



# Vertus HIGH SCHOOL

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## Month at a Glance

May 2021

### Academics/Character/Career

- We celebrated Educator Appreciation Week from May 3-7<sup>th</sup>. Each day our staff received a gift centered around our character strengths. We ended the week with a team-building PD and a catered lunch. Check out our artistic talents



- Graduation is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5:00 pm at MLK Jr. Park. Once we have confirmed the reservation, I will send an invitation to the Board.
- A fourth-year graduation update is included in the Board materials. The report shows student's post-secondary plans as well as our projected graduation rate.
- We are continuing with NWEA make-up dates to get as many students as possible tested, including remote students. This will fulfill our charter, allow us to gain information regarding growth and learning loss. We will also have a meaningful metric to use to measure our outcomes against our annual benchmark goals.
- Our dual credit optics class has been a huge success this semester. In the fall, we plan on offering the OPT 201 Photo Science class. The course requires a particular camera, and we are currently looking for funding for the ten cameras we will need.
- We were able to reconnect with the Shore Foundation, thanks to Evan, to access computers for our graduating seniors at a minimal cost to Vertus. Last year they were able to donate 40 laptops. This year, we will be working with them to acquire 50-100 computers at a minimal \$60 per computer fee for a maximum of \$6,000. Giving the graduating seniors' computers was an estimated total of \$30,000 in the budget before connecting with the Shore Foundation. I do not believe this is a sustainable program and will be re-evaluating the need for it moving forward.
- On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will be hosting our first annual Opportunities Fair. We currently have a combination of thirty-nine colleges, military branches, community organizations, and companies on site from 10 am – 2 pm. We have invited students from UPrep, Eugenio, Young Women's College Prep, Brighton, and McQuaid to participate in the event. We will have two food trucks on-site, so feel free to stop by during your lunch hour to check it out.

- The junior varsity baseball season was canceled due to a lack of consistent participation, but we have a club team that will continue to practice. Outdoor Track is going strong, although we are currently having difficulties finding a track to use for practice.

### **Finance/Operations/Compliance**

- Our updated Discipline Code and DASA (Dignity for All Students Act) is included in the Board materials. A resolution to accept these policies is required before posting them on our website.
- The finance committee and I reviewed our 990 tax filing last week. I signed it and returned it to MMB to release and file on May 12<sup>th</sup>.
- We have reinstated the phone-a-thon as a recruitment method. We will hold three sessions, starting Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. We received a list from RCSD (FOIL request) with over 4,000 names and numbers, hopefully bearing some fruit.
- The first draft of the 2021-2022 budget is complete. The Board chair will convene a meeting of the finance committee to review it and then present it to the remainder of the board via email for approval vote. It must be approved unanimously in writing, also via email.