STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Meet Michael James, Senior Recruiter

Michael James is a St. John Fisher graduate with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Management with a concentration in marketing. Prior to Vertus, Michael James founded SITOO Dreams Corporation where he still is actively involved today as the President. Michael was a Ministry Coach for The Father's House Downtown Life Center from 2016-2018, and is a self-published author of the book A Pair of Bowls. Michael James joined the Vertus family in October of 2017 as a Preceptor; this year he has led his Team to many accomplishments including: six consecutive wins for Team on Time, four consecutive wins for Team on Track, and Team GPA for the month of September. In November, Michael James was promoted to Senior Recruiter, you can still find him at Vertus giving tours, out in the community promoting Vertus, and with our young men, instilling character. Michael believes that greatness resides in everyone and that the youth of Rochester, NY have what it takes to be successful; having vision, faith, perseverance, integrity, and a great work ethic, people can accomplish anything that they put their minds to. These characteristic were instilled in Michael at a young age, while watching his single mother work hard to provide. Every morning upon waking, Michael remembers his upbringing and is motivated by it to make a difference in the world. He strives to be a light in dark places, while providing hope for those in need, you can see this in Michael's actions, everyday.

Vertus Word Search

V	T	B	D	X	O	E	G	V	R	L	E	A	D	S	U	
A	E	N	R	O	L	L	N	O	W	P	L	R	V	C	W	
Q	P	R	O	F	V	R	E	L	L	Z	W	S	A	O	K	
Y	M	V	T	O	O	E	W	A	R	R	I	O	R	S	V	
P	E	C	W	U	R	O	A	E	I	R	T	V	P	C	E	
T	R	C	P	R	S	P	G	I	E	S	M	G	L	H	B	
H	C	U	O	P	T	D	R	O	T	P	E	C	E	R	P	
E	V	E	G	I	U	L	I	T	W	B	R	I	O	R	O	
C	R	P	T	L	Y	K	T	F	E	A	Z	T	H	D	H	
R	I	A	K	L	V	Y	E	V	F	M	H	Q	G	I	T	
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E	L	H	Z	R	D	R	S	V	R	M	R	V	I	R	L	
D	M	A	D	S	C	D	S	S	W	P	C	E	R	S	A	
C	B	R	T	T	P	F	K	L	V	D	E	S	N	U	R	
W	W	A	V	H	S	E	P	A	R	E	E	R	A	C	V	
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R	F	T	Y	P	S	E	Y	R	C	L	T	R	E	E	O	
V	J	E	E	R	S	R	G	I	S	V	I	T	V	S	S	
I	K	R	P	Y	O	U	N	G	M	E	N	W	E	S	S	

YOUNG MEN
SUCCESS
VERTUS DIFFERENCE
ENROLL NOW
FOUR PILLARS
CAREER
BROTHERS KEEPER
GRIT
PRECEPTOR
WARRIORS
CHARACTER
THE CREED

APPLY NOW!

Applications are now being accepted for the 2019-20 school year. Apply online at vertusschool.org or call our Senior Recruiter, Michael James, (585) 481-4503

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK www. facebook.com/VertusHighSchool



#VertusDifference

COURAGE · LEADERSHIP · RESPONSIBILITY

THE VERTUS VOICE

WINTER 2018

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Toys for Tots page 6



Rochester MakerFaire page 7

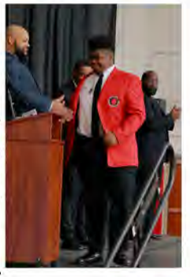
Vertus High School's 4th Annual Blazer Ceremony

Vertus High School proudly states that no matter where you come from, when you walk through our doors, you can make it. Whether you are striving to obtain a high school diploma or if you are planning to go on to college, trade school, or the Armed Forces, Vertus High School will be there to support you with consistent guidance; the only thing we ask in exchange is that you trust us. In looking at the results of the Rochester City School District, we can clearly see that we must do things differently in order to get the results our students, families, communities deserve. The Vertus red blazer is a symbol of trust; it is the first step in accepting the Vertus way and committing to the process needed to transform our young men into leaders of character and academically to be ready for the real world. This is not an easy process and it can be difficult for some of our students due to their past experiences with the educational system.





