



The Vertus Voice

Summer 2021

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

Graduation

“We do not falter in the face of fear or obstacles.” This quote from our creed has proven to be more accurate for the graduates of 2021.



From masks, social distancing, temperature checking, and remote learning, our graduates have endured all the obstacles that were thrown at them. Despite it not being an ideal situation, they have successfully reached the finish line.



The beautiful ceremony held at Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park will be remembered by students and community members for years to come and could not have been more fitting for the times we live in. In a city of civil unrest and an alarming increase of violent shootings, the Vertus family and community members came together in the heart of the city to celebrate the hard work and dedication of the students. Tears of joy and smiling faces filled MLK Park as the night ended with families embracing their graduates and showing appreciation for the strong relationships with staff members that helped them along their journey.



We are never truly prepared for what life may throw our way, but our students have proven that nothing will stop them from achieving their goals. As our Vertus men start their adult lives, we hope that they reflect on this past year and how they did not falter in the face of fear or obstacles and go off proudly knowing they are prepared for the next stage of life with the support of their family and the Vertus community.



Academics
Pg. 3



Sports
Pg. 4



In the
Community
Pg. 6



Staff
Spotlight
Pg. 8

a message from the PRINCIPAL



For us here at Vetrus, summer means just more learning. After a short week off, we are back at it, in the building, four days a week. Our commitment to our students is year-round, as is our school. We use this time to allow students to continue their academic progress, take part in field trips that expose them to area colleges and job opportunities, and take electives that might not usually be available during the regular year. Being a year-round school could be seen as a challenge, especially with teenage boys, but we do our very best to create an environment that students want to come to. Our electives center around their interests. Sports classes such as football and basketball, Anime, robotics, public speaking, art, and music production are all available. That, coupled with the inspiration of watching their brothers graduate, makes a compelling argument for coming to school, even during the summer.

This year our summer session is especially encouraging since we could not be in person during the summer of 2020. Being able to offer a hybrid program this year was noticeably impactful. Still, as we move towards returning to full-time, in-person learning for September, this bridge during the summer allows our students to re-acclimate themselves to the structure of the school day, so they are one hundred percent ready to go for the fall. As always, we continue to build on our strong relationships to help support our young men as we make these transitions. We are looking forward to having the whole Vertus Family in the building come September.

come be a part of the #VertusDifference

One of the most important choices we can make in a world filled with choices is where our children go to school. In the city of Rochester, the best choice for young men is Vertus High School. A school where every student has a preceptor. This preceptor is a role model, mentor, father figure, and so much more to our students. Vertus is a school where the teachers not only teach but also develop personal relationships with students. We also have a strong English Language Learning program and a thriving Special Education department. Students graduate from Vertus prepared to take on the real world. We are currently accepting applications for the



2021-2022 school year.



Apply to Vertus High School today at
vertusschool.org.





in ACADEMICS



The term “learning loss” has become a common phrase in education as the pandemic has continued across the country. However, addressing “learning loss” was a contributing factor in creating Vertus’s year-round model. It is a feature of our program that makes Vertus unique. Participation in the year-round program is expected and keeps our students from experiencing the regular “learning loss” that many students go through while being home for the summer.



The summer session at Vertus is used to catch up students with their core courses and prevent “learning loss” and as an opportunity to develop new skills and explore their interests. Each summer, Vertus expands the number of elective opportunities offered. Exploring student interests or getting them curious about new topics are important incentives to come into school during the summer when many of their friends and siblings are at home.

This summer, Vertus is offering our most comprehensive range of electives. For those with athletic ambition, Football and Basketball Fundamentals are offered. It is especially exciting to offer football as Vertus prepares for our inaugural season in the fall. Ms. Mack is leading a Mural Arts elective which will conclude with the students completing a mural on the walls of the school as a final project. Film as Literature will center around Marvel movies, and Anime will be the topic of another ELA elective, both of which were trendy choices for our students. Building on the success and popularity of Music Production from the spring, Mr. Bennett will be leading this elective once again. Finally, Entrepreneurship and Sign Language will be offered for the first time at Vertus. The rigorous academic program combined with the multitude of electives will provide a well-rounded summer experience for our Vertus men.



from COUNSELING

In June, students attended a Construction Career Day at the Doubletree Inn sponsored by the Builders Exchange with all of our students. Students were able to network with over 40 professional organizations and hiring businesses in the construction industry. The event

Colleges That Seniors Plan on Attending:		Additional Colleges Seniors Applied To:	
Monroe Community College SUNY Brockport Alfred University St. John Fisher Roberts Wesleyan Canisius New York Institute of Technology	SUNY Buffalo State SUNY Fredonia SUNY Cortland SUNY Geneseo SUNY Stony Brook SUNY University of Buffalo SUNY Alfred Syracuse St. Bonaventure Hampton	Daemen Mercy Clark Atlanta D'Youville GCC Le Moyne University of Rochester Rochester Institute of Technology Penn State	

included a panel discussion and a tour of an active construction site.



in SPORTS



Spring Sports Recap - Outdoor Track & Field

The Vertus outdoor track & field team competed in five Private-Parchial/Rochester City Athletic Conference League track meets, the His & Her Invitational, and the Gates-Chili Spartans Invitational before qualifying for five sectionals events.



