

Vestal High School

Board Report – April 2022 Dawn F. Young, Principal

Art

- Photo classes are working on digital techniques - light writing, water photography and face swaps. Students have used the Light room previously, but this semester are focused (no pun intended) on Photoshop Editing.



- On March 28th and 29th, the Graphic Design students are meeting with Margaret Hadsell of the Vestal Historical Society to look at historical artifacts and documents for their Series on the History of Vestal for the upcoming 200th Anniversary.
- Conner Weiskopff won Second Place in the Broome County Violence Prevention Poster Competition. He and his Graphic Design Class will be celebrating with a pizza party next week.



Biology

- The Biology Department is continuing to work though curriculum in preparation for the Regents exam in June. Students have been learning about genetics and the human body, both very interesting and real-world concepts. We used our afternoon of Superintendent's Day to meet with Maureen Smith to talk about changing to NYSSLS standards in the upcoming years and how that would impact our curriculum and day to day teaching. It is something that we will continue to work on as more information is forthcoming.

Chemistry

- Students in AP Chemistry are completing units in Thermodynamics and Electrochemistry prior to preparing for the AP and IB/HL Exams.
- Students in Mrs. Lewis' Regents Chemistry course are studying Properties of Solutions in the laboratory, by calculating concentrations and determining the effect of dissolved particles on the freezing and boiling point of water (including the preparation of ice cream using salt and ice!)
- Nine Vestal students competed in the Local Chemistry Olympiad on March 10th. Six schools participated, and Vestal took 1st -7th, 9th, and 12th place out of 27! The top performers, Gustav Gebbie (1st) and Sriya Pallapothu (2nd) have advanced to compete in the National Chemistry Olympiad at Binghamton University on April 26th. They will be honored at the American Chemical Society Awards Dinner and Banquet on April 27th, where Gustav will also receive a scholarship. A Vestal student has won this scholarship for approximately the last 11 out of 13 years. Way to go Bears!

Counseling & Guidance

- Counselors hosted a Junior College Parent Night in the beginning of March with representatives from SUNY Broome, Binghamton University, Colgate University, SUNY Cortland, SUNY Delhi, Rochester Institute of Technology and Syracuse University. This was an in-person event, however, we had 98 views on our online viewing. Valuable information on the changing of the SAT's and Test-Optional practices were discussed. Next year we hope to send a reminder post card out to families to help improve the in-person numbers.
- Counselors took 30 juniors on a college visit to Binghamton University and 20 juniors to SUNY Broome following the Junior Parent Night. Students had tours of the campuses, spoke to students and advisors and had the opportunity to eat in the SUNY Broome dining hall.
- Visions Federal Credit Union has hired 6 new interns for next year to work at the bank.
- Dollars for Scholars applications are due on April 1st.
- Counselors had the opportunity to visit SUNY Broome for the afternoon of Superintendent's Conference Day to hear about their pre-professional fields. Elementary Counselors worked as a group on their Safety Curriculum. Some counselors and Social Workers began looking at IEP Counseling and how students are serviced in the district.
- Counselors and Social Workers met with Patrick Clarke and Ingrid Constable-Clarke to discuss the roles of Counselors/Social Workers in the District and Community Schools Partnership.
- VHS is participating in the New York State Tobacco Survey. 10 classes were randomly selected.
- VHS is officially opening the Vestal Food Pantry on Wednesday, March 30th, and we'll be open every Wednesday from 4:00-6:00 p.m. thanks to the Rotary, P.T.O, and student food drives.

Elementary News:

- ARE has begun planning for our Mental Health Awareness Day in May.

Earth Science

- One of the concepts students have been recently learning about in Earth Science is weather-related phenomenon. They have been making connections between the weather outside and the concepts we have been discussing in class. Students have also enjoyed getting out of the classroom to go outside to collect data. Students have been using this data to analyze and make predictions of upcoming weather events.

