



Valencia High School

March, 2009

Welcome to the March 2009 edition of the monthly e-communication from Valencia High School. We hope you have a great month! Don't forget about the school's website at www.valenciavikings.com, where you can find updated information on a daily basis.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Intramural Basketball



- Any student interested in participating in the intramural 3-on-3 basketball tournament can sign up starting March 2nd in the ASB office.

College Visitations

- Spots are still available for the counseling office's college visitation trips in March. The first trip, visiting UC Irvine and Loyola Marymount University, is on Wednesday, March 4th. The other visitation trip to UC Santa Barbara and Westmont College will be on Wednesday, March 11th. The trips are open to current sophomores and juniors (priority given to 10th graders) who have a 2.8 GPA or higher. Spots are filling quickly, so your child needs to reserve his/her spot with \$20 cash in the counseling office ASAP!



Student Intervention

- Is your student struggling in any of his/her classes? Did you know that VHS offers after-school intervention classes Monday through Thursday? Please check out the attached intervention schedule and encourage your child to attend. This is another great opportunity for free tutoring for any and all students.



SAT Workshop

- There's still time to sign up for the SAT Workshop on Saturday, March 7th and Sunday, March 8th at VHS. In this workshop, students will learn valuable information about the SAT as well as some of the Princeton Review's famous strategic test-taking tips. In addition, students will take a practice SAT and receive The Princeton Review's famous *Cracking the SAT* book, complete with practice problems and test-taking strategies. Cost is \$100 per student, and students must sign up in the counseling office RIGHT AWAY.



Great Jazz at VHS

- On Tuesday March 10th, The VHS Theater will host the Southern California Vocal Jazz Festival. Valencia H.S. as well as Royal, Bellflower, Saugus, and many more will perform. The Vocal Jazz Festival is 1:30pm - 6pm with a concert followed by Cal State Long Beach's Premiere Vocal Jazz Ensemble, "Pacific Standard Time" at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased at the door!

English Language Acquisition (ELA)

- ❑ ATTENTION ALL PARENTS OF ENGLISH LEARNERS!!! There will be an English Learners Advisory Committee meeting on March 12, 2009 at 6:00 pm in room 520. Refreshments will be served.
- ❑ REUNIÓN PARA EL CONSEJO ESTUDIANTIL BILINGÜE el 12 de marzo del 2009 en el salón 520 a las 6:00 de la noche. Serviremos refrescos.

Prom Tickets

- ❑ Prom tickets go on sale starting March 16th. The Prom, being held in the Air Force One Pavillion at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Museum, will be on Saturday, May 2nd. All students must fill out and complete a prom packet, available in the ASB Office.



<u>Prom Ticket (Single)</u>	<u>w/ ASB</u>	<u>w/o ASB</u>
March 16 – March 20	\$120	\$130
March 23 – March 27	\$130	\$140
March 30 – April 3	\$140	\$150
April 13 – April 17	\$150	\$160
April 20 – April 22	\$160	\$170

All parents and family are invited to attend our annual prom promenade hosted by the Valencia PAC. Promenade begins at 5:30 in the gym.

Exit Exam

- ❑ On March 17th and 18th, the California High School Exit Exam will be given to all 10th graders, and to all 11th and 12th graders who have not yet taken or passed both portions. The California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) is a graduation requirement for all students. Please try to have your student(s) at school both days to take the exam. They must bring #2 pencils and their ID cards. As always, students will have better results on exams if they have a balanced breakfast the day of the exam and have received a good night's sleep the night before an exam.



Free Exit Exam Tutorial

- ❑ A free, online CAHSEE tutorial is accessible via the <http://www.valenciavikings.com/> home page. Students go to "Quick Links and Tools" and click on "CAHSEE Test Prep" to enter the site. The student username is "valenciaca" and the password is "newton82." Students can even email practice test results to their parents so parents can be kept informed about their student's progress, as well.

VHS Drama Production

- ❑ Valencia High School Theatre will be presenting the uproariously funny French farce, *A FLEA IN HER EAR*, by Georges Feydeau. The play dates are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday March 24th – 27th at 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for adults. For more information please contact VHS Drama director Stephen Whelan at SWhelan@hartdistrict.org or at 294-1188, ext. 522.



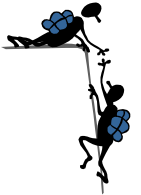


Open House

- ❑ You and your family are cordially invited to attend Valencia High School's Open House on Thursday, April 2nd starting at 7:00 pm. There will be an 8th grade orientation for incoming 9th graders in the gym starting at 6:00 pm.

Study Skills and Academic Success Seminar

- ❑ On April 21, April 27, and May 5th from 6:30 to 8:30 in the VHS library, Ty Devoe will again offer his 3-part study skills program to train VHS students in the key concepts of week to reinforce the methods covered in each night's course, and parents will learn to solidify their role as an academic support system. Give your student the academic advantage that comes from simply knowing how to study more efficiently. The cost is \$50 per team (one student/one parent) for materials and all three nights of instruction. Sign up ASAP in the counseling office by bringing cash or checks made payable to VHS Counseling. Seats are limited, so sign up today!



