



The Vertus Voice Summer 2019

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

Vertus Second Commencement Ceremony



The Vertus Class of 2019 graduated on June 22nd in a beautiful ceremony at The Hochstein School. Forty-five graduates walked the stage, each prepared for the next step of their journey. Several earned both local and college sponsored scholarships, including the #OSTRONG Scholarship recognizing the qualities of self-motivation, tremendous work ethic, mental strength, and the desire to succeed given by the Imes family in honor of their son Christopher.

Vertus' Valedictorian, Isaiah Chatmon, was unable to attend the ceremony; Isaiah graduated early and enlisted in the Marine Corps, his mother stepped in to accept his awards and diploma and fellow graduate, Nelson Joaquin read his speech. John Claude Pierre III was Vertus' Salutatorian, giving a speech of his own and receiving many awards himself.



Throughout the ceremony, many students also received recognition for their academic accomplishments. One of our most prestigious honors a graduating senior can receive is the Brother's Keeper Award. It is presented to the student who best exemplifies the responsibility of caring for the well-being of one's brother. He demonstrates compassion for his peers through counseling and encouraging them to make smart choices. His leadership is evident through his actions. He is a role model of the Vertus virtues of Courage, Leadership and Responsibility. This year's recipient was Mr. Davion Terry. We are proud to say that all of these student's various accomplishments are proof that we are living our mission of "Developing Leaders of Character." Congratulations to all of our graduates and their families.



"My son just walked the stage as part of the class of 2019 and we are so proud. My son was capable of graduating but he had no drive, the staff at Vertus gave him the drive he needed. They stepped in like family, pushed, pulled, and never gave up on my son. You will not see this kind of involvement anywhere else. I assure you of this, Vertus is the school to choose. Vertus was recommended to me and we are so happy, that we chose right. My son is now a graduate from Vertus High School."-Vertus Parent of 2019 Graduating Senior



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

College Tours
Pg. 2



Social Media
Pg. 4



Awards
Pg. 5



Radio Show
Pg. 6



Distinguished
Gentlemen
Pg. 7

a message from the PRINCIPAL



In most schools, the word summer is synonymous with vacation. Research shows that students lose, on average, two to three months of reading and math skills over the summer. In the City of Rochester, since summer began, violence has spiked resulting in four deaths. In education, in Rochester, summer break can be seen as a detriment to student growth.

At Vertus, we view summer as a time of possibility. Our young men are in school all year round and we use summer as a time to present them with a variety of opportunities. They have the chance to work on lagging academic skills by working with SUNY Brockport graduate students, through a partnership that focuses on literacy. They have the chance to build new skills by working in the Re-ENABLE lab building prosthetic hands and being paid for their work. They can take elective classes that interest them such as African American History, Boat Building, Anime and Graphic Novels, Photography, and many more. They learn real life skills, planting, weeding, and taking care of our newly built school vegetable garden. They give back to the community through various service projects with the House of Mercy and the American Red Cross. Summer does not interrupt their progress; it does not act as a roadblock to their goals.

We at Vertus do everything we can to provide our young men with a path to college or career, whichever they choose. Unlike other educators, we commit to working for and with our students year round and are thankful for the opportunity to do so. As we move through the summer months, we invite you to stop in and see the good work that is going on.

Warmly,

Ms. Locey

from GUIDANCE

Summer College Tours for Seniors!



The Guidance Office is utilizing the summer session to expose students to a variety of colleges. This summer, we will visit the following colleges and universities: SUNY Buffalo State, St. Bonaventure, Daemen, Corning Community College, and SUNY Geneseo. Eligible seniors will be able to attend these Thursday field trips where they will learn more about the admissions process, financial aid, housing, and the campus community. Students will also be able to eat lunch in the dining halls on campus.



corning community college
State University of New York



GENESEO
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York



Meanwhile, four of our seniors spent their first week of summer session getting a glimpse of the college life at St. John Fisher; they slept in the dorms, ate in the dining halls, and participated in various college prep workshops. Congratulations to these young men for completing St. John's Fisher's College Bound Program.

