



Venango Region Catholic School

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



GATHERING AT THE LORD’S TABLE

Our school community has been blessed to travel on occasion to nearby parishes for liturgical celebrations this school year. The teachers and students have received a warm welcome from both clergy and parishioners, and VRCS appreciates these opportunities to worship together.

On April 4, 2024 the VCHS students attended 10:30 AM Mass at Saint Patrick Church in Franklin. On the altar are celebrant **Rev. James Campbell**, Pastor, and **Deacon Richard O’Polka**. Can you see VC senior **Logan Rakow** as an altar server at the far left? 🇺🇸

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Matthew 18:20 NABRE

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: If you are able to support VRCS by helping to physically move items from VC to St. Stephen on **June 8th**, please complete the form below. Thank you in advance!

<https://forms.gle/Qfd2ksCU4nMCnNDU6>

END-OF-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

FIELD TRIPS AND SCHOOL UPDATES

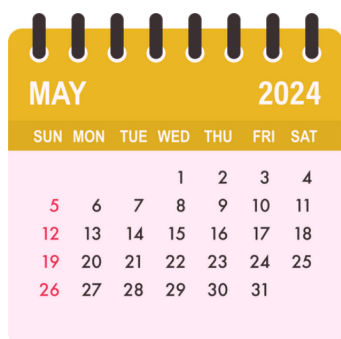
TEACHER FEATURE + DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI INTERVIEW

SPRING INTO SUMMER CASH RAFFLE

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 6 - 10 Teacher Appreciation Week / NWEA Testing

May 6, 8, and 13 SSS Cheerleading Mini Camp

(Open to students in Grades 1 - 6)

May 16 - St. Stephen School Spring Concert

(Doors open at **6 PM**)

May 18 - VCHS Prom

May 21 - Muffins with Mom (SSS) + VC Coffee House

May 28 - VCHS Honorary Graduation (Grades 7 - 11)

May 31 - VCHS Cedar Point Trip

June 2 - Venango Catholic Baccalaureate + Graduation

9:45 AM - Mass at St. Joseph Church,

12:30 PM - Commencement Exercises at VC Gym)

June 4 - Last Day of School for Students

VC MEMORABILIA DISTRIBUTION

June 10 and **June 11** are "pick-up" days for any Venango Catholic memorabilia requested by members of our school community.

- To make a **memorabilia request**, call the VC school office (**814.677.3098**), email Ms. Zimmerman at juliette.zimmerman@venangocatholic.org, or complete this google form: <https://forms.gle/2q9NzhGBpQHuzEb56>
- Items considered memorabilia include athletic banners, trophies, plaques, jerseys, wall of fame photos, student artwork displayed at VC, and religious items such as statues that will not be moved to the St. Stephen campus. ****VRCS administration reserves the right to decide which items will remain within the school system.*
- Items must be picked up in person between **9 AM - 6 PM**. No items will be shipped or set aside for a future date. You are responsible for the loading and moving of your item.
- Memorabilia not requested in advance will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

FACULTY & STAFF

Ms. Mary McDonough
PRESCHOOL

Mrs. Leslie Pacior
PRESCHOOL AIDE

Ms. Jackie Wice
KINDERGARTEN

Mrs. Heather Harmon
FIRST GRADE

Mrs. Andréé Sporer (VC '82)
SECOND GRADE

Mrs. Alicia Daman
THIRD GRADE

Mrs. Martina Love
FOURTH GRADE

Ms. Mary Anne Oliver (VC '76)
FIFTH GRADE

Ms. Jill Lander
SIXTH GRADE

Mr. Gregory Knox
DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY

Mrs. Mary Beth Hutchinson
MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Ms. Elizabeth Schmude
ART DEPARTMENT

Ms. Shannon Goreczny (VC '17)
ENGLISH, HISTORY, & THEOLOGY
DEPARTMENTS

Mrs. Emily Hicks
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT;
DEAN OF DISCIPLINE

Mrs. Alicia McMillen
HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Ms. Jessie Pyle
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Ron Shoup
SR. HIGH MATH CONSULTANT

Mr. Brian Slider
THEOLOGY & LANGUAGE DEPTS;
DEAN OF ACADEMICS

Mrs. Tiffany Warner
JR. HIGH MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Christie Rihel
TITLE I READING TEACHER

Mrs. Melissa Ace
Mrs. Amanda Mott
Mrs. Suzanne Reed
Mrs. Lacy Shoenfelt
Mrs. Cathy Tarr
ACT 89 PROFESSIONAL STAFF
(RIVERVIEW INTERMEDIATE UNIT 6)

TEACHER FEATURE



NAME: Jessie Pyle

EDUCATION BACKGROUND:

I obtained a Bachelor's degree in middle level science/social studies education from Grove City College in May 2020.

