

VERMILION CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

2017-2018 | November 2017



truly
grateful

#theVCWay

I have been thinking about the hashtag #theVCWay since the start of the year, when it started popping up on social media. Honestly, there is no better way to describe the dedication, generosity, and compassion of this community other than simply that, it is our Way.

Last year, when the floods happened, our community rallied around one another and we made the way for recovery. We demoed, we cooked, we cleaned, we fed, and we fundraised. It was our Way and it was the right way. Through tragedies and victories and wins and losses, this community has a way of pulling each other through,

SAVE THE DATE!!



November 2017

1 - Mass @ VC

3 - Adoration

7 - Booster Club

9 - Student Mass

14 - Srs @ Ren Fest

16 - Abbeville, France

17 - Mass @ VC

18 - Fall Bash

20 - Thanksgiving Holiday begins

27 - Classes resume

29 - Advisory

30 - Student Mass

December 2017

1 - Adoration

8 - Mass @ VC

14 - Student Mass

15 - Drama Club Performance

16 - Drama Club Performance

17 - Drama Club Performance

18 - All 8 Classes - test review

19 - Mid Terms begin

22 - Mid Terms end

25 - Christmas Holiday begins

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend."

lifting each other up, and setting each other back on the right path.

I recently heard a homily about generosity, the art of giving. He described the sincerest act of generosity as Jesus' love on the cross. In reality, Jesus died to make a Way for us all. In thinking about that, I have realized that each act of generosity that flows forth from us, the body of Christ, is a representation of that truest generosity of Jesus' love on the cross. It is in that Way that we must live and give. Generosity is the manifestation of the most profound love for one another.

Where there is free generosity, there is true love for Christ.

Since I got in the tragic accident this summer, my family has been on the receiving end of #theVCWay. From meals to monetary donations to hospital and home visits to receiving lines from students and parents, the generosity has been poured into me and my family. It has truly been a manifestation of the body of Christ on earth. Receiving the support from "Team Erin" has been one of the most humbling and sanctifying things I have ever experienced. To accept that we were in great need was a

learning experience for us in and of itself. Then, to accept such a significant amount of generosity was an even greater learning experience. But, like I said, generosity is part of #theVCWay and to accept that generosity is to accept an entire network of compassion and love and support.

Since the day I met Mr. Guilbeaux in my interview in 2014, he has always used the descriptor "family-oriented" to describe our school community. Because it is so small and so tightly knitted together, we have the opportunity to function much like a

very large family. I have seen this to be so true through countless observations and experiences in my 4 short years at Vermilion Catholic. Through the amount of families and generations that have passed through our institution, through the significant amount of parent involvement on our campus and at our school functions, through the interactions of our staff members with one another and our own families, through the ministry experiences that I have had with our students, through the way our students genuinely worry about each other and their teachers, and in many, many more ways, VC is a family.

There have been so many opportunities over the last 4 months where I have counted only my crosses. There have been so many days where it felt like the feelings of loss permeated every moment of my day. There have certainly been days where I have cried, suffered, and struggled with my health, my emotions, and my circumstances. In addition, I have missed our school; I have missed my students; and I have missed my coworkers. But, despite all of that, it has been the VC family that has helped to make a way for me to navigate

through the darkness. Through the abundant generosity and kindness of the Vermilion Catholic community, we have been able to count our blessings, to lean on our friends, and to learn to rely on God alone. We are incredibly grateful

gratitude once a week – whether it be my time, completing an act of kindness, donating money, or any other prayerful gift of myself. There is a quote that I love: “Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough,

Honestly, there is no better way to describe the dedication, generosity, and compassion of this community other than simply that, it is our Way.

for everyone who has prayed for us, given to us, and been there for us. One of the many lessons I have learned is to trust the process. The bad things that happen today could be paving the way for the good things coming tomorrow. And, with a support system as vast as mine, this journey has been made much easier.

In this Thanksgiving season, my own prayer is that I am able to meditate daily on Jesus’ most gratuitous gift of love on the cross. This Thanksgiving, I will seek to embrace an attitude of gratitude in all areas of my life. And, in this, I aim to offer to someone else a gift of that

and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.” As we grow in gratitude, we grow in holiness. There is a sense of “enoughness” about our life when we grow in this kind of holiness. And, as we grow in holiness, we learn to love Jesus better. As we learn to love Jesus better, we learn to love others better. That is the real VC Way, to love Christ, to grow in holiness, and to serve others.

I am truly grateful for #theVCWay. There is no other way quite like ours.

Erin Thomas, Faculty



Thanksgiving Observance

**Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
Count your gains instead of your losses;
Count your joys instead of your woes;
Count your friendship instead of your foes;
Count your smiles instead of your tears;
Count your courage instead of your fears;
Count your full years instead of your lean;
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean;
Count your health instead of your wealth;
Count on God instead of yourself.**

- Author Unknown

today I'm thankful for

I'm thankful that my children grow up with built-in friends: cousins. I'm thankful for all the joy Posy has brought to our family!

