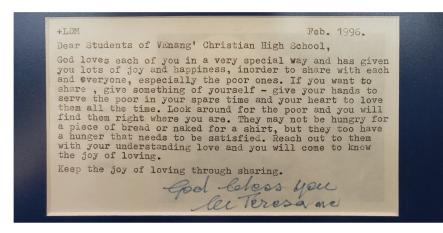


MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Hanging in the office at Venango Catholic Jr./Sr. High School is a photo of **Saint Teresa of Calcutta** (see right), Catholic nun and founder of the Missionaries of Charity. Below her smiling face, you'll find a message sent directly to the students of VCHS in February 1996. The typewritten letter with Mother Teresa's own signature has a call to action that rings true to this day.

The Saint's message (shown above) is exactly as you would expect... God loves each of us, and we are called to share something of ourselves with others, "especially the poor ones." It is our hope that in offering this monthly newsletter to you, that we'll demonstrate that through the teachings of faith and the pursuit of academic excellence, VRCS continues to instill in our students a sense of responsibility and service to others.

Following in the footsteps of Saint Teresa, our school family is called to reach out to those in need. By emphasizing the importance of service, we equip our graduates to be caring and responsible members of society, making a positive impact wherever they are called.

In the following pages, enjoy hearing from two individuals who take the call to serve to heart. Ms. Mary Anne Oliver is a talented and dedicated faculty member here at VRCS;
Dr. Rebecca (Romero) Huber,

Dr. Rebecca (Romero) Huber, our featured alumna, recently celebrated her 20-year high school reunion.

Also, please take special care when reading about our 2023 Commitment Campaign and upcoming fund-raisers. We need and appreciate your support as we work together to keep Pre-K through 12th grade Catholic education accessible and viable in Venango region and beyond.

The VRCS Publications Team

AUTUMN HIGHLIGHTS

PLANS TO BOOST ENROLLMENT + WHY CHOOSE VRCS? INFOGRAPHIC

SPORTS SCHEDULES + HOMECOMING COURT

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT + TEACHER FEATURE

UPCOMING EVENTS -ROAST BEEF DINNER FRIENDS OF VC EVENT



COMMITMENT CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED AND RISK-FREE ADMISSIONS AVAILABLE!

We recently launched a \$1 million VRCS annual fund commitment campaign. Letters and remittance envelopes are going to parishioners, businesses, and friends of VRCS requesting their prayers and financial support. This is an important campaign given our diocesan goals.

If you need a letter and envelope, let me know. Also, we are in the process of updating our outreach database, and we'd appreciate if you have any contacts that you think we should include in our communications.

Finally, we are offering a no-risk admission for the second half of this fall semester for new students to try out St. Stephen School or Venango Catholic Jr./Sr. High School, tuition-free! At the end of the semester in early January, new students can decide if VRCS is the best fit for them. If they stay with us, they will be charged a prorated tuition for the spring semester AND will be eligible for scholarship assistance.

We want to make the benefits of Catholic school available to everyone! If you have any questions, you can get in touch with me by email ray.feroz@venangocatholic.org or phone 814.677.3098. Please spread the word!

May God Bless our efforts,



P.S. Special thanks to the VRCS Home & School Association for creating the yard signs and car decals that you may have seen around the region.

ADMINISTRATION & STAFF MEMBERS

Ray Feroz, Ph.D. (VC '68) VRCS INTERIM PRESIDENT + NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Katherine Chandley, PRINCIPAL

Beth Metz (VC 2000) BUSINESS MANAGER

Misti Kresinski SS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Juliette Zimmerman VC ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Gregory KnoxDIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY

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McKenzie Healy PRESIDENT, HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 1 † ISSUE 2 OCTOBER 2023

TESTIMONIALS

As a school system, we love to hear why students and families choose Catholic education. Here's what we've heard in the halls recently:

"At VRCS, it is quiet enough that I can learn." **Current VCHS Student**

"I appreciate that there is a no cell phone (or smart device) policy at the school. Our children actually talk to one another at lunch instead of hiding behind a phone."

