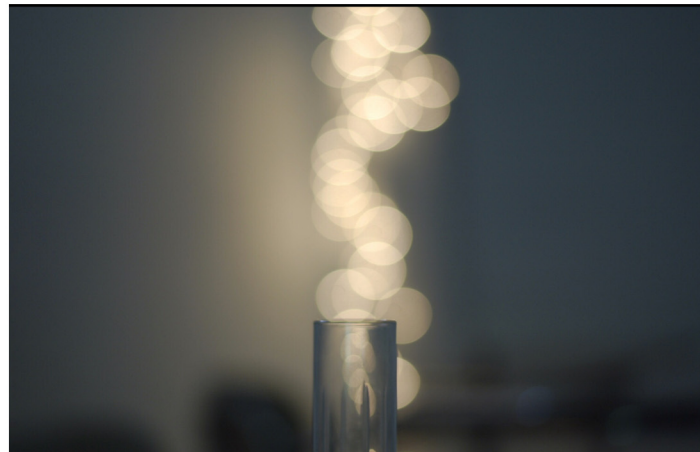


PHOTOGRAPHERS TO WATCH...

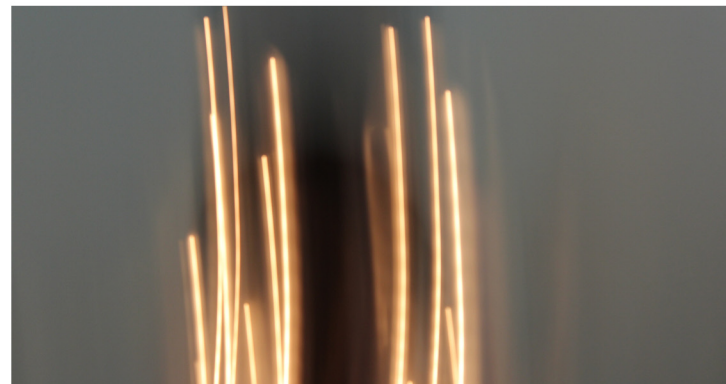


David Carmichael and Jacari Griffin

BEAUTY IN BOKEH

With its origins coming from the Japanese word “boke” meaning “haze”, in photography, bokeh (pronounced as [boh-kay]) is the aesthetic quality of the blur. Our photography students really took this technique to a new level achieving amazing results!

Vertus offers enrichment courses that are hands-on, creative and collaborative ways for students to explore talents and interests. The Photography Enrichment Program, taught by visual artist, Charmaine Bynoe, and Vertus’ own, Anna Mack, is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of digital photography. Students learn to shoot and edit images, while learning and discussing the history of photography and the basics of composition, lighting, focus and framing. By the end of the course, students gain an understanding of the formal qualities and tools needed to create a successful photograph.



Jacier Hamilton and Kevin Hilliard

ABOUT VERTUS

Vertus Charter School prepares leaders of character through personalized curriculum, strong relationships, and career preparation: Vertus Charter School is a tuition-free, public charter high school for young men.



OUR CO-FOUNDERS:
Mr. Perry White,
Director of External
Affairs and Dr. Leigh
McGuigan, CEO.

Do you know a young man in Rochester entering grade 9 or 10? Vertus High School is currently accepting applications for enrollment for students entering 9th and 10th grades in the fall of 2017. To learn how to apply for next year, visit www.vertusschool.org, or call (585) 747-8911 or email info@vertusschool.org for more information.



Vertus Charter High School
21 Humboldt Street Rochester, NY
14609
(585) 747-8911

THE VERTUS VOICE

Spring 2017

VERTUS STUDENTS TAKING COLLEGE COURSES AT MCC



A core belief at Vertus High School is that all students need to be ready for the real world—life after high school graduation—and a large part of that preparation is getting ready for college and careers. This year, 22 Vertus students are earning transferable college credit through a partnership with Monroe Community College (MCC). Some of these students will continue at MCC following high school graduation. Others will transfer these credits to other colleges. All will have learned professional skills that will help them get good jobs. *Story continues on page 6*



Basketball Advancement
page 3



Rochester e-Nable
page 5



Earning Ties
page 5

A Note From Dr. Mac

It's important to us to partner with families. Consistent school-family communication is critical to student success. We have family night conferences three times a year and ask every single family to attend. If a family cannot attend on the day of the event, we will find a meeting time that is more convenient. That's how important it is to share student progress!

This year, we asked families to fill out an anonymous survey telling us how they see Vertus. About a third of our families completed the survey. Almost all are pleased with how Vertus is working for their young men.