Open Seats for the 2019-20 School Year
Apply Now at Vertusschool.org



upcoming EVENTS

Summer Session:

- Student Hours: Monday through Thursday, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm, No school on Fridays
- School Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 7:30 am - 3:30 pm, Closed Fridays
- Summer Session runs until August 12, with Regents on August 13 & 14

New Student Orientation:

- August 14 and September 3, 8am-4:30pm, casual attire

Willow 2nd Annual Bake Sale - Saturday October, 26

Vertus will be hosting our second annual Bake Sale Fundraiser for the Willow Domestic Violence Center on Saturday, October 26, 2019. Last year we raised over \$1,000 for Willow; this year we hope to raise even more. We have several local community organizations joining us this year; please follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to get updates on this and other events.

FOLLOW
US ON
TWITTER



@HighVertus

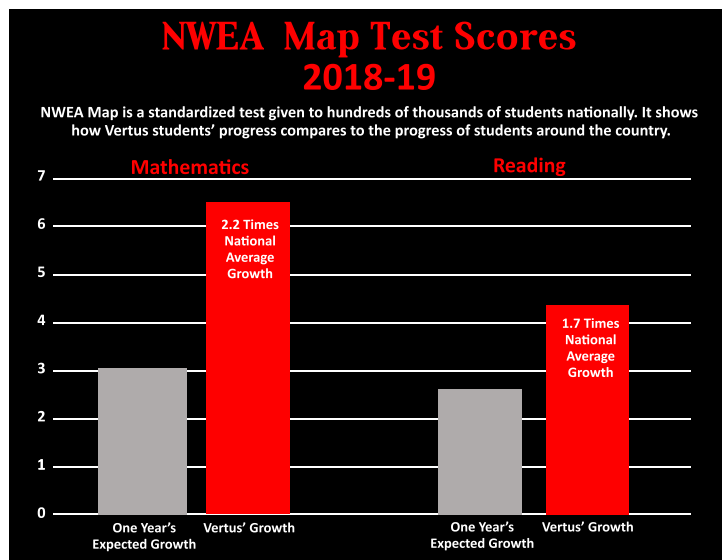
FOLLOW
US ON



Instagram
vertushs

in ACADEMICS

A big shout out to our first and second year students!! On average they achieved 2.2 times the national average growth in math, and 1.7 times the national average growth in reading on this year's NWEA exams!!



Congratulations to Team Payne for achieving the highest average growth in reading and math combined on this year's NWEA exams!!



June Regents Exams

In June Vertus administered a total of 243 Regents Exams with an overall pass rate of almost 70%! We saw significant growth in Global History, ELA, Algebra I, and Geometry; Physics, Algebra II, and US History had a pass rate above 90%, with over 70 students tested.

LIKE US ON

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<https://www.facebook.com/VertusHighSchool/>



in SPORTS



Vertus High School will field a Varsity Soccer team along with a Varsity Cross Country team in the fall of 2019. The Vertus Soccer program will be in their 4th season of varsity play in Section V. Head coach Scott Rogerson is in his 2nd year as the warriors coach. He will be assisted by Olivia Schojan. The Vertus Cross Country program will be in their 2nd season of varsity competition in Section V. Head Coach Kyle Abron looks to build on what Coach Aubrey Sheffield started in the fall of 2018.

Student athletes who wish to participate in any athletic programs at Vertus High School are expected to get re-qualified with the school nurse prior to each sports season they participate in. To get re-qualified students need:

- An updated physical exam (within 1 year) on file
- Current immunizations on file
- Medical eligibility form signed by a parent
- Doctor orders for inhaler, epi-pen, and/or restriction clearance (if applicable)
- Glasses for vision test (if applicable)

Forms for sports qualifications can be obtained from the Athletic Director, Physical Education Teachers, and/or the School Nurse.

To find out more about a particular sport or the sports qualification process, please contact our Athletic Director Rich Maez 585-397-0197 or rmaez@vertusschool.org.



Rich Maez
Athletic Director

Fall sports begin August 19th.

on SOCIAL MEDIA

FIND US ON  Instagram



artroomdispatches [Follow](#)


29 posts 105 followers 42 following

Ms. Mack

 Dispatches from the art room at [@vertushs](#)
Ft. student work/play/blooper reels
Rochester, NY



artroomdispatches Welcome to the hive



vertushigh3dlab [Follow](#)

4 posts 4 followers 2 following

Vertus High School
The Vertus High School 3D lab teaches students the joys of science, technology, design and community service.