VC Parent + Graduate

"The teachers truly care about the students. The academics are great. I like that my children learn to pray and can be themselves."

Parent of Three SSS Students

"The school has been incredibly welcoming to our kids. They come home every day with a smile."

Transfer Family

"My husband and I chose to send our oldest daughter to a Catholic school because we want her to have a relationship with God. One day we will be gone, and we want her to know she'll never be alone."

Mom of a SSS Student

DID YOU KNOW?

TECHNOLOGY: Venango Region Catholic School was awarded a \$4,992 Education Grant to purchase competition robots for their STEM robotics program!

Watch for more exciting stories about the elementary and jr./sr. high school robotics clubs in our November issue of the VRCS Monthly Newsletter.

LANGUAGES: At our high school campus, Mr. Brian Slider teaches German. Students are also studying Spanish II and French through Catholic Virtual.

VRCS FACTS

WE ARE CELEBRATING 125+ YEARS OF HISTOR



1945 - SSS IS BUILT

A second Catholic elementary in Venango County opened with the groundbreaking of **St. Stephen School** in Oil City.



Founded in 1894 by the Sisters of Mercy, St. Patrick School in Franklin, PA offered a Catholic education for students in Pre-K through 8th grade.

1930 - HIGHER EDUCATION

St. Joseph High School was officially dedicated on October 19, 1930. Due to the increase in attendance, the school officially graduated its last class in 1962.



SEPT 4, 1962 - VCHS

In the fall of 1962, Venango Christian High School opened its doors to 442 students. At the dedication, Archbishop Gannon stated, "This school will be open to all faiths, free to worship God, privately in any way they wish."

FAITH. SCHOLARSHIP. SERVICE.

EDUCATING SUCCESSFUL **STUDENTS SINCE 1894**



2001 - NAME CHANGE

VCHS officially changed its name to Venango Catholic High School. The move was meant to identify the specific faith of the school, but the inclusion of any and all faiths is still an important tenet of the school today.

2019 - A LASTING LEGACY

SSS, SPS, and VCHS came together to form Venango **Region Catholic School** system. The

school now has two campuses.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

DISTINGUISHED ALUM

NAME: Rebecca Romero Huber, MD

Education: (Honors, Degrees, Research) *Venango Catholic High School,* Salutatorian

Penn State University, Bachelor Degree

National Institutes of Health - NIH (Bethesda, MD), Two Yrs. of Research

Temple (Philadelphia), Medical School

*University of California, San Diego (UCSD),*Adult Psychiatry Residency

UCSD and Rady's Children's Hospital, Child/Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship

DID YOU HAVE A FAVORITE TEACHER? Mrs. Sherry Cook was the teacher for my favorite class at VC: AP Biology.

SHARE A FUNNY VC MEMORY:

Raiding the food in the teacher's lounge during down time with my friends.

HOW DID CATHOLIC EDUCATION INFLUENCE YOUR CHOSEN CAREER?

Although I am not Catholic, I did enjoy attending weekly mass. I do think that the focus on community and helping others was a great foundation for all of us. VC was a wonderful community to be a part of during high school.



WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

Chasing around our one-year-old son and four-year-old daughter, spending time with friends and family, traveling, attending concerts, scuba diving, and hiking.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY + HOW YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY:

My husband, **Ari Huber**, is a LT Commander in the Navy. We have two children together, **Hunter** and **Audrey**. I am fortunate to work 80% time, which allows me to have Fridays off to be a mom. We don't have any family in San Diego. Therefore, my mother currently lives with us and takes care of our toddler. She has offered an amazing amount of support while my husband and I both work and raise small children.

Rebecca Romero Huber, MD, loved her time at Venango Catholic and is a member of the Class of 2003. She remains close with two of her best friends from VC. Rebecca is now employed as an outpatient child, adolescent, and adult psychiatrist at Family Health Centers of San Diego. Here is some additional information about her employer.

