

Tanagers' Nest News

1

Graduation & Year End Thoughts ...

by **Jon Frey** on April 30, 2023

So much comes to mind when I think about the school year coming to a close. As May hits, we will be swamped with the bustle that coincides with the closing down of the school year; everything from wrapping up junior testing to seniors final days of classes. Making sure everybody has their final credits earned to cross the proverbial “finish line” to checking in textbooks and computers, preparing for the senior awards ceremony (May 3rd) and graduation (May

13th) to final exams for grades 9-11 and finally check-out for the returning students. Before we know it, summer school will be underway, summer projects in the building will be taking place, various athletic camps will start to occur and suddenly, we're preparing for registration of new



students, new staff arrive to settle into their classrooms and just like that, August is here and we're off and running once again.

Alas, August can wait, May is here and for now, I think we'll spend a few more days enjoying our time with the Class of 2023 by encouraging them to finish strong, put their best efforts into their final days of high school and to continue to set the example for the upcoming classes. It's been an enjoyable year working with this class of seniors. On behalf of the staff of Vermillion High School, I would like to congratulate the graduates and encourage each of them to always wear their red and white with pride and remember once a Tanager, *always a Tanager!*

Jon



Tanager's Nest News

IN THIS MONTH'S TANAGERS' NEST NEWS

Click on the titles below to move directly to the article.

Graduation & Year End Thoughts ...	1
Important Upcoming 2022-23 Dates	2
Important Upcoming 2023-24 Dates	3
Graduation Practice - MANDATORY for Seniors	3
Graduation Reminders for Seniors & Parents	3
Native American Students Advisory	4
Activities News	5
Student Services News	6
Review of 2023-24 Class Schedules	6
Scholarships	6
FAFSA	7
What are the deadlines for filling out the FAFSA form?	7
Need a Tutor? Here are two free tutor options!	7

Important Upcoming 2022-23 Dates

- May 3rd - Senior Awards Ceremony, 2:00pm, VHS Auditorium
- May 8th & 9th - Senior Final Exams
- May 9th - Final Check-out for graduating seniors through VHS Office
- May 10th - Native American Graduate Celebration 5:00pm, Prentis Park
- May 10th - Baccalaureate Service for Seniors (*optional*), 7:00pm, VHS Auditorium
- May 11th - Graduation Practice (MANDATORY ATTENDANCE), 10:00am, USD Sanford Coyote Sports Center
- May 13th - Graduation 1:30pm, USD Sanford Coyote Sports Center (Doors open: 12:30pm)
- May 17th - Final Exams (Grades 9-11)
- May 18th - Final Exams (Grades 9-11)
- May 19th - Final Exams (Grades 9-11) / Final Check-out / Last Day of School



Tanager's Nest News

Important Upcoming 2023-24 Dates

- September 18th - Picture Day
 - September 29th - Homecoming Game vs. Chamberlain
 - October 25th - Picture Retake Day
-

Graduation Practice - MANDATORY for Seniors

by **Jon Frey** on April 28, 2023

On **Thursday, May 11th** we will lead the graduating members of the senior class through their one-and-only graduation practice **at the Sanford Coyote Sports Center at 10:00am. This is an important practice.** Time for the practice is limited, as is the availability of staff to assist with the practice within the time allotted. It is for this reason that it is vitally important that your graduate be at practice and that he/she is *on time*. We get one shot to practice the sequence of activities that will comprise the graduation ceremony and missing the practice only leads to confusion and misunderstanding on the day of graduation.

Please help us reinforce the message to your graduate(s) that graduation practice is NOT OPTIONAL and being on time is critical. ~ Thank you.

Graduation Reminders for Seniors & Parents

By **Jon Frey** on April 26, 2023

Graduation is Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 1:30pm at USD's Sanford Coyote Sports Center.

Doors to the Sanford Coyote Sports Center open at 12:30pm.

Seniors should plan to arrive between 12:30 and 12:45pm. They will receive instructions at graduation practice regarding where they will lineup.

It is recommended that seniors carry their mortar board (hat) and tassel into the building rather than to wear it. Tassel's have a tendency to fall off accidentally and get lost before the ceremony.



Tanager's Nest News

4

Graduation gowns should be removed from the plastic bag and either ironed or let hang several days in advance to allow wrinkles and creases to relax.

Graduation is a formal ceremony. We recommend that your student wear an appropriate dress shoe, a collared shirt and slacks for the gentlemen. For the ladies, heels should be an appropriate length for walking comfort and traversing a few steps up and down from the stage. A skirt or slacks are appropriate for the ladies.

The only adornments to the graduation gown or hat that will be permitted are those issued by VHS (honor cords), VHS organizations such as National Honor Society (stole) or the prior approval of appropriate Native American beading of the cap or wearing of an eagle feather.

Native American Students Advisory

by [Jan Stalling](#), EdD, NCC, NCSC Native American Liaison on April 28, 2023

May 10th - 5:00pm Prentis Park Theater and the SE Shelter has been reserved the ceremony beginning at 5:00 PM. Damon Leader Charge and the Rosebud members will preside as the Drum Group and singers. The Star Quilts will be placed on the seniors' chairs and a family member or members will place the quilt upon their student. Damon Leader Charge will offer some words for the graduating seniors. Dr. Damon Alvey, Vermillion Superintendent, will also speak.