CERTIFICATIONS:

- Instructional I Biology 7-12
- Instructional I General Science 7-12
- Instructional I Grades 4-8
- Meaningful Watershed Experience Education Certified Educator

OF YEARS TEACHING AT VRCS:

VC has been my home for the past four years since I started my teaching career.

SUBJECTS TAUGHT:

- AP Biology
- AP Environmental Science
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Earth & Space Science
- Environmental Science
- Physical Science & Life Science (Grades 7 & 8)
- Electives I have offered: Science Olympiad, Zoology, Forensic Science, and Home Economics

FAVORITE QUOTES:

"Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." -**Theodore Roosevelt**

"We all have big changes in our lives that are more or less a second chance." -**Harrison Ford**

BEST THING ABOUT TEACHING AT VRCS:


Teaching at VC has been such a special experience for me. The teachers that I have worked with over the years have truly become my family. I am also thankful for all of the opportunities I have had to provide my students with unique learning experiences. This year we participated in Envirothon and Trout in the Classroom. Another opportunity that I look forward to every year is the Fluid Power Action Challenge that is sponsored by Komatsu for middle school students.

Working at VC has also meant that I have worn many hats. I have been the NHS advisor for the past four years and have enjoyed working with our fantastic high school students. We have held fundraisers for charities like Locks of Love. This year we also have enjoyed visiting students in kindergarten and first grade and doing fun activities with them like crafts and games.

New to me this year is being the high school student council advisor. I have had a lot of fun planning pep rallies, the homecoming bonfire, winter formal, prom, and prom to dawn with the students. As an advisor for these groups, I am amazed at the great leadership skills that the students display and how hard they work to make these events successful.

SUCCESS STORIES: Recently in my AP environmental science class students had to make a renewable energy superhero and debate each other to learn the advantages and disadvantages of various energy sources. The creativity and originality of these students' projects blew me away! Not only was their research thorough, but their presentations were creative and entertaining.

BEST ADVICE FOR STUDENTS: Every day is a new opportunity. Try to be a better person today than you were yesterday. You will go far in life if you are kind and actively seek out opportunities to become a better person.

OTHER INTERESTING INFO: Outside of teaching, I have a great love of the outdoors and hiking. My favorite outdoor experiences have been my trips to various national parks like Yellowstone, Badlands, Great Sand Dunes, Great Smoky Mountains, and Cuyahoga Valley. I am also a part of the Oil Valley Quilters Guild and enjoy sewing and making quilts with my grandma. 



SCHOOL NEWS

We're winding down the school year and making memories.

IT'S FIELD TRIP SEASON!

On Friday, May 3rd, St. Stephen students will be traveling to Drake Well (K-5) or going on the 6th grade class trip.

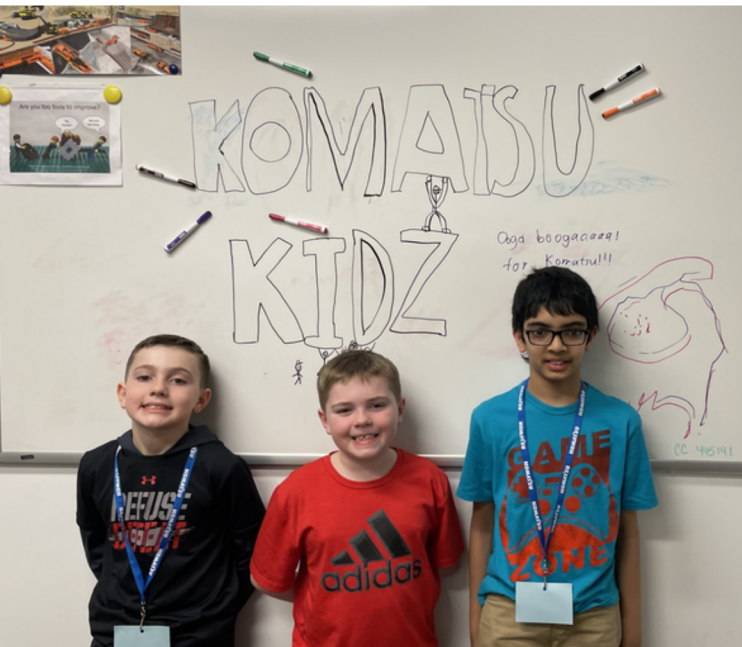
Thank you to the **Friends of Drake Well, Inc.** who are making this field trip possible to students free of charge! Students may wear dress-down clothing and shoes (appropriate for weather).

The 6th grade class has earned enough money through their fundraising to visit **Urban Air Adventure Park** and the **Carnegie Science Center**. Thank you to the parents who are driving our students or chaperoning the event.