Our team was lead by seniors Isaiah Cotton-Aikens, Jadiel DeJesus, and Marcus Hogan. Senior Isaiah Cotton-Aikens qualified for Sectionals in the 200-meter dash, 400-meter dash, and 4x100 meter relay. Isaiah ended up placing 11th in the 200-meter dash and 6th in the 400-meter dash of the Section V sectionals meet. Isaiah holds the school record in the 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash, Sweedish Relay, and 4x100 relay. Rahmeir Westbrooks also qualified for Sectionals for the shot put event. Rahmeir holds the Vertus High School record for the shot put event. Charles Herring qualified for Sectionals as part of the 4x100 meter relay and long jump.



Football

Vertus is proud to announce that we are starting a Football program this fall with Ocie Bennett as the Head Football Coach. Our Philosophy here at Vertus is to be RESILIENT.



At Vertus, these young men will develop and learn life lessons through football and will have a positive impact on their communities, through their PREPARATION, ACCOUNTABILITY, COMMITMENT, TOUGHNESS. We at Vertus look forward to working with your young man and seeing you out supporting our Vertus Warriors. "WARRIOR NATION"



Thanks,
Coach Bennett- HC
Vertus Warriors Football
Phone # 585-481-0382



Fall Sports Start August 23rd

We offer the following Fall sports

- JV Football for 1st through 3rd Years

Football Workouts will start Wednesday, July 7th.

Football Workouts will be during 5th and 6th periods of the summer session.

- Varsity Cross Country for All Years

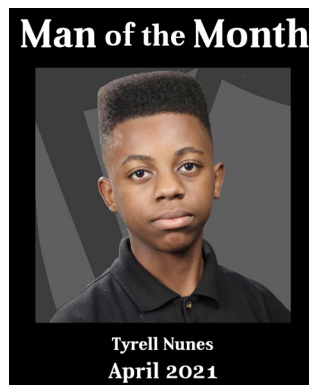
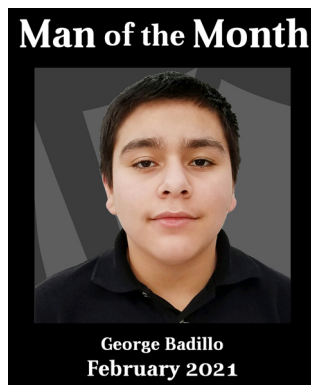
*New enrolling students are encouraged to participate.

To find out more about a particular sport or the sports qualification process, please contact our Athletic Director Rich Maez 480-241-3071 or rmaez@vertusschool.org

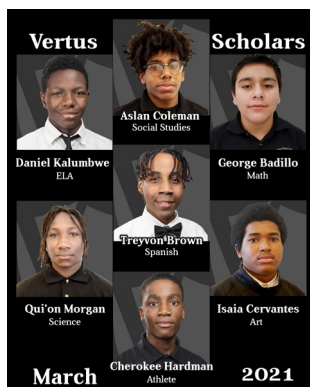
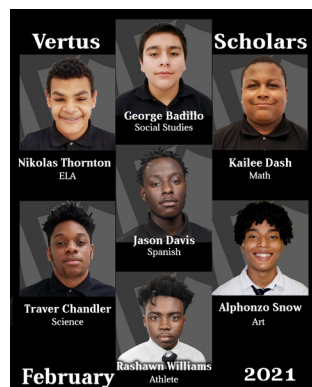
Please visit <https://vertus.rschooleams.com/> for up-to-date information on all athletic dates and times.



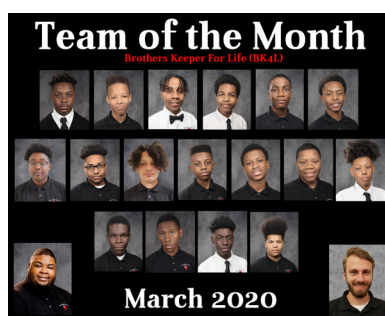
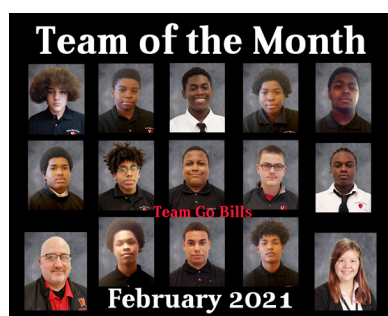
monthly AWARDS



Man of the Month: Exemplifies the virtues of Vertus, is nominated by his team, and is chosen by school leaders.



