



Vertus

HIGH SCHOOL

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Month at a Glance

February 2022

Academics/Character/Career

- Intersession week was a success. Students dressed up and down for Spirit Week visited the Rochester Museum and Science Center's new exhibition "Objectively Racist" and participated in various competitive games during our Tournament of Champions activities.
- Our Black History Month kick-off events included live music from Carlton Wilcox and Friends and a presentation by Carlos Merriweather, who dresses and speaks as Frederick Douglass. Students will be presenting all month on famous black figures in Rochester history.
- We have partnered with Lori Bajorek of the National Esports Association. Through this partnership, we will be offering three esports classes during the spring semester as a part of a pilot funded by the Daisy Marquis Jone's foundation.
- We are in the process of rescheduling the Blazer Ceremony for a date to be determined in March. Once we have confirmed the day and time, I will reissue invitations to the event.
- The Board Statistics shows that we have 269 students, down three from December. Two of those three were students from the 2017 Cohort that have completed their graduation requirements, giving us an 81% five-year graduation rate. We are on track to have at least an 89% five-year graduation rate by June. The third was an early graduate from the 2018 Cohort, who wanted to complete his requirements due to a family move.
- Our second Family Night of the year will be March 4th from 4:00- 6:00 pm. We'd love to have Board representation on that evening.
- The AntiRacist Curriculum Project, in conjunction with the Pathstone Foundation and led by Shane Wiegand and Kesha James, will provide two professional development sessions to our staff. The first session is a three-hour Inquiry Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education based PD on their Curriculum, focusing on Redlining, Civil Rights, and Civic Action in Rochester. The second session is a Social-Emotional Learning PD.

Finance/Operations/Compliance

- We completed our final report for the Wegmans Foundation grant we received last year and submitted a new grant proposal for this year. We received notification that we have been granted \$10,000 from the Bill Belichick Foundation, which will go towards the cost of our football program. We have also been invited to complete round 2 of the Greater Rochester Health Foundation application. Through the work of myself and Grants for Good, we have raised a total of \$103,000 in grant money during 2021.
- The CO/Smoke detectors to our Fire Detection System is in need of replacement. The total cost is estimated to be \$11,650. In first conversation with our landlord, they have indicated that this is a cost Vertus must incur. On further review of the lease there may be a clause that could change that determination.