As our young men put on their red blazers for the first time, in the presence of family and friends, with the guidance of their preceptor, it sends a message that they are now part of a new community; the Vertus community. From here, vanguard of men pour into the next generation. This community believes in integrity, spirit, academic mastery, and self-control. We believe in attendance and that progress is a process. Our young men come from many different parts of the city, social, economic, and academic backgrounds and what our community believes may be drastically different than that of the communities they come from. Nevertheless, with trust, time, and hard work we can achieve great things. We held our 5th annual Red Blazer Ceremony on December 8th, 2018; the first step whereby the freshmen of Vertus High School become part of our community and our newest brothers. In essence, it is a rite of passage for our Vertus men.











a message from the PRINCIPAL



We are our Brothers' Keeper. This line, stated in our Creed every morning, is a driving force behind the culture of our school. Our staff and students live these words each and every day; from picking up students that don't have a way to get to school to students calling those that are absent to see if everything is ok. Educating your young men is a collaborative effort; we need to work together to build the relationships with all of the stakeholders to ensure that we are able to best meet our students' needs.

While we have focused much of our energy and growth in working with our families and students, we continue to look for community support to grow our outreach in the city of Rochester. We started this year at our highest enrollment to date but we have so much to give to so many more. Our educational program is proven and our college and career development program is growing every year. We expect all of our students to have a post-secondary plan by the end of their third year, whether college, career, or the military. We individualize our academic program to meet the students at their level and grow them to where they need to be to earn their diploma. We work to develop their employability profile so that they will be prepared for whatever they choose. This year we are continuing the focus on character development by giving the student experiences to give back to others. We were recognized by IBERO Rochester for our students' service project to raise money for those impacted by the hurricanes in Puerto Rico and we are currently holding a toy drive for Toys for Tots. At the end of January our teams will be participating in a service project of their choice.

We are looking forward to another great year of growth and academic success and we wouldn't be able to do it without your support. Thank you.

student COUNCIL

Shea Allen

Kamaren Butler

Joshua Cabasquini

Isaiah Cotton-Aikens

Quanmay Early



Victor Figueroa



Robert Granville



TajMeik Hawkins



Miciah Nelson



Arlo Rollock



Joshua Thompson



Jeremiah Washington



Darrell Wilson



Da'Kimeon Young

in the COMMUNITY

Rochester Enable Lab goes to the Rochester MakerFaire

by J.C. Pierre, Dec 7, 2018

On November 16 and 17, Kai Mathews, Jesus Henriquez, Angel and I represented Vertus and the Rochester Enable Lab at the the STEAM Student Fest and the Rochester Maker Faire. We were accompanied by our mentors Melvin Cruz, Skip Meetze, and Jon Schull. We were all there to showcase what we do. The first day was kind of slow because the event was for teachers and students at elementary and middle schools. In general, the kids were more interested in making ice cream or arts and crafts but, as Jesus wrote, "it was a really great experience getting to hear what people had to say to us, and to see how the kids really stayed to listen about what Re-NABLE was, and how the 3D printed hands worked."

We also saw an interesting presentation that used magic tricks to make an important point: you should always question stuff, because nothing is ever as it seems. The magician was trying to let it be known that you should never hold your imagination back; you should let it wander because the mind is a beautiful thing.



The second day was more interesting because it was aimed towards families and adults. It was easier to explain our work to them. We were also joined by James Whitlock of Western NY e-NABLE, who did a great job expanding and arranging our booth even further.



Many people were amazed that a 3D printer could make functional hands for amputees, but they were even more taken aback when we told them that we were only in high school. Some people were almost brought to tears when they learned that we are high schoolers who just want to help people who are underserved. (Of course, it's great that we get paid to do this, too!)

It was really fun to introduce the wonders of 3D printing to kids. Jesus "was very happy when I heard kids ask their parents to buy them a 3D printer so they could experiment". It was also great to hear teachers from other schools asking us to go to their schools and present Re-NABLE to students and staff..

At the other MakerFaire exhibits, we saw a variety of 3D printers. Some from RIT can print with amazing quality. We also learned how to build a morse code system. and about software that can 3D print a model of your face just by scanning it. Kai reported that he "got to experience lots of new technologies such as virtual reality, and robots that were programed to map buildings and make digital blueprints for construction companies." And there were groups who made their own robots for competitive events and challenges.



I learned something else too: Presenting in class actually came in handy and gave me a very important life skill. And even though you can accomplish something by yourself, it is a lot easier to have an impact by collaborating with others.