Tricia Duhon, Faculty

What I'm most thankful for is having the possibility of life and for family

Emily Lege,
Class of 2019

I am most thankful for being raised in a good Catholic family that instilled values in me so I could pass that on to my children and keep God the center of our family tree.

Cheryl Landry, Advisor

I am most thankful for an incredible husband, loving children, seven happy grandchildren and supportive friends.

Mrs. Reba Broussard,
Faculty

I am thankful for the students, faculty, staff and all the supporters of the VC Family for accepting me in my first year of teaching and coaching here. Most importantly I'm thankful for my beautiful wife Aimee and our newborn baby boy William and both of their continued health and happiness!

Brodie Savoie, Faculty

This year I am thankful for Everyone at VCHS, I really don't know where I would be today without the people at VCHS. I am so glad I made the decision to come to this school. Again, Thank you, Everyone is VERY nice and helpful.

Mary Claire Domingue,
Class of 2021

For Kylie

Nic Langlinois
Class of 2018

I am thankful for being a Senior.
Zane Prejean, Class of 2018

I AM THANKFUL FOR MY BEAUTIFUL FAMILY AND OF COURSE MY OFFICE WORKERS! DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT THEM! OH AND MUZBY TOO!

Kathy Langlinois, Secretary

I am thankful for the people I have grown closer to through the Kairos One retreat!

Victoria Doan,
Class of 2018

I am most thankful for my happy and healthy family.

Michele Meaux Development

I am thankful for being blessed everyday with my beautiful family and having the opportunity to teach such amazing students.

Jessica Cormier, Faculty

I am thankful for many things! One of the things I am most thankful for is the ability to pray and worship freely, mainly at school! Here at Vermilion Catholic we have the privilege to worship freely! Also, I am also super thankful for my sweet puppy Pepper who makes my world and everyone else around her world better!

Madeleine Abshire Class of 2018

I am thankful for my husband who is patient with me and kind to me and supports me no matter what.

Cindy Morgan, Faculty

I am thankful to be ALIVE! I replaced both of my knees in 2009 at the same time and developed an IMMENSE amount of blood clots in both legs! During my convalescence I lost 5 pints of blood and almost died! SO THAT'S WHY I AM GRATEFUL TO THE LORD FOR BEING ALIVE! I am also thankful for my wonderful family, my husband of almost 30 years, our 3 sons, 2 daughters-in-law, and our 6 grandchildren! Finally, I am grateful to be working here at VC! It has helped renew my faith!

Barbara Horaist, Faculty

I am thankful that my family lives in a Catholic community and that our students and staff are afforded the opportunity to practice our faith openly on a daily basis.

Liz Darte, Faculty

I am thankful for my teammates, especially my fellow seniors on the football team, and coaches. Without the bond that we share, we would not be in the position of success that we are currently in.

Ethan Zaunbrecher, Class of 2018

I am thankful for my amazing family at home and my school family.

Mattie Darte, Class 2019

I AM MOST THANKFUL FOR HEALTH AND HAPPINESS FOR MY TWO FAMILIES - MY BIOLOGICAL FAMILY AND MY SCHOOL FAMILY!

Kim David, Technology Coordinator

I AM THANKFUL FOR ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN A PART OF THIS CHAPTER IN MY LIFE.

Kylie White, Class of 2018

The soldiers that fight for our country.

Lauren Dugas, Class of 2020

FAMILY - FAITH - AND THE VERMILION CATHOLIC COMMUNITY.

Mike Guilbeaux, Principal

I am thankful for all of my students and that I have the privilege of being their teacher.

I am thankful for all of the people who donated and helped to raise money for our Exchange with Abbeville, France.

I am thankful for my family, especially my precious new granddaughter. ♥

Judy Lapeyrouse, Faculty

I am thankful for my grandfather because he taught me right from wrong.

Shelby Touchet, Class of 2021

MY TIME AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT ANNE'S

This past July, I spent 5 weeks in Nova Scotia, Canada. It was one of the most memorable experiences of my life. I learned French and couldn't speak any English. While there, I attended university-like classes. It was hard having my first language taken away from me like that. I lived in dorms with a roommate, and ate every meal in the cafeteria. We had many things to keep us busy like softball tournaments, game nights, volley-ball, ultimate frisbee, and even talent shows. I was even in a french play! It gave me a taste of what college would be like.

Since the University was very close to the water, I'd often go to the rocky beach with my friends. We'd hike through the forest and admire the scenery. It was so beautiful! I made so many friends and memories while improving my French. On clear nights, I'd go look at the multitude of stars in the sky. Towards the end, I was ready to come home, but they really kept us busy so those 5 weeks flew by. If I had a chance to go again, I so would.

