

Tanagers' Nest News

Term 2 Transitions Into Fall/Winter Season

Suddenly, we find ourselves moving quickly into Term 2, winter sports and activities are starting and the grind of the first semester is setting in!!

by **Jon Frey** on Oct. 31, 2023



As the year progresses into the second term, we see a great deal of exciting things happening both inside and beyond the classrooms! Recently, students in Great Plains History made the trip to the Prehistoric Indian Village archeological site at Mitchell and spent some time learning about the prehistoric history of this area.

In that class, the students study not just the settlements of the various

people that came to the great plains over thousands of years, but also geological and geographic elements of the prairie as well as the various plant and animal species that also make or have made the Great Plains home.

As we move deeper into Term 2, it is critical that attendance numbers, like grades, stay up and effort and focus do the same. Encourage your students to keep pushing through this tough part of the semester as we build for the holiday break right around the corner!

Jon



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TANAGERS' NEST NEWS

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Teacher Feature!

This month, we feature Travis Freese, our *new* Geometry & Finite teacher.

Travis Freese - Mathematics Teacher

Where is home? Originally from Siren, Wisconsin but have lived in Vermillion for the past 6 years.





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Where did you get your (post-HS) education? Bachelors from University of Wisconsin - River Falls. Masters from the University of Iowa. Currently working on Ed.S from University of South Dakota.

How many years have you been teaching at VHS? Overall? This is my first year teaching at Vermillion High School. My seventh year teaching overall, the previous 6 years have been at South Sioux High School.

What classes do you teach? I teach Finite Mathematics, Geometry, and Advanced Geometry.

Did you always want to teach or did something lead to you teaching after first doing something else? I originally started my education in mathematics and economics, which were my majors at the University of Wisconsin - River Falls. Then, I worked at the testing company, ACT. That position led me to pursue teaching.

Do you coach any sports? Do you sponsor any activities or clubs? I am one of the sophomore class advisors.

What is your favorite part of teaching at VHS? The coworkers have been great and helpful. The students are good to work with and want to learn.

Anything else? My wife and I enjoy hiking and traveling.

Important Dates & Information for Fall Semester

- November 10th - **Veterans Day Assembly** - 10:00am
- November 22 - 24th - **No School**, Thanksgiving Holiday Break
- December 2nd - Winter Formal - 8:30 - 11:00pm
- December 19-20th - **FINAL EXAMS**
- December 21st - Jan. 3rd, 2024 - **No School** Christmas & New Year's Holiday Break

Important Dates & Information for Spring Semester

- January 3rd - **No School, Teacher Inservice**
- January 4th - **First Day of Second Semester / Term 3**
- January 15th - **No School**, MLK Holiday
- February 7th - Midterm for T3

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- February 15th & 16th - **Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences**
- February 19th - **No School**, President's Day Observance
- March 13th - **Early Dismissal at 1:30 PM** - PLT Day
- March 14th & 15th - **No School**, Spring Break
- March 18th - Term 4 Begins
- March 28th - **Early Dismissal at 1:30 PM** - PLT Day
- March 29th - April 1st - **No School**, Easter Break
- April 17th - Midterm for T4
- May 1st - Senior Awards Day Presentation - 2:00pm, VHS Auditorium
- May 11th - Graduation - 1:30pm, Sanford Coyote Sports Center at USD
- May 16th - Final Day of School - 1:30pm dismissal.

Activities News

Winter Activities Begin

by **Jason Huska**, VHS Activities Director, November 6, 2023

The 2023-2024 winter activities are underway at VHS. The Tanager debate team, under the direction of Garret Adam, had a great showing at the Aberdeen Golden Eagle Cup competition. This competition was held on November 3rd and 4th.

Extemporaneous Speaking: 2nd place - Nina Jordre (first place tie broken by speaker points) 3rd place - Jacob Chasing Hawk. **Novice Public Forum Debate:** 1st place - Rylee Nordyke & Nina Jordre (undefeated). **JV Public Forum Debate:** 3rd place - Debbie Campbell & Ari Georgescu. **Team Sweepstakes:** 2nd place (for speech & debate).

