



The Vertus Voice

Fall/Winter 2019

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



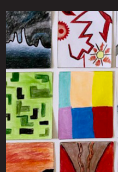
Guidance
Pg. 2



Sports
Pg. 4



Awards
Pg. 5



Student Art
Pg. 6



In the
Community
Pg. 7

Preceptor Program

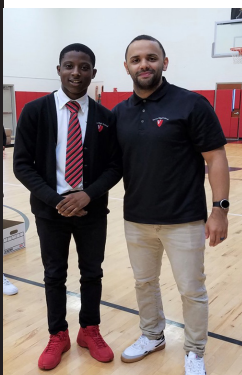
As a former Preceptor I notice that teenage boys are more fragile today, due largely in part to their disenfranchisement within American society. As a result, our boys are joining gangs, dropping out of



school, and becoming criminals at an alarming rate. The Preceptors here at Vertus have taken on the responsibility to reach back and grab the hands of these teenage boys and teach them what it is to be a man in our community. Our Preceptors can relate to students by using their experience to help them successfully navigate through life during these pivotal high school years. Students feel more confident that they will graduate with Preceptors guiding them through day-to-day, offering advice, making sure they get to school, and studying for exams. Preceptors are more than just mentors or role models, they serve as academic advisors, coaches, teachers, and in some cases stand in as family when students have no one else to turn to. They embody the third pillar upon which Vertus was founded, Character Education.

This group of men go above and beyond school hours to support students and help them achieve their academic goals, as well as personal goals, all while building good character along the way. This guidance and support continues well after graduation with Preceptors helping students prepare for college, interviews, trade school, and anything else with which students might need assistance. For some of our students their Preceptor is the most consistent and reliable person in their lives, and they have shown to be one of the key elements of the success of all of our students.

-Levi Bennett, Lead Preceptor



YOU LEARN MORE FROM
FAILURE THAN FROM SUCCESS.
DON'T LET IT STOP YOU.
FAILURE BUILDS CHARACTER.

@AGTHEMOTIVATOR

a message from the PRINCIPAL



Vertus is founded on four pillars:

- Strong Relationships
- Personalized Year Round Academics
- Character Education
- Career Preparation

At the start of each school year, we work on building relationships with our students and their families through various ways and means. We promise to communicate with our families bi-weekly through phone calls or home visits, and we invite families to school three times a year for the opportunity to meet with staff to review their students' academic progress.

This year we hosted a Senior Family Night to discuss college and career planning and to go over the details of our annual Multi-City College Tour, which we make available to our fourth year students. We had over 50% of our families attend either that evening, or if they have a younger student, our first Family Night which was held on September 25th. We take time on these evenings to establish a strong channel of communication, which provides the foundation for our students' academic and social-emotional growth. New families are able to meet preceptors, teachers, and leadership staff, and become familiar with school policy while also having an opportunity to purchase school uniforms and have dinner. Returning families are given a clear picture of their student's academic growth and we begin discussions centered on goals for the new school year.

The saying "It takes a village to raise a child" rings true here at Vertus every day. We rely on the relationships we build to allow us to collaborate with our families and the community in order to create a successful path towards success for each student. Their growth and success is a measure of that. I am looking forward to watching that develop this year and we are off to a strong start!

from GUIDANCE

Multi-City College Tour 2019:

Vertus High School participated in its third annual multi-city college tour for 4th year students. This year, we traveled to colleges in New York and Pennsylvania. The college tour provided students with the opportunity to visit multiple college campuses, meet with admissions representatives, dine on campus, and explore the many opportunities that attending college has to offer. Students and chaperones spent three nights and four days on the road visiting HBCU schools (Lincoln University and Cheyney University) and large public colleges (Pennsylvania College of Technology and Temple University). In order to be eligible to attend, students had to meet certain requirements, and as always the tour was provided at no cost to our students.

MCC Program:

Once again through grant funding, Vertus has been able to offer classes at MCC this semester to eligible upper-level students. The available courses are part of a Precision Tooling Certification Program. Upon successful completion of the course, students receive dual enrollment credit (at MCC and Vertus).