Dr. Huber's clinic, Family Health Centers of San Diego, has grown over the last five decades, making it the largest community clinic provider of health care to the uninsured in San Diego county and one of the top ten largest community clinic organizations in the nation.

Their staff provides care to over 227,000 patients each year, of whom 91% are low-income and 29% are uninsured.

They operate 75 sites across San Diego County, including 23 primary care clinics, 21 behavioral health facilities, eight dental clinics, four vision clinics, three mobile medical units, two mobile counseling centers, two physical rehabilitation clinics, a pharmacy and an outpatient substance use treatment program to support services throughout San Diego County.

They are also the largest health care safety-net provider, largest school-based health care provider and largest comprehensive HIV/AIDS services provider in the San Diego region."

ALUMNI CORNER

DECADES OF FUN

We'd like to recognize the **Venango Christian High School Class of 1973** who celebrated their 50-year reunion on September 16. Of the original 82 students from the class, 69 members survive.

Alumni attending the festivities at The Allegheny Grille in Foxburg included:

Desiree (Dziekciasz) Altiere James Beichner Catarina (Valasek) Caponi, Mary (Caffrey) Cooper Carolyn (Schell) Judy Nancy (Lutz) Davis Tom Etzel Kathy (Geary) Exley Susan (Schiffer) Farrell Leo Gahr **Deborah (Duda) Gale Kathi Hynes** Michele (Smith) Kritner Mark Kukla **Christine Lillard** Tom Lynch Janet (Stiller) McDonald **Peter Miller** James O'Keeffe **Barbara (Frank) Peterson** John Pozza **Matt Ragon Robert Rogers** John (Pete) Schneider John Schreckengost **Jay Serafin** Nancy (Weidle) Sherron **Raymond Sobina** Richard Sonoski **Greg Spence Mary Beth Stanton** Linda (Luden) Stiglitz **Michael Sullivan** John Szalewisycz Kathy (Karg) Trabucco

+ Former Teacher - Rodney Hartle

Thank you to those who planned such a wonderful event.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Alumni, do you have news to share? We want to hear about it!

Our school system has earned a reputation for forming students in mind, body, and spirit. Not surprisingly, many of our alumni are, or have been, exceptional contributors to society.

Authors, scientists, performing artists and professional athletes – many who have made their mark in the world got their start at St. Stephen School, St. Patrick School, or Venango Catholic. We take great pride in the achievements of our graduates.

As part of our school family, we're grateful for your unwavering support, your academic excellence, and your commitment to faith and service.

At VRCS, we're committed to providing top-notch education and experiences to future generations. Your time at VC, SSS, or SPS has shaped you into the incredible person you are today. Let's keep that legacy alive and thriving by staying connected and supporting your alma mater.

To help us keep track of your adventures, pop by our website and update your alumni records.

Past VRCS Monthly Newsletter issues can be found there, also.



Congratulations to the **Venango Catholic Class of 2003** on the occasion of their 20-year reunion (see contributed photo below) that took place this past summer.

We love to see your smiling faces!





www.venangocatholic.org/alumni









ATHLETICS

Upcoming Lady Vikings Volleyball Schedule

Thursday, Oct. 5 @ VCHS 6:00 PM - VC vs. Sheffield Area MHS (Girls)

Monday, Oct. 9 @ Union High School 6:00 PM - VC vs. Union High School

Tuesday, Oct. 10 @ North Clarion County HS 7:30 PM - VC vs. North Clarion (Varsity)

Thursday, Oct. 12 @ Redbank Valley High School 7:00 PM - VC vs. Redbank Valley (Varsity)

Friday, Oct. 13 @ VCHS [HOMECOMING GAME] 6:00 PM - VC vs. Tidioute Community Charter (Varsity)

