



# Vertus

## HIGH SCHOOL

21 Humboldt Street  
Rochester, New York 14609

Tel (585) 747-8911  
Fax (585) 254-1251

### Month at a Glance September 2021

#### Academics/Character/Career

- We kicked off the school year, entirely in-person, on September 2 with 268 students. It has been great to be back, and almost like we never left. The first two days of school were dedicated to NWEA testing, resetting expectations, practicing procedures, and building school culture in our Tournament of Champions activities. The attendance average to date is 77%.
- RCSD's transportation crisis has left us with 64 students still unrouted. We have been transporting students without transportation. A spreadsheet listing all students needing a ride was shared, and staff signed up to pick up and drop off students. We recently got our new bus, created a route, and paid a driver to get as many as possible.
- The first-ever Vertus Football team played and won their first game on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> away at Palmyra-Macedon. The energy and spirit of the crowd were terrific, as was watching our young men work together, play tough, and come out on top.
- Vertus is, based on the application I completed last year, a Limited Service Laboratory designated to test for COVID-19. Per NYS guidelines, we will begin testing all unvaccinated staff weekly, starting September 27. To date, 86% of our team are fully vaccinated, along with 7% of our students. Guidelines do not require testing of students, but we will be randomly testing those students whose parents have permitted us.
- We are setting up another vaccination clinic at Vertus in October as an opportunity for students and families to get vaccinated.

#### Finance/Operations/Compliance

- We applied for and received the Emil Muller grant for \$20,000 to help support our trades programs, specifically construction. To date, we have won three grants Muller, Wegman Foundation, and JM McDonald Foundation, for a total of \$35,000 through our association with Grants4Good. Our grant for McGowan will be reviewed at their November meeting. We currently have three grants in process, ESL, Key Bank, and Corning. My Athletic Director has also worked to receive a \$16,000 Dicks Sporting Goods grant and equipment in kind for a total of over \$8,000 from an organization called Good Sports.
- The Finance Committee will be meeting with Michelle Cain from Mengel, Metzger, and Barr to review our annual audit on October 5 at 4 pm here at Vertus.
- Our audit with HR Works has been completed, and they are in the process of writing our Employee Manual. Other projects have been prioritized and will begin once the manual is complete.