

Smoke Signals

DECEMBER
2021

ISSUE 4
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

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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 #4

A Message From The Chief

Dear Parents,

Here we are in the month of December! The school year is almost half of the way through and after we return from the holiday break the school year will quickly move forward! Holiday decorations are now appearing everywhere as families and businesses in our area begin getting into the holiday spirit with vacation plans, shopping, and dinner menus of course. While visions of sugar plums, reindeer and peppermint mocha may arise at times, our students continue to have great focus on their daily academics dancing through their heads. Looking for a few gift ideas, especially ones that don't cost a lot of money? This holiday season consider giving your child the gift of time. These past 2 years, families have been stressed and pulled in so many directions, so this holiday is especially important. Relax at a park for a day, have a picnic, take a nature walk at a local preserve or visit the local library. Have a night in with the family and play a favorite board game perhaps. The most important things in life are family and friends, so this holiday season try to spend quality time with both.

School safety is a top priority on our campus, and I have a few items that are worth mentioning as we prepare for the second semester. VBHS students are trained for multiple threat events, and we drill for these monthly in an abundance of caution. We have Sheriff's Resource Deputies (SRD's) who are always on campus and highly trained as well as security persons who patrol all areas of our main campus and FLC all throughout each school day. We check incoming and outgoing vehicles within our student parking lot using our security person stationed at our security booth located in front of the performing arts center and all visitor's credentials are checked through our electronic Raptor System. We have a secure perimeter on both campuses. Students now have district issued ID badges that they are expected to always have with them. Students must also have a permission pass when leaving class or campus during the school day. We have significant security camera coverage across both campuses, and I thank our school district for its investments made to secure our campuses. We know that working together, we will continue to make our school a safer place.

I am very proud our students and all their efforts in school as well as in their extracurriculars. Be sure to see our athletics page inside this newsletter for the host of accolades our sports teams and performing arts programs have garnered this past fall season. Our performing arts department is entering the height of their competitive season and already brining home superior accolades! If your student is not yet involved with at least one extracurricular activity, then please encourage them to join a club, sport, or performing art. Keeping them involved beyond the regular school day can be a great opportunity for their growth, confidence, and sense of belonging. Winter is here with more opportunity for excellence!

Our VBHS Student Government and our guidance department are putting together food and care packages for our school and community families in need. The holiday spirit is apparent inside and beyond our school walls.

This holiday season may also be an opportune time to discuss with our children the many things for which we can be thankful. There is so much negativity in the news these days that we might forget or overlook all the good things we have in our lives. I am thankful that I live in a community of caring where this is apparent everywhere I look, and that I work in a school system that always places students first and foremost. Happy Holidays to all!

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



Shawn O'Keefe



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Shawn O'Keefe Named Principal of the Year for School District

The School District of Indian River County is proud to announce their 2022 Principal of the Year, Shawn O'Keefe, Principal at Vero Beach High School.

This year marks Mr. O'Keefe's 10th year as the principal at Vero Beach High School (VBHS), and 29th year in Florida Public Education. Prior to becoming principal at VBHS, he opened Storm Grove Middle School where he served as principal for the school's first three years and has also served as an assistant principal at both Sebastian River High School (SRHS) and VBHS, before becoming a principal. In addition to this record of leadership, Mr. O'Keefe was a classroom teacher in our district for 10 years, and 3 years in Broward County.

Principal O'Keefe is married to his wife, Kim, who is a school counselor at SRHS, and has two children who graduated from the University of Florida. His daughter works in finance in Jacksonville, and his son begins year 2 of medical school this year at UF. Mr. O'Keefe loves spending time with his family, the occasional offshore fishing trip, and some weekends in Gainesville supporting the Gators. He is passionate about education and making sure each day, that our students at VBHS are having the best high school experience possible.

SDIRC Superintendent Dr. Moore, stated, "We are so proud to recognize our Principal of the Year, Mr. Shawn O'Keefe, who has been a dedicated member of our SDIRC family for over 25 years. Mr. O'Keefe has shown fantastic leadership, even in challenging times, and continues to support his VBHS family and create initiatives that are embedded into the long-standing Vero Beach High School traditions."



Candice Kendziorski Chosen as School Related Employee of the Year

We are proud to announce Vero Beach High School's School Related Employee of the Year, Candice Kendziorski. We are so fortunate to have her with us.

Candice has been an athletic secretary for 15 years; 10 years in St Lucie County before joining the athletic department here at Vero Beach High School in 2016. Candice also coached cross country for 3 years. She was named School Related Employee of the Year in 2010 and Support Staff of the Year in 2005 in St. Lucie County. She resides in Vero Beach with her husband, Mike, who is a math teacher and soccer coach.