At the end of the month, the junior and senior high classes at Venango Catholic will be traveling to **Cedar Point** in Sandusky, Ohio.

All VCHS students are able to enjoy this amazing trip free of charge courtesy of many generous donations, including the VRCS Gala supporters, Home & School, MS Student Council, and HS Student Council. Students will be traveling in style on a charter bus and can choose their preferred chaperone based on roller coaster riding intensity.

Thank you to faculty member **Jessie Pyle** and the VC staff for making this trip happen.



KOMATSU KIDZ!

Recently, the Franklin, PA **Global Mining Solutions** group sponsored a **Bring Your Child to Work Day**. Three youth from St. Stephen School (**Maddox Healy, Charlie Healy, and Sreehan Pappala**) had the opportunity to join 49 other children at Komatsu to learn what their parents do at work. It was a fun and educational day that included LIDAR, a virtual machine demonstration, running the hydraulic mini-excavator, a mineral presentation and even a bird seed mining competition. SSS students were building memories that will last a lifetime. These young people may one day explore employment in the field of engineering or manufacturing.

GROWING IN FAITH



At the conclusion of the St. Stephen School Mass on Thursday, April 11, **Fr. Miller** invited the first graders to carry the "Vocation Cross". First grade teacher **Heather Harmon** is also pictured at right.



Vocation Cross†

A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord God, creator of all things and source of all gifts and talents, your Son came to this world to fulfill His vocation as the Redeemer of all humanity.

Grant the sons and daughters of the parishes of the Diocese of Erie a profound awareness of their own vocations. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, may they come to realize their distinct place in your divine plan.

Give them the grace to recognize and the courage to pursue vocations as devoted priests, deacons and consecrated women and men to assist the Diocese of Erie in fulfilling her mission.

With the intercession of Saint Patrick, our patron, who preached the Gospel in word and deed, we pray that they may find happiness and fulfillment in a life of service to others. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Imprimatur, July 29, 2013
The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

NAME: Susan Boyer Drelick (VC '70)

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CAREER: I am a recently retired licensed psychologist. I worked in various capacities in the Mental Health field since 1974. I began in county mental health, initially here and later in Philadelphia. I was employed in an inpatient psychiatric hospital for a number of years as part of a multidisciplinary treatment team. From 1995 until my retirement in 2022 I was initially an employee and subsequently a partner and co-owner in a group private practice which included psychological, psychiatric, and social work components (Rural Mental Health Associates). I was blessed to have been able to participate in a Family Therapy program under the supervision of the Philadelphia Child Guidance Center which allowed me to broaden my area of expertise to better serve the families of Venango County.

EDUCATION: I began my college years at St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, IN. In 1972 the University of Notre Dame for the first time became coeducational and I was in the first class of women admitted, graduating in 1974 with a B.A. in Psychology with Highest Honors. I worked in the mental health field for ten years before returning to graduate school. While working full time, I attended Slippery Rock University at night while my husband (fellow VCHS 1970 classmate **Rick Drelick**) took care of our two daughters, then 2 and 4. I completed my M.A. in Psychology in 1986 and passed the licensure exam in Psychology in 1991.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE VC CLASS/TEACHER? When I attended VC, it was still a relatively new venture in education. We were exploring new educational concepts and were observed by educators from all over the United States. It made for an environment that was intellectually stimulating and challenging. It is very difficult to single out 'favorite' teachers as each excelled in their own areas. I must say that the Advanced History class taught by **Dr. Jim Ruby** was far and away one of the most satisfying accomplishments in my high school career. It was difficult and there were no excuses for other activities conflicting with assignments. I remember a group of us carrying encyclopedias with us on a bus trip to an away game! Another highlight from my high school years was being exposed to the early days of the brilliant model/mentor **Sister Joan Chittester (Sr. Mary Peter)**, who went on to be a theological/feminist role model for women in our church.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN/RECREATION?

For me, my love of music/singing came to fruition at VC under the direction of **Sr. Mary David Callahan**. It has been my fun/recreation in many capacities over the course of my whole life. My piano foundation from **Sr. Antoinette Harrison** underlies all of my endeavors, but it was the addition of vocal music in high school that gave me the confidence to stand up and present myself in front of an audience without giving in to undue fear. My involvement with choirs, musicals, and theatre all are grounded in my high school years.