Monday, Oct. 16 @ VCHS 6:00 PM - VC vs. Allegheny-Clarion Valley

Thursday, Oct. 19 @ VCHS 6:00 PM - VC vs. Crawford Christian

2023 Elementary Girls Basketball Schedule

Saturday, Oct. 14 @ Oil City High School Gym 11:00 AM – St. Stephen vs. Oil City

Saturday, Oct. 21 @ St. Stephen School 9:00 AM - St. Stephen vs. Cranberry 2

Saturday, Oct. 28 @ Cranberry High School 10:00 AM - St. Stephen vs. Sandycreek

Saturday, Nov. 4 @ Rocky Grove High School 11:00 AM – Rocky Grove vs. St. Stephen

*End-of-Year Tournament on **Saturday, Nov. 11** at Oil City High School. Schedule TBD



Bump! Set! Spike! We are VC!
Top to Bottom: Lady Vikings **Taylor Gibson**, **Martina Baughman**, **Olivia Miller**, and **Ally Moll**

HOMECOMING COURT NAMED

The colors of the leaves have started changing. Mums are popping up on porches all around town, and we can't resist the lure of all the pumpkin infused drinks and tasty treats.

With autumn in the air, we're excited to celebrate the fine young men and women who've been chosen to represent VC as the 2023 Homecoming Court.

The crowning ceremony will take place before the varsity volleyball game on Friday, October 13. Student council has special plans for a new twist for our fall festivities. This year our high school students will celebrate homecoming with a night under the stars including a bonfire, dancing, and a fireworks presentation.

Front Row (Left to Right):
Sophie Dinovitz, Alice
Molly, Avery Metz, and
Taylor Gibson
Back Row (Left to Right):
Alex Hummel, Lincoln
Kauffman, Owen Campbell,
and Konner Beichner



VARSITY LETTER JACKET REFRESH

Athletics have always been an important part of our school's story, and our grads continue to wear the Black and Gold with pride. Earlier this year, **Steve Gannon** (VC '80) received a special birthday surprise - a brand new VC letterman jacket - from his wife **Patricia**.

Want to share your school spirit? Alumni athletes who would like to purchase an updated letter jacket may contact our Balfour representative: **Theresa Hain** (theresa.hain@balfour-rep.com or 716.972.0265).





CALLING ALL ALUMNI:

It's not too late to register yourself and a friend for our upcoming volleyball tournament. It's guaranteed to be a good time.



STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES ON OUR "BUMP WITH A BUDDY" VOLLEYBALL PROGRAM



The VRCS Athletic Department is cheering on our Knights and Vikings. This month we'd like to recognize our young athletes.

Over 20 students participated in the VRCS Little Dribblers last school year. This eight-week program for K-3rd grade students focuses on basketball fundamentals, sportsmanship, teamwork, and most of all, FUN! Our friendly coaches work with the youth to build confidence and hone their skills on the court.



TEACHER FEATURE

NAME: Mary Anne Oliver (VC '76)

EDUCATION (College/Degrees): *Indiana University of PA,* Bachelor of Science in Education

Mid-Level Mathematics Certification

Various Additional Graduate Credits

FAVORITE QUOTE: "Whatever you are, be a good one." William Makepeace Thackery

YEARS TEACHING AT VRCS: 41

SUBJECTS/GRADES TAUGHT: Math (5-6), Reading (5), and Religion (4-6)

LOOKING BACK ON MY VC DAYS:

I value my education as a Venango Christian High School graduate. I have many lifelong friends that I am still close with, and whenever we get together we talk about our VC memories. I played basketball and volleyball and was a majorette. I also enjoyed our advanced history courses and comparative cultures week, and we always had fun recording our choral albums.

SUCCESS STORIES: Quite a few years ago, I started the Guardian Angel program that pairs older students with younger students. It started with the First Communion class and seventh grade and evolved into a pairing of all classes for many, many activities. Special bonds are formed that in some cases last beyond their school years. Students have won awards for various contests through the years including the Youngstown State English Festival, 24 Math, and essay contests. At the end of the last school year, sixth grader Maddie Deal placed third nationally



in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas art contest. Many former students have shared their life's successes with me, but I am always most proud of the good people they have become.