English

- Mrs. Benjamin's IB English 11 students are just finishing up Harry Mulisch's *The Assault*, which led to many interesting and engaging discussions on the ethics of war. The current situation between Ukraine and Russia provided an interesting relevance. Students are now selecting outside reading texts that they think might be valuable additions to the IB curriculum. They will read these over the spring break and then create a sales pitch on these works to the class. They will also write a paper on the literary merits and accolades of the works. Below are some photos of *The Stranger* trial re-enactment that students completed last month:



- IB English 12 students of Mr. Dunham, Mrs. Drexler-Smith, and Mr. Gretsky have just finished a close reading of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. To inform their writing and discussions about the play, students have chosen a literary theory and focal context to guide their analysis. They then selected significant text evidence from the play that led them to conclusions/perspectives about the play's content and craft.

Health

IB News

- Thank you to Mrs. Sweeney, our Library Media Specialist, for meeting one-on-one with our junior IB diploma candidates to review available research resources here at VHS for the IB Extended Essay. An important component of the IB diploma, the Extended Essay is a 4,000-word essay written in a subject

area of the student's choice. Students work closely with a supervisor throughout this process. Thanks also to the Extended Essay supervisors for the class of 2023:

- **Mitzy Benjamin**
Natalie Datoush
Jennie Drexler-Smith
Brian McKinley
Melissa Restuccia (two students)
Kyle Rizzo
Adam Thayer
Allison Weisel
Brian Weisse

- Supervisors play a very important role in the success of the IB diploma candidates, and we appreciate their support!
- As additional Extended Essay support, the juniors will visit the Binghamton University library on April 6th, where they will get a tour of the facilities and an introduction to the research databases available through the university.
- As students prepare for their IB and AP exams that will begin in May, teachers are completing the remaining Internal Assessments for their IB courses. World Languages have recently completed their Individual Oral assessments, in which students demonstrate productive and interactive skills (a presentation by the student and a follow-up discussion based on a visual stimulus linked to one of the prescribed themes of the course, and a general conversation with the teacher based on at least one additional theme of the course).
- IB and AP exams will begin with IB Physics on Thursday, April 28, 2022. Best of luck to our students on their exams!

Math

- Go Vestal Math! Congratulations on a job well done! Vestal High School sent 11 students to Ithaca College for a Math Exploration Day and competition. Team A: Gus Gebbie, Justin Colon, Ian Chang, Sriram Chakravadhanula earned 1st place and Team B: Banshika Mangal, Grace Yoon, Rayna Cui and Bianca Ortiz earned 3rd place out of 36 teams.





Music

- The Vestal High School performance of Mamma Mia held March 3rd – 6th was a huge success and well attended by our school and local community.

Physical Education

- To battle the doldrums of February/March the Physical Education Department decided to turn back the clock and bring out some blasts from the past. We started the month off with a couple of days of Four Square. Following that, it will be Cowboy Hats and Chaps as we Square Dance our way into Spring. Giddy Up Golden Bears!

Physics

- Regents Physics and AP 1/IB Physics students are finishing their studies on electric circuits. Series circuits, parallel circuits and the brightness of lightbulbs are some of the lab activities over the past two weeks.
- AP2/IB Physics students are studying diffraction and wave optics. Light bends around obstacles and through the tiniest openings. Cornell uses x-ray diffraction to image crystal structures on a molecular level. Students will soon begin Thomas Young's double slit experiment, the most conclusive evidence that light is a wave.