vertushigh3dlab Meet the new e-NABLE summer technicians! This amazing group of young men was selected out of 33 applicants to join us this summer to learn everything there is to know about 3D printing and e-NABLE prosthetics. Learn more about the #vertusdifference : vertusschool.org



monthly AWARDS

MARCH

Man of the Month



Da'Kimeon Young
March 2019

Team of the Month



TEAM COX
March 2019

Vertus Scholars



Jadiel De Jesus
ELA

Michael Cubero
Math

Jonah Pacheco
Spanish

Steven Del Valle
Science

Tyson Moore
Social Studies

March 2019

APRIL

Man of the Month



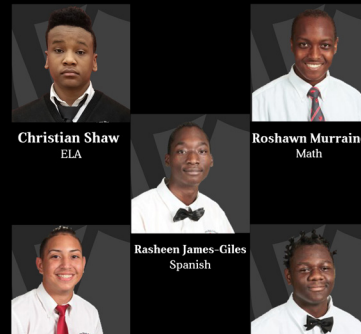
Nasir Douglass
April 2019

Team of the Month



Team Fogle
April 2019

Vertus Scholars



Christian Shaw
ELA

Roshawn Murraine
Math

Rasheen James-Giles
Spanish

Victor Figueroa
Science

Jamar Jones
Social Studies

April 2019

MAY

Man of the Month



Josiah Holloway
May 2019

Team of the Month



Team Nosmith
May 2019

Vertus Scholars



Javier Ealey
ELA

Hector Vega Otero
Math

Luther Webb
Spanish

Andy Nguyen
Science

Jeremiah Washington
Social Studies

May 2019

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 leaders 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.

in the COMMUNITY



The Goodness Initiative

On Friday, July 12th we held a special event at Vertus to help our young men who are moving to college campuses this fall. We're excited to announce that, thanks to The Goodness Initiative, our young men are going to college in style! This wonderful group reached out to Vertus to help our recent graduates set up their dorm room. Bundles including bedding, bath essentials, and a mini refrigerator were handed out to families. The Goodness initiative is a non for profit organization for adults and youth, focused on enriching the lives of others and giving back to the Rochester community. Their generosity has lifted the costly burden of setting up a college dorm room, and Vertus is lucky to work with this amazing group of moms!



Open House 6•15•19

In June, Vertus held another Open House Community Event where staff, students, families, and community members united for a day of fun. An array of exciting activities were set to launch as many people swiftly entered the doors. This would certainly be an event where great memories would be made for years to come. This Vertus event drew the support from a few community organizations who would serve as sponsors. One of the sponsors was Melissa Green, who is the founder of a non-profit organization called #OSTRONG; through which she provides Vertus graduates with college scholarships. Another community leader was Tremaine Harris, who is the Coordinator of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, also known as Youth Vision One Voice (YVOV). The goal of this event was to unite Rochester community members and for Vertus to serve as a beacon to a city that at times can appear to be dark. Vertus did such by appealing to a variety of interest; for athletes, there was a 3 on 3 basketball tournament, for gamers, there was a video game room, and for kids we had yard games (Can Jam and Cornhole) and a bounce house. In the midst of all the excitement, our community guest worked up quite the appetite. They were then led into the cafeteria where a catered lunch was provided by Darrell's Kitchen. Chef Darrell Wright cooked his signature fried chicken with baked Macaroni & Cheese, dirty rice, Barbeque burgers, and hot dogs. In addition to all of these great elements, there was even more! Licensed barber Rich Johnson generously donated his time and talents. During the community event Rich provided any attendee in need, with a free haircut. As a school we take pride in bringing our community together to promote positivity; follow us on Facebook and Instagram to make sure you here about more events like this in the future.



Radio Show

It's been another great season with the Vertus radio show, The Vertus Way: From Boys to Men. The show's led by rising senior Josiah Holloway. Josiah serves as a spokesperson representing the youth of Rochester and sharing perspectives on social topics. In this past season of the show, we've had a wide variety of guests, such as City Council candidates, community violence activist, business owners, and music artist. Stay tuned for upcoming episodes of our show, the best is yet to come. Tune in live every Saturday at 2pm on 100.9FM WXIR.





in the COMMUNITY

THE DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN

“The Distinguished Gentleman” is the Mayor’s FREE educational and networking event designed for young men ages 14 to 22. It’s an opportunity for young men to come and network with their peers, while interacting with influential men (“Role Models”) from across the community, in a formal, but fun and relaxed atmosphere.