AROUND THE CLASSROOM:

Literature circles, PowerPoint vocabulary slides and extension activities to learn more about a topic from a novel are interesting parts of language arts class. Fifth graders will research the Holocaust after reading the inspiring novel *Number the Stars*. Playing the stock market is another novel activity. Fifth and sixth graders are mastering new math skills. Hands- on learning and activities/ games are used. The students enjoy Kahoot and Jeopardy challenge games. Pi Day is celebrated. The students are practicing the 24 Math Game in anticipation of entering a competition later this year. An endof-year math project involves planning a trip to a destination of choice. One responsibility for the students is to prepare the gym for Mass and serve as sacristans, altar servers, and lectors. Also in religion, the students do projects that are displayed around the school as reminders of their faith.

TEACHING BACKGROUND: I have served on the Diocesan 6-8 Math Curriculum Committee and chaired the Middle States Math Committee at St. Stephen. I have also been a member of the Diocesan Middle States Self Study Committee, and I have written grants to finance key programs at St. Stephen School.

BEST PART OF TEACHING AT VRCS:

Our tight-knit community of administrators, teachers, staff, students, and parents provides a rewarding experience for me. We strive for academic excellence, but we remain anchored in our faith. Every day we can pray together and learn more about God and the Catholic faith. My students share their prayer intentions every morning, and we as a class pray for these intentions and support each other. These experiences of prayer, service, and participation in Mass are a central part of our curriculum. At the elementary level, we establish a foundation that with learning comes the obligation to apply their faith in their daily lives. I appreciate that our parents have given us the opportunity to teach their children.



Natalie (Giles) Toscano (VC '07) & her daughter, Gabby, at St. Stephen School .

SCHOOL SHADOW DAYS

Did you know that prospective students in Kindergarten through 12th grade are welcome to become a Knight or Viking for the day? Come experience the classes, meet new people, and immerse yourself in all things VRCS! Lunch is on us! School visits and shadow days may be arranged by calling 814.677.3098.

BELIEF STATEMENTS

As part of the Diocese of Erie Catholic Schools Office, at Venango Region Catholic School (VRCS):

- 1. We believe that every child is a uniquely created gift from God graced with inherent dignity and worth.
- 2. We believe that all students can best reach their fullest potential in a safe, nurturing and faith-filled environment.
- 3. We believe that every student has unique strengths and talents and can excel in a rigorous, supportive environment.
- 4. We believe that Prayer, the Sacraments and Christcentered values permeate all that we do.
- 5. We believe that a standard of excellence must be maintained in all academic areas.
- 6. We believe that it is the shared responsibility of educators, family, parish and community to provide for the development of the whole child: spiritual, intellectual, social, physical and emotional.
- 7. We believe it is the responsibility of our schools to help students discern God's call for their life.
- 8. We believe that students must develop the skills necessary to respond to God's call in a global society.
- 9. We believe that everyone is called to serve others.
- 10. We believe in the value of strategic planning and professional development as a means of continuous improvement.
- 11. We believe that adherence to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and fidelity to the Bishop of the Diocese of Erie will create a community united on its journey to the truth.



SSS Guardian Angel Program

S DINE & DONATE

ENJOY A MEAL THAT'S FILLING - AND FULFILLING!

DINE-IN AT HOSS'S AND A PORTION OF YOUR CHECK WILL BE DONATED TO VRCS HOME & SCHOOL.

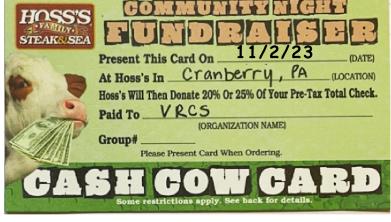
To participate, present
this Cash Cow Card* to your
server on the designated
date (First Thursdays)
11 AM - 8:30 PM at
2432 St. Rt. 257 Cranberry, PA.

*Screen shots are acceptable.

Venango Region Catholic School (VRCS) is comprised of St. Stephen School + Venango Catholic Jr./Sr. High School in Oil City, Pennsylvania. Thank you for supporting Catholic education!

Please note: Distribution of Community Night invitations on Hoss's property is strictly prohibited! Take-out orders do not apply to this promotion.









