



VERONA AREA HIGH SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 17, 2021 FAMILY NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE:

- **Friday, February 19** - No in-person or virtual school - Staff Development
- **Monday, February 22** - Senior Class Advisory Council Meeting 11:30 am
- **Monday, February 22** - Parent/Teacher Conferences - 5:00 - 8:00 pm
- **Wednesday, February 24** - Deadline to apply to speak at graduation
- **Monday, March 1** - Local Scholarship Application closes at 4:00 pm. Be sure to complete your application and share it with Mr. Williams via Google Drive.

NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE:

Now Trending: Masks! Please make sure your mask meets the latest requirements from Public Health Madison & Dane County. According to the county mandate, ***cloth face coverings must be made with two or more layers of breathable fabric that is tightly woven (i.e., fabrics that do not let light pass through when held up to a light source).*** ***A face covering does not include bandanas, single layer neck gaiters, masks with exhalation valves, face shields, goggles, scarves, ski masks, balaclavas, shirt or sweater collars pulled up over the mouth and nose, or masks with slits or punctures.*** If you arrive at school without an approved face covering, a staff member will provide you with a paper mask. Improve the fit and efficacy of your mask with these two [CDC supported hacks](#):

- Knot and Tuck your disposable mask: [Youtube tutorial here!](#)
- Layer up! Two masks can be better than one when worn correctly.
 - Layer a cloth mask over a disposable mask to make the paper mask fit more snugly.
 - Don't layer two disposable masks; this method can actually lead to a worse fit than one mask.

COVID Self-Screening Checklist: Please continue to complete the [COVID self-screening checklist](#) before coming into the school building each day. If you meet any of the criteria for exclusion, do not come into the school building and contact the school nurse, Rikki Conwell, at 608-653-1023 or conwellr@verona.k12.wi.us, on school days or the on-call district nurse at AskVASDNurses@verona.k12.wi.us on non-school days.

FROM STUDENT SERVICES

Course Scheduling 2020-2022

The deadline for student schedules to be submitted through Course Planner in Xello is 2/18/21 at 4:00 pm.

- Please ask your student to
 - Share their Course Selections with you
 - Look to make sure they have "Submitted"
 - Next, please sign the [Parent Signature Form](#)

If your student needs help or has any difficulty with Course Planner, please have them email their counselor.

Graduation Progress

- You can now see Graduation Progress on your student's Powerschool account, located on the left bar.
- Graduation Progress lists the required credits and what your student has accomplished through time.
 - Please take a moment to review your student's credits to ensure they are making progress toward graduation

ACT TESTING INFORMATION

On March 9th, all 11th grade students will be taking the ACT at VAHS. **Only 11th grade students will be in the building that day**, all other students in 9th, 10th, and 12th grades will have an asynchronous learning day.

VAHS BLACK STUDENT UNION

We, the VAHS Black Student Union Executive Board and Advisors, hope this finds you safe and healthy as we all continue to navigate the “new normal”. As you may know, February is also known as Black History Month! This is a time where we pay tribute to the heroines and heroes of U.S. history and recognize the vast contributions they've made to American culture, and we hope that you will also find ways to showcase their stories and join in on the celebration. Additionally, we would love to have our entire Wildcat community join us for our BSU meetings on the first Tuesday of each month! We will meet during the lunch hour from 12:30-1:15pm. If you are interested in attending, please save the link as you will use it (or the Meeting ID) for admission! <https://zoom.us/j/98043475298> * Meeting ID: 980 4347 5298

CAT'S EYE - THIRD EDITION

The Cat's Eye staff is excited to announce its third edition. Check out the updated [website](#) to see what the kids have been up to these last few weeks. You can still find all of the other editions there too.

VAHS THEATER FUNDRAISER

Join us for a Virtual Trivia Night on Friday, February 26th at 7:00 pm. Donations go to support the Verona Area High School Spring Musical: Rodgers & Hammerstein's - A Grand Night for Singing. **Register early...only 100 spots available!** Play by yourself, with your household, or create your own virtual team. More information and registration available at [facebook.com/TriviaWithHayley](https://www.facebook.com/TriviaWithHayley)

You may also find information on our PAC Facebook page for all thing related to our Performing Arts Center: [@VAHSPerformingartsctr](https://www.facebook.com/VAHSPerformingartsctr)

SENIORS: APPRENTICESHIP INFORMATION

Attention Seniors! Are you thinking about pursuing a regular apprenticeship program in construction and/or manufacturing after high school? If so, please contact Ms. Gard at gardl@verona.k12.wi.us or stop by her office in room N2070 right away. Mr. Jeff Kennedy from The Department of Workforce Development SouthCentral Wisconsin will be meeting virtually with interested students in March.

SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS: GIRLS AUTO CLINIC

Attention Sophomores and Juniors! Are you interested in learning more about automobiles and want to learn how to care for your own car? Then you will not want to miss the annual Girls Auto Clinic beginning on April 8th for 7 sessions held at Wilde East Towne Honda. Go to the new VAHS CTE FB page to access the flyer for more information and to register. <https://www.facebook.com/vahscte/>

VAHS FBLA COMPETITION

Students in FBLA recently completed their regional level of competition, and we are proud to announce those that have advanced to the state level. Students who placed in the top three in their event have earned the opportunity to compete at the FBLA State Leadership Conference in April. **Congratulations!!!**

Olivia Mizelle and Katelin Plesac - Website Design, **Ava Kharin** - Political Science

Luciana Castellanos and Erin Nick - Public Service Announcement, **Laura Wang** - Introduction to Business

