

# Tanagers' Nest News

## It's Already That Time Again

This month's Tanagers' Nest News will address some of the many happenings at VHS and preview what students need to know about with regard to the coming year.



by [Jon Frey](#) on July 24, 2023

We're busy putting our best shine on the facilities as the summer of 2023 is beginning to get a little long in the tooth and in less than 30 days, the halls of VHS will re-open to welcome back our Tanagers as student activities and even some events will have already taken place by the time the first day of school hits in August. I hope this newsletter finds you and your family enjoying some summer activities, vacation, and family time. It is a great opportunity for all of us to check our progress on short- or long-term projects and perhaps even move some to a point of completion!

This year at VHS we bring forward a few small changes to things, but for the most part, we see things moving in a good direction as a building and district. We have some new staff that I will introduce later in this newsletter, a few changes to the start of school to share and other than that, it should be a pretty easy start to the 2023-24 school year!



# Tanagers' Nest News

If your student is involved in activities, be sure to check out the Activities section of this newsletter for information and reminders of important dates and times for fall activities.

Juniors and seniors should plan to review dual credit and ACT testing information on the Students Services section of the newsletter. Also, we want empty periods in schedules filled *before the start of the school year*, so if your student has concerns with his/her schedule, it is time to make plans to contact a counselor and see about getting the schedule fixed *before reporting back for classes*.

There's much to do in these remaining days of July and the first few weeks of August! We all hope you're having an enjoyable and restful summer!

*Jon*

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## IN THIS MONTH'S TANAGERS' NEST NEWS

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

<b>It's Already That Time Again</b>	<b>1</b>
What is Orientation & What Does My Student Bring?	3
Recommended High School Supply List	4
New Staff and Existing Staff in New Positions!	4
Important Dates & Information for Fall	6
<b>Summer Activities News</b>	<b>7</b>
Tanagers Attend Boys & Girls State	7
Activity Participation Benefits	7
Activities Reminders for Fall	8
Physical Forms & Activity Tickets	8
<b>Student Services News</b>	<b>9</b>
Student Class Schedule Changes or Updates	9
Dual Credit Courses	10
Student Services Important Date Reminders	10
ACT Testing	10
FAFSA	10
What are the deadlines for filling out the FAFSA® form?	10



# Tanagers' Nest News

Page 3

Federal Deadlines	10
2023-24 Academic Year	10
College Deadlines	11
Reminders:	11
1. Contact Information	11
2. Summer Gym Access	11
3. Summer Office Hours	11

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## What is Orientation & What Does My Student Bring?

by [Jon Frey](#) on July 27, 2023

Grade-level orientation has three parts, each lasting. The schedule is as follows:

- 10:00am - 11:30am - VHS Auditorium - for all incoming 9th grade students
    - **Note the date and time change.**
  - 11:30am - 12:15pm - VHS Auditorium - for all incoming 10th grade students
  - 1:30pm - 2:30pm - VHS Auditorium - for all incoming 11th grade students
  - 2:45pm - 3:45pm - VHS Auditorium - for all incoming 12th grade students
- **Meet in the auditorium** with principals, counselors and a few teachers at the start.
    - Quick introductions of key staff and their roles
    - Updates and reminders about building expectations and any changes from last year.
  - **Tanager Time** (Homeroom)
    - Receive locker assignments
    - Turn in payments
 

(cash or check - separate checks by item, please, as they do not go to the same place.)
    - \$25.00 computer use fee (all students)



# Tanager's Nest News

- \$20.00 senior class dues (seniors only)
- **Computer check-out**
  - Computers will only be issued to students who have paid their \$25.00 computer use fee and settled any previously owed damage fees. Invoices for damage to machines last year were mailed home in May.

It is very important that your student attends the appropriate grade-level orientation and is on-time. Each session is important and it makes a significant amount of work for others when these tasks have to be undertaken the first few days of school. So, please plan accordingly to help us get the 2023-24 school year off to a smooth start.

## Recommended High School Supply List

- 12- #2 Pencils
- Folders- At least 1 for each class (7) (recommended)
- Spiral notebooks- At least 1 for each class (7)  
OR
- 2- 1 or 2-inch Binders & 1 pack college-ruled loose leaf paper
- 3 each- blue pens, red pens, and black pens
- 1-12-inch ruler (optional)
- 1- Pencil pouch
- 1 pack-colored pencils
- 1 pack-colored markers
- 2-packs ruled note cards (3x5 or 4x6) especially if taking Speech (typically Gr. 10)
- 3- highlighters (different colors)
- 2- composition notebooks
- Water Bottle (Optional)
- 3 pack of tissues:
  - Last name begins with A-L (To be dropped off in the High School office)
- 1 large container of antibacterial wipes
  - Last name begins with M-Z (To be dropped off in the High School office)

## New Staff and Existing Staff in New Positions!

by **Jon Frey** on July 25, 2023

Staffing changes bring about new dynamics and perspectives within a staff and building as a whole. While we are disappointed to see some staff depart for new adventures in life, we are excited to welcome new staff to the fold. Ms. Armbrust and Ms. Kappler are moving on



