

Volts Voice

Principals' Message . . .

Dear Volts Parent/Guardian:

The third quarter is off to a wonderful start! Students and staff returned from winter break refreshed and ready to continue the academic and personal success we enjoyed first semester.

Second semester is a good time to talk with your student about setting personal and academic goals: be on time, do their assignments each night, and get help when they need it. Our staff offers so many opportunities for individual help. Remind your students to use the Instructional Support Sessions (ISS), we continue to notice the increased success of students who attend these sessions. Remind your student that additional Instructional Support Sessions could be scheduled if they need more help. We are so very fortunate to have such accomplished staff who dedicate themselves to our students. There are only two reasons for students to fail a class - they were not trying or they were not attending.

With your help, our students are making some remarkable gains. Below are five areas where we have noticed significant improvements:


1. Compared to last school year at this same time, our students overall pass rate increased by 10%.
2. Our part-time students pass rate increased by 20%.
3. Overall communication between parents and teachers has improved two-fold.
4. Attendance reports indicate that attendance has improved.
5. Students on average are having more discussions with their peers and teachers.

Areas we will continue to work on for this school year:

1. We will work on reducing the freshman course failure rate by 5%.
2. We will continue to work on new and innovative ways to help students to be more successful in algebra and geometry. We hope to decrease the failure rate of students taking both algebra and geometry by 5%.
3. We will continue to work on student attendance.

These goals are realistic, and with your help we will achieve them! Do not hesitate to call or email me if you have any concerns. We are in this together to make sure that your students are successful and competitive!

Sincerely,



Dr. Essington Wade



Virtual High School CCSD

Important Dates—2008

- > Spring Break 3/17—3/21
- > Classes Resume 3/24
- > Proficiency Exams 3/31
- > Proficiency Exams 4/1
- > Proficiency Exams 4/2
- > Memorial Day 5/26
- > VHS Exams 5/27—5/30
- > End of School 6/4
- > VHS Graduation 6/5



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Upcoming Events

VHS Students take advantage of the following –

Mark your calendar!



Scholarship/Financial Aid Workshop for Juniors

All CCSD 11th grade students and their parents are invited to attend the School/Community Culturally Diverse Scholarship and Financial Aid Workshops on *Wednesday, February 20, 2008* at Cashman Center Theatre, 850 Las Vegas Blvd. North. The general presentation will held from 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. At 7:00 p.m., representatives from community cultural groups will provide specific cultural scholarship and financial aid information. This is an excellent opportunity for juniors and their parents to learn more about the college/university financial aid and scholarship process.

Informational Workshop on ACT/SAT to be Held for Juniors

CCSD juniors and their parents are invited to attend a free workshop intended to provide information on the ACT/SAT. The workshop will be held on *Saturday, February 23, 2008* at UNLV in the Carol Harter Classroom Building Complex, Building "A," Room A-112. Attendees may park in the Thomas & Mack parking lot. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and the workshop will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Advanced Placement on the Rise in CCSD

Enrollment in Advanced Placement (AP) courses in CCSD high schools is up significantly over the past year. There are a number of reasons CCSD students are choosing to take AP courses more than ever before. First, Advanced Placement courses reflect college-level work, so students can demonstrate to prospective colleges and universities that they are capable of succeeding in rigorous courses. Second, students may also earn college credit by taking AP courses. Students who take AP exams in May and earn a score of 3, 4, or 5 (on a scale of 1-5) may earn college credit for the course. (College and University AP credit policies differ, so students are advised to inquire about AP policies at the school(s) they are interested in attending.) Third, it is possible to earn enough college credits to complete a college degree in less time, which also equates to a financial savings. The cost per AP Exam is \$84.00; however, AP fee waiver assistance for qualified students is available through the counseling office. Qualified students pay just \$10.00 per AP exam. Students interested in enrolling in an AP course next year should speak to your high school counselor.

