



VERONA AREA HIGH SCHOOL

MARCH 3, 2021 FAMILY NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE:

- **Tuesday, March 9 - ACT Testing - 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.
- **March 22-26 - Spring Break**
- **Thursday, April 1 - Last Day of Quarter 3**
- **Friday, April 2 - No School**
- **Monday, April 5 - First day of Quarter 4**

NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE:

You've probably heard about 'close contacts' many times during the COVID-19 pandemic, but what does it actually mean to be a close contact? According to the Public Health Department of Madison & Dane County and the CDC, you are a close contact if:

- You were within 6 feet of a person who tested positive for more than 15 minutes total in a day. This time does not need to be consecutive. Three 5-minute periods over the course of a day is still close contact.
- You had **any** physical contact with a person who has tested positive. This means fist bumps, elbow bumps, handshakes, and hugs.
- You had direct contact with the respiratory secretions of a person who has tested positive (i.e., from coughing, sneezing, contact with a dirty tissue, shared drinking glass, food, or other personal items).
- You live with or stayed overnight for at least one night in a household with a person who tested positive.

How can I avoid becoming a close contact while at school?

- **Spread out! When you are entering or exiting the school and walking in the hallways, make sure to keep 6 feet distance between you and others around you.**
- Don't share food or drinks with others.
- Avoid any physical contact with others.

What happens if I am identified as a close contact?

- You are unable to attend onsite classes/activities for 10 days after you last had contact with the person.
- You must stay home and avoid others, if possible, until your quarantine ends.

Test your knowledge with some scenarios from PHMDC: [Am I a 'close contact'?](#)

STATE TESTING INFORMATION

11th grade students will take the ACT on **Tuesday, March 9th. Please arrive at school by **8:15 AM** and make sure to **bring your ID** with you. Check your school email for a message from Ms. Streets for more information.**

9th and 10th grade students will take the Aspire test in April. This test will take place on a MONDAY. 9th grade students will take the Aspire on Monday, April 19th; 10th grade students will take this test on Monday, April 26th. More information will be sent to you via email in the coming weeks.

VAHS MUSIC HAPPENINGS:

Members of the Music Department are currently participating in the WSMA Virtual Solo Ensemble, and The Virtual Musical is coming soon. Stay tuned for more information.

INTERESTED IN BASEBALL?

If you are interested in playing baseball for VAHS this spring, please read the email from Ms. Witte-Davis sent on Monday, March 1st at 12:40 pm. **You MUST register online on the VAHS website if you are interested in playing baseball;** see link below: <https://vahsathletics.sportngin.com/register/form/636950879>

SENIOR CLASS TRIP FUNDRAISER AT CULVER'S!

Please consider supporting the Verona Area High School Senior Class by enjoying a delicious meal or item from Culver's in Verona. A portion of the sales will go to supporting the senior class activities.

Date: Tuesday, March 16 from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP UPDATE

In a world where technology is ever present, the Verona Area School District believes in 1:1 technology for all of our students and will be implementing some of the Common Sense Media's digital citizenship K-12 lessons this year. This move aligns with our District's Strategic Plan: Pillar #2: Safe, Inclusive Learning Environments, as one of the objectives focuses on digital safety!

Since 2003, Common Sense Media has been the leading source of entertainment and technology recommendations for families and schools. They are independent, nonprofit, and research backed. You can read more about their mission [here](#).

We will be covering the following topics in advisory this year.

- Privacy and Security
- Digital Footprint & Identity
- Relationships & Communication
- Cyberbullying, Digital Drama, & Hate Speech

Each of these topics comes with guardian resources that we will share throughout the school year to help you continue conversations with your student(s) at home. For specific parent/guardian resources for each grade level, [check out the resources we have here](#).

We hope you find these resources valuable as you have conversations with your child.

>>>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](#)

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.

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/>

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.

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.

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.