Senior Parent Night:



We welcomed our senior class families to join us on September 17th for a night dedicated to navigating their last year with Vertus. Preceptors met with students and parents to outline their graduation pathways, and cheer them on to success. Ms. Flanagan held a college trip meeting, highlighting college visits and tour stops. We're excited to see these young men finish out the year strong and walk across the stage in June!





upcoming EVENTS

Clubs

At Vertus, we believe that developing leaders of character means providing students with opportunities to learn more than just academics, so we're excited to offer our students a range of before and after school clubs. This semester we are offering some great clubs and activities, including Volleyball, Strength & Conditioning, Basketball, Mass Media, Latinos United, Song Writing & Recording, and Bowling. A big thanks to all the Vertus teachers who give their time to host these great activities!



**Follow us on Facebook for details
on our Toys for Tots Drive**

School Sponsored Clubs

We have some great before and after school clubs running this semester:

Open Gym with Mr. Fogle

Monday through Friday 7am - 8:15 am

Strength & Conditioning with Mr. Hill

Mon, Tue and occasional Thur 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Mass Media with Mr. Johnson

Tues & Thurs 7:45 am - 8:20 am until Basketball season then
Tues & Thurs 3:25pm - 4pm

Latinos United at Vertus with Mr. Colon

Tuesday 3:45pm - 4:30pm
Starts 10/15/19

Bowling with Mr. Z

Thursday 4pm - 5:30pm at L & M Lanes
Starts 11/7/19

Bus passes are available for those students
participating in after school clubs.

The Goodness Initiative – Making Spirits Bright

The Goodness Initiative is based on the idea of connecting communities through kindness. The Goodness Initiative has two programs currently, Making Spirits Bright and Dorm Room Prepping. Making Spirits Bright helps families in need during the holiday season and Dorm Room Prepping helps future graduates prepare their dorm rooms with the basics. Both program's participants are chosen through school counselors and social workers, as well as community groups within Rochester.

On December 6th 2019, Vertus will be sending 6 students and 2 chaperones to Willink Middle School to assist with wrapping the Christmas gifts that have been donated in support of the Making Spirits Bright campaign. One of the four pillars upon which Vertus was founded is Character Education, and we believe that community service is integral to our mission to develop leaders of character.



Save the Dates:

**Vertus 5th Annual
Blazer Ceremony
November 23rd, 2019**

**Graduation
June 23rd, 2019**

in SPORTS



Fall Sports

Soccer recap from Coach Rogerson:

It was an exciting year for the Vertus boys' soccer team. They battled each and every game and left all they had on the field. We will miss our seniors as they move on to the next chapter in their lives. They include: Midfielder - Tyreese McMillan-Harris, Defender - Kam Butler, Forward - Craig Oakley, and Defender - John Gayden. Our season ended in sectionals against Midlakes/Red Jacket in a rainy and muddy environment. The Warriors didn't let the environment get the best of them and had multiple chances to score, but the home team took the 3-0 win. Our guys played with heart and never let losing defeat their spirit. As always, they had a lot of fun playing the beautiful game.



Cross Country recap from Coach Abron:



Tyzier Washington ran extremely well this season. He started the season with 23 minutes and 19 seconds. His best time was 21 minutes and 41 seconds. He has been consistently running 21 minutes in 5K (3 mile) races. His next race will be Saturday 10/26/19 at Robert's Wesleyan for the Private Parochial League Championship. This race may possibly be the end of his season, or carry him to sectionals. Charles Herring, our other cross country runner, had a slow start to the season with a time of 39 minutes and 32 seconds. In his second race of the season he cut 11 minutes off his time. In his last race he cut 4 minutes off his previous time running 24 minutes and 02 seconds in the 5K (3 mile) race.