Holiday Drive

In the month of December, for the first time, our school held a Toys for Tots drive. Students and staff generously donated new unopened toys that would be delivered to the Toys for Tots facilities when Team Rowe spends the afternoon volunteering, helping to package toys for delivery to families in need. To create a great incentive for donating, the Vertus family held a competition between teams to see who could collect the most toys. The winning team would then be granted a pizza party. Through this act of generosity, the Vertus family proves that actions speak louder than words. Everyday staff and students recite the Vertus Creed that includes, "We help our family, friends, and community…we are role models in our community…". With these efforts, Vertus continues to put these words into action, and is proven to be a school that stands united with the city in which it dwells.









On The Air With Vertus

Monday, December 10th, a few of our students accompanied Senior Recruiter, Michael James, to WXIR, Rochester, NY's urban, alternative radio station, for a radio interview. On air, they discussed life at Vertus:

"At Vertus, they (the staff) don't judge you."
-Davion Terry, 4th year

"Brother's Keepers is one of the things that Vertus is basically based on"
-Michael Mota, 3rd year

"These Preceptors are always there, 24/7, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, they are brother's keepers."
-Michael Mota, 3rd year

"We are couragous, we do not falter in the face of fear or obstacles"
-Joshua Thompson reciting part of the Creed, 2nd year

JANUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1 New Year's Day No School	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Tie Ceremony	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day No School	22	23	24	25 Marking Period 2 Ends	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

REGENTS

FEBRUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Parent Teacher Conferences	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Tie Ceremony	15	16
17	18 President's Day	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

February Recess

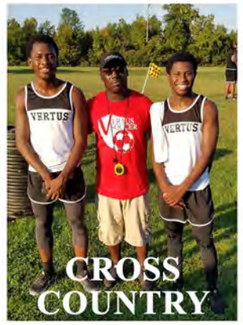
in SPORTS

HOME OF THE VERTUS WARRIORS

FALL

Srs Soccer









WINTER

The Vertus basketball program is in its 4th year of Section V play. To start the season, both the JV and Varsity team volunteered at Lakeshore Community Church to pack food for the non-profit organization Feed My Starving Children. The Varsity basketball team is led by Junior Captains Eric LeBrane, Cesar Ostolaza, and Jabez Thompson. The Warriors are competing in a very competitive Section V classification A2 for the second consecutive year.





SENIORS



Vertus High School will have their first ever Indoor Track & Field team this winter. Head Coach Shamar Johnson and Assistant Coach Aubrey Sheffield have been working hard to get our young men ready for the season. The Indoor Track & Field team will progress into an Outdoor Track & Field team in the spring.

Track

SPRING

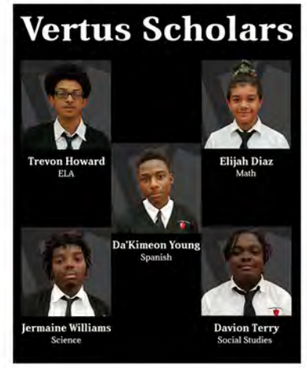
Spring sports will begin Monday March 4th. Vertus High School will field a JV Baseball team and an Outdoor Track & Field team.

monthly AWARDS

SEPTEMBER



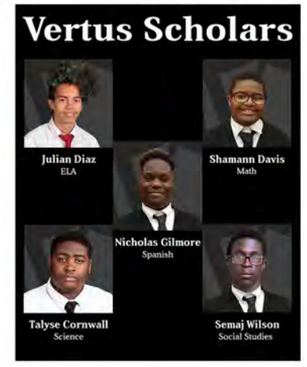




OCTOBER



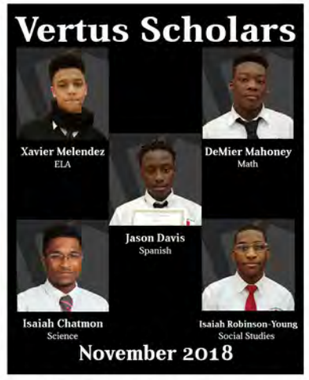




NOVEMBER







Man of the Month:
Exemplifies the virtues; he is nominated by his Team and the finalist is chosen by school leaders

The Team of the Month:
Chosen by school leasers based on attendance, academic progress, and contributions to school culture.

Vertus Scholars:
One student per core subject chosen by the department; they exemplify grit in pursuit of academic excellence.