We are extremely lucky to have Candice as part of our school family and proud to have her as our School Related Employee of the Year. Thank you for all that you do to support our student athletes, coaches, and families!



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Kathy Nestor Named Teacher of the Year

Vero Beach High School is proud to announce our Teacher of the Year, Kathy Nestor!

Kathy started teaching at Vero Beach High School a long, long time ago (1988!). She pursued teaching because she absolutely loves math and enjoy helping others understand it. Kathy credits her students for motivating and inspiring her every day which makes her look forward to coming to work. Every day is a new adventure! She is married with two children that are graduates of VBHS and FSU.

Kathy has been a remarkably positive addition to our school since the day she arrived. We at VBHS are fortunate that Kathy Nestor was drawn to education. As our Teacher of the Year, she makes us proud.

Homecoming

The Homecoming theme for this year was A Night Under the stars. Homecoming King James Smith and Queen Emma Jankowski were announced at the dance. The events sponsored by Student Government were Boys Volleyball, dodgeball, powder puff junior vs senior flag football, courtyard lunchtime pep rally. Vero Bean created a signature Hoco coffee drink and students dressed up for the theme days.



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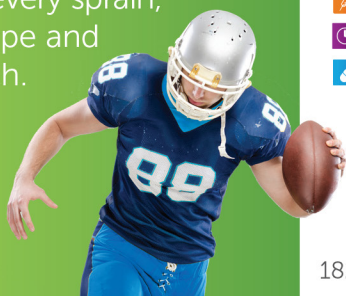
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2021-2022 School Calendar

12/20/2021-	Winter Break
1/4/2022	1/5/2022 Students return from Winter Break
1/17/2022	Dr. M.L.King, Jr Day; No School
1/31/2022	No School
2/3/2022	College and Career Expo
2/15/2022	High School Conferences
2/18/2022	No School
2/21/2022	All Presidents Day; No School
3/18/2022	End of Quarter 3
3/21-25/2022	Spring Break
4/15/2022	No School
5/20/2022	Graduation
5/27/2022	Last Day of School for Students; End of Quarter 4

Report Cards and Progress Reports

All Report Cards and Progress Reports will be available on FOCUS

Quarter 3 - (Jan. 5-Feb. 10)

- Report Cards - January 10th
- Progress Reports - February 11th
- Conferences - February 15th & 16th
- Report Cards - April 4th

Quarter 4 - (Mar.28- Apr.28)

- Progress Reports - April 29th
- Report Cards - June 1st

Performing Arts Department Happenings

The VBHS Performing Arts Department has had a busy second nine weeks. On October 16th, the VBHS Band hosted the 40th Annual Treasure Coast Crown Jewel Marching Festival. There were 12 high school bands from around the state who performed their halftime shows in the competition. On Saturday, October 23rd the Fighting Indians Band participated in the Florida Bandmasters Association District 13 Marching Music Performance Assessment at Jensen Beach HS. The band earned straight superior ratings. Two of our band students, Ludin Aquino and Lataydrick Willis, were nominated and selected for the Florida High School Honor Band. They will be traveling to Tampa in January to perform with this concert band comprised of students from around Florida.

The VBHS Choir has been working hard on sight singing and preparing literature for MPA. They spread cheer through Vero with their annual poinsettia fundraiser and several community caroling performances. In addition, in the spirit of community togetherness, the Choir invited staff and community choir men to sing with our men's choir at the Performing Arts Department's winter concert "Scenes from a Snow Globe".

Faith Bebbber, Greyson Wong, and Anthony Celano all auditioned for All State and made it to the final round of competition. Anthony Celano was selected as a member of the TTBB choir and will be attending All State in Tampa in January.

The department has a full slate of performances scheduled for the second 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.

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.

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
- Please remember, all books are purchased for Dual enrolled students. We order the materials for the students.

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UNIFIED Basketball

The Vero Beach High School UNIFIED basketball team swept the competition with a perfect 4-0 record in Tavares over the Thanksgiving break. The offense was led by Marquis Baskin, Will Holderman, Jeff Hawkins, Jaylin Pierre, and Connor Keeler. The defense was led by Noah Molina, Jayden Afflick, and Will "Uber" Burris. The team qualified for the Regional Tournament as the number 1 seed.