We also have a few areas where we want to improve. Here are the results of our survey:

While these are results to be proud of, we always want to get better. Right now, we are working on improving communication to be sure every single family hears from us at least every two weeks. Thanks again for trusting us to be your partner in educating your young man.

Dr. Mac

QUESTION	PERCENT WHO STRONGLY AGREE OR AGREE
My student has grown in character at Vertus	86%
When my student works hard, he makes academic progress	91%
My student is safe at school	97%
I understand the academic program	84%
My student's Preceptor communicates with me every 2 weeks	77%

QUOTES

When asked about their Vertus experience, students said:
"We build connections with each other—it's a brotherhood. Everyone knows your goals. Preceptors teach us how to be a man and grow up—they teach us responsibility." --
Michael Mota

REPRESENTING IN ALBANY

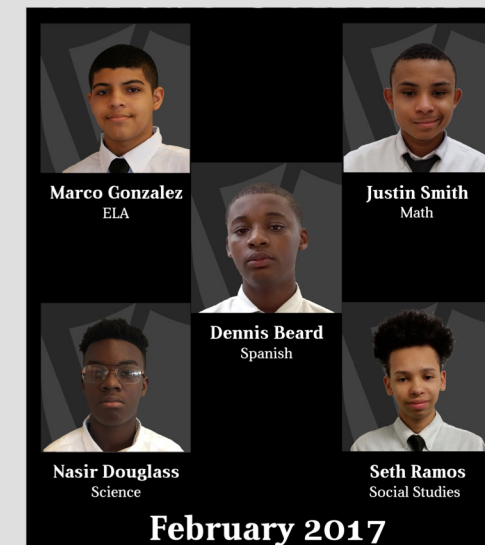
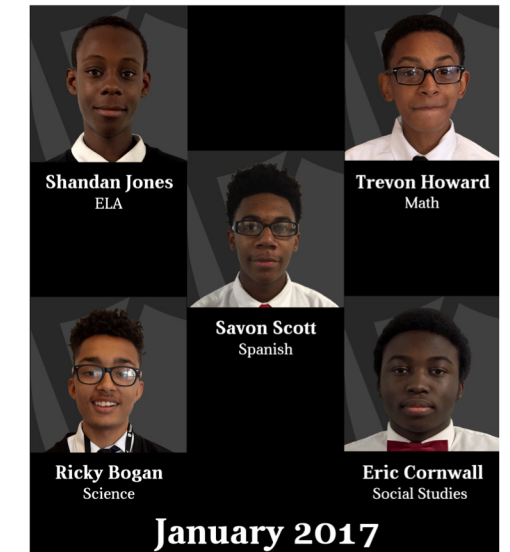
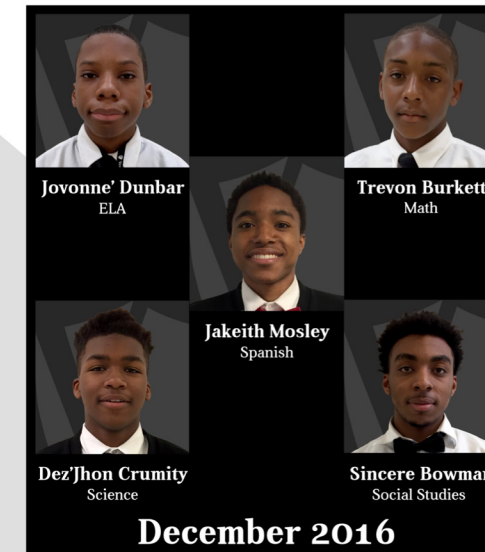


Vertus students Roshawn Murraine, Jyrea Hall and Miciah Nelson (L to R), along with Director of External Affairs Perry White, recently participated with more than 1,300 NY charter supporters in Charter Advocacy Day 2017 in Albany. Each year, students, school staff and parents from across the state travel to Albany to showcase charter schools and build meaningful relationships with elected officials who are responsible for the laws that govern charter schools.

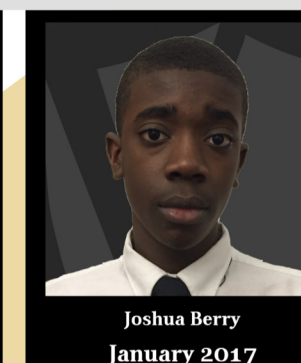
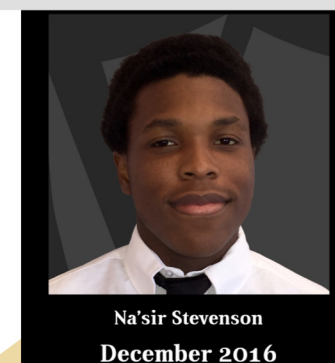


