



The Vertus Voice

Fall 2021

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

MAMBO KINGS



Hispanic Heritage

This year's Hispanic Heritage month celebration at Vertus High School was like none other. We kicked off our third Hispanic Heritage Month with an energetic morning meeting led by Mr. Carter and Ms. Maldonado. Ms. Maldonado gave us a short but informative history lesson about Hispanic Heritage Month and all of the different Latin American countries, followed by a Spanish word of the day, which she recommended everyone use throughout the day. The celebration did not stop there. We were joined by Rochester's own, The Mambo Kings, and our staff and young men listened and learned about Afro Caribbean Music.

In closing weeks, we had a visit from Ibero CEO Angelica Perez Delgado. She gave us some information about all of Ibero's services to the Latino Community in Rochester, NY. Our Vertus Multi-Cultural Club didn't stop there; the labs and teachers were assigned to a Latin American country for the most anticipated DOOR DECORATION, which seemed quite competitive by looking around at all the different doors throughout the school. On October 15th, the winners of the Door Decoration, the HBCU and Rochester labs, were rewarded with lunch from Sobrinos Restaurant. Thank You to all of our guests and organizers that helped us celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

If you have been to any events in Rochester, you have probably heard of Freddy Colon. Before joining Vertus, Freddy was a Program Director for a local radio station, a professional disk jockey, and started his own insurance company. Freddy is a Rochester native and attended East High School. After graduating, he attended MCC and Eastman Community Music School. Recently, he attended The Latin Jazz Ensemble at SUNY Oswego to teach about Hispanic Heritage Month. Freddy attributes his success to his work ethic, consistency, and always smiling. He brings years of experience working with teens in the community to our Vertus team.



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a message from the CEO

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." -Malcolm X



We feel the truth of this statement so much more this year as we return to a school full of students. We are pleased to be physically back in the building and provide an education to our young men in person. Our mission to "Develop leaders of character" relies on our ability to interact with our students while we work to engage them in the process of learning and preparing for their future. In today's world, where COVID and violence in our city have taken center stage, it is more important than ever to create opportunities and experiences that will provide a clear and positive path to the future. Our dedicated staff embraces this goal, and it shows in everything we do. The programs we offer give each student a chance to choose an area of interest to explore and grow. Whether it be barbering, construction, music production, robotics, or business, we have it available. In concert with our strong academic program, we prepare them for whatever they choose to do after high school.

We have declared the 2021-22 school year a year of "regrowth," defined as continuing to grow after an interruption. While we lost in-person instruction and social-emotional support time last year, we are moving forward with all of our energy focused on making up for the lost time. We believe that the strong relationships we develop with our students and families help us meet every student's needs. We continue to be grateful for the opportunity to work with our young men. While it often takes time to see the fruits of our labor, we are blessed to recognize and celebrate academic and character success every month. We cannot regain time lost last year, but we can focus on doing what is needed today to prepare our young men for the future.

come be a part of the #VertusDifference

Introducing Vertus Safety Patrol Team

As a part of our Anti Violence and Bullying Initiative, the primary purpose of the Safety Patrol Program is to enhance the safety of the school by empowering students to be their brother's keeper. The Safety Patrol Program also promotes the development of leadership skills and good character qualities in students.

Students who actively participate in this program will earn community service hours and/or volunteer work experience on their resumes and college applications.



Roles and Responsibilities:

- Look, act, and be alert
- Always set a good example. Know and practice safe transitions
- Treat others as you would like to be treated
- Report any student violations and violent behavior to the Deans
- Be dependable and trustworthy
- Report for duty on time
- Perform your patrol duties faithfully
- Be neat and clean while on duty
- Be courteous at all times
- Wear your Vertus vest proudly
- Encourage positive movement in the hallways

Art Mural

This mural was a collaborative process from start to finish by the Mural Arts class, an elective this past summer. Students, led by Anna Mack the art teacher, began by brainstorming themes and messages that resonated with them and felt were important to share with the community. They landed on a quote by Malcolm X and then brainstormed imagery that reflected the meaning of the quote. Finally, a location was chosen and a design appropriate for that location; it took three weeks to paint it on the wall.





college and CAREERS



Summer College Tours:

The Counseling Office utilized the summer session to expose students to a variety of colleges. This past summer, we visited the following colleges and universities: SUNY Fredonia, Genesee Community College, St. Bonaventure, and SUNY Geneseo. Eligible students attended these field trips to learn more about the admissions process, financial aid, housing, and the campus community.



