

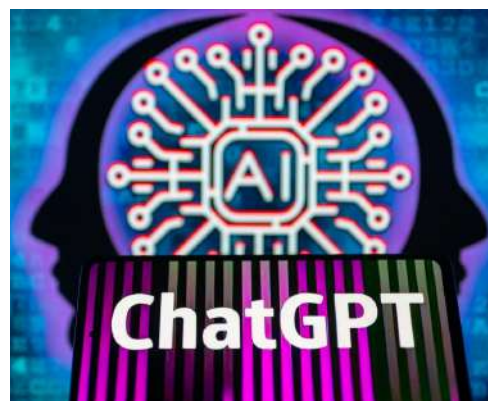
Tanagers' Nest News

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Artificial Intelligence in the K-12 Classroom?

by [Jon Frey](#) on January 31 2023

November 30, 2022 - this date introduced to the world an application called ChatGPT. This application provides writing to the user that is generated via the use of artificial intelligence via [Open AI](#). The introduction of artificial intelligence in the high school English classroom may be exciting for some and terrifying for others. Personally, I would enjoy the opportunity to test my skills as a writing instructor against what a computer could generate to *attempt* to answer my writing prompt! Would I be able to detect the artificial writing? Who knows? Nevertheless, since the end of November of last year, educators everywhere have been having conversations about what this means for their work in the classroom and how they assess student learning.



Vermillion High School's teachers are also reading up, revising assignments and examining what we do and how we do it to be better prepared to teach the writing and revision process in a world with artificial intelligence generated writing. Academic dishonesty ("Cheating") policies will no doubt receive revisions in the coming months. Likewise, in our classrooms students are being made aware that their work will, as always, be scrutinized for originality and creativity. Helping a student find his/her voice as a writer is still one of the most significant and fundamental lessons when it comes to teaching writing. Our instructors will continue to utilize the tools available to them to detect plagiarized work or in the case of ChatGPT, *artificially-generated* writing.

Twenty years ago, much of the same concerns came forth as nay-sayers indicated a concern that with the world's knowledge at our fingertips via the World Wide Web, mankind would devolve in its skills for acquiring knowledge. In fact, what we have discovered is that critical thought and the ability to analyze still require extensive factual knowledge. Simply placing information at one's fingertips has not made us more able to use it. As it turns out, those with a solid educational foundation have been better equipped to maximize the access to information that the birth of the Internet provided. Likewise, those writers with the better foundation in writing will better utilize tools such as ChatGPT in the development of their own writing skills.

Time will tell, but I suspect before long, ChatGPT will be looked upon no differently than a common calculator - a tool by which we move more quickly to discover our mathematical

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answers, but without the basic skills necessary to properly enter the problem, one will still be incapable of discovering the answer!

Jon

IN THIS MONTH'S TANAGERS' NEST NEWS

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Introducing the Tanager Hygiene Corner

By **Amy Askew - VHS Nurse** on February 1, 2023

The Vermillion Public Schools Foundation has granted funding to provide free hygiene supplies to students in need. The intent for this project is to make sure all students have

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access to essential hygiene products to promote healthy lifestyles, but also empower our students to boost their self-image while building self-respect and confidence.

List of supplies

- feminine hygiene products – maxi pads, tampons, panty liners
 - may request individual items or packs to include an assortment of these products to take home
- deodorant
- hair care supplies for all hair types, including lice care supplies
- dental supplies – toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss
- skin care products including acne products
- laundry supplies

All Vermillion School District students are eligible and any student or parent may request supplies. Please contact Amy Askew (amy.askew@k12.sd.us) or Brittney Goggin (brittney.goggin@k12.sd.us) for more information or to request products.

Teacher Feature!

By **Jerry Bartels - VHS Teacher** on January 30, 2023

This month, we feature Jerry Bartels, a new face in our Special Education department.

Jerry Bartels - Special Education Teacher



Where is home? I grew up in Vermillion, then left for 30 years before returning back to the area in 2009.