PSAT Results Distributed in High Schools

Results from the October PSAT test administration were be distributed in all Clark County School District high schools during the months of January and February. The test was mandatory for all CCSD 10th grade students and was encouraged but optional for 11th grade students. Students will receive their PSAT Score Report Plus and their test booklet. Staff members will assist students on interpreting the different sections of the PSAT. Students will also be encouraged to create an online account for *My College Quickstart*. This is a free online personalized college, career, and test preparation tool that may be accessed until the student graduates from high school. Students must visit www.collegeboard.com/quickstart to create an account by entering their unique access code found on their official PSAT Score Report.

Understanding PSAT Results Parent Sessions

Information sessions to assist parents understand PSAT Results will be held in early March at two CCSD high schools from 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. and repeated from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Parents are encouraged to attend one of the sessions to gain awareness of their child's test scores, answers, college readiness skills, the National Merit Scholarship, and My College Quick Start. The dates and locations are listed below.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
March 4, 2008	Del Sol High School – 3100 East Patrick Lane (On Patrick, between Eastern and Pecos)
March 6, 2008	Cimarron-Memorial High School – 2301 North Tenaya Way (On Tenaya, between Lake Mead and Smoke Ranch)



Summer
School

June 16 thru
July 24, 2008

Information will be
available on our
website after
March 1, 2008.

Summer Youth Program. . .

Las Vegas Water District is once again offering their Summer Youth Program. This year's theme is *"Preparing for the Roads Ahead"* and offers employment to high school students in four areas: Clerical, Custodial, Laborer, Groundskeeping. Pay ranges from \$7.00–\$13.00 per hour.

GOAL

To invest and participate in our community's efforts and educational endeavors by providing students with training and career options, while developing positive work habits in a culturally diverse working environment.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Summer Youth Program is summer employment designed to train, employ, and monitor the progress of high school and first year college students. The positions offered will be different from the "unskilled laborer" jobs traditionally offered to students. The students will consist of young adults who have the ability to function in these positions, but for whatever reason have not had an opportunity to attain these positions. Summer youths are not viewed only as additional help. While routine tasks are a part of the "whole" experience, summer youths are given an opportunity to demonstrate their skills and abilities. Through this program, the District will also benefit by having assistance for special projects and maintain its ideals as "Leaders in Service."

REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for employment, a student must be:

- 16 to college age;
- enrolled in high school or college earning a minimum of nine (9) credit hours in a semester;
- successfully pass a drug screening evaluation.

Summer employees who graduate and do not intend to enroll in college may spend their graduate year enrolled in the Summer Youth Program; however, they will not be eligible to return. Summer employees who graduate and plan to attend college will be permitted to return with proof of college enrollment form.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Students wishing to be considered for the Summer Youth Program will be required to submit to Human Resources a Summer Employment Application. Applications are available beginning February 1st of each year and received through the end of April. You may apply online at www.lvwwd.com. The successful applicant will also be required to pass a drug screening check and provide a copy of any necessary documentation to verify student status and current enrollment as well as a driver's license, social security card and work permit (if under the age of 18).

Apply online at www.lvwwd.com



2008 Summer School

- Virtual High School Summer School registration will be available online starting April 1, 2008 and end June 8, 2008.
- Fee: \$100 per course (students can take up to two courses)
- All courses are online and students will need to purchase a headset (available at VHS)
- Students cannot take semester one and semester two of the same course unless they previously failed one of the courses and need to replace the grade.
- Courses offered:

Health	English I – semester one
English I – semester two	English II – semester one
English II – semester two	US History – semester one
US History – semester two	US Government – semester one
US Government – semester two	World History – semester one
World History – semester two	Algebra I – semester one
Algebra I – semester two	Personal Wellness I – semester one
Personal Wellness I – semester two	

We're on the Web!
ccsdde.net



Class of 2008 Graduation

Virtual High School Full-Time Seniors

- ◆ 2008 VHS Graduation Ceremony
- ◆ June 5th at 1 p.m.
- ◆ Advanced Technology Academy Auditorium

Visit the **Student Help and Resource tab** inside your virtual classroom for announcements

