

Principal's Newsletter

Voorhees High School

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2011

Note from the Principal

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! The opening of school has come and gone and we are off to a great start. It is so nice to see all the bright and smiling new and returning faces back at Voorhees. Whether you are new to Voorhees or have had past experiences here, I'm sure you are looking forward as much as we are to a productive year for your child.

As the new Principal of Voorhees High School, I would like to thank the community for your continued support and I look forward to working with you as we continually strive to improve an already excellent high school.

Sincerely,

Ron Peterson



*It's a
Great
Day to
be a
Vike!*

Calendar for Sept. /Oct.:

- 9/7 Underclass Portraits**
- 9/8 Back to School Night 7-9 PM**
- 9/9 Last day for schedule changes**
- 9/13 Mini-College Fair #1**
- 9/15 Principal's Advisory Committee meeting (PAC) 9:30 AM**
- 9/20-9/22 PSAT Registration**
- 9/22 New Student Breakfast
Senior College Night**
- 9/27 Mini-College Fair #2**
- 10/4-10/6 HSPA Testing**
- 10/12 In-Service 11:55 Dismissal**
- 10/15 PSAT @ VHS**
- 10/21 Homecoming Game**
- 10/22 Homecoming Dance**



School News:

The students enrolled in the **VHSTV/Video Productions Department** are once again offering video services to the community to help offset student costs for a trip to the Student Television Network Convention in Dallas, TX, this March. Services include transferring home movie recordings to DVD (many different formats are supported), as well as event filming and other video related projects. Please check out www.VoorheesTV.com for more information on the services they offer, or contact instructor Jeremy Brandt at JBrandt@nhvweb.net.

Dine Italian

The Voorhees High School PTSO will be hosting its annual “**Dine Italian**” all you can eat dinner on Friday, October 21 from 4:30 – 7:30PM in the Voorhees High School cafeteria. Proceeds go to benefit Project Graduation, a drug and alcohol-free graduation party for all seniors.

“HAT FOR HEROES”

On Friday, September 9th Voorhees will be holding a fundraiser where the proceeds will be donated to a September 11th charity. Students can pay \$2.00 and receive a ribbon to wear with their favorite hat in school. The money will be collected during the lunch mods.

Student Parking

In order to be more efficient with our student parking, this year students will be charged a one- time \$50 fee as opposed to being charged \$25 per semester. Anyone who receives a parking spot after the start of the second semester will only be charged \$25.

Last school year’s parking violations (students parking without permission) created a significantly increased volume of discipline referrals. It also caused students with parking permits to have the start of their day disrupted. In an effort to limit these disruptions, any student who parks on school property during the school day without a parking permit may be issued a fine through the local authorities for unauthorized parking. Students without permits may make a request with the main office for parking in certain emergency situations.

Student Achievements:

Three students from the Voorhees High School Music Program will be performing the the 2011-2012 All-State Choir. They are: **John Westlake** (mixed choir), and **Lauren Bristow and Louise Gallagher** (women's choir). The Mixed Choir will be performing at the teachers’ convention in Atlantic City and at NJPAC in November and the Women's Choir will be performing at NJPAC in February.

Four Voorhees High School Students were accepted into the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Eastern Division Honors Choir: **Abigail Agpaoa, Juana Guglielmino, Rachel Kozak, and Genevieve Schweikert**. These students competed with over 1,000 other singers for this honor!

Athletics:

The Voorhees Athletic Department has upgraded the school/athletic scheduling calendar. This link http://www.skylandconferencenj.org/g5-bin/client.cgi?G5genie=380&school_id=21 will take you to the weekly schedule as well as any sport specific calendars.

On this site, parents can sign up to be on the email list for any changes that occur to the schedule(s). Parents will also be able to get directions to opposing schools by clicking on the opponent's name. We hope that this program will be easy to use and very helpful.

Guidance Office:

Teachers at Voorhees will be using a different formula to determine final grades this year. Students will no longer take midterm exams. Instead, students will take quarterly assessments which will count toward their marking period grade. The elimination of midterm exams will give more weight to the final exams. The four marking periods and the final exam will each count as twenty percent of the final grade. The requirement for passing a full year course will remain passing three out of the five grading factors.