Senior Spotlight: Niles Ragland-Bennett



The fall semester consists of seniors completing many “to-dos” preparing for life after high school. That’s why you can find Niles Ragland-Bennett in the Vertus College and Career Center, putting the finishing touches on his application to the Rochester Institute of Technology. Mr. Rice, Niles’s Preceptor going on three years, says, “Niles has wanted to attend R.I.T. since we met. He is relentless with his efforts in and out the classroom, and everyone that knows Niles, knows this.” Based on Niles’s persistence in his education, attending R.I.T. is only the beginning of his success. In addition to building on Vertus tradition, Niles provides his younger peers with a blueprint to success: Be relentless, be consistent, and be prepared for what is to come.

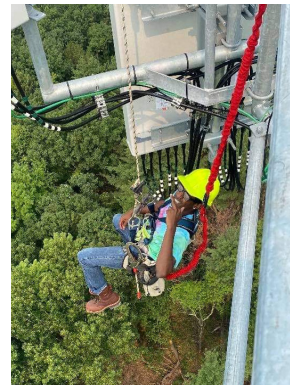
Where Are They Now - Alumnit Spotlight: Asa Vines

Once I graduated from Vertus, I immediately went into searching for jobs involving trades. I put in a lot of time and effort and bounced around doing all types of stuff, from carpentry to small plumbing jobs. After about a year, Mr. Allport texted me about the Issac program, and I took him up on his offer.

Once in the program, I did everything I could to soak up as much knowledge about the field of trades as possible. They taught us so much more than just how to build things, though. They taught me that whatever you can think of, there’s a job/career in it. I didn’t want to land a career that I would be miserable at and get no enjoyment out of, so I began looking at electrician work because I was always interested in that type of stuff.

My search led me to a company called Patriot Towers, where I currently work. The company is a cell tower company that replaces, fixes, and mounts ray caps, antennas, and radios for Verizon Wireless, AT&T, and many more cell phone companies. We climb towers anywhere from 50ft to 1000ft in the air. I travel out of the city almost every week for work. They pay for our hotels and even give us 33\$ in per-diem for each day we’re not local.

It’s a very fun career with lots of room for growth and improvement within the company. Right now, I’m doing a job for Broome County. I’m getting paid 52 an hour to build a 180ft cell tower. It’s crazy! I’ve really enjoyed my time here, and this is what I’m going to be doing for a long time.



upcoming EVENTS



in SPORTS



Football

The exciting inaugural first season of JV football for the Vertus Warriors has come to an end. The team finished the season with a record of 4-2. This is an amazing accomplishment for both the team and the entire coaching staff to be proud of. This being our first season, we all faced many challenges from start to finish. Everyone's resilience, preparation, accountability, commitment, and toughness helped us persevere through any obstacles in our way.

Here's a recap of our season:

In the season opener against Pal-Mac, Demencio Houston scored the first ever Vertus touchdown on a 70 yard interception return.

