

Volts Voice

Principal's Message . . .



Dear Volts Parents:

I cannot believe we are in the month of May already. The end of the school year is near, and we are gearing up for graduation, summer school, and the beginning of the 2008-09 school year. We have enjoyed another positive and successful year at Virtual High School. We could not have done it without all of your support!

We have a lot to celebrate this year, and I know that next year will be just as exciting! Students in all disciplines and all grade levels were more successful, and the message I received from parents, is that they felt like they were more informed and connected this year than in previous years. The Volts staff will continue to strive to make sure that your students get the highest quality education, and at the same time provide them with 21st Century skills. In addition, the Volts staff will continue to find new ways to have meaningful communication with you.

The CCSD purchased a new parent communication tool, *Parentlink*, for the 2008-09 school year, and one of the features of this program is an auto dialer that informs parents of key information in a timely manner. Important dates, attendance, and special announcements are a few areas that *Parentlink* will help us to better communicate with you. Please make sure that you provide us with accurate phone numbers and email addresses so you may stay informed.

Some of your students may be studying for Advanced Placement exams. Remind them to stay calm, and use what they have learned over this school year. They are ready. Do not let them stress themselves out too much.

I know you may have already marked your calendar, but if you did not, commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2008, will be Thursday, June 5, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the Advanced Technology Academy Auditorium. Everyone is invited to honor our graduates, and enjoy our final festivity for the 2007-08 school year.

I would like you to consider joining the Virtual HS Parent Advisory Committee for the 2008-09 school year. We need to work together to make our students the best in the nation! Have a terrific summer. We have ended the year as positive as we began.

Sincerely,

E. Wade

Dr. Essington Wade

Important Dates—2008

- > Memorial Day 5/26
- > VHS Exams 5/27—5/30
- > End of School 6/4
- > VHS Graduation 6/5
- > Summer School 6/16



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VHS Pilot Programs . . .

VHS Students Piloting “Speaking” Software

A group of Virtual High School students are currently testing “speaking” software created by Premier Assistive Technology. The software takes various types of computerized text (such as word processing documents, web pages, and pdf files) and reads the text to the user. Users can change the computer voice, the pitch of the voice, and the speed at which the text is read. Users can record the read passage and save it as an mp3 file to be played back on an mp3 player. Users can also burn the reading to a CD to be played back on a CD player.

With the Virtual High School curriculum being completely online, it was decided to test this software as a resource that could help our students. VHS invited 20 students to come in for training on how to use the software. The students who accepted the invitation were given the software on a USB drive as well as the necessary documentation to get started. VHS will follow up with these students, surveying them on the usefulness of the software. The results of the survey will determine if VHS will look into the possibility of making the software available to all students.

More students are still needed to test the software. We are looking for students who will be attending VHS in the fall, and who are running Window XP or Windows Vista at home. If you are interested in testing the software and are able to come to VHS for training, please contact Steve Bzinak at 855-4835 x 4822 or sbzinak@vhsvolts.net.

VHS Home Rooms

Class of 2008 Online Classroom

Seniors have a special online classroom where they can go to access information pertaining to their class. Information regarding:

- ◆ Scholarships
- ◆ College Opportunities
- ◆ Proficiency Tutoring
- ◆ Graduation
- ◆ Web Resources
- ◆ and more

can all be found online in the **Class of 2008** classroom.

Class of 2009 Online Classroom

Currently under construction for 2008-09 school year.

Class of 2010 Online Classroom

Currently under construction for 2008-09 school year.

Class of 2011 Online Classroom

Current Freshman have a special online classroom where they can go to access information pertaining to their class. Information regarding:

- ◆ College Planning and Scholarship Handbook
- ◆ Education Plan
- ◆ Student Academic Plan
- ◆ Nevada Career Information System



Outstanding Seniors . . .

Latin Chamber of Commerce Scholarship—Kelly Perez

Scholarships are always on the minds of all seniors throughout the district who plan to attend college. Virtual High School students are no exception, therefore it was an honor to watch one of our seniors, Kelly Perez, walk on stage to receive a scholarship from The Latin Chamber of Commerce. It was held at the Gold Coast where students and representatives from each school were honored with a luncheon for their hard work and dedication to education. The Latin Chamber of Commerce has a mission to provide students with awards to say "thank you" for making a difference in our schools. Kelly Perez is one of our best examples of a student who is a diligent worker who has helped out with tutoring our Spanish and French classes. She is one who is motivated and the first to ask where to buy that cap and gown. She is a shining star here at Virtual High School. It was a pleasure to see the smile beaming on her face as she was honored and we are looking forward to graduation day as she receives her honors diploma with presidential award. Kelly is in the running for valedictorian, so it is apparent that this young lady will be an asset to the college of her choice. Mrs. Attebery says, "I know as once her instructor and now her counselor, I am very proud of what she has accomplished so far and am excited to see what she will do in the future." Congratulations Kelly Perez from all of us here at Virtual High School! You make us Proud!