Where did you get your (post-HS) education? I earned my BS in History Education from USD, and my MS in Secondary School Counseling from Minnesota State-Mankato. I began taking doctoral courses at USD but left to return to teaching.

How many years have you been teaching at VHS? Overall? This is my first year at Vermillion, but I have been a teacher or counselor in SD, MN, and NE for 38 years.

What classes do you teach? I teach Foundations English and Foundations Geography courses in the Special Education program.

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Did you always want to teach or did something lead to you teaching after first doing something else? I knew I wanted to teach history from the time I was in 6th grade. I have always wanted to be a teacher and tried to convince all of my children that they should become teachers as well.

Do you coach any sports? Do you sponsor any activities or clubs? I volunteer-coach VHS tennis with Kari Jensen. I was the head boys and girls tennis coach in Watertown, SD from 1985-1990 and was an assistant boys coach at Mankato East HS from 1997-1999.

What is your favorite part of teaching at VHS? The students. I like the students, but I think I really like being back in the high school I graduated from, but now as a teacher.

Anything else? I've hiked parts of the Appalachian Trail and the Superior Trail, so I enjoy backpacking. I also enjoy kayaking, biking, golfing, and playing tennis, of course. I like to make my own home-made pastrami on my smoker.

I am married and our family is a Brady Bunch composition. I brought two sons and a daughter with me into this marriage and my wife Julia has two daughters and a son. All of our children are adults, the youngest getting ready to graduate from college next year. We also have one grandson. We have a dog and three cats who entertain us as much, if not more, than our children ever did, although they provide just about as many headaches and joys.

Important Upcoming Dates

- February 16th & 17th - **Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences**
- March 15, 2022 - **1:30 Dismissal** - Teacher Professional Learning Teams
- March 16th & 17th - **No School**, Spring Break
- April 6th - **1:30 Dismissal** - Teacher Professional Learning Teams
- April 7th - **No School**, Easter Holiday
- April 10th - **No School**, Easter Holiday
- May 3rd - Senior Awards Ceremony, 2:00pm, VHS Auditorium
- May 8th & 9th - Senior Final Exams
- May 10th - Baccalaureate Service for Seniors (*optional*), 7:00pm, VHS Auditorium
- May 11th - Graduation Practice (MANDATORY ATTENDANCE), 10:00am, USD Sanford Coyote Sports Center
- May 13th - Graduation 1:30pm, USD Sanford Coyote Sports Center (Doors open: 12:30pm)
- May 19th - Final Exams (Grades 9-11)
- May 22nd - Final Exams (Grades 9-11)
- May 23rd - Final Exams (Grades 9-11) / Final Check-out / Last Day of School

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Native American Students Advisory

by [Jan Stalling](#), EdD, NCC, NCSC Native American Liaison on January 30, 2023

This is a reminder that the Native American Parent Group will meet this Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at Jolley Elementary School, from 5:30-6:30. Perhaps the weather will cooperate this week and the scheduling for the third time will be the charm!

A couple other reminders for you: The Big Crow Documentary will be shown at the Coyote Twin Theaters this Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:00 PM (January 31 & February 1). This is a documentary about SuAnne Big Crow from the Pine Ridge Reservation, who was known as "the hero in high tops." Admission is free as well as popcorn and pop.

This Saturday, at 1:00 PM, the University of South Dakota will be honoring the Native American student athletes at USD. There will be an honor song for the athletes at 12:47 PM, the Lakota Flag song will be sung and there will be other things occurring during the game. If you are interested in attending, please let me know and I will be able to obtain free tickets for the game for you and your family.

I am looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday afternoon.



Above: Members of the Rosebud Tribe brought their talents to VHS on January 25th.

