

# Vestal High School

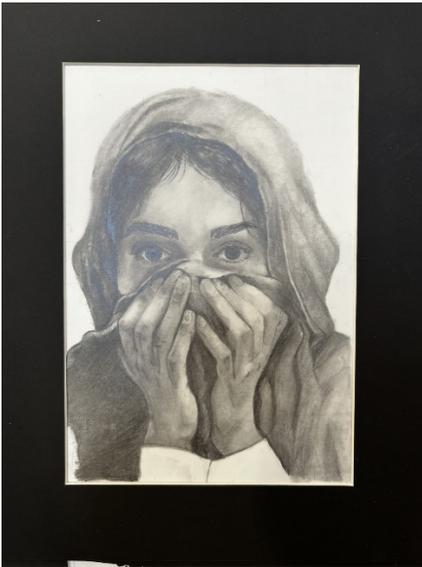
Board Report – May 2022

Dawn F. Young, Principal

## Art

- Students in Photography classes are currently working on how to colorize a black and white photo. They just finished up making fun visual puns to home in on their Photoshop skills.
- The IB Art Show was held on Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> during the school day for classes to attend, and from 3-6 pm for public view in the VHS Pool Gym. Over 700 students, faculty and family members attended the show.





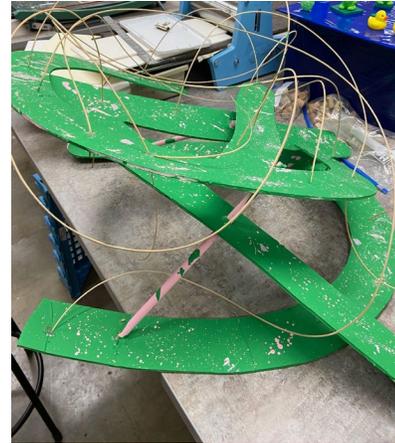
- The Vestal High School Art Department was proud to win top awards at the Fine Arts Society of the Southern Tier Youth Show co-sponsored by the Broome County Arts Council. Alyessa Bolander took 1<sup>st</sup> place for Painting, Sophia Chiu - 2<sup>nd</sup> place for Drawing, and Kara Dhakal - 1st Place for Mixed Media. Vestal was the largest participating school with 21 entries. All works are on display and can be viewed at the Oakdale Mall outside the old BonTon until Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Hours for viewing:

- MONDAY. - CLOSED
- TUESDAY 4-7 PM
- WEDNESDAY 4-7 PM (EXCEPTION – WED. April 13, 2022 6 PM- AWARDS PRESENTATION)
- THURSDAY 4-7 PM
- FRIDAY. 4-7 PM
- SATURDAY. 1-5 PM
- SUNDAY. 1-5 PM



- Studio Art Students (Mainly Grade 9) worked in small teams to produce abstract sculptures from reclaimed and found materials. The structures had to be at least 18” in one direction and structurally stable enough to be moved. The students completed a process journal that chronicled their artistic journey and a slideshow that compared their work with that of a famous abstract sculptor. The culmination is a presentation (Q & A) with the artists regarding their sculpture. When all the pieces are completed, they will go on display in our library to create an indoor sculpture garden.



## Biology

- The Biology Department is continuing to prepare our students for the NYS Regents Exam. Last week many classes completed the NYS Beaks of Finches Lab. This is a favorite lab every year for the students because they compete against each other to see who can get the most seeds in a set amount of time. The students use tools as finch beaks. This lab models the concept of natural selection showing that some organisms are better adapted to their environment than others and therefore are more successful at getting food. This is an important lab because in addition to modeling the theory of evolution there are also questions asked about the lab on the Living Environment Regents Exam every year. Here is a picture of the tools we had the students use to eat lentil sized seeds.