Important dates:

2/15/08	Updated Senior Transcripts
3/10/08	Deadline to order Cap and Gown Announcements and Rings— order @ www.balfour.com Graduation Pictures— Bernhard and Williams 251-3040 x 13
3/17-27	Senior Graduation Application (scheduled by counselor)
5/14/08	Senior Meeting @ VHS starting at 3 p.m.
5/27-30	Senior Checkout Process (scheduled by counselor)
6/5/08	Graduation Practice @ VHS starting at 8 a.m.
6/5/08	Graduates arrive for ceremony @ VHS at noon

Additional information Contact—Senior Counselor, Tanya Mras
Blackboard Course = “**Class of 2008** “
Message counselor with questions

Second Semester Reminders for Seniors

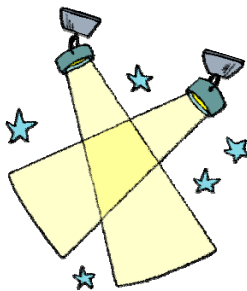
First, the admissions application deadline for UNLV and UNR was **February 1**, but interested seniors are still encouraged to apply. Second, most colleges will need a copy of the student’s **7th semester transcript**, which includes grades from first semester of the senior year. This may be requested through the high school Registrar’s office. Third, students and parents should have submitted the **FAFSA** to the federal government. Colleges use the FAFSA as a means of determining federal eligibility for financial aid (grants/scholarships, loans, and work study).

Finally, **keep applying for scholarships!** Each CCSD high school has a College/Scholarship Counselor who can assist students and parents with the scholarship process.

SPOTLIGHT ON VHS

Congratulation to three VHS Students who will be recognized March 5, 2008 at the 2nd annual **“Drive for Excellence”** for their educational accomplishments. These seniors maintained a 3.7 cumulative GPA or higher through the 1st semester with no unexcused absence. Way to go:

- Ngan Nguyen
- Kelly Perez
- Brennan Zinninger



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Principal: Dr. Essington Wade

Assistant Principal: Jamie Miller

Curriculum: Lynda Spann

Web Coordinator: Frank Clark

Blackboard Design: Jamie Woodard

Blackboard Design: Steve Bzinak

Tech Support: Robert Attebery

Counselor: Candace McCarthy

Office Manager: Cheryl Roberts

Senior Information

Athletes and the NCAA Clearinghouse

Students who plan to attend an NCAA Division I or II institution and who wish to participate in intercollegiate athletics need to follow initial eligibility procedures established by the NCAA Clearinghouse. *Students must make their school counselor and their coach aware of their interest in collegiate athletics, as high school courses must be NCAA-approved.* Current high school juniors should plan to take the ACT or SAT by the end of their eleventh grade year. When registering for the ACT/SAT, use code 9999 to report test scores to the NCAA Clearinghouse. At the start of the senior year, students should register with the Clearinghouse online at <https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/>. At the time of registration, students should request that their high school transcript be sent to the Clearinghouse. Following graduation, high school seniors must also request that their final high school transcript be sent to the Clearinghouse. For more information, call the NCAA hotline at 1-877-262-1492 or visit the website.

NCIS Available for Nevada Students

CCSD students have FREE access to the Nevada Career Information System (NCIS), which is a career exploration and educational planning tool. Students and parents may log on to www.nvcis.intocareers.org in order to access this resource. Upon log-in, students may enter the username: ncis and the password: Nevada in order to proceed (zip code/area code may also be entered for access). Students can learn about colleges, universities, apprenticeships, and financial aid opportunities. In addition, students may take a career assessment, which enables them to explore a wide variety of occupations by matching interests and skills. NCIS is provided to Nevada students by the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation.

Attendance Update

The staff at Virtual High School would like to thank parents, guardians and students for their effort in complying with the CCSD regulations on attendance procedures. Please continue to communicate with Virtual High School Staff via phone calls and written communication regarding attendance and student excuses.



VHS Graduation
 June 5, 2008
 1:00 p.m.