VHS show choir "Rhythm in Red" is preparing for competitions in South Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa. On November 17th and 18th the show choir and show band will be performing its annual Fall Show.



VHS 2023 All State Choir and Orchestra

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

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Both nights will be 7 pm performances. Show choir and show band are under the direction of Trisha Fisher and Garret Olson. This is also the season for many concerts throughout the winter. Please check the school calendar for dates and times. Oral Interpretation will host regions on November 15. This is the State qualifying competition. State will be held on February 1st and 2nd. Oral Interp is under the direction of Amelia Howard. One Act Play will begin with rehearsals on December 4th. One Act play will perform on January 19th at 7 pm. Mary Begley and the One Act crew will perform at regions on January 23rd held in Vermillion starting at 9 am. State One Act Play will be on February 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

The winter season also means boys and girls basketball, gymnastics, and wrestling competitions. Gymnastics began on October 30th. The Tanager gymnasts led by Shannon Thomas and Mark Upward will host their first competition on December 2nd. This is the annual Upward Family Winter Wonderland competition. Wrestling begins on November 13th. Gary Culver and the Tanager wrestlers will begin on December 2nd at the Sioux Falls Roosevelt Invitational. Girls basketball will start on November 20th with their first action set for December 4th at home against Canton. Jon Brooks will lead the lady Tanagers. The boys basketball team led by Jay Drake will begin on November 27th and their first action will be on December 8th at South Sioux City.

We look forward to an exciting winter season! Go, Tanagers!



Student Services News

The Time Is Now.

If your senior plans on attending college in Fall 2024, it is time for them to start applying for scholarships. If your student has applied to a college, university, or technical school, and been accepted, make sure to check that school's website for scholarship deadlines and have

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your student apply, even if they have not decided which postsecondary institution they would like to attend. This, along with any available aid, can help a student determine what school would be most advantageous to attend. Have your student stop into student services if they have questions about where to find scholarships, need help applying, would like a reference, and/or would like help with their essay. Listed below are some of the South Dakota schools and their scholarship pages and deadlines:

[University of South Dakota](#) – Priority deadline November 15, final deadline December 1, 2023.

[South Dakota State University](#) – Priority for Summer and Fall 2024 is given to applications received on or before December 1, 2023.

[Dakota State University](#) – Priority date to submit your application is March 1, 2024.

[Black Hills State University](#) – Deadline to submit the New Student scholarship application is February 1, 2024.

[Northern State University](#) – Deadlines vary.

[Lake Area Technical College](#) – Deadlines vary.

[Mitchell Tech](#) – Deadlines vary.

Spring Dual Credit

The application for registration for dual credit is now open. Registration for classes will begin on Friday, November 10.

Dual credit gives eligible students the chance to accelerate their education by enrolling in classes to receive both high school and college credit. You can find our dual credit basics document, along with other important information, on the dual credit webpage at SDMyLife.com.

There is a wide variety of courses for students to choose from, including courses offered online, on campus. See Mr. Hayes if you have questions.



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Student Services Important Date Reminders

ACT Testing

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline	Standby & Photo Upload Deadline
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

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form is normally available in October of each year, but the 2024-25 FAFSA form will not be available until sometime in December 2023. They are working on making some major changes and improvements to simplify the process for students and parents when filling out the form. Changes to the FAFSA form for the 2024-25 aid year include expanded eligibility for federal student aid and a more streamlined application process. There is not a definitive launch date set yet, but when there is, the VHS Student Services office will communicate the date with senior students and parents.

If you would like to stay informed about FAFSA changes and receive up-to-date notifications and information, you can follow Federal Student Aid on social media for announcements and resources:

[Twitter/X](#) · [Instagram](#) · [Facebook](#) · [YouTube](#)



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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.

College Deadlines

Each college may have its own application 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.¹

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

Vermillion High School

1001 East Main Street, Vermillion, SD, 57069
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¹ Federal Student Aid Website, Office of Department of Education, Accessed June 28, 2022.