A mother of one of the Native American Club students has agreed to make Indian Tacos for the guests. Chips and soft drinks will also be available. The Indian Tacos will cost \$8 for each taco.

[Jan Stalling](#), EdD, NCC, NCSC

Native American Liaison - Phone: 605-659-8517

Vermillion School District

Tanagers' Nest News

5

Activities News

by [Jason Huska](#) on April 28, 2023

2023 marks the first official Vermillion High School softball season as a SDHSAA sanctioned high school sport! The team is currently 3-2 and will begin SoDak 16 play on May 23rd. The team plays home games at Lion's Park by the National Guard Armory.

The VHS Track and Field team is preparing for the DAK XII conference meet on May 11th hosted in Vermillion, this year, at USD. State track is May 25, 26 and 27 in Sioux Falls.

Boys Tennis will take part in our conference tennis quad on May 8th in Sioux Falls. Participating teams will be Lennox, Sioux Falls Christian, Madison and Vermillion. State Tennis will be played May 15 & 16 in Sioux Falls.

Girls Golf hosts the Vermillion Invite on May 15th. On May 22nd we will also host the DAK XII conference meet. Regions will be held May 25th and State golf will be on June 5th and 6th.

VHS Drama just completed their performance of the spring play and our instrumental and choral music departments will perform the VHS Finale Concert on May 9th at 7:30pm.

It's been a great year of activities and sports at VHS and it's been a tremendous amount of fun watching your students compete and perform! As always, Go, Tanagers!



Tanagers' Nest News

6



Vermillion High School Student Services Office 605.659.8513 (ph) / 605.677.7042 (fax)
 Luke Hayes, School Counselor (A-K) - Laura Suing, School Counselor (L-Z)
 Rebecca Olson, Administrative Assistant

Student Services News

By Luke Hayes, Laura Suing, and Brittney Goggin on April 28, 2023

Review of 2023-24 Class Schedules

Students should keep an eye on announcements in the building as it is our goal to have class schedules for next year's sophomores, juniors and seniors ready for review before students leave for the summer. During this review period, we will allow students to make any necessary changes to their schedule in the hope of eliminating the need to adjust schedules in the fall. Stay tuned!

Scholarships

Scholarships are now available. Now is the time to have your student stop into Student Services and regularly check their email for more information. Most deadlines are in March so it's important to have your student complete, review, and submit their scholarship application before the deadline. If your student has questions about scholarships and/or would like assistance with completing a scholarship application, please have them stop into student services. If your student needs a recommendation for their application, please remind them to ask for those recommendations as soon as possible so it allows people time to prepare them.

Vermillion High School Administration 605.677.7035 (ph) / 605.677.7042 (fax)
 Jon Frey, Principal ~ Jennifer Badke, Administrative Assistant
 Jason Huska, Assistant Principal / Activities Director ~ Jasmine Stewart, Administrative Assistant



Tanager's Nest News

FAFSA

The 2023-2024 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available now!. FAFSA can provide your student with grants, loans, and work study funds from the Federal Government. It is best to get it done early since some of the funds are available on a first come first served basis. For a short video on how to fill out the FAFSA form, please click [here](#). To fill out your FAFSA form, please visit [the FAFSA website](#). Please contact student services if you have questions about filling out the FAFSA or your student would like help in filling out the FAFSA.

What are the deadlines for filling out the FAFSA form?

To be considered for federal student aid for the 2023-24 award year, you can complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form between Oct. 1, 2022, 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

Need a Tutor? Here are two free tutor options!



Boys & Girls Club of Vermillion's Tutor Club is a FREE after-school club that provides a safe & positive space for Vermillion High School students to focus on their academic workload and receive extra support on homework and other school related skills. Tutor Club provides daily snacks, homework help, and fun and engaging activities, all at zero cost to families! Tutor Club can also provide transportation

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



Tanager's Nest News

8

services at the end of the day to ensure all members get home safely.

Tutor Club is held Monday-Friday, 3:30-5:30 in Vermillion High School (room 16). As a member, students are expected to attend daily unless involved in school activities or are working some weekday, in which case a mutually beneficial schedule can be worked out.

If you are interested in enrolling your high school student, please use the following link to complete the referral form: <https://forms.office.com/r/AYszSrJP3M>. This form is necessary for Tutor Club staff to begin preparing to serve your student as well as possible. To enroll your student, please complete the Boys & Girls Club of Vermillion online registration form by following this link: www.greatfuturesd.org/vermillion-membership. Once the enrollment process is complete, you will be contacted by BGCV Education Director, Rachel Franks, to schedule a Parent Orientation meeting.

If you would like to receive further information, please contact Rachel Franks at rfranks@greatfuturesd.org or 605-672-2028.

By [Rachel Franks](#), Education Director at Boys & Girls Club



The [Dakota Dreams Online Tutoring Program](#) provides free online tutoring to K-12 students in South Dakota in the subjects of English/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Parents can register students for virtual one-on-one tutoring sessions using a simple and secure online platform. Once registered, sessions can either be pre-scheduled or accessed on-demand. All sessions are taught by university students already accepted into the School of Education at Northern State University or Black Hills State University.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

Vermillion High School

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

Vermillion High School Administration 605.677.7035 (ph) / 605.677.7042 (fax)

Jon Frey, Principal ~ Jennifer Badke, Administrative Assistant

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