

# Knighly News

Van Buren Local School  
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Van Buren, Ohio 45889  
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## February 2020 Noble Knights

~~ Noble Knights will be  
chosen this year  
based on positive referrals  
from the high school staff. ~~

### Jon Hudok

Junior Jon Hudok is an amazing kid with a huge heart! Jon received two referrals for his ability to go above and beyond by helping others. He volunteers for our Project MORE mentorship program where he regularly reads with a middle school student. Additionally, Jon volunteers to work with an elementary student and is a great role model, assisting the student with academic and emotional needs. We are very proud of Jon and his huge heart! Jon will be delivered Chick-fil-a for lunch!



## Van Buren Freshman's Work Published

Freshman Jose Rivera has accomplished something few high school students, let alone adults, have never done: been published by a national organization. SABR, the Society of American Baseball Research, recently published Rivera's article about the fifth game of the 2017 World Series between the Houston Astros and Los Angeles Dodgers. The article, titled "Bregman's Walk-off Single Lifts Astros Over the Dodgers in a Wild Game 5," appears on the SABR website as part of the Games Project, and it can also be accessed by going to <https://bit.ly/Rivera2017WS>.

Rivera, who is an Astros fan, wrote the article to meet one of the requirements for his English 9 honors project. He is currently working on his second article, which will explore Justin Verlander's no-hitter to lead the Astros over the Toronto Blue Jays on September 1, 2019.



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### Aubrey Scherf

Aubrey possesses a strong work ethic and positive attitude! She models kindness to others and demonstrates responsibility and respect.

Aubrey was nominated by the Sixth Grade Team.



### Duda Oliveira

Duda consistently shows an excellent work ethic. As a member of the quiz bowl team, Duda represented Van Buren by showing good sportsmanship and demonstrating how all of her hard work at school is paying off.

Duda was nominated by the Seventh Grade Team.



### Annie Moro

Annie does a good job turning in her work, completing tasks, and advocating when she has questions. We really appreciate how well she does on assessments and projects. Keep up the good work!

Annie was nominated by the Eighth Grade Team.



# High School News

## LEARNING at Van Buren High School - Not Cancelled!

The high school staff, students, and parents are doing an amazing job adjusting to the challenges we are currently facing due to the school closure. We are very pleased with our online learning program and structure and continually seek feedback from all involved with hopes of constantly improving. Our structure is intended to be similar to our "block days" with an emphasis on half of the periods each day. Additionally, students may be expected to participate and contribute to classes during the assigned times. There are due dates, deadlines, and grades, but we are trying to be as flexible as possible and emphasizing a focus on the physical and mental health of all involved. As a district, we are extremely blessed to provide the necessary resources, technology, and support our students need to continue to maintain a quality learning environment with these recent changes.

Our staff is in constant communication and working together to identify and provide whatever necessary to meet the needs of our students. The school district and the Van Buren community have been extremely generous in their efforts to provide whatever resources necessary and to help our students in any way possible.

Specifically, the high school staff is using Google Classroom, Moodle, Zoom, FlipGrid, and other resources to provide engaging learning opportunities for our students. We are hosting general "Morning Greeting Meetings" for staff and students to see each other and engage in general conversation.

Many of our teachers are taking advantage of the current situation and making connections to increase the relevance of what they are teaching. For instance, our senior poetry class is writing Ekphrastic Poems relative to the quarantine (see sample from Senior, Nathan Williamson). Other English classes are journaling their experience and of course, allocating time to read. We are implementing real world math with analyses of the exponential growth patterns and predictions of COVID-19. Similarly, our science class recently conducted a video conference with a guest speaker who is an Intensive-Care Unit Registered Nurse in Indianapolis. The discussion was focused on what the requirements of the job are and how they have been changed by the coronavirus.

We have business students creating Podcasts, while our accounting and computer applications courses are taking place through a YouTube channel that was created by our staff and shared with the students. Similarly, we are teaching History class with "homemade" videos of a staff member using their young children to resemble high school students to make the lesson more interactive and engaging. Our health curriculum is taking a specific focus on the mental health of our students and their families. One recent assignment provided an opportunity for emphasis on self-care that could benefit all of us; "How am I moving my body during this time? What am I doing outside today? What am I grateful for? Who am I checking on or connecting with today? What type of self-care am I practicing today?"