This ignited the fire as Zavion Little went on to score two touchdowns followed by individual touchdowns from Zacariah Randall and Qui'on Morgan. Defensively the team was led by Corey Hill with 10 tackles, Clayton Ellington

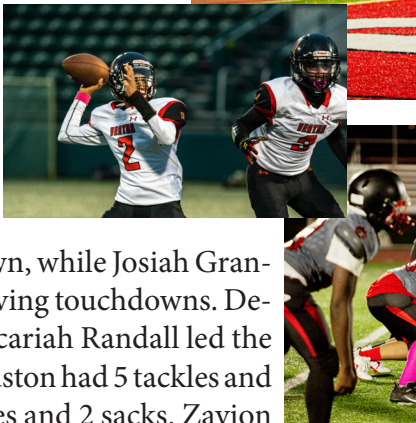
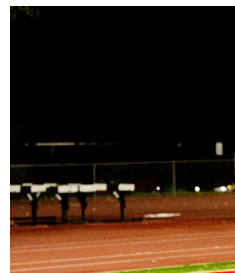
with 9 tackles, Zavion Little, Dorien Washington, and Demencio Houston all contributed a sack. Final score 34-8.

Next in line was Newark. In this game, Cherokee Hardman led the way with 3 rushing touchdowns.

Demencio Houston and Josiah Granville both contributed touchdowns to secure the Warriors win. Quarterback Malachi Jones went 4 for 7 passing for 128 yards and 2 touchdowns. Defensively the team was led by Qui'on Morgan and Nazir Edwards with 6 tackles each. Zavion Little and Corey Hill both had 5 tackles. Qui'on Morgan and Demencio Houston both had interceptions. Final score 34-6.

The Warriors versus HFL was a bit challenging due to numerous turnovers and penalties. Zacariah Randall scored the only touchdown for the Warriors during this game. The HFL Cougars handed the Vertus Warriors their first loss. Final score 6-34.

The Warriors bounced back in the game versus Wayne. Quarterback Malachi Jones led the team scoring 2 touchdowns and passed for 2 touchdowns. Zavion Little scored 1 rushing touchdown, while Josiah Granville and Jayden Ridley-Smith each scored receiving touchdowns. Defensively the team had a phenomenal game. Zacariah Randall led the team with 10 tackles and 2 sacks. Demencio Houston had 5 tackles and 1 interception. Dorien Washington had 4 tackles and 2 sacks. Zavion Little contributed a sack while Josiah Granville had an interception. Everyone's hard work secured the win for the warriors with a final score of 32-0.





in SPORTS

Next in line was the Wilson game. This game was the battle between Vertus and our own Mr. Rice's Wilson Magnet. Zacariah Randall led the team offensively with 2 receiving touchdowns. Josiah Granville and Jayden Ridley-Smith each had a touchdown reception. Zavion Little secured with a running touchdown. Defensively, Tyrell Nunez had a fumble recovery. Dorien Washington had a sack. The defense had 10 tackles resulting in a loss of yards for Wilson Magnet. Final score 34-6.

To cap off the season, we had a battle of the charter schools, Vertus vs UPrep. Both teams battled to a deadlock 0 half-time score. Although it was a battle to the end, turnovers and penalties hurt both teams throughout all 4 quarters. Defensively, Zacariah Randall had a sack and a fumble recovery. Nazir Edwards had a fumble recovery. Dale Benton III and Demencio Houston both had 9 tackles, while Josiah Granville contributed 7 tackles. The lone touchdown and 2 point conversion scored late in the game was by UPrep. Final score 0-8.

A message from the coach:

First and foremost, I would like to thank the parents for all of your support and for entrusting myself and the coaching staff with teaching and guiding your young men this football season. I would also like to thank my Vertus family and the coaching staff for all of their hard work in making this season a success. Thank you to everyone that took time out of their busy schedules to attend and support these young men every week. Overall, I am very proud of the team and the coaching staff for making our first inaugural year of JV football very exciting and memorable. The warriors played their hearts out and left it all on the field. I am looking forward to next season as Vertus will transition from a JV team to a varsity team. Go Warriors!!!!!!!