# Tanager's Nest News

to positions outside our district while Mr. Stephens and Mr. Wedel are moving to other buildings within our district. Listed here are the names of the new or transitioning VHS staff and the positions they will hold:

- **Hope Druin, Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher, FCCLA Advisor:** Hope brings a wide array of experiences and talents to our FCS program. While she is a first-year teacher, her recent transfer to USD helped her quickly develop a love for the community and its surroundings as she hails from the Pittsburgh, PA area. As a member of the SD Air National Guard, she also specializes in the fuel systems of F-16 fighter jets, so there is very little that intimidates this new classroom teacher! Hope will take over the FCS program so skillfully guided by Sarah Armbrust in previous years.
- **Kaden Elder, Physical Education Instructor, Strength Coach:** Kaden is our new Strength and Conditioning instructor as well as our Tanager athletics strength coach. He will start and end his day at VHS and spend the middle of his day at VMS. Kaden did part of his student teaching at VHS and spent last year teaching as a Title teacher at Jolley Elementary. He takes over from Andy Homan who has accepted a teaching position in Elk Point.
- **Travis Freese, Math Teacher, Sophomore Class Advisor:** While Travis is new to our building and district, he is not new to the profession. He is a Vermillion resident and most recently taught at South Sioux City HS where he was head of the math department. Travis takes over for Ms. Kayla Kappler who moved on to Baltic HS, her hometown.
- **Jasmin Heisinger, Alternative Education Instructor, Freshman Class Advisor:** We consider ourselves very fortunate to have been able to land Ms. Heisinger. She comes to us with alternative education classroom experiences from two larger AA schools and a wealth of experience working with students who need something other than the pre prescribed path through high school. Ms. Heisinger takes over from Mr. Doug Wedel who has moved on to teach English at VMS.
- **Kyle Moser, P-T Night Custodian,** a recent VHS grad, Kyle has returned to VHS as a familiar face in the halls. Since graduating, Kyle has also become a volunteer fireman at the Vermillion Fire Department.

There will be additional staff added as Educational Assistants and additional custodians are still being added between now and the start of school. Overall, things are shaping up and we are near fully staffed to start our year!





# Tanager's Nest News

## -Important Dates & Information for Fall

- August 1st & 2nd - **Registration**
    - 9:00am - 1:00pm - VHS Office - for new district residents enrolling students
  - August 16th, **Orientation (Grades 9-12)**
    - 10:00am - 11:30am - VHS Auditorium - for all incoming 9th grade students
      - **Note the date and time change.**
    - 11:30am - 12:15pm - VHS Auditorium - for all incoming 10th grade students
    - 1:30pm - 2:30pm - VHS Auditorium - for all incoming 11th grade students
    - 2:45pm - 3:45pm - VHS Auditorium - for all incoming 12th grade students
      - **Student attendance is expected at the appropriate orientation session as updates and changes to building policies will be covered, technology use fees and class fees will be collected and laptops will be distributed.**
  - August 17th - **First Day of Classes - All 7 periods will meet.**
  - August 18th - **Second Day of Classes - All 7 periods will meet.**
  - August 18th - **Booster Bash!**
    - 6:00pm-7:00pm - VHS Football/Soccer Field (weather permitting) or VHS Main Gym (if weather is uncooperative)
  - September 4th - **No School, Labor Day**
  - September 15th - **No School, Teacher Inservice**
  - September 25th-29th - **Homecoming Week**
  - September 18th - **Picture Day**
  - October 5th & 6th - **Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences**
  - October 9th - **No School, Native American Day**
  - October 17th - **End of Term 1**
  - October 25th - **Picture Retake Day**
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# Tanagers' Nest News



## Summer Activities News

### Tanagers Attend Boys & Girls State

by [Jon Frey](#) on July 27, 2023

Four VHS juniors represented VHS at Boys and Girls State this summer! William Anderson, Brody Askew and Joel Dahlhoff attended Boys State in Aberdeen on the campus of Northern State University. Ariana Georgescu attended Girls State held here in Vermillion at USD.

### Activity Participation Benefits

by [Jason Huska](#) on July 25, 2023

It is well documented that school athletic/activity programs have been an important part of student development. These skills are not always learned in the classroom. Activities have shown to be important to physical and mental health, stronger self-confidence, building relationships with others, and the development of life-long fitness habits. Participation in school activity is special in that each game or performance is dependent on



# Tanager's Nest News

other team member contributions. Being part of a team makes participants more marketable to colleges and employers. What students remember the most from high school activity participation is the relationship and celebration among teammates. The Vermillion School District encourages all students to find an activity to get involved with that has life-long benefits.