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



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



in the COMMUNITY

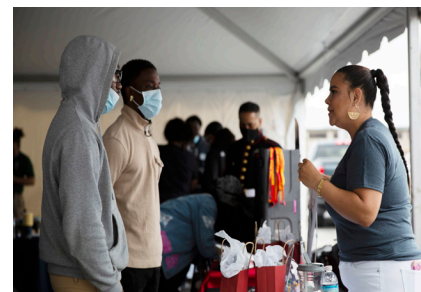


Community Fair

Vertus's first-ever Community Fair was a huge success. Over thirty-five vendors attended, with representatives from colleges, armed services, workforce agencies, and community organizations. It was held outside in our parking lot and was open to the public. We also had students from UPrep and Eugenio Maria De Hostas in attendance! Everyone had the opportunity to network, ask questions, and apply for jobs. Attendants didn't go hungry as we also had food trucks such as Meet The Press and Net-sins ice cream, which was a massive hit for our visitors.



We are looking forward to next year being bigger and better.



Vertus Baseball Club

This year, baseball at Vertus, along with so many other things, looked just a little bit different



than usual. Instead of having an entire, regular season, we were limited to an after-school Vertus Baseball Club. Our coaches and committed players met in the gym to practice skills, run through drills, and have some fun. Beyond skills development, our baseball club organized two fun and successful events. First, we had a neighborhood mini clean sweep, where our players and coaches cleaned up the Vertus surrounding area by picking up trash around



the parking lot and Humboldt St. That same night, we took the students to a Red Wings game, a first for many of them. We also organized a Student vs. Staff Softball game. We ended up having a great turnout as staff from throughout the building showed up to test their skills against our boys. Although we couldn't do everything we had hoped, we had a great time as the Vertus Baseball Club, and can't wait to get back at it next season!



UPCOMING EVENT



Vertus
HIGH SCHOOL



Blood Drive
Vertus High School
Gym
21 Humboldt St
Rochester, NY 14609

Thursday, August 5, 2021
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please Bring ID!!



from our PARENTS

"My sons have both graduated this 2020 school year, and without the staff at Vertus high school we may have never made it. This group of teachers, preceptors, and counselors are the best group of educators I have ever had the pleasure of dealing with. My sons are better young men thanks to Mr. Rice, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Colon, and Mr. Carter, and that's just to name a few. Please keep up the AMAZING WORK...you are exactly what we need in this community to show our young men that they can achieve anything....be great and make a difference in this world."



"I feel like this school has been like a savior for my son. I love the priceless value of him seeing so many men and especially men of color in a positive light! He has grown by leaps and bounds and has only been there since Feb! Best decision I ever made for him. Treats the family better too! Overall better disposition as he feels better about himself."



"It was very difficult to find a male support system that would be guaranteed to be in my son's life through his teenage years. Moving him to Vertus gave me that GUARANTEE that I needed, and I feel comfortable in saying he now has everything he needs to become a positive attribute to society THANK YOU VERTUS!!!"

"Vertus Teachers / Staff are the BEST, they really make a difference in their student's lives year-round. We are so appreciative for the interest you all showed in my son's success and development during his time of learning at Vertus. As he ventures to the next chapter in his life, he leaves Vertus knowing that no challenge is so insurmountable that he can't overcome it, and every accomplishment is worthy of celebration and praise. From our family to Vertus High school, we say THANK YOU for all that you've done and will continue to do in years to come. #WeAreVertusParents"



Vertus alumnus once said, "At my old school, I fell behind, and I wasn't on track to graduate. I then made the decision to go to Vertus, and I will now graduate on time. We also have amazing counselors; they help you find job opportunities and colleges that are fit for you."

"I made the right decision by enrolling my son to Vertus. He had become a different person since."



"My son was capable of graduating, but he had no drive. They stepped in like family; they pushed, pulled, and never gave up on my son. . . you will not see this kind of involvement anywhere else. . . Vertus is the school to choose. . ."

Spot the six differences between the two photos:



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Ocie Bennett joined Vertus in May as a Preceptor but has since moved into the role of physical education teacher and will be our Head Football Coach come fall as Vertus heads into its first year with a football program. Ocie is a SUNY Buffalo State graduate where he received his Level 3 NY State Teaching Assistant Certification. Before Vertus, Ocie was a teaching assistant at Albion Central School District, his alma mater. He was the Moderator for the National Junior Honor Society, advisor for various clubs. He received the Helen R. Brinsmaid Memorial Youth Worker award recognizing the work he accomplished with students. While at Albion, Ocie was the head coach for football, basketball, and track and assisted them in becoming league champions. Ocie brings these years of experience to Vertus, where he plans on building a strong and impactful football program that the entire Vertus family can be proud of. He hopes to achieve this goal by instilling core values in our athletes, along with our students in the classroom, and empowering them with knowledge, tools, and resources available to ensure their future success long after they graduate from Vertus. Ocie looks forward to building a rapport and strong relationships with all our students, families, and staff. He looks forward to the opportunity to positively influence our young men and help them understand that their current situation or circumstance does not define or determine their future.

LIKE US ON

facebook®

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