Our art classes have been working on creating digital comic books, submitting photography from a scavenger hunt (Images from Sophomore, Taylor Stewart), and creating drawings. Additionally, the music department has been analyzing video recordings of students performing required samples. This has provided a great opportunity for students to receive feedback and continue to enhance their skill sets.

On behalf of the staff and students of Van Buren High School, thank you for your continued efforts and support!

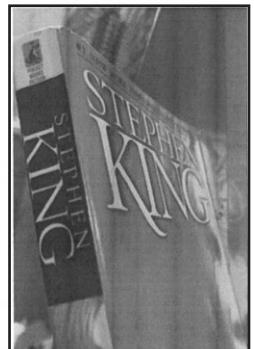
### PSA

Times are changing, and life is going by,  
 We are safe at home, with no Corona in sight.  
 The stores are full but the shelves are empty,  
 People are everywhere, buying plenty.  
 I don't know why they just can't stay home,  
 They are risking it for everyone, not just them alone.  
 Let's get through quarantine, so everybody stay home!

-Nathan Williamson



### Art Class



# Middle School News

# FFA News

## VBMS@home Remote Learning

Middle school students and staff have harnessed determination as we adjust to remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though our school building is closed, our staff has worked hard to continue connecting our learning and more importantly, remaining connected with students. Whether we're in our brick-and-mortar classrooms or learning remotely, our primary concern is student well-being and safety.

To promote connection, our staff works to meet virtually with classes on a regular basis. Recently, Mrs. Rodman's students met and they played Fibbage. Each week, a rotating VBMS staff member hosts "Lunch Bunch". Middle school students and staff are invited to join in the online meet-up and a theme is presented each week - from sharing your pet to a scavenger hunt.

Our Farm to Table club, which grows produce for our food service program, met with Dr. Robert Hirsch, a plant pathologist at the University of Kentucky. Farm to Table members were able to discuss different plant diseases with Dr. Hirsch, specifically some they've struggled with this year as the club grows using hydroponics.



Sixth graders are using a digital journal to document how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted their lives. A variety of prompts urge students to record their daily activities and share their thoughts and feelings. In essence, they are creating a primary source of their own living history.

In math, seventh grade students have been working on a culminating percent project called "Adulting for Beginners" where each student has won a different amount of money in the lottery and are going on a spending spree (and later, investing!). Students shared on Padlet which restaurant we would purchase lunch at with our lottery winnings, calculating an 18% tip. Students can "Like" other posts and connect with one another about their choices. It has been fun to see where students would spend their lottery winnings! And it makes us kind of hungry too!

Mrs. Dishong's seventh grade students chose to read [The Diary of a Young Girl](#), Anne Frank or [A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood](#) by Fred Rogers and Tom Junod. Students are writing diary entries or reflections on the readings. The diary entries depict how they are spending their days using Anne's words to help. The reflections are based on Mister Rogers ideas about finding "the helpers" during difficult times.

One seventh grade student's reflection of these quotes from [A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood](#) resonates strongly during the pandemic:

**"Somewhere early on, I got the idea inside of me that childhood was valuable, that children were worthy of being seen and heard, and who they were had a lot to do with how our world would become."**

**"Children have a wonderful way of discerning the truth ... even when we think it's being hidden."**

**"Children's fantasies about the unknown are often much more frightening than the reality itself."**

*Student's reflection: I really agree with the first quote. It's super true! The second quote is also really true. How many times as a child has a parent or other trust adult told you not to worry but right when they said that you knew something was wrong? The last quote is true not just for children, but for everyone. When we worry or are afraid of something how often does it really happen as bad as we think it would?*

In a timely "real world Friday" project, Mr. Bunn's eighth grade math classes are comparing disinfecting wipes - Lysol brand claims it kills 99.9% germs, viruses (with some exclusions) and bacteria while Clorox states their product kills 99.99%. Are these products comparable?