Taylor Schaefer
Senior 2018



Kairos

Cauy Menard
Class of 2018 and FIAT Member

It is such a great honor to be part of FIAT. Kairos I to me was a success. I was so surprised to see how people acted and responded. There was a good atmosphere from everyone. I find everyone gained something from Kairos and from one another. I'm so blessed to be a part of this new change at VC.

Tre Lane
Class of 2018 and Kairos I Participant

I did not think the people there would take it seriously. My favorite part had to be how everybody truly opened up and we all go closer. That was unexpected.

ON OCTOBER 14, 2017, several members of the Vermilion Catholic Family traveled together to Shriever, Louisiana for the school's very first Kairos Retreat. Student and adult leaders, and student participants loaded the bus and car that morning not knowing what the next three days would be like. The following articles were contributed by a few of those participants of Kairos I.

Jena Miller, Class of 2018 and FIAT Leader

Mattie Dartez, Class of 2019 and Kairos I Participant

Kairos I was an experience that everyone who attended will carry with them always.

Going into the weekend, no one knew exactly what to expect and everyone was feeling a mix of emotions. There were so many different people with different types of personalities who attended. People who were best friends, people who have never talked to one another, people strong in their faith, and others who felt lost and didn't feel a connection with God. While at the retreat, everyone opened their hearts and became vulnerable and everyone was touched by the Holy Spirit in some way.

In our large group we expressed our feelings about the retreat in general and our appreciation for one another for having the courage to be there. In our small groups we shared our life experiences, our joys, our sorrows, things that we held deep inside of our hearts, and things that we never had the courage to share with anyone before. We saw each other in a different light and we trusted each other with all of our emotions. We became closer than ever before. Friendships were formed that we never imagined. Bonds were created that we will carry with us always. Memories were made that will last a lifetime. Everyone showed up at the retreat as an individual in search for something more, something bigger, and everyone walked away as a different person. We became one big family brought together by God.

We would like to encourage any Junior or Senior who didn't get the opportunity to attend Kairos I to attend Kairos II. If you are unsure, talk to anyone who attended, and they can tell you how it changed their life.

Kathy Langlains
VCHS Secretary
Kairos Adult Leader

I DID NOT WANT TO GO.

Quiet spirituality is more my style than group discussion so when Katie Landry asked me to go to Kairos, I said absolutely not! However, with each day and each time that she asked, I weakened and began to change my mind. So...kicking and screaming I went.

blessed and privileged to grow up in the time and place that I did. Today, we preach continuously to our children about hard work and sacrifice. However, we fail to give them weapons to use against social media, automatic information, and instant gratification. Even more importantly, when these fail to give them what they are searching for they are not equipped with the skills to deal with the disappointment. The failure becomes personally their own and they are lost in a flood of

with the pen guided by divine hands.

At their own pace and in their own time, they saw it. The proverbial light at the end of the tunnel. They discovered the bright unconditional love of God. They did not discover Him by using their cell phones or their computers but through their own trials and tribulations, and those of their peers. They learned not only to forgive those people who hurt them but also to forgive themselves. They realized that God was always there

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Driving ahead of the bus, we arrived at the center about twenty minutes ahead of the students. We had just enough time to unload the car make our bed and settle in a little bit when the students arrived. Girls were casually dressed with little care for frills and wore no make-up. Braided hair seemed to be the style for the weekend and I do not believe that any of them had a hairbrush. Boys (being boys) had on athletic shorts and oversize T-shirts. Of course, there was not a razor in sight.

They entered the building and discovered the hallway was congested with snacks for the weekend. There was something there for everyone: every chip known to man, brownies, cookies, goldfish, pretzels, M&Ms, skittles, nuts...The list went on and on. With the flip of an ice chest lid, you could find a selection soft drinks and water.

After a quick settle in, we made our way into a large room. You could feel their apprehension of the unknown. I discovered quickly that life has changed so much since I was a young girl in high school. I began to feel so

emotions trying to find a way to mend it.

Then Kairos began.

There were no athletes. There were no beta students. No NHS. No cheerleaders. No dance team. No drama club. There were no 4.0s. There were no 2.0s. There were only 17 and 18 year-old young men and women who came to discover a faith that was always available to them, but life's trials had left them feeling undeserving and unloved. They laughed. They cried. They comforted each other. They learned they had more in common than their academic environment. They supported each other in the much needed healing. They wrote affirmations to each other.

Envelopes for affirmations lined the wall. Every day, I saw participants placing snippets of happy in the drab yellow packages. A single thumbtack holding the weight of forgiveness, thankfulness, and kindness. Some were simple one-line affirmations; others carefully thought out and planned. Still others were magically written, flowing easily over the page

with open arms waiting for them to walk in his direction. And in the end they ran to Him.

