, Office of Department of Education, Accessed June 28, 2022.

Diversity and Inclusion Policy

The Community Connection Center does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, hiring and firing of staff, selection of volunteers and vendors, and provision of services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, volunteers, subcontractors, and clients.

Do you also use the Food Pantry? Yes___ No___ Do you receive food stamps/EBT? Yes___ No___

Gender: Male___ Female___ Non-binary___ Are you a U.S. citizen? Yes___ No___

Are you employed? No_____ Yes: Full-time? Part-time?

Please specify your ethnicity: Caucasian___ Native American___ African-American___ Latino/Hispanic___

Asian___ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander___ Other/s_____ Prefer not to say___

Disclaimer and Signature

I understand that all information gathered about me is personal and private and that the Community Connection Center agencies will not share my private information.

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

If this application leads to assistance, I understand that false or misleading information may result in assistance being denied.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Authorizing Agency

Representative Signature _____ Date _____

NOTES: