

Knightly News

Van Buren Local School
217 South Main Street
Van Buren, Ohio 45889
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Superintendent's Office — 419-299-3578 High School — 419-299-3384 Elementary — 419-299-3416

Van Buren's Very Own Superhero

April 5, was the 100th day in preschool!!! Did you know Mr. Blum was a superhero in his spare time? He was nice enough to come and surprise our preschoolers as Zero the Hero!! We have been talking about him since school started and they were all super excited to meet the real-life Zero the Hero. Thank you Mr. Blum!!!! They are all still watching out the window to see you fly by!!

A little back story of Zero the Hero... zero was sad because he didn't have any numbers that he paired up with. So that's when Zero the Hero came and paired the zero up with numbers. Every tenth day (10, 20, 30..etc) Zero the Hero came and left his "picture" (usually dressed in something that related to the month or holiday) and a special treat to make the number we were celebrating that day. Well today on our 100th school day, the real-life Zero the Hero came!



Power of the Pen District Competition

Van Buren Middle School had five writers represent the Black Knights at the Power of the Pen Regional Competition. Now that the results are in, we are happy to announce that 7th graders, Eleanore Poca and Annaleis Cooper have qualified for the State Competition! Both Eleanore and Annaleis had one essay finish in first place in their group and finish second in another. They are enthusiastic about the opportunity of making it onto the next round. "I am nervous but also very excited about making it to this round." Poca said. Annaleis felt similar, "I feel prepared yet nervous. But nervous in a good way." Each writer feels they can do well but most importantly, they are looking forward to having fun during this experience.

The 2022 State Tournament is being held May 12-13, 2022, at Otterbein University. Good luck, writers!



MS Student Places at NW Ohio Spelling Bee

The Blade's 2022 Northwest Ohio Championship Spelling Bee was held on Saturday, March 19, 2022, at the Center for Fine & Performing Arts at Owens Community College. Way to represent Van Buren Middle School, Pranav Dinavahi! Pranav took 3rd place out of 22 Northwest Ohio spellers. Super Job, Pranav! #VB-Proud



Van Buren High School/Middle School Guidance - Mr. Zender

- Any student who needs to complete class credit work before next year needs to see Mr. Zender by the end of the school year for make-up work information if failing a class.
- All Van Buren Scholarships are now available in the guidance office throughout April.
- The annual scholastic awards assembly will be on Thursday, June 2 at 6:30 P.M. in the high school auditorium. All parents and friends are welcome to attend. Also, If there are any awards, scholarships, or recognition that you would like your son/ daughter to be recognized for at the senior awards program, feel free to contact me at school. Seniors are also aware of this.
- Any high school schedule changes for next year need to be taken care of before the end of the year. We need to have accurate numbers for ordering supplies and materials for classes.
- College CCP classes for the fall need to be scheduled by the end of the school year. Students should meet with Mr. Zender to finalize their schedule of classes at Van Buren.



School News

Van Buren Treasurer's Department Welcomes Kelley Allred as Assistant Treasurer/Payroll and Melanie Feather as Assistant Treasurer/Accounts Payable



Kelley Allred

Kelley joined the Van Buren Treasurer's office in November of 2021, and is processing payroll and benefits for the district. She comes to us with over 18 years experience in public school finance and several years in banking. Kelley holds an Ohio School Treasurer's License and a Master's degree from Lourdes University.

Weekends are spent with her husband, 2 children, and 6 grandchildren. They fill her spare time with sports, dance, and gymnastics, especially with them living away from the immediate area.

Any other time is spent quilting, gardening, or volunteering in her church.

"I have enjoyed my first few months here in getting to meet the staff and look forward to streamlining some processes so that the staff can spend their time in the classroom rather than doing paperwork. Please stop in the office and introduce yourself."

Melanie Feather

Melanie comes to us as the accounts payable person with 20 years' experience in the school setting. First in the preschool classroom as an aide (so she could attend her children's sporting events) and then in the Fiscal office. Her husband Chris is a school bus driver of 35+ years and farms a small family farm.

In their spare time they love spending time with their family and extended family. They have 5 children and 15 grandchildren, some that live out of state. Melanie and Chris are blessed with a large extended family as they did foster care for 10 years recently retiring but still supporting other foster parents.

They LOVE to travel, especially cruising. Their favorite places are Half Moon Cay Island and San Juan.

Melanie looks forward to being a part of the Van Buren Schools and meeting everyone. She grew up in a small town in Indiana and always loved the sense of family and pride in the small town communities.



Outdoor Power Boys - STATE BOUND!

Van Buren is very proud of our boys: Jacob Deiter, Carter Thomas, and Schae Deerwester for placing 2nd in the entire district and earning their way to the state competition! These boys work hard! Best of Luck!



~ ~ Please note Date and Time CHANGE ~ ~

**Class of 2022 Graduation
Sunday, June 5, 2022, @ 2:00 P.M.
High School Gymnasium**

Elementary Menu

School News

Career Planning/Advising Update



Career Advising Opportunities: Students who are in need of career advising (completion of assessments to determine potential career paths, exploration of ways to achieve career goals, employment opportunities, etc.) are welcome to set up a meeting with Brian Bratt, who is working as a career advisor this year in addition to his teaching responsibilities. To set up a meeting, students can visit bit.ly/VBcareeradvising (URL is case-sensitive) and choose a meeting time which works for them.

The Interviewing People Careercast Update: Van Buren graduates **Austin Essinger** ('14 - IT Support Technician at Wyandot Memorial Hospital) and **Evan Haffenden** ('06 - Commodity Manager/Supply Chain at Accuride Corporation) are just a few of the alumni who have shared their career stories to help current VB students learn more about the career options they will have after graduation. **If you would like to watch these interviews and others, visit bit.ly/InterviewingPeople** (URL is case-sensitive). If you are a VB graduate or know a VB graduate who is having a positive impact on the world, please e-mail bbratt@vbschools.net so more graduates can share the stories of their career paths and contribute to the growth of current students.

Career Speaker: Sophomores, juniors, and seniors had the opportunity to hear from **Ken Rood of DNC Hydraulics** on March 25 as he spoke about his career journey and the opportunities DNC Hydraulics has for VB graduates. Mr. Rood joined **McKenzie Shaw** and **Mark Reed of GROB Systems in Bluffton** and **Tricia Valasek of Raise the Bar Hancock County** (speaking about the apprenticeship program) as speakers who have spoken to the sophomore English classes and interested juniors and seniors during lunch meetings this year.



If you would like to come into classrooms or have a lunch meeting to talk to students about opportunities in your career field/business, please e-mail bbratt@vbschools.net to set up dates and times. We always welcome speakers who can help our students grow and become more aware of the opportunities they have.

Reverse Job Fair at Millstream Career Center: Seniors Caleb Dutton, Bradey Gerding, and Devin Thomas, in addition to juniors and seniors who attend Millstream, participated in a reverse job fair at Millstream on March 25. Employers ranging from health care to information technology to construction and looking to hire for full-time, part-time, or the summer circulated through the halls of Millstream to meet students. Students were able to learn about career opportunities and give their résumés to any employers who had positions which interested them.

Children's Mentoring Connection: Nikki Hagerty of Children's Mentoring Connection met with interested freshmen, sophomores, and juniors during lunch on April 21 to talk about opportunities to mentor VB Elementary students during the 2022-2023 school year. Students need to apply to participate in the program, and if accepted, they will be trained as mentors before meeting with their elementary mentees once a week during lunch. Participants will be able to use the time they volunteer to the program to work toward earning the Community Service graduation seal. The opportunity to apply is still available, so any students who are interested should e-mail bbratt@vbschools.net for more information.



FFA News

Van Buren FFA Receives Living to Serve Grant from National FFA Organization.

The Van Buren FFA chapter in Van Buren, Ohio has been awarded a Spring Semester-Long Living to Serve Grant in the amount of \$500. The nationwide program provides grant money to local FFA chapters to support semester-long service-learning projects that address needs related to community safety; environmental responsibility; hunger, health and nutrition; and community engagement during the fall semester.

Van Buren FFA plans to help address the small town community by creating a sustainable garden that produces a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. It is open to the community and upkeep is provided by students and community members. The goal of this project was to teach students how to care and maintain a garden and provide for our community.

The program provided over \$52,000 to FFA chapters in 25 states. The 2022 Spring Semester-Long Living to Serve Grants are sponsored by Tractor Supply Company and Cargill. For more information and a complete listing of sponsors, visit FFA.org/livingtoserve.

The National FFA Organization is a school-based national youth leadership development organization of more than 735,000 student members as part of 8,817 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



Agricultural Sales 2022

Jillian Walters, Van Buren FFA Reporter

On February 10, 2022, four of the Van Buren FFA members participated in the Agricultural Sales competition. Curtis Ware, James Homan, Mussie Hanson, and Jillian Walters did exceptionally well in the team portion of the contest and also very well in the individual portion. James Homan placed 1st on the team and 3rd place overall. The students are tasked with selling trees for a landscaping company. Overall we are very proud of their teamwork and dedication!



These Girls Are Ready to Communicate!

By: Ava Cramer, Van Buren FFA

We had a group of four ladies qualify for the STATE Agricultural Communications CDE. They were tasked with coming up with a pitch to educate people about the FFA. The participants were Zoe Fruth, Anna Durliat, Kayla Fisher, and Ava Cramer.

"For Ag Communications we are a group of four, at which we first had to come up with a plan of how FFA members created a garden and how to pitch it on social media. After we completed that we found out we made it to state. At that point we had to as a group make a presentation about the garden and how we could get the word out about the garden. As individuals we each had to complete our own tasks within the competition."

For their roles Zoe Fruth created a website, Anna Durliat wrote a Blog Post, Kayla Fisher made a Media Video, and Ava Cramer created a press release. They earned 13th in the entire State of Ohio. The girls said, "We had a lot of fun working together, and it was a great experience to learn through participating in FFA." We are proud of their work!



Cabaret 2022

Featuring *The Association*

Showcasing the Musical Talent of Van Buren High School on **Saturday and Sunday, May 21 & 22**

in the Van Buren Auditorium.

More Information to follow.

AND

The Juried Art Show will be open to the public during Cabaret.



Middle School News

Middle School Science Olympiad

This year the Middle School Science Olympiad team advanced to the State Tournament after a wonderful showing in Regionals! Regionals were held at BGSU in March, where students competed against students from twelve other teams in a variety of events ranging from hands-on lab events like Crime Busters to written tests about the solar system and infectious diseases. Van Buren students placed first in Bio Processes Lab and Dynamic Planet, second in Anatomy and Physiology, and third in Mission Possible and Ornithology! State competition was held virtually through OSU on April 9. Look for an update in the next newsletter to hear how we did!

Team members include 8th graders Maverick DeWalt, Pranav Dinavahi, Tim Grant, Patrice Pullom, Andrew Puperi, Payge Tedrow, Sadie Throla-Lopez, and 7th graders Dakota Herricks and Gillyanne Vermillion, coached by Molly Hosler.



Student-Musicians Represent VBMS in District Honors Ensemble

Cullen Tussing and Josalyn Swaisgood were selected to participate in the OMEA District 3 Middle School Honors Band. Students are selected by director nomination. They rehearsed Friday, April 8 in the evening and again on Saturday morning. Students from more than 15 schools participated in the band. The performance took place at 3:00 P.M. on April 9 at Elida HS and was free and open to the public.



MS Quiz Bowl Scores Big

Congratulations to the middle school quiz bowl team for becoming the 2022 Hancock County League Champions. All Hancock County schools in the area competed in trivia competition spanning three weeks where they answered questions related to science, math, literature, history, and more. The Van Buren Middle School team is led by the two returning captains Maverick DeWalt and Andrew Puperi. Pranav Dinavahi and Eleanore Poca were two new additions that made an immediate impact. The team utilized their diverse knowledge and skill set to answer trivia questions on a variety of topics. The four middle school students collaborated as a team and stayed quick on the buzzers leading them to a 7-0 record. These students should be incredibly proud of the season that they had and how they represented Van Buren throughout the season.



Middle School News

Familiar Face Joins VB In Person

On March 17, Ms. Serena's 7th grade social studies classes welcomed Mrs. Chen, a former virtual Chinese teacher at Van Buren. Ms. Serena's students had just finished a unit on ancient China when Mrs. Chen visited. Forging connections between the classroom and real-world experiences, Mrs. Chen taught the students about her upbringing in Taiwan. She elaborated on the tension occurring between China and Taiwan, then she had the students explain how the circumstances in the two far-east countries resembled the developing war between Russia and Ukraine.

The students were engaged in a Play-Doh activity in which they created mooncakes out of real cooking molds. As they created their fake mooncakes, they were treated to a snack that closely resembled the real thing. We learned that mooncakes could only be found abroad during the mooncake festival, which traditionally falls during September of each year. The students were also ready for a bit of friendly competition when Mrs. Chen demonstrated how to use a spin-top, which is similar to the Beyblade game.

Mrs. Chen also spent time with Mr. Obenour's 9th grade World History classes. During her time with the high school students, Mrs. Chen shared her background of growing up in Chinese and Taiwanese culture. Students engaged in open discussions regarding the current events in China and Taiwan. We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to reconnect with Mrs. Chen and appreciate the insight that she provided to our students with her real-world experiences. Mrs. Chen brought valuable experiences and lifelong memories with her when she came to visit, and we'd love to see her back next year!



Sports News



Van Buren Mini-Knight Girls Volleyball Skills Camp

Coach Bunn, Coach Hector, Coach Morey and our volleyball players would like to invite ALL girls in **2nd, 3rd and 4th grader** into the gym for two sessions of instruction.

Emphasis of Fundamentals: passing, setting, hitting, serving, ball control, basic strategies of the game.

Team Concepts: communication, teamwork, positive attitudes, goal setting.