Winter Sports Start November 15th

We offer the following Winter sports-

- JV Basketball for 1st & 2nd Years
- Varsity Basketball for 3rd & 4th Years
- Varsity Indoor Track & Field for All Years

Student-athletes who wish to participate in any athletic programs at Vertus High School are expected to get re-qualified prior to each sports season they participate in. 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.schoolteams.com/> for up-to-date information on all athletic dates and times.



monthly AWARDS



Man of the Month



Zacariah Randall
June 2021

Man of the Month



Aslan Coleman
September 2021

Man of the Month



Martell Calliens
October 2021

Team of the Month



Team Go Bills
June 2021

Team of the Month



Team
Howard University
September 2021

Team of the Month



Team U of R
October 2021

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.

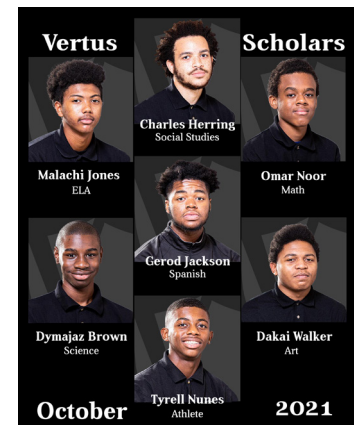
Vertus Scholars:

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



September

2021



October

2021

Staff Member of the Month



July 2021
William Strowe
Preceptor

Staff Member of the Month



August 2021
Anna Mack
Teacher

Staff Member of the Month



September 2021
Matt Owlett
Academic Intervention Specialist

Staff Member of the Month



October 2021
Saucobie Riley
Preceptor



in the COMMUNITY

**“We help our family, friends, and community. We respect and care for women.”
– Vertus Creed**



At Vertus, we live by our creed. This fall we have been active in the Rochester community, focusing on combatting domestic violence, participating in community service, fighting the pandemic, and registering our young men to vote.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and Vertus has partnered with Willow to bring awareness and help raise money to fight domestic violence. This year we hosted our third annual bake sale/open house on October 2nd. Through our efforts, Vertus raised \$1,000, with all proceeds going to Willow.



We also hosted a Covid-19 Vaccination clinic on October 2nd and 23rd, where over 40 people received the vaccination. Many of the people that took advantage of the clinic said thank you for bringing the clinic to their neighborhood.



Students from Vertus also volunteered and worked with the North Winton Road Association to help keep the neighborhood looking good. With the help of Mr. Daniels, students did gardening and landscaping on Blossom road.



In addition, we have partnered with members of the community to promote voter participation. For instance, the ladies from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (Rochester chapter) visited Vertus to stress the importance of voter registration and participation.

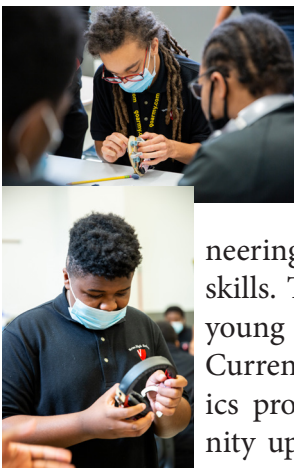
Through their efforts, 20 Vertus men registered and voted in recent elections.

Vertus is always looking for volunteer opportunities within the community. If you would like to become a part of the Vertus Difference, please reach out to Mr. Carter at (585)481-4495.



in ACADEMICS

L3Harris Robotics Program



Each Wednesday, Vertus High School has the privilege to welcome four professional engineers who look like our students to our school. These professionals help expose our students to STEM career opportunities by sharing their experiences in their professional fields. While participating in the program, students learn basic engineering, project management, and team-building skills. This provides a priceless experience for our young men who aspire to work in STEM fields. Currently, 16 students are enrolled in our robotics program, but we plan to open this opportunity up to other students as early as this Winter.



Spot the eight differences between the two photos:



HOME OF THE VERTUS WARRIORS

**TRANSFER
NOW!**

Seats are still available for the 2021-22 school year. If you wish to transfer your student, apply online or schedule a tour at vertusschool.org. Or you can contact our Senior Recruiter, Michael James, (585) 481-4503, mjames@vertusschool.org

**School choice is
YOUR choice!**