AP Exams

- ❑ AP exams begin during the first week in May. Students should begin reviewing for their exams now. Students cannot begin to review and spend time with their textbooks too early!



Choir Auditions for 2009-2010

- Auditions for choir will begin early March. Students should audition early as once classes are full, there will be no additions. Students need to stay tuned for date/time announcements in the bulletin and VTV. For more information, email the choir director, Christine Enns at cenns@hartdistrict.org

Open Library

- ❑ Please continue to encourage your student to utilize the VHS open library every Wednesday and Thursday from 3:00 to 5:00. There are both VHS teachers and peer tutors available to help with schoolwork. All students are welcome!



College Admissions

- ❑ Just a reminder to all students interested in attending a 4-year university upon graduation: if a student earns a "D" in any required class, it must be retaken for a higher grade. For college admissions purposes, courses may only be retaken ONE time.



Yearbooks

- ❑ Yearbooks are on sale for \$80 with an ASB card, \$85 without. Buy your all-color, 300-plus page book before supplies run out and prices go up again.



Congratulations!

- ❑ The Valencia High School Dance Team took 5 first place awards in the following dance categories: Large Jazz, Large Lyrical, Small Lyrical, Small Jazz, and Officers and one third place in Character at the USA Regional Qualifying Dance Competition. The event took place at Glendale High School on Saturday, February 21st. All dances that placed March. Dominating the competition by winning five first places is a major achievement for the Valencia Dance program. In addition, Alexandra Skorniakoff took top honors by earning first place as a soloist at both Glendale and San Bernadino USA Regionals. Other



solo finalists at USA Regional Competitions include Kirsten Lynskey, Sara Hicks, Chelsea Itaya, and Chelsea Van Name.

Student Information

- ❑ Parents, please let the registrar's office know if you have any home numbers, cell numbers, work numbers, or email addresses that have changed since last year. Teachers wishing to contact parents appreciate current, working numbers.



Great job!

- Congratulations to VHS Vocal Jazz, "Seven AM" and "Two N Four!" They have been selected to sing at the State Music Convention at the Ontario Convention Center on Thursday, March 12th! The concert/clinic is free to the public.

What is School to Career?



- ❑ School to Career is an overall emphasis on developing the work-place skills that will enable our students to be better qualified to compete for a career of their choosing in the future. Over half of today's work force reports being unhappy with its job, feeling it is not a good match for their skills and abilities. Ninety-five percent of jobs in the future will require some type of education beyond a high school diploma. School-to-Career attempts to allow students to discover their talents, skills, and abilities and then chart an appropriate course towards career choices in order to produce a more informed, satisfied, and productive workforce.

Through School to Career, VHS offers sixteen different Career Path options available for students. A career path offers students an opportunity to concentrate on specific courses in a cluster that will reward them with certification within the path. Students may earn a certificate of completion within a career path area with as few as six courses. Please see our website for more information. http://www.valenciavikings.com/stc/stc_home.htm

Valencia High School Career Paths :

Business
Computer Aided Drafting
Engineering
Graphic Communication
Hospitality
Human & Soc. Svcs
Automotive
Journalism
Leadership
Legal Services
Medical Foundations
Studio Art
Teaching
Theatre Arts
Video Production
Vocal Music

Irlen Syndrome

- Are your kids reluctant to read? Do they under-perform on tests? Did they do well in lower grades but seem to be floundering in High School and you don't know why? Are they dreading the STAR testing because they get headaches and feel sick during those marathon tests? If you answered yes to any of the above, Check out information on these links:



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- How Difficult Can Reading Be?
<http://staff.hartdistrict.org/bhuffak/Irlen/How%20difficult%20can%20reading%20be.pdf>
- Computer work is tiring for me or my child and it hurts to look at the screen for a long time. Is there something I can do?
<http://staff.hartdistrict.org/bhuffak/Irlen/To%20make%20computer%20work%20easier.pdf>
- What is Irlen Syndrome?
[http://staff.hartdistrict.org/bhuffak/Irlen/Valencia School newsletter sept 2007.pdf](http://staff.hartdistrict.org/bhuffak/Irlen/Valencia%20School%20newsletter%20sept%202007.pdf)
- How would I recognize it if my child has a real problem?
<http://irlen.com/index.php?s=selftests>
- Tell me more about this!
<http://staff.hartdistrict.org/bhuffak/Irlen/Irlen%20Syndrome%20Info.htm>
- And even more... <http://irlen.com/index.php?s=index>
- I haven't heard of this before – who is using it?
<http://irlen.com/index.php?s=testimonials>

If you have questions, contact Bett Huffaker – English Teacher and Certified Irlen Screener

Have a wonderful month!

(I will not be able to answer “reply” questions regarding this information. Please contact the person in charge of the specific event with any questions or comments.)