

VHS COUNSELING NEWSLETTER



February/March 2023

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WINTER 2022-2023

And we're off! Second semester is rolling and students are simultaneously experiencing the relief of the end of the semester and the feeling of lightness that comes with a "fresh start". The window to change classes has now closed, so we hope your students are happy with their schedules!

Important Upcoming Dates:

February/March: Counselors visit classrooms to prepare for course selection

February 20-24: No classes, mid-winter break

March 2nd: Running Start Information Meeting

March 9th: "Jump Start Day" – orientation activities for incoming 9th grade students

March 9th: Incoming 9th grade parent meeting – 7:00pm via Zoom

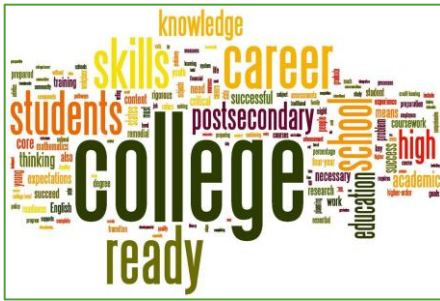
March 17 – 24th : Course selection process in Skyward. Course selections close at 3:00pm on March 24th

April 22 – Spring College Fair

April 27 – Career Showcase field trip

COURSE SELECTIONS FOR 23-24 SCHOOL YEAR

VHS Counselors, Jeff Jones and Tara Vanselow are preparing students for the 23-24 course selection process. Students are completing transcript reviews, graduation requirement reviews and draft versions of course planning in preparation for Skyward registration, which opens on **March 17th**. Information and helpful documents will be posted on the VHS website after the February break. Watch for emails with information specific to your student.



Contact Us

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Jenn Coe, CTE & Counseling Support
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needs to be complete by the end of first semester of senior year. Contact Ms. Coe with any questions.

APRIL 22 – SPRING COLLEGE FAIR

Saturday, April 22nd at Seattle University from 9:00-am-12:00pm.

More information can be found [HERE](#)

College fairs are an excellent way for students to connect with representatives from many institutions and build excitement around post-high school planning. We encourage you to attend with your student.

APRIL 27TH CAREER SHOWCASE @ SHOWARE

The Career Showcase is hosted by the Highline School District. Over 100 employers participate. Open to 11th & 12th grades (and to 10th grade if there is space). VHS will provide transportation for those who signed up. Transportation made possible through a generous P.I.E. grant. If you are interested in attending, or chaperoning, please stop by Ms. Coe's office, or send her an email. We will send out more information closer to the event.

PIRATE PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED

The Pirate Pantry supplies free personal hygiene products and snacks to students during the school day. The snacks we offer students are funded by a generous grant from the Vashon Food Bank. We would welcome donations to support the

MENTORS NEEDED

The VHS Counseling team is looking for students interested in being a mentor for the 23-24 school year. Mentors play a key role in helping our 8th grade students' transition to the high school. Interested students should apply by filling out this [Google Form](#). Students selected will have the privilege of attending a one-day mentoring retreat with "One Village/Journeymen", paid for through a generous Appleford/P.I.E. grant. See Ms. Vanselow if you have questions or need more information.

MARCH 2 - RUNNING START INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Thursday, March 2nd @ 7:00pm, VHS Counselors will host an informational meeting for students and parents interested in the Running Start program. This meeting will take place via Zoom/Google Meet and will include time for Q&A. The meeting link will be sent out via email after we return from break. We will cover the following information: what make a successful candidate, the differences between RS and AP classes, pros/cons of participating, the process for registering, timelines and more!

SERVICE FAIR RECAP/COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT

VHS hosted a Service Fair on February 10th. Students from all grade levels met with representatives from more than 20 nonprofit organizations and many took the opportunity to sign up with an organization of their choice.

Community service is a district-level graduation requirement at VHS. A minimum of 25 hours is required to graduate. Recognizing the value that service to others can provide for young adults, VHS students complete service projects related to their interests and values. Community service

purchase of other items. Donations can be made on the district website. Please note VHS Pirate Pantry in the comment section.

SCHOLARSHIP NOTEBOOK – SAVE THE DATE

For all seniors who completed and turned in a scholarship notebook, the celebration will be held on Thursday, May 25th from 5:30-8:00pm. More details as we get closer, but please **save the date, as attendance is mandatory** in order to receive the scholarship money awarded. This will be a truly special evening celebrating our seniors.

HOW TO ACCESS SCHOOL SUPPORT

As a reminder, here is a list of who to turn to with specific concerns

- Academic concerns: Start with your student's teacher – they are a phenomenal resource! All contact information for teachers is in Skyward or on the school's website
- Academic concerns beyond individual classroom concerns: If you have questions about your student's abilities or how they are progressing towards graduation, please contact their counselor
- Any questions about social issues, stress management, post high school planning, student support, transitioning to high school, service learning, peer relationships and more...contact your student's counselor
- Concerns about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs – prevention and intervention Mandi Wilcox mwilcox-c@vashonsd.org
- Health Concerns: Brandi Greenridge bgreenridge@vashonsd.org
- Medical appointments may be scheduled at the Neighborcare Clinic once your student is registered with them. More information at <https://neighborcare.org/clinics/vashon-island-high-school/> or 206.548.7550
- Discipline questions or concerns: Ms. Sabrina Kovacs skovacs@vashonsd.org
- Attendance reporting: dfranson@vashonsd.org
- Bus Route questions: (206) 463.2525