

QUARTER ONE, 2020-2021

VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Quarterly Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

**OPENING FOR THE
2020-2021 SCHOOL
YEAR**

**FAMILY GROUPS AND
COMMUNITY AT VLHS**

**AWARDS AND
RECOGNITIONS FROM
THE 2019-2020 YEAR**

**THEME VERSE FOR THE
2020-2021 YEAR**

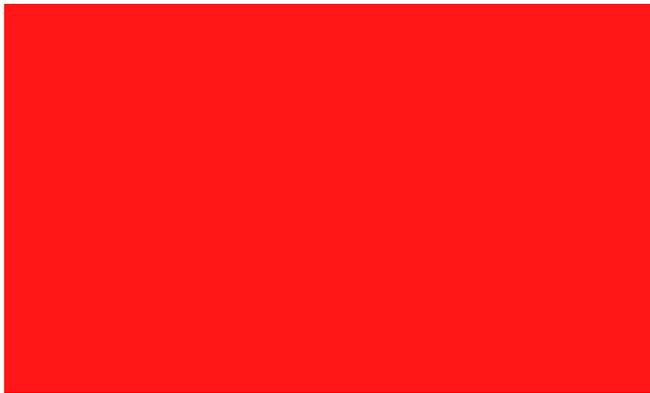
Opening for the 2020-2021 School Year

By Principal Kat Stokes

As we navigate through the current Covid-19 pandemic and the many unknowns and variables that come with it, we are challenged to think and operate differently.

Despite these new challenges, Valley Lutheran High School remains committed to providing a quality, Christian learning experience for our students while implementing additional safety and sanitation practices and procedures. We believe firmly that the more time our students are on campus, the more enriching their educational experience is. We are assured that God's promises ring true, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10)

We were able to successfully open our campus to students on August 17, 2020 and have been in classrooms learning, growing and worshipping since.



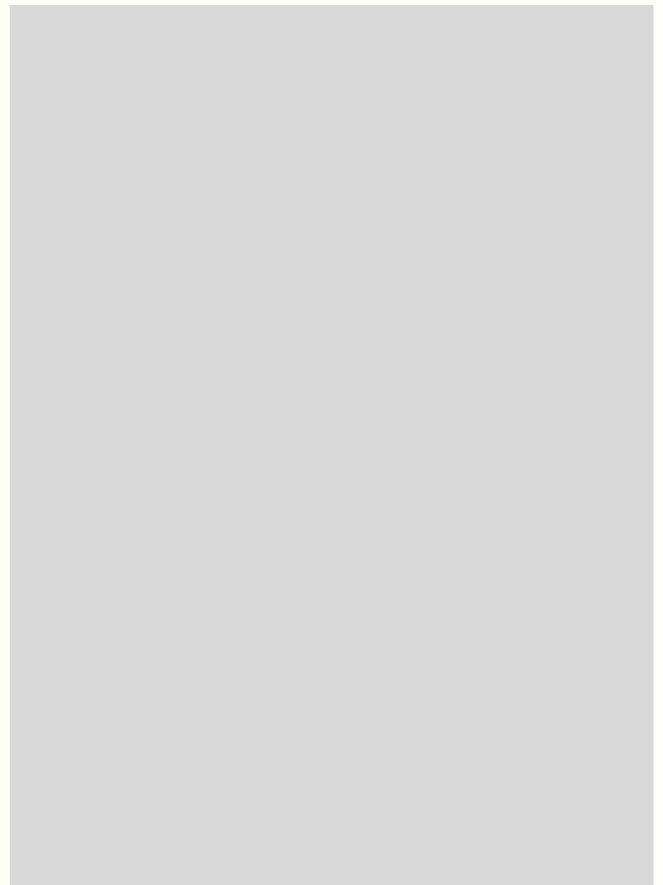


Theme Verse for the 2020-2021 Year

By Principal Kat Stokes

Our theme verse for the year is 1 Corinthians 15:58, which states “Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

Through chapels, family groups and servant leadership Friday’s, we are fortunate to learn how to **#standfirm** in our lives dedicated to God.





Family Groups at VLHS

By Pastor Jamie Holt

The term discipleship refers to the many and various ways that the living God shapes and guides believers to conform to the image of His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

At VLHS, intentional discipleship occurs in the context of relationships in year-long, close-knit, small groups of students and teachers called Family Groups. These Family Groups, which gather three times per week on non-chapel days, provide the vehicle for leadership opportunities for students to mentor and minister to one another under the supervision of VLHS faculty.

Family groups are also a consistent venue for team-based problem solving activities and cooperative competition during Family Group Games, as well as healthy discussion and reflection during Family Group Devotions, and education and engagement with local service organizations during Servant Leadership Fridays.