## **Chemistry**

- The month of April, Mr. Turner's Regents Chemistry classes built two types of working batteries (voltaic piles and wet cells) during their study of Electrochemistry. Mr. Arbuiso's and Mrs. Lewis' Regents classes are finishing up Acid-base Chemistry, and will be finishing the year with Organic, Redox, and Nuclear Chemistry. Even with a few days out of school due to snow and power outages, we will be on track for a solid Regents exam training schedule.
- IB-SL students are working on Redox Chemistry. They are learning how to use their knowledge of chemical activity to understand how batteries work and how to use redox reactions to make non-spontaneous reactions occur. The development of effective batteries that minimally impact the environment while using resources that are readily available are an important part of the plan to mitigate the negative effects of climate change and is an important part of both the Regents and IB curricula. IB-HL students reinforced their understanding of electrochemistry by building Micro-Voltaic cells and using Vernier voltage probes and software to determine the relative chemical activities of metals, and identify unknown metals based on their chemical potential.
- In the coming weeks, IB Chemistry students will be preparing for cumulative exams. All students in IB-SL Chemistry take an internal final exam as well as the NYS Regents Exam. Student in IB-HL Chemistry will take AP, IB, and Fast Forward Exams. We will be completing various review assignments to prepare for these culminating experiences.

## **Counseling & Guidance**

- 170 students will be recognized on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at Academic Awards Night. Students and families will be able to attend in person while a live stream will also showcase the event for families who wish to watch it from home. A huge thank you to Katy Jablonowski and Jewel Cooke for organizing this event each year.
- Counselors completed Career lessons with our 10<sup>th</sup> grade students in their English classes. Students answered a series of questions based on the lifestyle they would like to lead after high school. Based on their answers, a total cost of living was developed with coincided with careers that would help them achieve their goals.
- Counselors provided crisis management and/or support for Owego High School, Maine-Endwell High School, East Middle School in Binghamton and Vestal Middle School.

## **Earth Science**

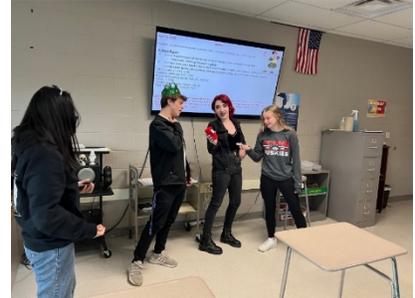
- Some of the students in Earth Science have been learning about our place in the cosmos. In this topic they have been learning about and discussing the vastness of space. Other Earth Science students have been discussing the vastness of geologic time, the emergence and evolution of life, the major mass extinctions, and human origins.

## **English**

- Students in IB English 11 are creating sales pitches to promote and “sell” the outside reading text they selected to read over spring break. Many of these presentations are in the form of videotaped infomercials or role-playing skits in which students assume the persona of a persuasive salesperson. While the presentations are encouraged to be creative and visual in nature, the persuasive nature of

sharing their text is meant to encourage other students to read these texts on their own. So far these have been amazing projects filled with humor, pet spotlights, and parental involvement.

- As a culminating activity for their study of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, IB English 12 students wrote a modernized version of the dueling and death scene of Act 5 of the play. Students gained a new appreciation of Shakespeare's language during this synthesis and re-imagining! Below are some photos of Mr. Dunham's students in action during these skits:



## Health

- In March, students in Health Education completed a unit on Mental Health. We studied stress, depression and anxiety and practiced healthy habits like deep breathing, mindfulness, gratitude, meditation, and exercise. Students completed an advocacy project to help dispel the stigma surrounding mental health issues so that all students feel more comfortable seeking help. Some students created posters about famous people dealing successfully with mental illness while other students interviewed and wrote about staff in our building who can be mental health resources.
- Throughout April, Health classes have been studying drugs, alcohol and addiction. We watched a documentary on opiate addiction called "Chasing the Dragon" and researched and discussed how brain chemistry changes can lead to addiction. We also created flyers about our own natural highs. Students described the good feelings they get naturally from things like dancing, cooking, sports, being out in nature or spending time with friends and how drugs or alcohol could interfere with their natural highs.

## IB/Honors

- Junior IB diploma candidates are now doing exploratory reading and research for their IB Extended Essays, a 4,000-word research paper on a subject and topic of their choice. Our students went to the Binghamton University library on April 6<sup>th</sup> to tour the facilities and to learn about available research sources. Elise Ferer, a library representative, then provided instruction to our students in a classroom setting. Students were able to research their topics using the extensive subscriptions to professional journals and online databases at BU. The research skills that students learned about will not only help them with their IB Extended Essays but will motivate them to seek out resources at the library when they go to college.