## Meal Packs

Van Buren Local Schools is working with community partners to ensure that our students have access to nutritious food during the school building closure. Non-perishable food packs can be picked up outside the middle school/high school office on Mondays and Thursdays 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Thanks to the following partners for making this possible: Findlay-Hancock YMCA Feed-a-Child Program, Van Buren Presbyterian Church, Domino's Pizza, and VBMS Rachel's Pantry.

## Newly Elected Officer Team

By: Audrey Marroquin, VB FFA Reporter

The Van Buren FFA Chapter has very recently elected a new officer team. This team consists of twelve new members; three of which are new positions. The new officers include Garret Simmermeyer (President), Jacob Deiter (Vice President), Jacob Walters (Secretary), Lexi Camarano (Treasurer), Audrey Marroquin (Reporter), Calista Greer (Sentinel), Carter Thomas/Emma Henry (Student Advisor), Malia Gehrisch/Morgan DeBoo (Community Coordinator), Ke-arstin Sherick (Mentoring Coordinator), and Catheryn Roy as the Animal Care Manager. This year with our new team we hope to promote a good environment for our chapter as well as increase FFA involvement in our school as well as our community.

## Gold Officer Books

By: Audrey Marroquin, Van Buren FFA Reporter

We are very proud to congratulate four of our members who have received a Gold Rating on their officer books this year! These members include Emma Henry for her Secretary Book, Morgan DeBoo for her Treasurer Book, and Ke-arstin Sherick and Mikaela Volland with the Reporter Book. Our chapter members and fellow officers are very excited to watch these members walk the stage at the State Convention this year to receive their awards.

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## Van Buren Middle School Designated National School to Watch

Van Buren Middle School has been named a National School to Watch as part of a recognition and improvement program developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. VBMS joins the ranks of 495 designated Schools to Watch around the world.

Designated schools are selected by state leaders for academic excellence, responsiveness to the needs and interests of young adolescents, and commitment to helping all students achieve at high levels. In addition, each school has strong leadership, teachers who work together to improve curriculum and instruction, and a commitment to assessment and accountability to bring about continuous improvement.

Michelle Hayward, Chair of the National Forum's Schools to Watch Fidelity Committee stated, "These schools demonstrate that high-performing middle grades schools have a clear focus on academic growth and achievement. They also recognize the importance of meeting the needs of all of their students and ensuring that each and every child has access to a rigorous, high-quality education. We are proud to have these schools serve as models from which others can learn."

Selection is based on a written application that required schools to show how they met criteria developed by the Forum. Schools that appeared to meet the criteria were then visited by state teams who observed classrooms, interviewed administrators, teachers, students, and parents, and looked at achievement data, suspension rates, quality of lessons, and student work.

"We are pleased that our Schools to Watch program has shown that schools can meet high academic expectations while preserving a commitment to healthy development and equity for all students," said Ericka Uskali, National Forum Executive Director. "These Schools to Watch are indeed special; they make education so exciting that students and teachers don't want to miss a day. These schools have proven that it is possible to overcome barriers to achieving excellence, and any middle-grades school in any state can truly learn from their examples," Uskali said.

The National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform is an alliance of educators, researchers, national associations, and officers of professional organizations and foundations dedicated to improving education in the middle grades.



## NEW DATE FOR THE 2020 Van Buren Reverse Raffle Friday, November 13, 2020

at The Barn At Walnut Creek

### Donor Levels

Main Event Sponsors	\$1,200	Name & Logo in Program & Banner/Announced All Evening
Honorary Knight Sponsors	\$1,000	Name & Logo in Program & Banner
Super Knight Sponsors	\$500	Name & Logo in Program
Knight Sponsors	\$100 or less	Name listed in program

All donations are appreciated! We will accept anything for live auction items, silent auction items, door prizes, monetary donations, etc. If an item(s) is donated rather than a monetary donation, the value of the donation will determine the donor level. Checks can be made payable to **Van Buren Athletic Boosters**. Any questions, please let Stacey Foltz, Athletic Booster President, know via email [hoslercorbin@bright.net](mailto:hoslercorbin@bright.net) or 419-348-6201, or see any booster member.

**Thank you for supporting our athletes!**