Morgan Kreuser and Amelia Moody - Digital Video Production, **Maja Tate** - Business Plan

Nathan Arbogash - Spreadsheet Applications, **Mia Perez Eleuterio** - International Business

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY UPDATES FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 9/10

If you are interested in being a member of the VAHS chapter of the National Honor Society starting in 11th grade, there are few things you need to know! The National Honor Society is a national organization that focuses on the key pillars of service, scholarship, leadership and character. Invites will be sent out to all 10th grade students this summer that have maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.60. It is important to note that invitation does not guarantee acceptance into the NHS. While there is no specific number of service hours that you need to be inducted into the NHS, it is recommended that you demonstrate your commitment to service in some form during your 9th/10th grade years. The application will ask for this demonstration of service, demonstration of leadership and demonstration of positive character and your entire application will be evaluated for acceptance into the NHS. Stay tuned for more information as the school year comes to a close. If you have any specific questions, please contact Mr. Simonini at simonina@verona.k12.wi.us.

ALL THINGS SENIOR!

1. **Senior Awards Show:** During the senior class meeting on Tuesday, February 9, seniors were presented information on the Senior Extravaganza award show. This program recognizes seniors that have done outstanding work in a variety of categories. The following are the specific categories. (1) A World Beyond Our Classroom, (2) An Act of Kindness, (3) An Inquisitive Mind, (4) Applying Your Knowledge, (5) Perseverance, (6) Athletics and Fitness, (7) The Visual Arts, (8) The Performing Arts, (9) Wildcat Community Pride, (10) Change the World, (11) STEM Awards, (12) CTE Careers, (13) Humanitarian. Specific descriptions about the 13 categories were shared with seniors. Seniors can nominate themselves or another senior. Staff are also able to nominate seniors. Last year, we were able to recognize approximately 80 seniors. Please note, there is no money associated with these awards. This is a separate event from the senior scholarship awards night.
2. **Senior Advisory Council:** The senior advisory council had their first meeting on Monday, February 8 with nearly 25 seniors in attendance. Seniors were invited to join the council with ongoing meetings in March. They met to begin brainstorming and planning ideas around prom, homecoming, the senior class trip and graduation. Although there have not been any decisions confirmed about any of these events, it is awesome to begin planning and sharing out ideas. The group will be discussing a variety of ideas for virtual and in person opportunities if allowed.
3. If you have not checked this out yet, please feel free to go to the [Class of 21 Button](#) to access all information related to seniors including previous senior class meeting presentation and links, our adornment policy, the application to speak at graduation and much more.

YEARBOOK ORDERING DEADLINE

As a friendly reminder, you **MUST order your yearbook no later than 02/19/21**. We will not be ordering extra books. Each order includes the main book and the supplement. Don't miss out on this historic edition! Orders must be placed at www.jostens.com by 02/19/21. If you have not yet ordered a 2021 yearbook, you will be receiving email reminders from Jostens with a link to purchase the book. In order to help get the yearbook into the hands of students who cannot afford one, please donate to our [Yearbook Fundraising page](#). Thank you!

If you have any questions, please email the yearbook adviser, Esther Chiu, at chiue@verona.k12.wi.us.

>>>AS SEEN IN PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS<<<

VAHS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Did you know that the VAHS Career and Technical Education (CTE) department has its own Facebook page? Follow the VAHS CTE Facebook page for updates on what is happening in our state of the art learning spaces, job and internship opportunities, exciting extracurricular experiences, and much much more!

<https://www.facebook.com/vahscte/>

Dane County Youth Apprenticeship Information Nights - Learn more about the Youth Apprenticeship Program, entrance requirements, program opportunities, and the benefits of "Jump Starting" your career today.

March 8 - 6:30 pm @ BTC Institute (if possible)

Reserve your seat today - [Youth Apprenticeship Information Night](#)

FEBRUARY 2021 PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE PART 1 AND 2

A SchoolReach was sent out earlier this week that contained a link to [Part 1 of Principal Hammen's message](#). Another message was sent to students and families that contained [Part 2 of the message](#). These are chock full of important information. Please take time to review.

SCHEDULING INFORMATION FROM STUDENT SERVICES

We have begun student course scheduling for the 2021-2022 school year.

- Please visit the [Course Selection Landing Page](#) for the list of resources.
- Check out the [Department Videos and Landing Pages](#) for more information.
 - These videos will give you a glimpse into the new high school and all of the amazing courses we have to offer!
- Come to the [Monday February 8th Community Course Zoomathon](#) from 8am to 10am and 6pm to 8pm to speak with staff about course choices (students and families welcome!)

AP CAPSTONE PROGRAM

New Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone Program at VAHS for 2021-2022! Earn the AP Capstone Diploma or the AP Seminar and Research Certificate! The program consists of two classes: AP Seminar (11th-12th grade elective) and AP Research (12th grade elective; AP Seminar required prerequisite).

Participating in AP Capstone can help students:

- Become self-confident, independent thinkers and problem solvers.
- Develop skills in research, analysis, evidence-based arguments, collaboration, writing, and presenting.
- Develop key academic skills they'll use in college and beyond.
- Distinguish themselves in the college application process.
- Earn college credit: Many colleges offer credit for qualifying scores.

Video: [AP Capstone: AP Paradigm Shift From Content to Skills](#)

Video: [AP Capstone: A Student Perspective](#)

Email Julie Berndt (berndtj@verona.k12.wi.us) or Hope Mikkelsen (mikklesh@verona.k12.wi.us) with any questions.