The beautiful grounds and surrounding wooded area provided the perfect canvas for what took place. On the last day waiting to load the bus, the students were found up on the hill overlooking the small pond. They seemed to enjoy the silence of the area and each other's company. For a few brief minutes more, they relaxed with each other perhaps discussing what the many tomorrows may bring.

I have been asked if I had a good time and if I am glad that I went. Without hesitation, I say yes. Not only did I get to know the students and faculty in attendance better, but I also was able to reinforce my own relationship with God.

I encourage juniors and seniors to consider going on a Kairos retreat. And faculty, if given the opportunity to be an adult leader, give it a chance.

Kicking and screaming optional.

Kairos II is scheduled for February 3, 2018. For additional information, ask your VC F.I.A.T. member or Miss Katie Landry.



STUDENT Spotlight

by Kylie White, Class of 2018

HOMEcomings IS AN EXCITING TIME during the school year that many students look forward to. It is a week filled with amazing dress up days, the pep rally, the powder puff game, and the bonfire. We ended off the week with a victorious football game.

The most memorable time for me was the Friday of Homecoming. To start the day, we had our school mass. Dressing up in our Sunday best, all students arrive at St. Mary Magdalen to begin what is the final day of Homecoming Week. To start off the mass, members of the court and the senior football players processed in to church with items that recognized each of our academic and athletic activities at Vermilion Catholic. After mass, the class of 2018 took their very last Homecoming class picture.

Riverfront catered to every need of the Homecoming court and senior football players with a delicious breakfast following our school mass. They served a variety of breakfast dishes. We took multiple pictures and enjoyed the calm morning before all of the activities for the parade and game began.

I would have to say my favorite part of the entire week was the parade and the football game. I was

nervous because I knew there would be hundreds of people focused on watching each float and car as they slowly passed down the streets of Downtown Abbeville. It was very hot, but once the excitement of the parade took over I began to notice family and friends, and the many graduates of Vermilion Catholic enjoying the procession. Their enthusiasm was contagious.

The football game was just as exciting as the parade, with a little nervousness thrown in because I had to walk across the football field, but just like every other part of the week I had amazing family and friends supporting me. The night ended with a win for the football team and I began thinking about the events for the next day. Just before the dance on Saturday, the court gathered together at my Uncle Bubba and Nanny Toni's house for the final toast. We took many pictures and then we headed to Lafayette for our last Homecoming dinner. The night ended with the entire student body dancing in the gym.

I continuously go and relive the moments by looking at pictures of all the events during the week. I loved seeing all of the alumni come home to VC and witness their reactions of the many changes that the faculty, staff, and students have worked hard for. Also, to hear about their memories, just like the ones I am making. I am looking forward to the reunions I am going to have with my classmates.

What an amazing experience it was. I am thankful for everyone that made my Senior homecoming one that I will never forget.

Eagle of the Month

OCTOBER 2017

Senior

Zachary
Broussard

Junior

Anne-Catherine
Gallet

Sophomore Freshmen

Carley
Bengtson

Megan
Guarino



February 24, 2018
VN Hall

Emcee

Tricia Lege & Greg Dubois

Judges

Dena Kashner Troy LaPorte Jackie Trahan

Choreographers

Ajah Cox Jesse Hernandez
Ali Miller Kellie Boudreaux

Stars

Laura Beckett Brantley (01) & Toddy Guidry (77)
Stacy Putnam & Greg Harrington
Caroline Husband Broussard (07) & Blaine Broussard
Josie Toups Vincent (06) & Sean Trcalek (83)
Tammy Cao & Joseph Vallee

Don't miss the party of the year!
Tables & individual tickets still available.

Soccer Schedule

Girls' Soccer

Nov 13 - 6 pm vs Kaplan
Nov 21 - 5:30 pm @ Abbeville
Nov 27 JV - 7 pm @ Comeaux
Nov 30 - 6 pm @ Ellender
Dec 4 - 6 pm vs St. Martinville
Dec 11 - 6:30 pm @ Cecilia
Dec 14 - 6 pm vs Sacred Heart
Dec 18 - 6 pm vs Ellender
Dec 22 - 6 pm @ Westgate

Dec 28 - 5 pm @ Westminster
Jan 6 - 6 pm vs Erath
Jan 8 - 6 pm @ Kaplan
Jan 11 - 6 pm vs Abbeville
Jan 15 - 6 pm vs Catholic NI
Jan 17 - 5:30 pm vs Opel Catholic
Jan 18 - 6:30 pm @ Cafencro
Jan 29 - 6 pm vs ESA

Boys' Soccer

Nov 13 - 7:30 pm vs Kaplan
Dec 18 - 7:30 pm vs Ellender
Dec 28 - 7:30 pm @ Westminster

Jan 12 - 6:00 pm @ STM
Jan 17 - 7:00 pm vs Opel Catholic