VERTUS SCHOLARS & MEN OF THE MONTH

SCHOLARS

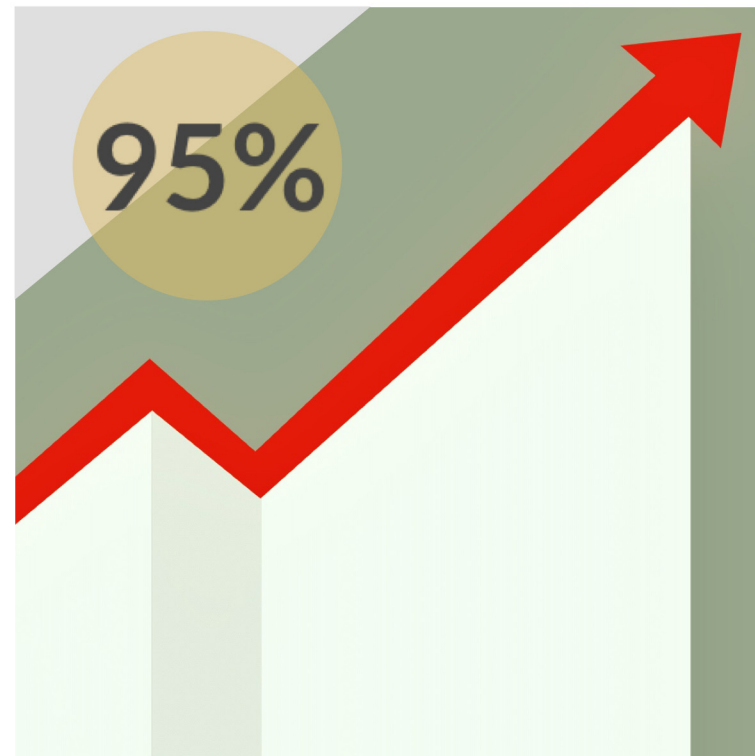


MEN OF THE MONTH



REACHING OUR FUNDRAISING GOALS

In just our third year, Vertus has experienced remarkable success in the lives of young men in Rochester—and our success hasn't gone unnoticed by the outside community. We are thrilled to report we have reached 95% of our fundraising goal for the year—raising \$380,000 of \$400,000. This support makes it possible for us to provide facilities improvements, add necessary staff to support our students, offer summer employment opportunities, allow an expansion of our athletics programs and add academic programs that benefit our students. We would like to thank our donors and supporters, including: the Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation, E3 Rochester, the Cornell/Weinstein Family Foundation, the Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation, the Wilson Foundation, M&T Bank, and several individuals for their generous contributions to Vertus High School. These gifts help create a bright new future for our students.



Thank you to our donors who help make our growth possible

Vertus at MCC *Continued*

To participate in college-level coursework, students at Vertus must have passed the Algebra I Regents Exam. They must also have a satisfactory behavior record. Two kinds of classes are offered for MCC credit—classes held at Vertus by an MCC-certified teacher, and classes that students take on the MCC campus with college students. Students enrolled in the on-campus program are driven by bus to the MCC campus and then back to Vertus before going home. Currently, students pursue courses in an Advanced Manufacturing track (for example, Precision Tooling) or an Information Technology track (for example, Introduction to Networking). Our most advanced students can earn up to 32 transferable credits and a professional certificate by the time they graduate from high school.

“Our students are pioneers—showing what's possible for students from Rochester. Our students are proving that they can succeed in college level coursework while in high school”, says Leigh McGuigan, co-founder of Vertus. In addition to earning credits that work toward a college degree or certification, students taking college classes gain confidence in their ability to be successful in college. They have the opportunity to learn side-by-side with college students and have a real college experience. Having a taste of college also helps students in terms of college readiness, learning important time management skills needed to complete projects and assignments on time.

VARSITY BASKETBALL GOES TO SEMIFINALS



The Vertus Warriors Varsity Basketball Team



JV Basketball Team

Vertus Basketball teams played hard this year—and it showed. In just its second season, the Vertus Varsity Basketball team went to semifinals of the Section V Class C1 sectionals. Coached by Darren Frankin, the team ended the season with a 14-8 record. The JV record was 16-3. The JV team was coached by Preceptor Jemel Baxter.

On the court and on the field, our Vertus men practice the character strengths we teach and discuss every day, including grit, self-control, social intelligence, zest. We are proud of both teams and their accomplishments!

SUMMER SESSION

Vertus is a year round school with an extended school day during the regular academic year and a shorter day during the summer session. Throughout the entire year, Fridays at Vertus are half days, allowing students to pursue work opportunities or other interests.