- May is an exciting month for IB and AP students, as the end-of-year exams are finally here! This year, we are administering 100 IB exams and 264 AP exams over a three-week period. Tests with the largest number of students are AP US History (48), AP World History: Modern (43), and AP Biology (41). Regardless of the number of students testing, teachers and students in these IB and AP courses have been working hard all year to prepare for these exams.
- As a culmination of the community service component of the IB program, we are again offering an IB “Day of Service,” where we invite any senior taking any IB course to volunteer for a day at a local non-profit. This year we will be going on Thursday, June 2, 2022. Half of our seniors will work at the Discovery Center cleaning up their Story Garden and the other half will spend the day at CHOW, packing summer backpacks for students who need supplementary food while school is not in session. These activities have been extremely rewarding to our former students, and, of course, they are always glad to get off campus for a day at the end of the year!

### **Physical Education**

- The Physical Education Department decided to change things up a little before Spring Break. We went back in time and offered a favorite from everyone's Elementary playground days...4-Square. This activity was received with energy and enthusiasm. It was a good break from our traditional units and a great way to welcome "Spring". This decision proved valuable since Winter decided to stay a little longer and forced us inside longer than we would like. We will start the 4<sup>th</sup> Marking Period with our rhythms and dance unit as we wait for warm and dry weather to arrive.

### **Physics**

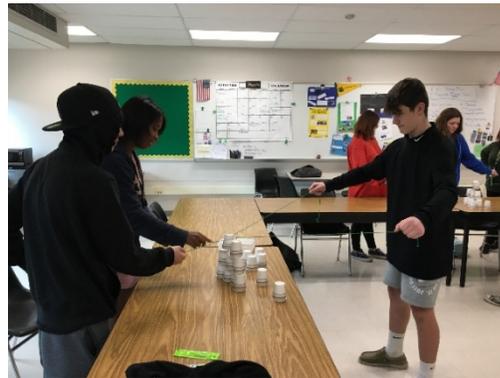
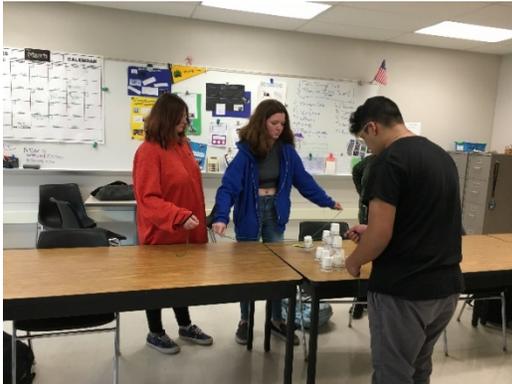
- Regents Physics students have been finishing their studies on waves and will be beginning a new unit on light. Numerous resonance demonstrations were recently shown such as singing to the tuning fork, shattering the wine glass, the Tacoma Narrows bridge, and playing the digeridoo.
- AP1 students are reviewing for the IB and AP1 exam.
- AP2 students are studying quantum physics and the photoelectric effect. Light was believed to be a wave until Albert Einstein published a paper on how when light strikes a metal and emits electrons, it acts like a particle.

### **Social Studies**

- Global History & Geography I students are currently completing a civics research project comparing citizenship in the United States to citizenship in an ancient society from their curriculum. After completing research, students will create a poster to be shared in the Social Studies hallway. Students will spend a “gallery day” learning from their classmates’ research. This project will help students toward their goal of earning the Seal of Civic Readiness when they graduate in 2025.
- AP World: Modern students are reviewing for the AP Exam on May 12th.
- Students in Participation and Government and IB Economics are working on their public policy papers to help them earn the Seal of Civic Readiness in 2022.