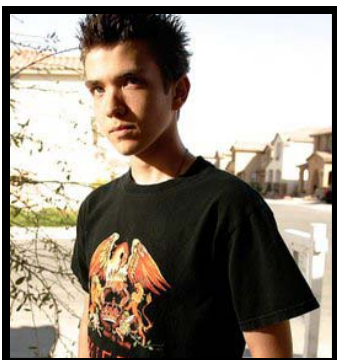
Spanish IV Written Competition—Kelly Perez 1st place winner

Kelly Perez is a very dedicated and motivated student. She is currently in her fourth year course of Spanish and has also taken three years of French. She has a full schedule currently at Virtual High School comprised of several AP courses and has managed to keep her 4.0 grade point average.

Kelly has been recognized by several community organizations such as the Latin Chamber of Commerce for her many accomplishments and has just recently won first place in the Spanish Essay Writing Competition at the Clark County School District's Foreign Language fair held on April 5th. This was a great honor because Kelly went against many of her fourth level language peers and was chosen the winner by a board of judges which are currently foreign language teachers for the school district.

It is a great honor to have Kelly Perez represent Virtual High School, she stands as an example of the many great accomplishments possible being a part of online learning.

He's graduating without having stepped foot in a classroom—Matt Sosa



Senior Matt Sosa, will be the first student of Virtual High School to spend all four years in the program and will graduate this year. Sosa, who enrolled for medical reasons, says online learning isn't for everyone and self-discipline is key to success. When Matt graduates this spring, he will do so without having attended even one class at a brick-and-mortar high school.

Instead, he's spent the past four years downloading his teachers' lectures onto his home computer, participating in group discussions via live chat rooms and e-mailing his homework. Sosa will be the first graduate of the Clark County School District's Virtual High School to complete grades 9-12 through the program.

**Congratulations to all Seniors at
Virtual High School!**

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:

- 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-Attebery
Blackboard Course = “**Class of 2008**” Message counselor with questions

2008 Summer School



- Virtual High School Summer School registration is open and will 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.
- Summer School orientation for all students will be
 - ◆ 9th Grade—June 9, 2008 two sessions—8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m.
 - ◆ 10th Grade—June 10, 2008 two sessions—8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m.
 - ◆ 11th Grade—June 11, 2008 two sessions—8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m.
 - ◆ 12th Grade—June 12, 2008 two sessions—8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m.
- Courses offered:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health English I – semester two English II – semester two US History – semester two US Government – semester two World History – semester two Algebra I – semester two Personal Wellness I – semester two 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English I – semester one English II – semester one US History – semester one US Government – semester one World History – semester one Algebra I – semester one Personal Wellness I – semester one
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We're on the Web!
ccsdde.net

Counselor News . . .



SAGE Academy at UNLV—UNLV will be hosting the Summer Advanced Gifted Education (SAGE) Academy from July 21 – August 8, 2008. Gifted 9th – 12th grade students are eligible to attend. Students may be identified as gifted by achieving certain SAT/ACT scores, being named as a National Merit Semifinalist, having taken Honors/AP classes in their high schools, or by receiving a letter of recommendation from their counselor. Cost to participate is \$800, which includes daily lunches, textbooks, and a parking pass. Students must provide transportation to and from UNLV. Students will take one college course from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday to earn 3 UNLV college credits, as well as high school enrichment credit. Courses are offered in most content areas, and space is available in foreign languages and in fine arts in particular. Tuition assistance is available to students who qualify. For more information, please call (702) 895-1688 or visit the SAGE website at <http://edoutreach.unlv.edu/sage/index.html>.

Travel Credit May Be Earned This Summer—High school students may earn elective credit while traveling this summer. Students who travel for a total of 21 days may earn ½ credit, and students who travel for a total of 42 days may earn 1.0 credit. In order to do so, students must see their high school counselor in order to get pre-approval. Upon approval, the student must keep a journal of what he/she learned while traveling, including pictures of the student on the trip. These materials must be submitted to the counselor within three months after the student returns.