UNIFIED Bowling

VBHS Unified Bowling team wrapped up their season by finishing 4th in the state tournament. After qualifying 1st in the state, the pins did not fall their way in the playoffs as they suffered a defeat in a hard-fought battle. A big congratulation on an amazing season goes to Miguel Hernandez, Trace Rahal, Persia Ferguson, Jaylin Pierre, and Colin Wheeler. Live Unified Play Unified.



National Signing Day

November 10th was National Signing Day for all high school sports with the exception of football. VBHS proudly had 9 student athletes from 5 different athletic programs sign scholarships. Congratulations to the following students:

- **Tennis:** Manuela Van Cotthem- Carnegie Mellon
- **Volleyball:** Leah Bowen- Truett McConnell University
- **Beach Volleyball:** Carly Lenhardt- Mercer University
- **Baseball:** Jake Randolph- Presbyterian College
- **Travis Camp:** Presbyterian College
- **Girls Lacrosse:** Sydney Jenkins- Stetson University
- **Calli Norris:** Univ of Michigan
- **Gina D'Allesio:** Eastern Michigan
- **Joy Coffey:** High Point University



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Path Advisor "News You Can Use"

Students and parents- SCOIR is now on Class Link. Resume building, college campus tour videos, college requirement exploration, and aptitude tests with career results. Students can login and invite parents to join them on the college and career journey!

College and Career Expo February 3rd at Vero Beach High School, starting in the cafeteria, from 6:00-7:30 pm. Many community partners, military reps, college help, financial aid, SCOIR assistance and counselors on hand to answer questions. All grade levels and families are encouraged to attend, especially our Juniors and parents/guardians who are looking to get ahead of the game.

March 9th- College Fair- location to be determined. Representatives from colleges and universities from all over the state of Florida and the United States will be available. All age groups and families are welcome to attend. Many community partners will be on hand, all school counselors, and Path Advisors from both Vero Beach High School and Sebastian River High School.

Local scholarships will be available for Seniors on the Guidance Canvas page under 12th grade Modules beginning February 1st. Most deadlines are March 15th.

For any questions or concerns, please contact Path Advisor for VBHS - angela.combs@indianriverschools.org.

Notifications of Parents Regarding Out-Of-Field Teachers

Included in this memo is a list of teachers or long-term substitute teachers at Vero Beach High School and Freshman Learning Center who have been reported as teaching out-of-field as required by Section 1012.42 of Florida Statute. Those teaching out-of-field are qualified to teach; however, all or part of their teaching assignment is not covered by their current certification. Individuals teaching out-of-field are required to complete additional coursework or testing until the coverage/endorsement is added to their certificate. Should you have any questions about these requirements, please call the school or Adalia Medina-Graham, Certification Analyst (772)564-3116.

Teacher	Current Certification	Out-of-Field Assignment
Bell, Suzanna	ESE K-12, READING	ENGLISH 6-12, PHYSICAL EDUCATION K-12, HEALTH K-12
Byrd, Stephen	ESE K-12	ENGLISH 6-12, MATH 6-12, SCIENCE 6-12, SOCIAL SCIENCE 6-12, PHYSICAL EDUCATION K-12, HEALTH K-12
Cisco, Anastasia	COMPUTER SCIN K-12	MATH 6-12
Daugherty, Michael	MATH (5-9), EDUCATIONAL MEDIA, ELEMENTARY ED	MATH 6-12
Derico, Nicholas	SOCIAL SCIENCE 6-12	ESE K-12
Ihnen, Brian	ESE K-12, PHYSICAL EDUCATION K-12	ENGLISH 6-12, MATH 6-12, SCIENCE 6-12, SOCIAL SCIENCE 6-12
Rahal, Bryan	VARYING EXCEPTION K-12, VISUAL DISABILITIES PK-3	SOCIAL SCIENCE 6-12
Welsh, James	ESE K-12	PHYSICAL EDUCATION, ELEMENTARY ED
White, Jennifer	ESE K-12, SOCIAL SCIENCE 6-12	ENGLISH 6-12, ESOL
Anastasio, Lacie	ENGLISH 6-12	ESOL
Conner, Jamie	ENGLISH 5-9, ELEMENTARY ED	ESOL
Ellis, Maxy	DRAMA 6-12, ENGLISH 5-9, READING	ESOL
Sommers, Valery	ENGLISH 6-12	ESOL
Wiley, Kristin	ENGLISH 6-12	ESOL
Williams, Natira	ENGLISH 6-12	ESOL

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Aviso Para Los Padres Sobre Maestros "Fuera Del Area"