I would be remiss at this stage of my life, however, not to acknowledge that my greatest 'fun' is spending time with my seven grandchildren! 🇺🇸

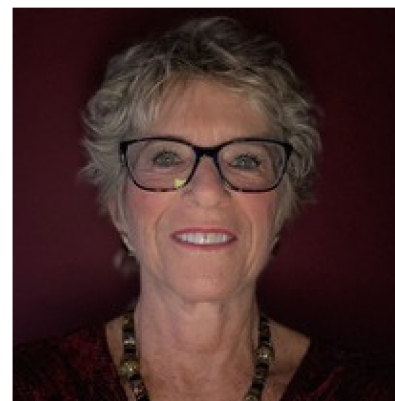
WHAT IMPACT DID VCHS LEAVE ON YOU? I am so very grateful for spending my formative years at VC. It was a tumultuous time in our world- racial riots, the assassinations of Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King, the Vietnam War, the beginning stirrings of feminism, and the radical changes in our church after Vatican II... I believe that my ability to rise to challenges, to assert myself, to be willing to become a role model all are rooted in the fundamental expectation instilled in us at VC that we are to be kind, to care for others, to go the extra mile. And more- to pick ourselves up and start over when we fall.

DO YOU HAVE A FUNNY VC MEMORY?

I find it odd that I cannot single out an individual 'funny memory'. Must be because so much of our days were spent on serious study (ha!) - but I do remember an awful lot of laughing!!!

ANY ADVICE FOR VRCS STUDENTS?

In looking back after all these years, perhaps the best advice I can offer VC students today is to take what VCHS has instilled in you and go forward to whatever next adventure life offers you. The impending closing of VC is only the first of many challenges and disappointments you will face in your lives. Be present. Be confident. BE KIND. And know... you are not alone.



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

Shannon Kluck (VC '99)
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Jim May
MAINTENANCE & CUSTODIAL
SERVICES

Leslie Pacior
SS CUSTODIAL SERVICES

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Debbie Sobina
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Penny Campbell
SECRETARY, ATHLETICS
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MISSION ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE
CHAIR

Dr. Rick Sabousky (VC '79)

Abigail Watson-Popescu

Amie Wood-Wessell (VC '92)

McKenzie Healy
PRESIDENT, HOME & SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION

Mission/Educational Trip To Tanzania, East Africa

Sr. Marian Wehler, OSB and **Sr. Tina Geiger, RSM**
of Catholic Rural Ministry invite you
to consider joining them **November 7-21, 2024.**

This is your opportunity to visit the children in a Tanzanian village, where the students (and adults) in our deanery helped to raise funds for the "Life-Saving Water Project" in 2023.



Did scheduling conflicts prevent you from attending the informational meetings held in the month of April? It's not too late to learn more.

Experience the culture.
See the beauty of Africa.
Meet the people of Tanzania.

**For additional info, please contact
Sr. Tina or Sr. Marian at 814.677.2032.**



Waldameer

ERIE, PA

Water World



DISCOUNT TICKET SALE!

VRCS Home & School is pleased to offer discounted tickets for Waldameer & Water World for the 2024 Park Season!

TICKET: All Day Combo Pass: \$35.00 / person

Includes (1) All Day Pass to Waldameer & Water World

Lunch Ticket: \$7.00 / person

Includes (1) Smith's Hot Dog, French Fries and 16oz Soft Drink

TICKET VALID: 2024 Operating Season

TICKET SALE DATES: Friday, April 12 - Friday, May 24

Second Chance Sale Available June 1 - August 23 by emailing

homeandschool@venangocatholic.org, please allow up to 5 days for processing!




INCENTIVE OPPORTUNITY!

The VRCS School Family with the **MOST** Combo Pass sales by May 31st will **WIN (4) All Day Combo Passes!** Consider sharing with your family & friends!

SGOC Lic.#1420

VRCS KICK OFF TO SUMMER!

VRCS Home & School has reserved Train Grove #1 Pavillion for **Saturday, June 22nd** for VRCS Family & Friends. Pack a cooler and enjoy the day, **no RSVP needed!**

 For Operating Schedule and additional park information, visit: www.waldameer.com

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Number of All Day Combo Passes: _____ x \$35.00 = _____

Number of Lunch Tickets: _____ x \$7.00 = _____

Checks Payable to: Venango Region Catholic School **TOTAL TICKETS:** _____ **TOTAL \$:** _____

Tickets will be sent home via **Friday Folders for SS & Office Pick Up for VC**, please allow up to **5 days** for processing. For **additional information**, please contact VRCS Home & School @ homeandschool@venangocatholic.org.



Venango Region Catholic School



Spring into Summer Cash Raffle

Sponsored by: Seaway Window of Erie

Prizes Drawn May 16, 2024 @ St. Stephen
School Spring Concert

PRIZES

1st \$1,000 CASH

2ND \$500 CASH

3RD \$250 CASH

Donation: \$10 per ticket

Tickets available
from all school
families or at the
school office

**Proceeds benefit all students of St. Stephen &
Venango Catholic High school**

SGOC Lic. # 1420