The weighting for semester courses will not change. Each marking period grade will count as forty percent and the final exam will count as twenty percent of the final grade. The requirement for passing a semester course will remain passing two of these three grading factors. This information and important information about calculating grade point average are available in the Parent-Student Handbook, <http://www.nhvweb.net/vhs/mainoffice/files/2011/08/parentstudenthandbook11-12.pdf>.

The guidance staff will be changing the way we submit documents to colleges. Seniors will request teacher recommendations through their Naviance account. All documents will be submitted electronically through Naviance to colleges which accept electronic documents. For a list of colleges which accept electronic documents please visit: http://www.docufide.com/hp2/general/edocs_destinations.jsps

Seniors will be meeting with counselors during the first week of September to set up their Common Application accounts and learn the new transcript request process. This new method of submitting documents will be more efficient and allow students to know the status of the documents more easily. For a detailed explanation of our new procedure, please visit the VHS guidance webpage or go to <http://www.nhvweb.net/vhs/guidance/Squarcia%20Files/Naviance%20STUDENT%20Procedures.pdf>.

New Staff to VHS:

Courtney Thibeault – Courtney will join the Voorhees Art department to replace Eileen Carmella. She comes to us from Point Pleasant High School where she served as a long-term art substitute. Courtney received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Graphic Design from Susquehanna University in May 2008 and her Master of Arts in Teaching degree from Monmouth University in May 2011. In addition to teaching at Point Pleasant, Courtney served as an assistant girl's basketball coach and she will join the Voorhees Coaching Staff as an assistant Basketball Coach.

Melissa Michael – Melissa, who was a traveling Art teacher in North Hunterdon/Voorhees district in 2008, will also join the Art department as a maternity replacement for Christina Grodkiewicz. She received her Bachelor of Science in Art Education from Kutztown University.

The Family and Consumer Science department welcomes **Sandra Hartman** who comes to Voorhees from the Pocono Mountain School District. She will be teaching Accounting as well as the Cooking for Singles classes. Sandra has her Bachelor of Science degree from Marywood University with her major in Accounting and a post Baccalaureate Certification, also from Marywood, in Family and Consumer Science. In 2009, Sandra received her Master of Arts in Teaching – Secondary Education.

Melissa Lewis will join the Voorhees Staff as a 3/5ths Teacher of French. She taught French at Black River Middle School since 2007. Prior to her tenure there, Ms. Lewis served as a leave replacement teacher at North Plainfield High School for two years and at Mount Saint Dominic for two years as well. Melissa graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a bachelor's degree in French education and is presently pursuing certification in Special Education from Centenary College.

Tracy Fleisher comes to Voorhees as a maternity leave replacement for Whitney D'Agusto. Tracy has a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Miami University, Oxford, OH and a Master of Arts Teaching also from Miami University. She has been an English Teacher at the Floyd County Public Schools in Floyd, VA.

Nicole Bolash is new to the Physical Education Department replacing Tom Ross who retired during the summer. Nicole has her Bachelor of Arts in Health and Physical Education from Kean University and will join the coaching staff as the Assistant Volleyball Coach.

Reid Kirby will be joining the Social Studies department this year. He received his B.S./B.S. from James Madison University with his concentrations in History and Sociology and a Minor in Art History. Reid is familiar with Voorhees as he did his student teaching here before going to Morris Knolls High School in Denville, NJ.

The Child Study Team welcomes **Tarah Pearson** to the department as a school psychologist. Tarah received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Ursinus College and a Master of Arts in Psychology from Rowan University

The Special Education department welcomes several new teachers:

Elyssa Sobel is a graduate of Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Special Education. She comes to Voorhees from the Alexander Batcho Intermediate School in Manville, NJ.

Rhonda Jepsen will also join the Special Education department. She has a Bachelor of Science, Elementary and Special Education from Northern Arizona University and a Master of Education and Special Education also from Northern Arizona. Ronda has been teaching at Hamilton High School in Chandler, Arizona.

Molly Mulrooney earned her Bachelor of Arts in American Studies and Collaborative Education at Rowan University and a Master's of Science and Teaching also from Rowan. Molly has her Teacher of Students with Disabilities Certification. She comes to Voorhees from Watchung Hills Regional High School.

The Special Ed Department also welcomes 3 ESP's to their department:

Nancy Barry

Rick Kurtz

Alan Schedlbauer