

Tanagers' Nest News

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We're looking to connect!

Beginning this summer, the Tanagers' Nest News newsletter will be another outlet to convey what you need to know about important news and events in the life of Vermillion High School!



by **Jon Frey** on June 16

Since my arrival in 2019, it has been my earnest desire to improve communication between the school and the students and parents we serve. Improved communication and messaging are often easier discussed than executed. The first phase of this work came about via the utilization of video screens for student announcements and messaging throughout the building. With that system in place, we will roll out a couple new avenues of communication this summer and fall.

Initially, we will utilize an app that will help convey all of the same student information that runs on the video screens in a more “social media-feel.” The app, called Minga can be found in the Android and Apple app stores. The app will serve as a communication hub of sorts for our staff and students and we hope parents, as well. Coaches will have their teams set up within the app allowing for direct messaging to the team whether it be a change in practice location or travel departure times as well as reminders. The app will also function as a digital ID for our students to be utilized to better allow staff to monitor student comings and goings in our building. We take our student’s safety very seriously and want to do even more to ensure access into and out of the building is able to be better monitored. Finally, the app also will handle the hallway passes for students. We can issue passes which appear on a dashboard accessible to teachers and staff. Students will be able to receive passes



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either from the app on their personal phone or their school-issued laptop. There will be more on the Minga app in the August edition of this newsletter.

Finally, this newsletter, which we intend to publish at the beginning of every month, will highlight the “big stuff” that will appear on the student’s horizon to better keep you, the VHS parent, in-the-know. It is my sincerest hope that between the Tanagers’ Nest News newsletter, the Minga app, our Infinite Campus Parent Portal and our school website, we can keep you on top of all that you need to know as a VHS stakeholder!

I hope you’re having an enjoyable and restful summer. More to come next month!

Jon

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New Staff and Existing Staff in New Positions!

by [Jon Frey](#) on June 28, 2022

Like any year in the life of a school, staffing changes bring about new dynamics within a building. We are saddened to see staff depart for new adventures in life, but are excited to welcome new staff to the fold. Ms. Hill, Ms. Nelsen and Ms. Lucas are moving on to new positions outside our school district and an additional Special Education position has been added to VHS.

Listed here are the names of the new or transitioning VHS staff and the positions they will hold:

- [Amelia Howard](#), **English Teacher**, returns five years after student-teaching at VHS!
- [Kayla Kappler](#), **Math Teacher, Girls Soccer Assistant Coach**, new to our building!



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- [Jerry Bartels](#), **Special Education Teacher**, takes a full time position after substituting in the district last year!
- [Todd Stephens](#), **Special Education Teacher**, returns to VHS where he once worked as an Educational Assistant with Kelly Stone and is a VHS alumnus!
- [Jasmine Stewart](#), **Attendance/Activities Administrative Assistant** comes to the office after being a Classroom Educational Assistant for a number of years!
- [Desi Settles](#), **Student Services Administrative Assistant** comes over from the Attendance & Activities Office!
- [Breannah Bertsch](#), **Classroom Educational Assistant**, new to our building!
- [Trevor Person](#), **Classroom Educational Assistant**, new to our building!
- [Christina Jensen](#), **Head Night Custodian**, new to our building!
- Kayla Farmer, **P-T Night Custodian**, new to our building!
- [Roxann Peterson](#), **Permanent Substitute Teacher - VHS/VMS**, a new position in the district - She comes to us after teaching a number of years at Dakota Valley MS.

We are now 100% fully staffed. Whew!

Important Dates & Information for Fall

- August 10th & 11th - **Registration**
 - 9:00am - 1:00pm - VHS Office - for new district residents enrolling students
- August 12th - **Orientation (Grade 9)**
 - 9:00am - 12:00pm - VHS Auditorium - for all incoming 9th grade students
 - **Student attendance is expected.**
- August 17th, **Orientation (Grades 10-12)**
 - 10:30am - 11:30am - VHS Auditorium - for all incoming 10th grade students
 - 1:00pm - 2:00pm - VHS Auditorium - for all incoming 11th grade students
 - 2:30pm - 3:30pm - VHS Auditorium - for all incoming 12th grade students
 - **Student attendance is expected.**
- August 18th - **First Day of Classes**
 - *Students who did not attend grade-level orientation will do that **prior** to attending classes.*
- August 19th - **Booster Bash!**
 - 6:00pm-7:00pm - VHS Football/Soccer Field (weather permitting) or VHS Main Gym (if weather is uncooperative)
- September 5th - **No School, Labor Day**
- September 16th - **No School, Teacher Inservice**
- September 19th-23rd - **Homecoming Week**
- September 27th - **Picture Day**

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- October 6th & 7th - **Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences**
- October 10th - **No School**, Native American Day -
- October 18th - **End of Term 1**
- November 15th - **Picture Retake Day**



Summer Activities News

Tanager Duo Competes at National Tournament

by **Jon Frey** on June 17, 2022

VHS students completed a limited schedule in competitive speech and debate this past year under the direction of first-time coach, Trina Merideth. Two students, Suki Ford (12) and Justin Mancini (11) competed together in Duet Interpretation in the fall oral interp season and continued competing in the winter/spring competitive speech and debate season, as well. In February, Ford and Mancini fell just short of qualifying for the National Speech & Debate tournament, placing third in the tournament finals (the first two places earned National Tournament bids). However, due to a late drop of a duo from Sioux Falls Jefferson, Ford and Mancini were able to



Vermillion High School Administration 605.677.

Jon Frey, Principal ~ **Jennifer Badke**, Administrative Assistant

Jason Huska, Assistant Principal / Activities Director ~ **Jasmine Stewart**, Administrative Assistant

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advance and compete in the national tournament, after all.

