

Tanagers' Nest News



Registration for 2023-24 is here!

by [Jon Frey](#) on February 28 2023



It's the time of year when, at least at VHS, we begin to look at the year ahead and what changes that might bring to the building. Of course, there is still much to do to bring 2022-23 to a successful conclusion, but looking ahead to course registration for our students for 2023-24, here are some considerations.

Your student's overall 4-year plan is the primary focus of Ms. Suing and Mr. Hayes, our VHS School Counselors. Mr. Hayes primarily works with the beginning of the alphabet (A-K) and Ms. Suing the end of the alphabet (L-Z). However, either can answer your questions and work with your student.

The 2023-24 school year will see the return of a few courses that are on a rotational schedule. In social studies, that means the return of the very popular course *History of Ancient Greece and Rome* as well as their new *Great Plains History* which debuted this year. The English Language Arts staff will return the course *Film as Literature* as an elective offering while the collaborative Business and Art offering of *Visual Media and Marketing* will be offered again. There are still a few course decisions yet to be finalized so this should not be considered the final list of what is new or being rotated in, but as of this printing, this is what is certain.

As far as a timeline, see the Student Services section of this newsletter. The week of March 27th will be the week we begin rolling out meetings with grade levels. It's hard to believe March has arrived, tulips and yard work cannot be far behind!

Jon



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Teacher Feature!

By **Trina Merideth - VHS Teacher** on February 28, 2023

This month, we feature Trina Merideth, a member of our English Language Arts Department.

Trina Merideth - English Language Arts Teacher

Where is home? I am from Wakonda, South Dakota.





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Where did you get your (post-HS) education? I have my Bachelors of Science in Education from University of South Dakota and my Master's Degree in Mass Communication also from USD.

How many years have you been teaching at VHS? Overall? This is my 2nd year at VHS and 20th year overall.

What classes do you teach? I currently teach 4 sections of Freshman English 1 and 2 sections of Sophomore Composition.

Did you always want to teach or did something lead to you teaching after first doing something else? I think teaching has always been in my "blood." I have an extensive family of educators including my grandmother, both my parents, and several aunts and uncles. I also see my mass communications degree as an extension of my English background.

Do you coach any sports? Do you sponsor any activities or clubs? I was last year's Speech and Debate Coach. I currently coach two 3rd grade basketball teams (not school affiliated) but love coaching a sport I am passionate about.

What is your favorite part of teaching at VHS? The students. My favorite part of teaching is the day to day conversations and connections I have with students. I adore generating excitement about a novel we have read in class or a paper they have written.

Anything else? My interests include watching my own sons compete in sports and activities as well as my students. I always say that if invited to attend an event or performance, I will do my best to be there.

My family consists of 2 boys (Brody a 6th grader, Braxton a 3rd grader), a stepdaughter, Makayla, my husband, Andy, and Toby (a 8 month old yellow labrador).

Important Upcoming 2022-23 Dates

- March 15, 2022 - **1:30 Dismissal** - Teacher Professional Learning Teams
- March 16th & 17th - **No School**, Spring Break
- March 20th - Community Connection Night
- April 6th - **1:30 Dismissal** - Teacher Professional Learning Teams
- April 7th - **No School**, Easter Holiday
- April 10th - **No School**, Easter Holiday
- **May 3rd - Senior Awards Ceremony, 2:00pm, VHS Auditorium**
- **May 8th & 9th - Senior Final Exams**
- **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)**

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- May 19th - Final Exams (Grades 9-11)
- May 22nd - Final Exams (Grades 9-11)
- May 23rd - Final Exams (Grades 9-11) / Final Check-out / Last Day of School

Important Upcoming 2023-24 Dates

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

Native American Students Advisory

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

The Middle School students are in the process of making their own Medicine Wheel which is being facilitated by Tanner Drappeau from Marty Indian School. He is the Cultural Liaison for Marty School. The VMS students have completed two sessions and two remain. Participation is voluntary.

Also, the Native American Parent Group meets tomorrow afternoon at 5:30 at Jolley Elementary Library. We will be discussing fundraising ideas.

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

Native American Liaison - Phone: 605-659-8517

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Activities News

by **Jason Huska** on February 28, 2023

VHS Art students successfully participated in **Art Wars** and are preparing for the State Art competition in Rapid City on March 17 and 18.

Category: Drawing: 1st: Gael Magana

Category: Drawing: Honorable Mention: Niu Niu Zhang

Category: Painting: 1st: Autumn Waters

Category: Painting 3rd: Niu Niu Zhang

Category: Photography: Honorable Mention: Brilie Mayer



2023 spring activities and start dates:

- High School Track and Field began on February 27th.
- Boys tennis will begin on March 13th.
- Girls softball will begin on March 20th.
- Girls golf will begin on March 27th.
- Middle school track will begin on March 13th.

Spring play rehearsal is underway and looking forward to performances on April 28, 29, and 30th. Rhythm in Red just hosted a successful invite and will continue its season competing at invites. If you have any activities questions please call Vermillion High School or Vermillion Middle School.

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

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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 February 28, 2023

Registration for 2023-24

Discussions are underway with staff and departments at the high school regarding course offerings for the 2023-24 school year. High school registration meetings with students will begin the week of March 27.

Visit the School Information page of the district website and select the [2022-23 Course Description guide](#) to get the lowdown on planning courses for the upcoming year with your student. Use this as the starting point, *once finalized, we will upload the 2023-24 Course Description Guide which will include any changes that are decided in the coming month.*

College and Career Fair

VHS will host a College and Career Fair on the afternoon of April 3rd, 2023. Watch for more information via email, in the coming weeks.



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Community Connections Night

The Vermillion School District will be hosting a *resource night for parents and students* on Monday, March 20th. The purpose of the event is to connect families immediately with possible resources and support during the school year and summer break. Held at the VHS commons, many community partners such as Parks & Rec, Boys & Girls Club, the Department of Labor, and many more will be available to offer additional individualized information. Keep an eye out for future updates and flyers being sent home with students! The Vermillion School District looks forward to seeing you there!

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.

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.

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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!

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



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 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.greatfuturessd.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.

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

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



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

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