Incluido en este aviso se encuentra una lista de maestros o maestros substitutes a largo plazo en la escuela Vero Beach High School and Freshman Learning Center quienes han sido reportados como "fuera de área" como se requiere en Sección 1012.42 de Estatuto de Florida. Esto significa que los maestros están calificados para enseñar y tienen su certificado sin embargo les hace falta completar algunos requerimientos que solo aplican a su asignado trabajo de enseñanza. Estos individuos que están enseñando "fuera de su área" requieren completar un curso adicional o tomar un examen para cumplir con los requerimientos. Si Ud. Tien preguntas sobre los requerimientos favor de hablar con la escuela o Adalia Medina-Graham, Analista de Certificación (772)564-3116

Masestro (a)	Certificación	Fuera de Área en
Bell, Suzanna	ESE K-12, READING	ENGLISH 6-12, PHYSICAL EDUCATION K-12, HEALTH K-12
Byrd, Stephen	ESE K-12	ENGLISH 6-12, MATH 6-12, SCIENCE 6-12, SOCIAL SCIENCE 6-12, PHYSICAL EDUCATION K-12, HEALTH K-12
Cisco, Anastasia	COMPUTER SCIN K-12	MATH 6-12
Daugherty, Michael	MATH (5-9), EDUCATIONAL MEDIA, ELEMENTARY ED	MATH 6-12
Derico, Nicholas	SOCIAL SCIENCE 6-12	ESE K-12
Ihnen, Brian	ESE K-12, PHYSICAL EDUCATION K-12	ENGLISH 6-12, MATH 6-12, SCIENCE 6-12, SOCIAL SCIENCE 6-12
Rahal, Bryan	VARYING EXCEPTION K-12, VISUAL DISABILITIES PK-3	SOCIAL SCIENCE 6-12
Welsh, James	ESE K-12	PHYSICAL EDUCATION, ELEMENTARY ED
White, Jennifer	ESE K-12, SOCIAL SCIENCE 6-12	ENGLISH 6-12, ESOL
Anastasio, Lacie	ENGLISH 6-12	ESOL
Conner, Jamie	ENGLISH 5-9, ELEMENTARY ED	ESOL
Ellis, Maxy	DRAMA 6-12, ENGLISH 5-9, READING	ESOL
Sommers, Valery	ENGLISH 6-12	ESOL
Wiley, Kristin	ENGLISH 6-12	ESOL
Williams, Natira	ENGLISH 6-12	ESOL



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Athletics

Football:

- 11th straight season making the State Playoffs
- 1st road playoff win since 2003
- Top 10 ranking in the State
- Quarterback Maurice Smith broke school record with 75% completion rate for the season
- Ephraim Floyd had over 1,000 yards receiving for the season
- Bucky Rojas led the defense in tackles
- Finished the season with a record of 7-3

Boys Golf Team:

- Undefeated regular-season posting a 14-0 record
- South Florida PGA Invitational Champions
- VBHS Invitational Champions
- District Runner-ups
- Regional Runner-ups
- FHSAA Class 3A State Tournament 7th place
- Defending Champion James Hassell placed 4th individually in the State Tournament

Bowling

- Lady Indians record was 8-3 for the season and made it to the district semi-finals where they finished 4th overall out of 12 teams
- The Boys team record was 5-6 for the season and they finished 6th out of 12 teams in the district

Girls Golf Team:

- VBHS ranked #18 in the state with a 13-5 regular season record
- Senior Captain Annika Miller earned her first spot in the State Finals as an individual player
- 1st Place in Inaugural Junior Grapefruit High School Golf Invitational
- 1st Place in the Treasure Lakes Conference Championship
- 1st place in the FHSAA Class 3A District 12 Tournament.
- Annika Miller was medalist in all 3 event winning a 3 hole playoff for the Conference Championship. Added to the team was Freshman Dounia Bezzeri earning the #2 spot, followed by Hailey Eisert #3, and Charlotte Moylan #4. Marissa Weaver and Emma O'Riordan rotated

Boys and Girls Cross Country

- Boys and Girls Cross Country teams finished a successful season by qualifying and competing in the Regional Championship

Volleyball

- Finished their season with a 11-12 record
- Finished 3rd in District and 3rd in the Conference

Swim and Dive Team

- VBHS had 22 swimmers advance to the District Championship meet.
- 10 swimmers advanced to the Regional Championship meet
- Our Girls' 200 medley relay team, Madeline Shields-Junior, Kamila Branka-Sophomore, Kristen Sellers-Senior, and Isabella Bok- Freshman broke a school record with a time of 1:54.22
- Junior Madeline Shields advanced to the 4A Championship State meet where she swam 100-butterfly and 100-backstroke

