



THIS IS

THOUGHTFUL • HONORABLE • INSPIRING • SAFE

Blue Devil Newsletter #4

September 6, 2019

Wow! Week one is over. We had an amazing week. I've seen so many examples of students and staff Crossing the Line of Average this week. Each classroom I visited, I saw smiling, engaged students ready to learn. They are doing an awesome job dressing for success and making it to class on time. We've already seen success in sports and experienced amazing performances from the band, JROTC, and cheerleaders. Each day, I've seen many examples of students living up to our expectations of being Thoughtful, Honorable, Inspiring, and Safe. Our teachers delivered engaging lessons that not only set the students up for a successful year, but provided the support and encouragement for them to achieve their best.

Next week, we begin class meetings for our freshmen and sophomores. The junior class meeting will occur the following week. Seniors should stay tuned - the first FUN event for the Class of 2020 is coming up. Thank you for your support this week. We appreciate all you do to support VHS!

Warm Regards,

Ann Mare Seely

Principal

BACK-TO-SCHOOL FORMS

The following forms were available on Rycor Parent Portal. Now that Rycor is closed if you need to complete one of the forms below, please contact Mrs. Leslie English (lmenglish@henrico.k12.va.us) or call the school at 804-226-8700.

- Denial of Permission to Photograph
- Student Identification and Art Release Form
- HCPS Nutrition Services Parent Information Signature Form
- College Entry Exam Waiver Form
- Safety Contract – Science
- Community Service Form
- Student Information Record
- OSP Information about paying fees

The following forms are attached to this email:

- Henrico County Residents – Vehicle Registration Information
- Virginia Compulsory Attendance Law
- Notification of Screenings
- Annual Notice to Students/Parents
- School Counseling Services
- FAMIS
- Notice on Eating Disorders

The following forms have been sent home via your student through his/her English class.

- Authorization to Pick Up form

- Health History form
- Laptop/ Charger letter
- Student Code of Conduct signature page
- Opioid Awareness handout
- Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

Please return the Health History form, the Authorization to Pick-up form, and the two laptop forms as soon as possible. If we do not have a new Authorization to Pick-up Form on file, we will only be able to release your student to those contacts listed in PowerSchool.

CAP AND GOWN ORDER

Please check with your senior to be sure he/she submitted a cap and gown order. Seniors need their gowns to participate in Convocation in October. We are submitting the order to Josten's next week, so please complete the order ASAP. Here is the link to submit the order:

tinyurl.com/vhscapgown

FEE PAYMENTS

We are no longer accepting fee payments in the main office. Students can pay their fees to any teacher beginning Wednesday, September 4. We are not accepting fee payments the first day of school. Online payments can be made at any time.

If you aren't able to make your fee payments at this time, please pay online as you can. We will still distribute student laptops as long as the proper forms are signed and last year's laptop and charger have been returned.

The senior fee must be paid in order for the student to pick up a cap and gown for graduation. This year, and moving forward, all gowns will be navy blue.

LAPTOP DISTRIBUTION

Laptops will be distributed beginning the second week of school through English classes. Your student must have the signed Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use Policy on file. The \$25 fee

for the laptop and charger and the \$5 Information Access and Retrieval fee will remain on your account until it is paid. They are attached here:

Course Change Requests

During the first week of school the only class change requests that will be honored are those that are the result of a scheduling error (ie-the student already passed the class). Requests to change non-AP classes begin the week of September 9; requests to drop AP classes begin October 15. All requests must be submitted via the required form. This form can be picked up by the student from the School Counseling Office. The form must be completed by the student, teacher, parent, and counselor before it is forwarded to the principal for review. Requests are not automatically approved. Changes will be considered based on available seats in the requested class. Requests to drop a class and add a study hall will be limited. With the exception of students who attend an ACE center, all students are provided with 35 minutes of study time Tuesday-Thursday, We offer a wide range of electives to allow for student choice.

PSAT TEST ADMINISTRATION

The PSAT will be administered nationwide on *Wednesday October 16, 2019* from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. All HCPS freshman and sophomore students will participate through their English classes. The students will be testing from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

*Juniors that would like to participate will be eligible for the National Merit Scholarship. Please print the attached form and return it as well as the fee to School Counseling by September 13th.

The redesigned PSAT being offered on October 16, 2019, will provide preparation for the SAT with detailed score reports arriving in January 2020. Students are encouraged to check out the free personalized practice through Khan Academy for the PSAT and SAT tests found here: (<https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>)

IMPORTANT DATES

September 3-6 - Cap and Gown orders taken through senior English classes

September 16-Back-to-School Night

September 27 & 28 - Homecoming Weekend

September 30 - Early Release for Students

October 14-No School for Students

October 25 - Convocation for the Class of 2020

November 5-No School for Students/Morning Parent Conferences



Meet the Leader - William “Cody” Streightiff

My name is William Cody Streightiff and this is my 18th year at Varina. I started out as a 23-year-old, wide-eyed, history teacher and have since served as department leader, administrative aide, administrative intern and assistant principal before settling into my role as associate principal.

I grew up in Chesterfield, Virginia, just on the other side of the Pocahontas Parkway (which didn't exist back then). I graduated from James Madison with a degree in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences and was quickly hired by HCPS and Varina. Working at Varina is the only “adult” job I've ever known. In 2007 I completed the Henrico County School Administrative Cohort and received my Masters in Educational Supervision and Leadership and was able to move from the classroom to administration.

My educational and leadership philosophy is that we should all be here to help the students succeed to the best of their ability. Of course that is different for every student. One student may need to be held strictly accountable and forced to persevere through a difficult academic task because we know that it will help prepare them for college all the while supporting another student through a tremendously difficult outside of school situation because we know that just earning that high school diploma would be a huge win for them right now.

I believe that the thing this world lacks the most right now is people's inability to hear one another and empathize with their fellow man. I strive to teach students that accountability (which does not mean second chances cannot happen) and the ability to communicate in difficult situations are skills that will take them far in life. Whether in the highest performing senior classes, or the most struggling freshmen, all students have the ability to learn the skills, both academic and interpersonal, to achieve a life after high school that will allow for them to support themselves and those they love, all the while being mentally strong enough to make a difference in today's tumultuous society.