Winter Sports

JV Basketball for 1st and 2nd Years

Varsity Basketball for 3rd and 4th Years

Varsity Indoor Track for All Years

Basketball Tryouts will start Monday, November 11th

JV Basketball tryouts schedule- Monday 11/11 11:00-1:00, Tuesday 11/12 & Wednesday 11/13 3:30-5:00 in the Vertus Gym

Varsity Basketball tryouts- Monday 11/11 5:00-7:00 and Tuesday 11/12 5:00-7:00 in the Vertus Gym

Indoor Track practice will start Monday November 11th from 12:30-2:00 at Vertus

**FOLLOW
US ON** 
Instagram
vertushs

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 in which they participate.

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

Please visit <https://vertus.schoolteams.com> for up to date information on all athletic dates and times.



monthly AWARDS

September

Man of the Month



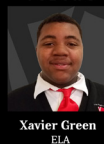
Kevin Hilliard
September 2019

Team of the Month

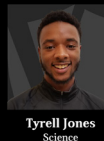


Team Yarbrough
September 2019

Vertus



Xavier Green
ELA



Tyrell Jones
Science



Craig Oakley
Athlete

Scholars



David Quinones
Social Studies



Jesus Henriquez
Math



Damier Webb
Art

September 2019

2019

October

Man of the Month



Tyler Geesler
October 2019

Team of the Month



Team Rice
October 2019

Vertus



Seyvion Howard
ELA



Tayshaun Williams
Science



Tyzier Washington
Athlete

Scholars



Daamond Ward
Social Studies



Sion Gamble
Art

October 2019

2019

Man of the Month:

Exemplifies the virtues and 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.

Tie Ceremony - 10.25.19



FOLLOW
US ON
TWITTER



@HighVertus

student COUNCIL

This year the Vertus High School Student Council has taken up the huge challenge of creating long-lasting school traditions. The first, creating a consistent school store where students can exchange Vertus bands for snacks or Vertus gear. The second, organizing a school-wide election so that we can empower our students to select leaders who will represent their interests to school leadership and give them the support that they need for their positive academic and social growth.

in ACADEMICS



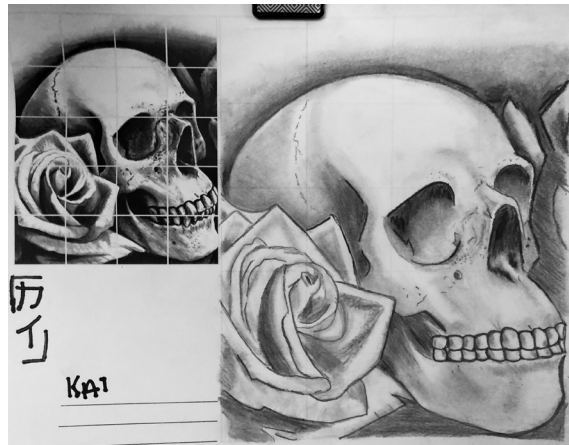
We've had a successful fall semester at Vertus. Our students took the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) exams in September and returning students showed positive student growth compared to last year; many of our students made big gains in both Math and Reading. After taking the NWEA, students were placed into specific courses to meet their needs, this is a major element of our individualized learning program. Our blended learning model provides students both online credits and Regents prep courses that ensure student success. Not only are our students earning credits every day, many are well ahead on the path to graduation. Alongside our Regents prep and online Edgenuity courses, we now offer 3D Printing, African American Studies, and Creative Expression electives that have become a big hit at Vertus. Overall, this has been a great semester and we are excited for what the rest of the year has in store.

Student Work Spotlight

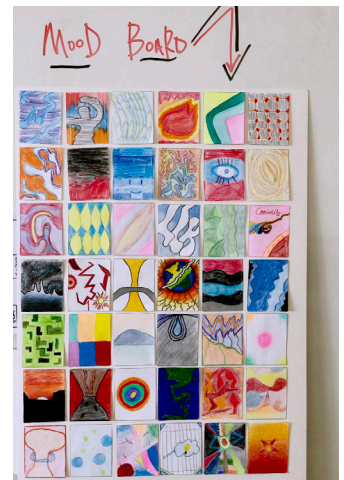
ART



Picture 1: Students held their first critique on their Comic Book Cover projects this month. They used the TAG post-it method: Tell something you like, Ask the artist a question, and Give constructive feedback!