## Activities Reminders for Fall

by **Jason Huska** on July 25, 2023

The Vermillion High School would like to announce upcoming fall sports/activities meetings and practices:

- **Girls' Soccer** will have practice starting on Monday, July 31<sup>st</sup> from 4:30am –6:00pm at the high school practice field.
- **Boys' Soccer** will practice July 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:00–8:00 pm at the high school practice field.
- **Girls' Tennis** first practice will be July 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00–9:00 am at the USD courts.
- **Boy's Golf** will have their first practice on August 7<sup>th</sup> at the Bluffs golf course starting at 4:00 pm. Parent/player meeting on July 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm at the Bluffs.
- **Football** will have a parent meeting on August 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:30 pm at the football stadium. Practice will begin on August 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am –11:00 am
- **Boys and Girls Cross Country** will have a meeting/practice on August 10<sup>th</sup> in the high school commons at 9am and practice to follow.
- **Volleyball** will have a parent meeting on August 8<sup>th</sup> at the high school commons, 6pm. Practice will start on Thursday August 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00–9:00am and 2:00–4:00pm.
- **Pride of Vermillion Band Camp** will be held July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 4<sup>th</sup> at VHS.
- **Rhythm in Red Show Choir** retreat will be held on August 14<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 10 pm at VHS.
- **Fall Play** rehearsals will be held August 23 to October 5<sup>th</sup> with performances to be held October 6, 7 and 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Physical Forms & Activity Tickets

Vermillion Public Schools would also like to remind parents of yearly physical/consent forms required to participate in athletics. Each athlete must complete a physical before participation. Parents and students need to be aware of the Activities/Athletics handbook policy. Each student athlete will have the policy explained to them. Adult and Student activity tickets will be available at the high school, administration building, or at various



# Tanagers' Nest News

sporting events. Cost for the activity tickets is \$50.00 for adults and \$25.00 for students. The Vermillion School District is offering a family activity pass for \$120.

If you have any questions, please call Vermillion High School. We look forward to a great 2023-2024 school year and GO, TANAGERS!!



## Student Services News

by [Luke Hayes](#) & [Laura Suing](#) on July 25, 2023

We are very excited to welcome students back for the next school year! We will continue to reach out via email as well as utilize the Minga app for school wide announcements, academic and career planning, and emotional and mental health strategies. We hope your summer is going well and again look forward to seeing each of you and helping you through the next school year!

## Student Class Schedule Changes or Updates

Mr. Hayes and Ms. Suing will be in their offices to work on student schedules on August 8th and 9th during normal school hours. Students should use this opportunity to fill periods that are empty on their schedules or address any other scheduling concerns. Please feel free to communicate with your counselor via email:

Last names A - K: [Luke.Hayes@k12.sd.us](mailto:Luke.Hayes@k12.sd.us)

Last names L- Z: [Laura.Suing@k12.sd.us](mailto:Laura.Suing@k12.sd.us)



# Tanager's Nest News

## Dual Credit Courses

Students interested in signing up for Dual Credit courses can do so now through the start of the college classes. If you have specific questions please *email* Mr. Hayes or contact the respective college or university directly.

## Student Services Important Date Reminders

### ACT Testing

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline	Standby & Photo Upload Deadline
September 9, 2023	August 4, 2023	August 8, 2023	September 1, 2023
October 28, 2023	September 22, 2023	October 6, 2023	October 20, 2023
December 9, 2023	November 3, 2023	November 17, 2023	December 1, 2023
February 10, 2024	January 5, 2024	January 19, 2024	February 2, 2024
April 13, 2024	March 8, 2024	March 22, 2024	April 5, 2024
June 8, 2024	May 3, 2024	May 17, 2024	May 31, 2024
July 13, 2024	June 7, 2024	June 21, 2024	July 5, 2024

### FAFSA

What are the deadlines for filling out the FAFSA® form?

### Federal Deadlines

#### 2023-24 Academic Year

The FAFSA form must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CT on June 30, 2024. Any corrections or updates must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CT on Sept. 14, 2024.



# Tanager's Nest News

## College Deadlines

Each college may have its own deadline. Check with the college(s) you're interested in attending. You may also want to ask your college about its definition of an application deadline. Is it the date your FAFSA form is processed or the date the college receives your processed FAFSA data?

However, many states and colleges have earlier deadlines for applying for state and institutional financial aid. 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.<sup>1</sup>

## Reminders:

### 1. Contact Information

Have you changed your address, phone number or email address recently? What about a guardianship change. Please help us keep you in-the-know by updating your contact information at school, as well! Messages such as school reach messaging, emergency calls and even teacher communications home are made more difficult if we do not have accurate contact information.

### 2. Summer Gym Access

Parents & students are reminded that summer gym access must be under the supervision of a coach, staff member or Parks & Recreation personnel as part of an authorized P & R program. The gyms and weight rooms are not available for unsupervised use or play. Unauthorized gym or facility access creates a liability concern for the school district.

### 3. Summer Office Hours

The VHS office is only staffed from 8:30am to 1:00 pm, Monday through Thursday, each week. **Regular office hours resume July 31st.**

<sup>1</sup> Federal Student Aid Website, Office of Department of Education, Accessed June 28, 2022.



# Tanagers' Nest News

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

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## Vermillion High School

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