

Congratulations VHS 2018 National Honor Society Inductees



Pictured back row l to r: Sean Coffey, Joyce Everett, Emily Obenauf, Katherine Goodman, Abigail McGuire, and Tyler Wolf. Front row l to r: Michael Holmes, Dakota Willard, Whitley Tolonen, Lauren Ely, Jessica Butcher, Kale Sullivan, Joshua Rice, Elijah Bozied, and Larissa Vandehey. Photo credit and special thanks to Mrs. Manning.

Boosters Buzz



October... Bring on the candy! Boosters Basketball sign ups will be in the school cafeteria on October 24 from 6:30-7:30 pm.

Boosters Soccer athletes of the month... we would like to recognize all Soccer teams this month "all the players are fantastic and have had great seasons" says soccer president Lisa Curry.

Stay tuned for next month!

Schools Update: Bond Project Progress

By Superintendent Aaron Miller

Vernonia School District Bond Projects continue to move forward, and a couple are nearing completion.

The new football field and track are nearly finished. After fall rains lifted our City water restrictions, sod has been laid down for the surface of our new football field. It will have all winter, spring, and summer to establish a healthy root system, and will be ready to go for next year's football season.

The rubber asphalt track surface has been laid and painted, and equipment to hold a home track meet has been ordered. We are very excited to host our first home meet!

The District is planning to hold an "Open Track" event to celebrate our new facility. We will have a short "dedication" ceremony and then open the track for walking laps. This event will happen on Saturday, November 3 starting at 9:00 am.

Work at Mist Grade School is also moving forward. After a brief interruption of work due to replacing some very serious dry rot in the gym building, new siding, doors and windows are being installed, and will soon be completed. Renovation of carpets, ceilings, and paint in the main building has been slated to be finished during the summer of 2019.

The two largest, remaining projects are the addition of four new classrooms to the West wing, and installation of our new metal/welding shop. Both of these projects are finishing up the design stages, and will go out to bid for construction in December or January. This will allow time for the bidding process to finish, with construction to be completed before the start of the 2019-20 school year.

As always if you have any questions, please contact Superintendent Miller at (503) 429-5891.

Vernonia School Board Meetings are usually held on the second Thursday of each month. The next School Board Meeting is scheduled for November 15 (third Thursday) at 6:00 pm in the Schools Library.

School Board Report

At the October 11, 2018 Vernonia School Board Meeting:

School Board Meets in Mist – The School Board met at the Mist School building for their monthly meeting. The Board has been meeting twice each year at the Mist School to make sure they include their patrons from that part of the District.

Public Comment – Sally Harrison told the Board she thinks it's important for the District to continue teaching cursive handwriting to young students. Harrison was told it is still being taught.

Mist residents Leslie and Nathan Woodward raised concerns about the ongoing construction and maintenance projects at the Mist School. Mr. Woodward said he has been in contact with the District's Project Manager and will meet with him and report back to the Board in the future.

Building Reports – Elementary Principal Aaron Miller said he is working with Vice Principal Michelle Eagleson to meet with all elementary teachers to discuss their own professional goals and their Student Learning Goals (SLG). Miller said teachers use assessment data to determine student academic needs and then develop plans to meet them. He said he and Mrs. Eagleson would hold mid-term evaluations and a final review to determine the effectiveness of interventions.

Miller said the 11th Annual Salmon Watch program was a success. Kindergarten and 4th grade students participated in learning stations in partnership with ODFW, Stub Stewart State Park, and the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council. He said Vernonia H.S. forestry students ran water quality stations and 14 8th grade students from Lakeside School in Seattle also participated in activities. He also mentioned property owner Dr. Steve Thomas.

Miller said Open House attendance was down this year. He said Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for November 15-16.

High School/Middle School Principal Nate Underwood provided a written report that noted that 14 staff members are either new to the District or have new positions.

Underwood reported that Parents are able to access students' grades through the ParentVue system; parents can get access through secretary Teresa Williams.

Clay Target Team Authorized – Superintendent Aaron Miller provided a letter authorizing the formation of a Clay Target Team that will participate in OSAA sponsored events as a club sport at the high school for the 2018-19 school year. Miller's letter further authorizes the use of weapons by students and appropriately trained school sponsored volunteers during practice and competitions, which must meet all safety requirements. The program will be evaluated annually.

Transportation Report – The Board received the Annual Transportation Report from Curl's School Bus Service. The report stated that there are 5 large bus routes, 4 small bus routes, and 4 van routes. There are 11 assigned drivers with 2 substitutes plus 1 in training. There have been no accidents – one bus hit a deer but there were no students on board – and two late buses.

Enrollment Report – Superintendent Aaron Miller reported to the Board that total student enrollment in the District is 537, with 219 at VES, 122 at VMS, 175 at VHS including 7 exchange students, and 21 at Mist School.

Board Approves Exemption From Competitive Bidding – After a lengthy discussion the Board voted to approve Resolutions 1819-01 and 1819-02 granting an exemption from competitive bidding laws for the construction of the school metal shop and the four-classroom addition. Because of the specialized scope of both projects, the District will prescreen potential contractors by first seeking Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) and then solicit Requests for Proposal (RFP) before awarding the contract. The Board also agreed to add a "Committee Member to be Selected" from the community to the Evaluation Committee for the Contractor. Volunteers must have extensive experience in the construction industry or District policy and will be asked to submit their qualifications by November 1.

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