The Mayor’s desire is for the young men in attendance to meet and greet the “Role Models” who share their life stories and how they were able to be successful in their careers and achieve their goals.

The “Role Models” have been educators, attorneys, business owners, engineers, etc., who volunteer to spend the evening sharing their life experiences and conversing with the young men about their own dreams and aspirations in hopes of making lasting connections which may turn into an educational, internship or job opportunity.

The Distinguished Gentleman event is successful largely because of the continued support received from the local chapters of international fraternities, community agencies, residents and various schools and colleges in our area.

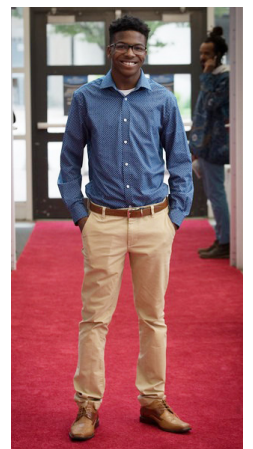


Young men also have the opportunity to interact with members from the local chapters of international fraternities, local colleges and representatives from the City of Rochester.



Previous topics covered at The Distinguished Gentleman included “What to Expect at College”, “How to Dress for Success” and more.

In order to be selected to be a part of this formal event, young men must submit a 200-word essay and tell the Mayor about themselves.



<https://www.cityofrochester.gov/distinguishedgentleman.aspx>

"The staff there is simply the best. I'd like to thank Vertus and the staff for everything they have done for my sons thus far. It doesn't just take parents to raise great kids it also takes a caring school. I recommend Vertus for any of your young men. They have plenty of doors that can be open for you if they turn the handle. This school is better than the burbs!!!! Hands down."-Vertus Parent



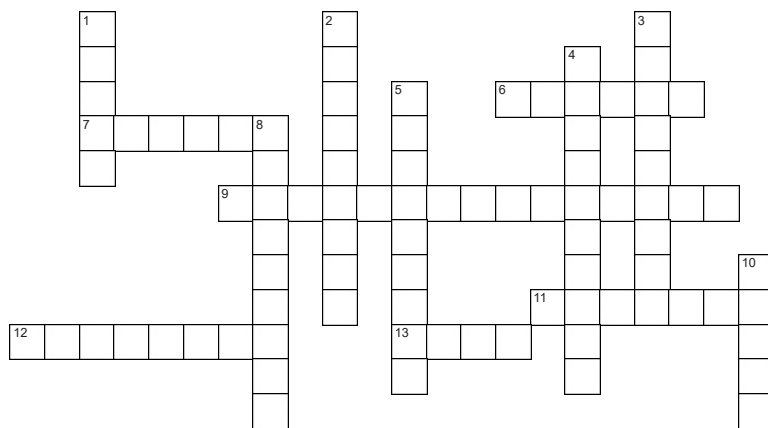
APPLY NOW!

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

Look for our new billboards coming soon!



Vertus Crossword



ACROSS

- 6 Students earn the red _____ as their first step in joining the Vertus community
 7 The _____ program inside the Vertus maker space gives students an opportunity to work on 3-D printing at school
 9 The _____ is a character strength and program with students who help others
 11 Vertus mascot
 12 Vertus is a free public school for _____
 13 Vertus students wear different color _____ to represent their academic achievement

DOWN

- 1 Principal of Vertus, Ms. _____
 2 Each year, Vertus does a multi-city _____ (2 words) for it's seniors to visit colleges in multiple states
 3 Each student is on a Team led by a _____, their mentor and role model, to help them succeed
 4 Vertus athletic program includes soccer, cross country, _____, baseball and track
 5 Vertus curriculum consists of classroom classes along with lab time spent on _____
 8 Applicants can _____ for 2019-20 school year
 10 Every student memorizes The Vertus _____ and recites it every day during morning meeting

WORD BANK

eNable	Creed	Blazer
Preceptor	Brother's Keeper	Edgenuity
Ties	Locey	Young Men
Field Trip	Basketball	Warrior
	Enroll Now	

"I recommend Vertus High School to any young man. Vertus helped my two sons grow into young responsible guys who take education seriously and the Preceptors care for the boys success"
 - Vertus Parent

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Welcome to the Vertus Family! This summer, Vertus has added five new staff:



Claude Williams
Dean



Michael Donohew
Dean



Andre Johnson
Preceptor



Shawn Yarbrough
Preceptor



John Paul Vega
Teacher