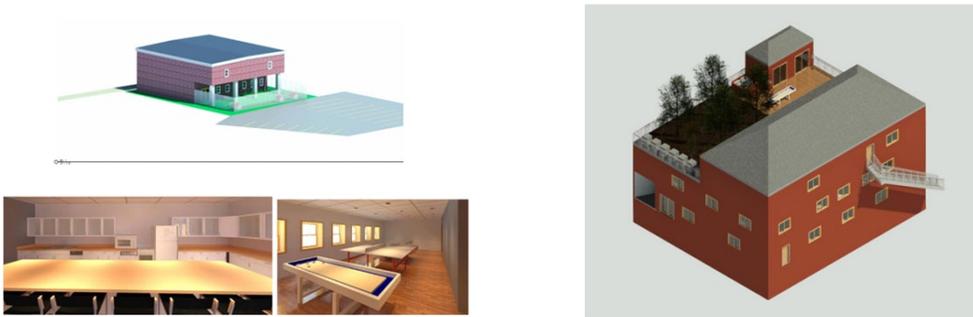
Social Studies

- Students in Global History & Geography I and Global History & Geography II have been practicing skills needed for the Global Regents exam by writing and revising Enduring Issues essays.
- Students in US History & Government have been practicing skills needed for the US History Regents exam by completing Short Essay Questions as part of their most recent unit test.

Special Education

Technology/PLTW

- Introduction to Engineering students had to design a gadget that would help improve the life of their partner in class using the design process. Students will be moving on to how things move and how to create that motion in CAD. Civil Engineering students are currently finishing a commercial building that will go on a local empty lot of land (early submissions below). Digital Electronics students are finishing up a majority vote assignment in which a circuit decides on an output based on multiple inputs.



World Languages

- On April 28th, around 30 Vestal students will be giving their presentations for the NYS Seal of Bilingualism. The presentations will be given in person this year at the Broome-Tioga BOCES Center in Binghamton. This is the first time in several years we will be in-person for the event and the students will be in front of a panel of three. The presentations will last between 10-15 minutes and there is a 5 - 10-minute interactive “Q & A” after with the panel and presenter. Nicole Ewing will be among the panelists evaluating students from other districts.
- On March 30th, Kalindi Naslund and Beth Ait Oumessaoud will be having a Top Chef Challenge (also for the first time in forever) between the Spanish and French Clubs. Five teams will be participating, and each team must incorporate the secret ingredient into their recipe.

Vestal High School Calendar



- 1 Report Cards Marking Period 3 – Window Opens
- 1 Jr. Prom @ Riverdale Banquet Hall Endwell 8 – 11 p.m.
- 1-2 NYSMMA Solo/Ensemble Festival – Johnson City High School
- 2 NYS Winterguard Championships – Shenendahowa HS
- 2 ACT's @ Area Schools
- 5 Rtl – Mtg. Periods 2-4 – Rm. 181
- 5 Department Chair Mtg. (Tuesday) @ 3:00 p.m. – Rm. 181
- 6 Faculty Mtg. @ 2:50 p.m. – Cafeteria
- 6 NHS Induction Ceremony – 6:30 p.m. - Auditorium
- 7 Paraprofessional Mtg. @ 2:45 p.m. – Rm. 181
- 7 Vestal Music Boosters Mtg. @ 6 p.m. – VHS
- 8 Marking Period 3 – Last Day
- 11-15 Spring Break – No School
- 19 Rtl – Mtg. Periods 2-4, Rm. 181
- 20 10th Grade - Career Expo – Binghamton University
- 20 VHS - PTO Mtg. @ 6 p.m. – Rm. 181
- 20 Vestal District Counsel Mtg. @ 7 p.m. – Rm. 181
- 21 IB Art Show Exhibition – Classes Periods 1- 9 - Pool Gym
- 22 Reports Cards Marking Period 3 – Window Closes @ 4 p.m.
- 22 Board Reports Due from Dept. Chair
- ~~23 Junior Prom – Owego Treadway Inn~~ – Moved to April 1st
- 25 Chem Free All-Nighter Committee Mtg. @ 7:00 p.m. - Rm. 181
- 26 Rtl – Mtg. Periods 2-4 - Rm. 181
- 27 BPT Mtg. @ 12:30 p.m. – Rm. 181
- 28 Academic Awards Night @ 6:30 p.m. – Auditorium