During the summer session, students who do not need academic intervention may take Fridays off or work on Edgenuity during “open labs” on Friday mornings. A letter will be sent home notifying students if they need academic intervention.

Students also have the opportunity to apply for part-time summer jobs at Vertus, including the e-NABLE program using 3D printers.

All Vertus students are encouraged to work outside school hours throughout the school year. Vertus students complete most coursework in the classroom and rarely have homework, making it possible for them to work and also succeed in school. Information about work permits is available in the school office.

VERTUS SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER TO JUNE

**MONDAY TO THURSDAY
8:30 TO 4:30
FRIDAYS 8:30 TO 12:30**

SUMMER SESSION JULY AND AUGUST

**MONDAY TO THURSDAY
8:30 TO 3:00
FRIDAYS 8:30 TO 12:30**

COLLEGE TOURS



Getting a taste of college is an important part of the Vertus High School experience. This fall and spring, upper level students were welcomed by SUNY Fredonia, the University of Buffalo, St. John Fisher College, and SUNY Brockport for campus visits. Vertus students toured the campus academic buildings and dorms, ate college food and learned about college life.



VERTUS STUDENTS EMPLOYED BY DREAM BIKES

Vertus students are gaining hands-on mechanical and customer service experience as part of Dream Bikes Rochester; a local chapter of a national non-profit, with the goal of offering paid work experience to urban teens.

Dream Bikes opened in Rochester in February 2017, and offers refurbished bicycles and lightly used cycling equipment to the community at very reasonable prices. They have hired three Vertus students to help repair bikes to get them ready to sell, and perform maintenance on bicycles that customers drop-off for service. The students also help on the retail end of the store, assisting customers in the buying process—valuable skills that will help prepare them for college and entering the job market. “I am learning skills that I can use for things other than just fixing bikes,” noted Dream Bikes employee and Vertus student Justin McGill.

Along with the three paid employees from Vertus, Dream Bikes has also been working in conjunction with Vertus Technical Performance System class, offering new mechanical insights and education about the science and engineering that goes into bicycle design. As spring and summer arrive in Rochester, Dream Bikes will be looking to expand their program and employ additional students that show an interest in mechanics and customer service.

Dream Bikes’ Rochester location is one of six stores nationwide that are working to provide paid, hands-on job experience to teens, give access to quality bicycles to those in need, and keep bicycles and cycling equipment out of our landfills. Since 2008, Dream Bikes has refurbished and returned more than 15,000 bikes to the public, provided paid work experience to over 190 teens nationwide, and awarded more than 20 educational and mechanical scholarships to Dream Bikes employees. With support from our students and the public, Dream Bikes hopes to continue offering and even expand their program to help our communities thrive, and give more people the opportunity to see the world from the seat of a bicycle.

Quotes

“It’s a dream to be at Vertus.

Vertus will change you in every way...you have something to fight for, not to lose for.” -- Miekle Clovis

“Preceptors are a good idea—they’re interested in getting to know you. Most kids need a preceptor and help outside of school.” -- Travaughn Taylor

EARNING TIES

All students at Vertus begin in their first year with a black tie as part of their uniform. As they work toward graduation and reach specific academic milestones, they are able to earn red and striped ties.

The ties are presented in front of the student body and are a visible reminder of the student’s own academic success. We are proud of our most recent red tie earners.

Congratulations to these young men!



Jorge Baez
Stripe



Nelson Joaquin
Stripe



Antonio Rucinski
Red

Not Pictured:
Leshawn Casein - Red
Christian McClain - Red

ROCHESTER E-NABLE MAKES VERTUS HOME

The Rochester e-NABLE Program has made Vertus High School its new home, after formerly being housed at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Students will be able to find them in the Maker Space. e-NABLE is a community of volunteers from all over the world who use 3D printers to create 3D printed hands and arms for those in need. Jon Schull, founder of the global e-NABLE movement says, “When I retired from RIT, I jumped at the chance of working at Vertus, with whom we had previously conducted two pioneering summer programs.”

Thirty-six Vertus students have gained 3D printing experience through the e-NABLE program for the past two summers. They’ve printed dozens of prosthetics to be given away at no cost. e-NABLE senior designer, Skip Meetze noted that “going forward, we expect to expand the scope of our work beyond hands and arms, and work with Vertus students on design, testing, problem-solving, and social entrepreneurship, as well as 3D-printing. Having e-NABLE on the Vertus campus gives students inspirational STEM education programming opportunities and advanced work in the Maker Space, while demonstrating how technology can be used to create life-changing solutions for those who live with disabilities. Some students will be employed by e-NABLE, as lab technicians after school and in our summer e-NABLE program.