## Special Education

- Paul Stanton and Ben Greene, co-teachers for AIM Global 2, have been working with students in developing the Enduring Issues Essay. Using a variety of teaching techniques such as developing a common definition of what an enduring issue is, making posters that list the different types of enduring issues, and identifying enduring issues in the documents read by looking for key words that reveal enduring issues as well as general historical context. They created a "fill-in-the-blank" template/graphic organizer that students could use to start their essays. Students learned to write a strong introduction paragraph that identifies and defines an enduring issue and then practiced how to write a body paragraph based on the documents they read, balancing outside information (historical context) with evidence from the document to analyze the significance of enduring issues. The unit culminated in students writing an enduring issues essay on the theme of Human Rights.
- Mr. Greene and Mr. Stanton have seen steady growth in the way their students write and while they still have areas to work on, but they are pleased to see students' writing skills grow. It is exciting! We are hopeful that the AIM Social Studies team will have the opportunity to meet over the summer to address vertical alignment of Global 9 and 10 with an emphasis on the enduring issues essay.
- Students in 9th grade Life and Career Readiness class put what they learned about soft skills into action by participating in several hands-on activities and games. The tasks were developed to focus on using strong communication skills along with teamwork, flexibility, problem solving, perseverance and self-control. As the students were challenged by each task, they quickly saw the importance of each skill and were able to apply them in real situations. The students had some fun before leaving for Spring Break.



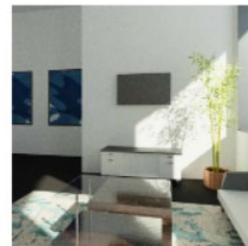
- Karly, a student in our AIM program, has been busy with several CDOS projects. With the help of her paraprofessional Kathy Cady, Special Educator Paige Gales, and Media Specialist Patty Sweeney she created a beautiful spring-themed bulletin board in the VHS Library. She is also working on developing her own small business, Yum-Yum Bear. Karly designed the logo, named the company, and is working with Ms. Gales to develop a candy product for orders and delivery here at the high school.





## Technology

- Introduction to Engineering students are working on how things move and how to create that motion in CAD. Civil Engineering students finished up a commercial building design project (various pictures below) and they are now studying utilities and site considerations.





## World Languages

- French Club and Spanish Club collaborated on March 30, 2022, to bring back the Top Chef competition! The students created main dishes and appetizers or desserts. They had to work using the secret ingredient - pineapple 😊 Judges scored the dishes based on overall taste, use of the secret ingredient, and creativity. We ate lots of delicious food and enjoyed having the opportunity to bring back this club tradition.
- During the month of April, French 5IB students researched French artists like Monet, Renoir, Degas, Saint Phalle, Henrot, etc. Then, students collaborated to create a visual representation of their artists lives and works. We displayed the creations in the World Language hallway.





- 2-13 AP Testing
- 2-20 IB Testing
- 3 Rtl - Per. 2-4, Rm. 181
- 4 Department Chair Mtg. @ 3 p.m. – Rm. 181
- 6 Interim Reports 35 Weeks – Window Opens
- 7 SAT's @ Vestal
- 10 Rtl - Per. 2-4, Rm. 181
- 10 PTO Staff Appreciation Luncheon, Per. 5-7 Rm. 133
- 10 VHS Band Concert @ 7 p.m. – Auditorium
- 11 Faculty Mtg. @ 2:50 p.m. – Auditorium
- 11 VHS - PTO Mtg. @ 6 p.m. – Rm. 181
- 12 Paraprofessional Mtg. @ 2:45 p.m. – Rm. 181
- 12 Vestal Music Boosters Mtg. @ 6 p.m. – VHS
- 13 Interim/35 Weeks – Last Day
- 14 Spring Bruin “Semiformal Dance” @ 8 – 11 p.m. - VHS
- 17 Rtl - Per. 2-4, Principal’s Conference Rm.
- 17-19 NYSSMA Majors Organization Festival – Owego Free Academy
- 17 Vestal Voices Spring Concert @ 7 p.m. – VHS Auditorium
- 18 Vestal District Council Mtg. @ 7 p.m. - Rm. 181
- 20 Early Release Day – VHS Dismissal @ 11:05 a.m.
- 20 Interim Reports 35 Weeks – Window Closes @ 4 p.m.
- 20 VHS Music Department Picnic @ 4 p.m. – Arnold
- 23 Chem Free All-Nighter Committee Mtg. @ 7:00 p.m. - Rm. 181
- 24 Rtl - Per. 2-4, Principal’s Conference Rm.
- 24 VHS Orchestra Spring Concert @ 7 p.m. – Auditorium
- 25 VHS Concert Chorus Spring Concert @ 7 p.m. – Auditorium
- 26 Board Reports Due from Dept. Chair
- 27 No School
- 30 Memorial Day – No School
- 31 Rtl - Per. 2-4, Principal’s Conference Rm.