Who: All girls that will be upcoming **2nd, 3rd and 4th graders**.

When: Monday, May 16, 2022 3:05 – 4:30 P.M.
Tuesday, May 17, 2022 3:05 – 4:30 P.M.

Where: High School Gymnasium

Cost: \$25 per player (camp shirt included), cash or check, if paying with a check, make payable to **Van Buren Athletic Boosters** and return to Elementary or High School office. Please cut off the bottom of the form and put it in an envelope stating Volleyball Camp.

Deadline: Money needs to be turned in by **April 29th**.

Proceeds go towards the **Van Buren Volleyball program**.

Thank You!
Coaching Staff

Mini-Knight Girls Volleyball Skills Camp 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders

Player's Name: _____

Next Year's Grade Level: _____

Emergency Phone Number: _____

Shirt Size (circle):	YOUTH	S	M	L	
	ADULT	S	M	L	X L



Van Buren Mini-Knight Girls Volleyball Skills Camp

Coach Bunn, Coach Hector, Coach Morey and our volleyball players would like to invite ALL girls in **5th, 6th and 7th grader** into the gym for two sessions of instruction.

Emphasis of Fundamentals: passing, setting, hitting, serving, ball control, basic strategies of the game.

Team Concepts: communication, teamwork, positive attitudes, goal setting.

Who: All girls that will be upcoming **5th, 6th and 7th graders**.

When: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 3:05 – 4:30 P.M.
Thursday, May 19, 2022 3:05 – 4:30 P.M.

Where: High School Gymnasium

Cost: \$25 per player (camp shirt included), cash or check, if paying with a check, make payable to **Van Buren Athletic Boosters** and return to Elementary or High School office. Please cut off the bottom of the form and put it in an envelope stating Volleyball Camp.

Deadline: Money needs to be turned in by **April 29th**.

Proceeds go towards the **Van Buren Volleyball program**.

Thank You!
Coaching Staff

Mini-Knight Girls Volleyball Skills Camp 5th, 6th and 7th graders

Player's Name: _____

Next Year's Grade Level: _____

Emergency Phone Number: _____

Shirt Size (circle):	YOUTH	S	M	L	
	ADULT	S	M	L	X L

For more information on
Van Buren Black Knight Sports,

visit the new website
www.vbathletics.net

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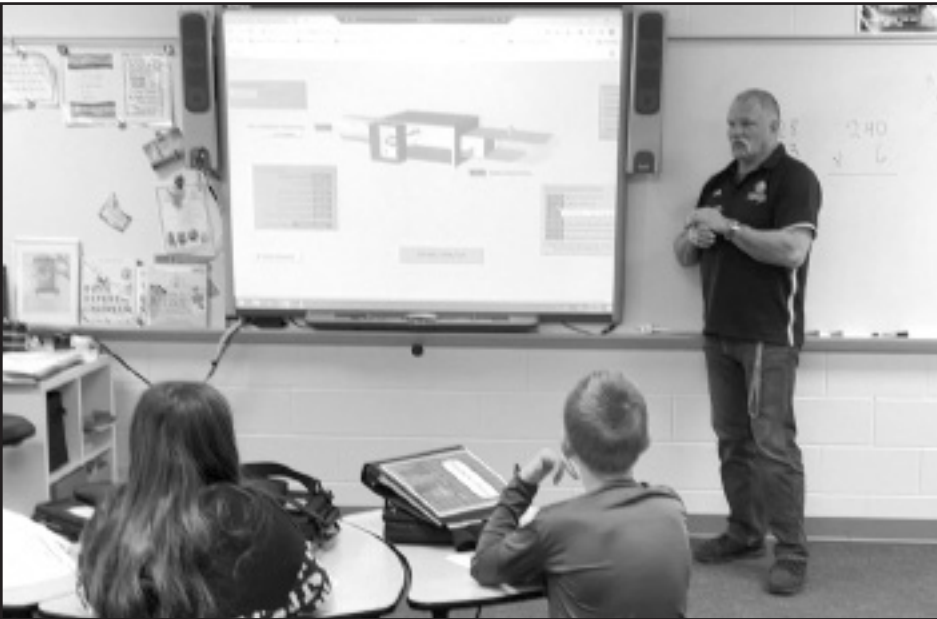
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VANTAGE STEM Learns About HVAC

Mr. Jon Kelley joined our VANTAGE STEM class to show us how our school's heating and cooling system works! The students were fascinated to see all the moving parts and learning how VB does our best to conserve energy. We then had a great discussion about solar panels and LED lights.



Last Day of School for Students
Friday, June 3, 2022

Attn: Parents/Guardians

If your child(ren)'s workbook and classroom fees have not been paid, please take care of this obligation as soon as possible. If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact the office.