Meredith accompanied the two students to the University of Kentucky at Louisville during the week of June 12th-18th. Competition began on Monday the 13th and ran throughout the week. The duo performed on the 13th and 14th but fell short of advancing into the Top 60. Ms. Meredith expressed pride in the duo as they, “represented VHS, their program and their families well and earned the right to count themselves amongst the nation’s best competitive speakers!” Mary Begley, VHS’s Oral Interpretation coach worked with Ford and Mancini during the fall season and in preparation for the national tournament, as well. Ford graduated this past May and will attend college at Augustana in Sioux Falls, in the fall. Mancini returns to VHS for his senior year this fall.

Tanagers Place Three on All-Star Football Roster

by **Jason Huska** on June 21, 2022



Zach Brady, Jack Kratz, and Nick Sorenson, 2022 graduates of Vermillion High School, all represented Tanager football by competing for the Red squad in the South Dakota All-Star Football game held here in Vermillion on June 11th. All three were 1st team All Dak 12 Conference and 1st team All State and Academic All State. Zach will attend Minnesota State in Mankato and play

football, Nick will be attend Mitchell Tech in Mitchell and Jack will attend Morningside University in Sioux City, Iowa where he will play football and baseball.

Team Blue defeated Team Red 10-8.

Photo courtesy of Vermillion Plain Talk



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Tanagers Attend Boys & Girls State

by **Jon Frey** on June 21, 2022

Five VHS juniors represented VHS at Boys and Girls State this summer! Jack Freeburg, Emery Bohnsack and Grant Brouwer attended Boys State in Aberdeen on the campus of Northern State University. Paige Pederson, Ella Simmons and Shaelynn Puckett attended Girls State held here in Vermillion at USD.

Activity Participation Benefits

by **Jason Huska** on June 30, 2022

It is well documented that school athletic/activity programs have been an important part of student development. These skills are not always learned in the classroom. Activities have shown to be important to physical and mental health, stronger self-confidence, building relationships with others, and the development of life-long fitness habits. Participation in school activity is special in that each game or performance is dependent on other team member contributions. Being part of a team makes participants more marketable to colleges and employers. What students remember the most from high school activity participation is the relationship and celebration among teammates. The Vermillion School District encourages all students to find an activity to get involved with that has life-long benefits.

Activities Reminders for Fall

by **Jason Huska** on June 21, 2022

The Vermillion High School would like to announce upcoming fall sports/activities meetings and practices:

- **Girls' Soccer** will have practice starting on Monday August 1st from 8:30am -10:30am at the high school practice field.
- **Boys' Soccer** will practice August 1st from 5:30-7:30 pm at the high school practice field.
- **Girls' Tennis** first practice will be August 1st at 8:00 am at the high school courts.



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- **Boy's Golf** will have their first practice on August 8th at the Bluffs golf course starting at 4:00 pm. Parent meeting to follow at 6:00 pm.
- **Football** will have a parent meeting on August 3rd 6:30 pm at the football stadium. Practice will begin on August 8th at 8:00am -11:00 am
- **Boys and Girls Cross Country** will have a meeting/practice on August 11th in the high school commons at 9am and practice to follow.
- **Volleyball** will have a parent meeting on August 9th at the high school commons, 7pm. Practice will start on Thursday August 11th at 9am-12:00pm.
- **Pride of Vermillion Band Camp** will be held August 1-5 at VHS.
- **Rhythm in Red Show Choir** retreat will be held on August 8th from 6pm to 10 pm at VHS.

Physical Forms & Activity Tickets

Vermillion Public Schools would also like to remind parents of yearly physical/consent forms required to participate in athletics. Each athlete must complete a physical before participation. Parents and students need to be aware of the Activities/Athletics handbook policy. Each student athlete will have the policy explained to them. Adult and Student activity tickets will be available at the high school, administration building, or at various sporting events. Cost for the activity tickets is \$50.00 for adults and \$25.00 for students. The Vermillion School District is offering a family activity pass for \$120.

If you have any questions, please call Vermillion High School. We look forward to a great 2022-2023 school year and GO, TANAGERS!!

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Student Services News

by **Luke Hayes** & **Jon Frey** on June 28, 2022

We are very excited to welcome students back for the next school year! We will continue to reach out via email as well as utilize the new Minga app for school wide announcements, academic and career planning, and emotional and mental health strategies. We hope your summer is going well and again look forward to seeing each of you and helping you through the next school year!

Student Class Schedule Changes or Updates

Mr. Hayes and Ms. Suing will be in their offices to work on student schedules on August 10th and 11th during normal school hours. Students should use this opportunity to fill periods that are empty on their schedules or address any other scheduling concerns.

Dual Credit Courses

Students interested in signing up for Dual Credit courses can do so now through the start of the college classes. If you have specific questions please email Mr. Hayes or contact the respective college or university directly.



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VHS to Offer Dual Credit Speech and Pre-Calculus/Calculus

If you are interested in taking care of that freshman speech requirement at the college or university level while still in high school, look to 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. See your 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?

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

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



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Reminders:

1. Contact Information

Have you changed your address, phone number or email address recently? Please help us keep you in-the-know by updating your contact information at school, as well! Messages such as school reach messaging, emergency calls and even teacher communications home are made more difficult if we do not have accurate contact information.

2. Summer Gym Access

Parents & students are reminded that summer gym access must be under the supervision of a coach, staff member or Parks & Recreation personnel as part of an authorized P & R program. The gyms and weight rooms are not available for unsupervised use or play. Unauthorized gym or facility access creates a liability concern for the school district.

3. Summer Office Hours

The VHS office is only staffed from 8:00am to 12:00 noon, Monday through Thursday, each week. The office will not be staffed on the July 4th holiday. Regular office hours resume August 1st.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

Vermillion High School

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