[Jan Stalling](#), EdD, NCC, NCSC

Native American Liaison - Phone: 605-659-8517

Vermillion School District

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Activities News

Winter Activities Update

by **Jason Huska** on January 31, 2023



February is upon us which means winter activities are winding down. Soon we will be busy in region and state competitions. One-Act play hosted Region 1A on January 24th. VHS performed “Alice @ Wonderland”. Although they did not qualify for State, Justin Mancini, Autumn Waters, and William Lee received “Outstanding Actor” awards. The Tanager debate team is once again active this winter having competed in Sioux Falls and Yankton recently. The boys basketball team is currently 5-7. The girls basketball team is 15-0 after their win last night in Beresford. Region basketball will begin on February 28th. This month Rhythm in Red is looking forward to competing at Region 1 Contest in Yankton, Spirit Lake, and Council Bluffs. February 25 Rhythm

in Red will host their own invite and welcome 11 groups to perform. The Tanager wrestling team has been battling not just their opponents but also the weather. The wrestling team just completed a home triangular with Yankton and Dakota Valley. Vermillion went 2-0. Region wrestling begins on February 17 at Brandon Valley.

We look forward to seeing everyone out at the various events. GO, TANAGERS!

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Vermillion High School Student Services Office 605.659.8513 (ph) / 605.677.7042 (fax)
Luke Hayes, School Counselor (A-K) - Laura Suing, School Counselor (L-Z)
Rebecca Olson, Administrative Assistant

Student Services News

By Luke Hayes & Laura Suing on January 31, 2023

Registration for 2023-24

Discussions are underway with staff and departments at the high school regarding course offerings for the 2023-24 school year. High school registration meetings with students will begin the week of February 27th.

Visit the School Information page of the district website and select the [2022-23 Course Description guide](#) to get the lowdown on planning courses for the upcoming year with your student. Once finalized, we will upload the 2023-24 Course Description Guide which will include any changes that are decided in the coming month.

Need a Tutor? How about a FREE Tutor?



The [Dakota Dreams Online Tutoring Program](#) provides free online tutoring to K-12 students in South Dakota in the subjects of English/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Parents can register students for virtual one-on-one tutoring sessions using a simple and secure online platform. Once registered, sessions can either be pre-scheduled or accessed on-demand. All sessions are taught by university students already accepted

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into the School of Education at Northern State University or Black Hills State University.

Scholarships

Scholarships are now available. Now is the time to have your student stop into Student Services and regularly check their email for more information. Most deadlines are in March so it's important to have your student complete, review, and submit their scholarship application before the deadline. If your student has questions about scholarships and/or would like assistance with completing a scholarship application, please have them stop into student services. If your student needs a recommendation for their application, please remind them to ask for those recommendations as soon as possible so it allows people time to prepare them.

Student Services Important Reminders

ACT TESTING 2022|2023

TEST DATES	REGISTRATION DEADLINES		
	Regular Deadline	Late Deadline	Photo Upload Standby Deadline
September 10, 2022	August 5	August 19	September 2
October 22, 2022	September 16	September 30	October 14
December 10, 2022	November 4	November 11	December 2
February 11, 2023	January 6	January 20	February 3
April 15, 2023	March 10	March 24	April 7
June 10, 2023	May 5	May 19	June 2
July 15, 2023*	June 16	June 23	July 7

FAFSA

The 2023-2024 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available now!. FAFSA can provide your student with grants, loans, and work study funds from the Federal Government. It is best to get it done early since some of the funds are available on a first come first served basis. For a short video on how to fill out the FAFSA form, please click [here](#). To fill out your FAFSA form, please visit [the FAFSA website](#). Please contact student services if you have questions about filling out the FAFSA or your student would like help in filling out the FAFSA.

What are the deadlines for filling out the FAFSA form?

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To be considered for federal student aid for the 2023-24 award year, you can complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form between Oct. 1, 2022, and 11:59 p.m. Central time (CT) on June 30, 2023.

Any FAFSA form corrections or updates must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CT on Sept. 10, 2023. However, many states and colleges have earlier deadlines for applying for state and institutional financial aid, use Find your state's deadline. Check with your college or career school about its deadlines. Because of the variation in state and college deadlines, it's highly recommended that you fill out the FAFSA form as soon as you can after Oct. 1 to ensure that you don't miss out on available aid.¹

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

Vermillion High School

1001 East Main Street, Vermillion, SD, 57069
605-677-7035

¹ Federal Student Aid Website, Office of Department of Education, Accessed June 28, 2022.