Night of Worship: The Well

By Mr. Daniel Parsons

Typically, we start each year at Valley Lutheran by taking all of our students up to Prescott for an Orientation Camp as a way to build community and encourage a culture of worship for our students.

While Orientation Camp wasn't possible for us this year, we made sure to keep the heart of it going through our first Night of Worship of the year, named The Well to continue what had been a worship opportunity for the last night of the usual camp schedule.

Our Nights of Worship are planned, coordinated, and led by the students of our Worship Arts class, who lead attendees in worshipful music, stations, and reflection. Night of Worship: The Well, which took place on the evening of September 23rd, included three different sets of worship music led by different groupings of Worship Arts students and three interactive stations intended to center worship and focus on the ways Jesus brings us comfort, peace, and joy in the midst of any and all circumstances.

Our next Night of Worship: The Harvest is on Wednesday evening, October 14th, and will be starting at 7pm.



Servant-Leadership Fridays

By Mr. Daniel Parsons

A few years ago, we shifted from a schedule with eight class periods for most school days with a drop-schedule rotation to more of a standard block schedule with four classes a day, though kept Fridays as a day when students would still go through all eight class periods. Having block schedule days allowed us to have open periods each day that we've been able to fill with time for Chapels, Academic Hour, and Family Group Bible studies.

With the opportunities block schedule allows for with open time each day, we decided this year to change Fridays to block schedule days and fill it with a weekly time for Servant-Leadership. On Servant-Leadership Fridays, students take part in discussions and activities geared towards helping them learn about and become more skilled in aspects of Servant-Leadership while seeking out community organizations that serve the area of Phoenix VLHS is located in to build connections with them.

By the end of this semester, we are hoping for each of our Family Groups to have found organizations to partner with to learn about their mission and serve with to help the community our school is a part of.

Christi Lux Recognition for 2019-2020

By Pastor Jamie Holt

Christ Lux means the "light of Christ" – What makes this award so special and unique is that the winner is selected by the student body.

Each student is given a ballot with the names of the entire student body and asked to choose the name of one student that best lives out sharing Christ's light and love on our campus on a daily basis. The winners names are engraved and put on a plaque that hangs in our front office.

Our honoree for the past two years, Mac Clow, has reflected the light of Christ to this community. His heart of service extends to everyone and our students saw that light all year. Whether he is holding a door, picking up trash, encouraging teachers, or helping a classmate, Mac truly serves and puts the needs of others first. He is kind, considerate and brings his positive smile and attitude to the classroom everyday.

Congratulations Mac!



Honoring Joe Richter

By Principal Kat Stokes

The man, myth, legend, teacher who was on staff since the school opened in 1981, Mr. Richter comments on how he would describe the VLHS culture,

“A Gospel community...that has created a culture in which loved and forgiven people are freed up to build meaningful relationships with God and with one another.” He has shared that passion and perspective over the years by teaching all levels of science, math and some theology as well as coaching and serving as Athletic Director.

Mr. Richter retired this past school year, but due to COVID19, his retirement celebration has been on hold. When asked what Mr. Richter plans for retirement, he mused in his familiar style, “I still wonder what I’m going to do when I grow up.”

Visit www.vlhs.org for more information on Mr. Richter’s Retirement Celebration.



2019-2020 Ron Harman Award Distinction: Alan and Linda Rosnau

By Principal Kat Stokes

Pastor Alan and Linda Rosneau were selected as the 2020 Ron Harman award recipients.

This prestigious award is given every year to recognize special individuals in the Valley community that exude Christian servant leadership. Pastor Alan and Linda have supported Valley in many ways over the past few decades including service on the Board of Directors for the past X years, and had a son and daughter graduate from Valley Lutheran in 2010 and 2015.

Due to COVID19, the Rosnau’s will receive their award at the 2021 graduation ceremony along with the 2021 recipient.



Fall Athletics Update

By Athletic Director Bob Parsons

After delays and modifications, Fall sports are in full swing at Valley Lutheran!

Whether they are tackling, setting, running, or cheering; our student athletes are embracing the challenges of competing in an environment none of them have ever experienced before. With an increased focus on the health and safety of our student athletes and coaches, practices and games look a bit different, and in some cases seem a little strange.

Above all, our main focus is to provide our young people with an opportunity to safely interact and compete.

Please consider attending one of our home football games, October 30th (Homecoming) and November 7th (Senior night). Go Flames!

STAY INVOLVED WITH VLHS

To keep up on what we have going on at Valley Lutheran, follow us on our social media pages.

We're on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Follow @valleylutheran for updates.

Special thank you and credit to VLHS Senior Andrew Baker for the photography used in this publication

We appreciate your support of Valley Lutheran.

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to navigate the unique realities of the 2020-2021 school year. If you feel called to donate to our programs and scholarships that we offer at VLHS, please do so at www.vlhs.org/donate