



Veritas High School News

Fall 2019

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Calendar

October 2019

16—Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4pm—8pm

17—School In-Session 8:15am—12:30pm

17— Parent Teacher Conferences, 1pm—8pm

18—No School

25—No School

November 2019

2—Mentor 2.0 Gala

8—School Blood Drive

20—ACT Practice Exam

27-29—Thanksgiving Break

December 2019

9—ACCESS Testing

23—Jan 1, 2020—Winter Break

A Note from the Principal:



George Thimmesch

414-389-5570

gthimmesch@seedsofhealth.org

Greetings to all and welcome to a brand-new year at Veritas High School. As the new Principal of Veritas, I am honored to be serving your students along with our outstanding staff of educators and support personnel. We feel it a privilege to serve you and your student by providing them the best education and growing experience they can have as they each prepare for their futures.

At Veritas, we continue to offer challenging academic classes with personal support for each student, WIAA athletics, interesting and fun clubs, and worthy service and fundraising activities. I encourage you, as parents, to let us know if there are any needs your student has and work with us to help provide them with the best high school experience possible.

We welcome four new staff members this year. Our new School Counselor is Katie Smith. We have two new teachers – Kelly Fehling, English teacher and Jenny Magruder, Spanish teacher. Finally, we have hired Kerry Trotter as our new Safety Officer. Please welcome and get to know these four wonderful people who have joined our team.

Our team here at Veritas looks forward to a great school year. Our Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 16 & 17 are a perfect time to come and visit with administration and teachers about how your student is doing. We welcome your input all year long and hope your partnership with us is always a positive and productive as we work together to provide a successful journey for your student.

Meet Jennifer Magruder—Our New Spanish Teacher



My name is Jenny Magruder, and I teach Spanish 1&2, Spanish for Heritage Speakers, and AP Spanish. I am a first-year teacher, having graduated this past spring from UW-Madison, and I'm very excited to be here at Veritas!

I grew up in Hartford, WI (close to Holy Hill). I started taking Spanish in high school and fell in love with it. I continued in college, and I decided I wanted to help others learn and love the Spanish language and culture. While in college, I spent a semester studying in Madrid, Spain. When I'm not in school, I like to watch Netflix, listen to podcasts, and spend time with my family.

Meet Kelly Fehling—Our New English Teacher



My name, when I started at Veritas was Kelly Fehling, but I recently became Kelly McCann on October 12, 2019! This is my first-year teaching. Before this, I was a substitute for a few districts, and I loved my job! I am loving working at Veritas High School because the students and staff are very welcoming. I teach English Language Arts for sophomores, juniors, and seniors. In my spare time, I enjoy reading and running. My goal is to make a positive impact on all the students who walk through my classroom door.

Lisbeth Luna and Her Summer Abroad



This past summer Lisbeth Luna had the outstanding opportunity to be an exchange student for six weeks in Japan. She attended two different Japanese high schools, stayed with two host families, and learned a new language with the help of the Okinawa Peace Scholarship.

Lisbeth's first host family was located in Naha, Okinawa and consisted of her host mom, dad, and three little siblings. In Naha, she got to see what it was like living in a city and to attend private school. The school was so small that there were only 8 other students in her class! Lisbeth also helped the freshman class prepare for an English proficiency test. Her second host family was located in Chatan, Okinawa and consisted of her host mom, dad, and 18 year old host sister. Here, Lisbeth attended public school, which was a different experience than her first host family. Lisbeth visited the island of Kumejima during her time with her second host family as well as visited the Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium, Okinawa Peace Memorial Museum, Shuri Castle, and Nago Pineapple Park.

Lisbeth stated about her overall study abroad experience, "I increased my independence and problem solving skills. Through my scholarship, I learned how important it is to maintain world peace. I was exposed to new experiences that expanded my knowledge of not only the world, but myself too. I gained social responsibility, adaptability, and a new perspective of culture. Through this trip I connected with so many people despite not speaking the same language. It shaped part of who I am today."

Local 420 Program

The Local 420 program has begun implementation here at Veritas! Six of our students are getting experience with different trade opportunities such as HVAC, maintenance, and electrical, through the local union. The students have enjoyed the two trainings they've attended thus far and are excited to see what they're exposed to next.



Mentor 2.0

Mentor 2.0 has once again begun, with approximately 200 of our students being matched with community mentors. We will also have a group of 10th grade Mentor 2.0 students helping at the Big Brothers Big Sisters gala on November 2nd. The goal is to raise money in order to continue



this integral program and maintain our partnership with Big Brother Big Sisters of Milwaukee!

UW-Milwaukee On-Site Admission Event

Our seniors once again participated in the UW-Milwaukee onsite admission event. Students interview directly with a UWM Admissions Representative here at the school. Students are then given an admissions decision on the spot. While this can be nerve wracking for our students, they all did a wonderful job not only representing themselves, but Veritas as a whole. Of the 34 students who participated in the event, 29 were outright accepted into UWM. Congratulations to all the seniors who participated in this event!



“If you are always trying to be normal, you will never know how AMAZING you can be.”

- Maya Angelou



The Dangers of Vaping

What is an E-Cigarette? A handheld, battery-powered vaporizer that simulates smoking but without burning tobacco. They work by heating a liquid to produce an aerosol that users inhale, commonly known as “vaping”. The liquid can contain nicotine, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), and cannabinoid (CBD) oils, and other substances and additives.

“Vaping” is especially harmful to young people, yet is on the rise among children and teenagers. In 2018, use of e-cigarettes rose 80% among high school students and 50% among middle school students from the year prior, with 3.6 million teenagers reporting use of the devices.

There have been 530 cases of lung injury reported from 38 states and 1 US territory. Seven deaths have been confirmed in 6 states. Symptoms of lung injury by vaping include cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, fever, or abdominal pain. Some patients have reported that their symptoms developed over a few days, which others said their symptoms developed over several weeks. The CDC is still investigating the root cause of these lung injuries, they have not identified any specific e-cigarette or vaping product or substance linked to all cases. This new lung disease isn't the only reason to prevent vaping among young adolescents, it also increases potential harm to brain development.

The CDC recommends that all refrain from using e-cigarette or vaping products. If you have recently used an e-cigarette or vaping product and have symptoms like those reported above, see your healthcare provider immediately.