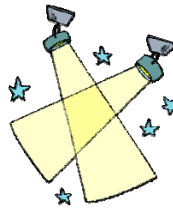
Volunteering Can Get You Credit! - High school students may earn elective credit by volunteering in the community. Students who volunteer for a total of 60 hours may earn ½ credit, and students who volunteer for a total of 120 hours may earn 1.0 credit. In order to begin the process, the student must meet with his/her high school counselor to get pre-approval. Parents must also approve the community service experience. Students must then locate a community site at which to volunteer. Volunteer sites in the community must be non-profit agencies, such as animal shelters, elementary schools, and hospitals. There must be an adult at the volunteer site to supervise duties and hours spent in service. At the conclusion, students must write a brief narrative describing the community service experience.

Seniors – ACT/SAT Scores Determine College Placement—Seniors are reminded that their ACT/SAT scores determine placement in math and English courses at all Nevada colleges and universities. In order to place into English 101 (non-remedial English), seniors must have a minimum ACT English score of 21 or a minimum SAT Critical Reading score of 510. In order to place into Math 120 (non-remedial math), seniors must have a minimum ACT math score of 21 or a minimum SAT math score of 510. Math 124 (non-remedial math) requires a minimum ACT math score of 22 or a minimum SAT math score of 520. Seniors who may not meet the score requirement for non-remedial courses are encouraged to speak with a representative from the college/university of their choice, as policies on the placement of students in remedial courses vary by institution. Seniors are reminded that the Millennium Scholarship will not pay for remedial-level college courses.

Seniors – Have you received your financial aid award letter? - Colleges send out financial aid award letters in the spring. Seniors and their parents/guardians are urged to compare awards carefully: what matters most is the “bottom line” – the net cost to attend each college. The CollegeBoard provides a “Compare Aid Awards” tool online at www.collegeboard.com in the Students Pay for College section. A financial package will often consist of grants, loans, work-study, and scholarships. Consider the awards very carefully and remember: grants, scholarships, and work-study do **not** have to be repaid, while all loans must be repaid. Finally, if a change in family financial circumstances has occurred since the financial aid application was submitted, the student/parent may appeal the award offered by the college(s).

Students – Visit a College Campus This Summer—Summer is a perfect time to plan for a College Campus visit. Begin researching colleges and universities by visiting their websites. When a potential list of colleges is determined, plan your summer campus visit. Schedule a campus tour with the admissions or recruitment office. Try to do so when summer classes are in session. This way, you can get a “true” experience with students, professors, and classes being held on campus. You may want to ask if it is possible to attend a lecture, stay in the dorms, visit an athletic practice, or meet with a financial aid administrator. Consider those characteristics of a college that are most important to you, take good notes, and bring a camera. A Checklist for a Campus Visit is available in the CCSD *College Planning and Scholarship Handbook*. Students and parents may download this document at www.ccsd.net in the Students section.

Students: Service Academies and the Nomination Process—Service Academies include the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. Each Academy requires a congressional nomination that begins by writing a letter to the local office of your Senator and your Congressional Representative. (The Coast Guard Academy does not require Congressional nomination.) In the letter, you must state that you would like to attend a Service Academy and would like to be considered for a nomination. Most interested students begin by sending letters in the spring of their junior year. Students may apply to more than one Academy. Each congressional office will send a packet of information to interested candidates. A completed application packet includes: the application form, official high school transcripts, SAT/ACT scores, and three letters of recommendation. *Please note: ACT/SAT scores are weighted highly when Service Academy appointments are determined.* The completed application deadline is November 1st each year. For more information, contact your local Senator or Congressional Representative’s office.



Spotlight on VHS . . .



Congratulations to Ms. Darlene Marshall, VHS Attendance clerk who recently completed the **CCSD Clerical Academy**. The Support Staff Training Department provided a twelve week administrative training class for all Office Specialist II and Clerks. During this training they were introduced to Personnel Policies and Regulations, Budget and Payroll Procedures, Risk Management, Processing Accident, Burglary and Claims Reports. The purpose of the Clerical Academy is to enlighten Clerks of the responsibility of an Administrative School Secretary. Upon completion of the Clerical Academy participants have the skills to advance within the district.

Congratulations to Michael Chen! Michael is currently an 8th grader at Hyde Park MS who is taking Geometry at Virtual High School. Michael took first place in the Southern Nevada Secondary Mathematics Contest, winning over high school students in the district.



Principal: Dr. Essington Wade
Assistant Principal: Jami Miller
Curriculum: Lynda Spann
Web Coordinator: Frank Clark
Blackboard Design: Jamie Woodard
Blackboard Design: Steve Bzinak
Tech Support: Devin Wortham
Counselor: Tanya Attebery
Counselor: Candace McCarthy
Admin. Secretary: Cheryl Roberts

**Fall registration
will be open
starting May 10, 2008
[www.ccsdde.net!](http://www.ccsdde.net)**



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