Picture 2: Skull drawing using the grid method by Kai Matthews



Picture 3: Group piece by Intro to Art students from our color theory unit. Students were asked to respond to a mood word using abstract shape, line, and color.

WRITING



Tyler Wright was tasked with writing an essay that answered the question “What makes someone an Outsider?” using details from texts he read in his Intro To Composition class. He did an exceptional job at providing evidence and supporting his thesis.

Whats makes someone an outsider is being treated differently. Forced to live worse than everybody else, and standing up for what is right. This makes someone an outsider. The evidence in regards to this is Harry Potter and Cinderella.

In Harry Potter, he is an outsider because he is treated like a monster. According to the text, Harry feels alone because his family fears his powers, and he cannot be around his friends where he feels most comfortable. This proves he is an outsider because of how his family treats him like a bomb that could go off at any moment.

In Cinderella, she is treated like an outsider because she is the most beautiful in the house. Because of this, her step-mother doesn't like it according to the story. Cinderella must complete chores before going anywhere. She must also scrub every corner of the house. This proves that she is an outsider by forcing her to do work inside the house.

All of this shows that an outsider is someone being treated differently, forced to live horrific conditions, and having them stand up for whats right and trying to accomplish their goals.



ACADEMICS continued

e-NABLE:

This past summer we had an amazing crew of 10 students who earned their 3D Printing Technicians certificate. They learned the basics of 3D printing and the foundation of the work done in the e-NABLE community. This semester two of our summer program students have joined us in our after school program, led by Melvin Cruz, a senior engineering student from RIT. They are learning the ins and outs of 3D printing in the academic and professional industries.



This semester we integrated the e-NABLE program into the Vertus curriculum! Created and taught by our Physics teacher Andrea Santiago Boyd, the students are learning how to configure and use 3D printers, design 3D models using a CAD program, and take those 3D models and make them “3D printable.” To learn more about the 3D printing program at Vertus, check us out on Instagram - @vertushigh3dlab

Fall Family Conference Night

Strong Relationships are one of the four pillars upon which Vertus was founded, and as such we ask our families to meet with their student’s teachers and Preceptor three times a year. We held our first of these Family Conference Nights in late September with great results; almost 90% of our families took time out of their busy schedules to help ensure positive growth for their young man. A big thank you to all the families that attended, and to the dedicated Vertus staff who gladly give their time in support of the #VertusDifference!

in the COMMUNITY

Rochester, NY is more than just the city where our school happens to be located; it is home! The Vertus family takes great pride in being a member of the Flower City community. In addition to getting our young men to graduate, our mission



is to develop leaders of character for the community. Over the summer, we were present at numerous community events and supported many great causes. Our staff and students both participated at the Summer Soul Fest and Backpack Drive at Frontier Field. At this event Vertus senior, Jonethyn Green displayed his talent while performing his original music on stage; his exuberant performance captivated the attendees. During that same month, Vertus also participated in the 50th Annual Puerto Rican Festival and parade, alongside 97.5FM LA MEGA. In addition, Vertus



also participated in the North Winton Village Arts Festival, Project TIPS, Jordan Health Front Porch Festival, Back to School Drive at the La Marketa Site, The Annual IBERO Luncheon, and more. All in all, this has been quite an eventful season, and we look forward to future events in the Rochester community.



Spot the 6 differences between the two photos below:



**APPLY
NOW!**

Seats are still available if you wish to transfer your student. Apply online or schedule a tour at vertusschool.org; or contact our Senior Recruiter, Michael James, (585) 481-4503, mjames@vertusschool.org



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Hello, my name is Nelson Joaquin; I graduated from Vertus in 2019. I am currently in the process of becoming a firefighter for the city. What made me want to pursue this, you ask? Well, I enjoy helping people. There is nothing more fulfilling than knowing that you saved a life. Hopefully, one day I get to help out those who helped me. Thank you, Vertus.



LIKE US ON

facebook

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