VENANGO REGION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ROAST BEEF DINNER





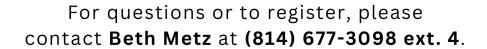
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Hosted by: Venango Catholic Jr./Sr. High School 1505 W. First Street ■ Oil City, PA 16301

Crafters and Direct Fales Vendors Wanted!

Event fee: \$25 / one 8 ft. table
Booths are limited. Additional space may be reserved
for \$25 per table, based on availability. Participants are
asked to donate one item to the Chinese Auction.

Registration forms + fees are due by Tuesday, October 31, 2023.



ROAST BEEF DINNER: ADULTS \$14* AND CHILDREN \$9

(\$3 DISCOUNT FOR SENIORS AND VETERANS)

*For every adult meal you purchase,

you'll receive a chance to win \$250.







Venango Region Why Choose VRCS? Faith. Scholarship. Service.

EXPANDING MINDS

BUILDING

ENRICHING



Average Student/ Faculty Ratio in Pre-K to 12th Grade

*Maximum Class Size = 25

SAT (total) scores exceed national average level

based on Class of 2023 average national average in 2022 was 1050

of academic faculty* with teaching certifications and/or advanced degrees in education

*excluding music, art, tech

83% AP pass rate (includes AP Literature & Composition, Biology, and 83% Calculus AB / BC) 64%Venango Catholic National

Advanced Placement pass rate percentage **4 AP Courses**

earning college credits through Dual-Enrollment courses



Hours of Community Service Worked by 7th-12th Graders During the 22-23 School Year



high school diplomas issued since 1963

187,25

DOLLARS IN TUITION **ASSISTANCE GRANTED TO 115 STUDENTS**

(Based on 22-23 school year)

times per day, the jr/sr high school students **PAUSE FOR PRAYER**

Weekly religious instruction & regular opportunities for Mass/liturgical experiences



= number of students who were suspended in 2022

of entire student body in Grades 4-12 who play on a sports team

*VC students can participate in football, swimming, cheer, track & field, soccer and girls basketball through OC or Cranberry Sports Cooperatives.





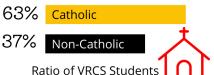
of school districts currently providing transportation to VRCS



*VRCS students and teachers must agree to a safe internet usage policy.

POST-GRADUATION PATHWAYS FOR SENIORS

- College/University
- Trade School
- Military
- Work Force+
- + Students are eligible to attend VoTech.



in Grades K-12



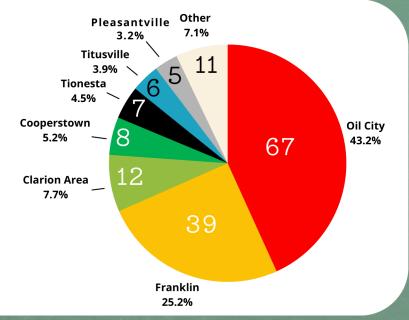
Venango Catholic Jr. / Sr. High School 1505 West First Street Oil City, PA 16301 814.677.3098

Saint Stephen School 214 Reed Street Oil City, PA 16301 814.677.3035

2023-2024 STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Have you ever wondered from where our students come? Five school districts provide busing to our SSS + VCHS campuses.

Of 155 total students, here are the major geographic locations (city/township), along with the number of students, and the corresponding percentage of the total student population.



Preview of Coming Events We hope to see you soon!

October 17, 6:00 PM October 21, 3:00 PM November 5 November 11

TBD (Spring 2024) December 2

VRCS Board of Directors Meeting – VCHS Cafe. Alumni Volleyball Tournament - VCHS Gym Roast Beef Dinner - VCHS Cafeteria **Alumni & Friends Dance** – featuring *The Route 8* Band - VCHS Cafeteria Polly Miller Memorial Soup Fest Breakfast with Santa - VCHS Cafeteria

Thank you for supporting our monthly Lottery Tickets fund-raiser.





www.venangocatholic.org f@VenangoRegionCatholicSchool