



The mission of Vandebilt Catholic High School is to provide students with a holistic education that is rooted in religious values, structured through friendly discipline, nurtured by personal attention, and committed to academic excellence.

December 2016

Monthly Newsletter

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

As we continue to prepare ourselves for the coming of the nativity of Jesus throughout the Advent season, I think it is appropriate to also remind ourselves of the many ways that Jesus is present in our everyday lives. The opportunity to be a part of a Catholic school community such as Vanderbilt serves as a daily reminder of the love of Christ. We experience Jesus through our students who are so very passionate about their faith, and who provide us with an opportunity to be at our very best every day. We experience Jesus through our relationships with one another as we challenge ourselves and each other to live Christ's message in our everyday lives. Most importantly we experience Jesus in our shared experience of Mass; I truly feel Christ's presence each time we gather together as a school to celebrate and worship.



It is hard to imagine that the first semester is already drawing to an end. I guess it is true that time flies when you are having fun! Although we have accomplished a great deal in such a short period of time, we still have much left to do. I want to thank everyone: students, parents, community members, and especially the faculty and staff of Vanderbilt for their continued commitment to excellence and unwavering support. As I said last month, I am certain that our best days lie ahead.

Thank You! Special thanks to those parents that donated in support of our Ping Pong Club. So far we have been able to host matches after school on several occasions, and the kids are having a blast! I have included a few pictures of our students in action for everyone to see.

We will host an Open Forum in the near future to discuss finance and potential policy changes. Please be on the lookout for an email from Vanderbilt with the date and time for this event, your input is valuable.

On behalf of everyone at Vanderbilt, I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

I hope you find this month's newsletter informative and helpful. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call or email me.

Geaux Terriers,

Jeremy Gueldner
Principal, Vanderbilt Catholic High School



ADVANCEMENT

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Hebrews 13:8

Dear Parents,

As we prepare for the coming of Christ this Advent and make plans to celebrate Christmas, it is important that we, the VCHS community, pause and examine the many gifts we have received during the past year as well as recommit ourselves to our primary task of building the kingdom of God through our educational ministry. It is easy to go from day to day and task to task without taking time to see the wonder of God's creation around us. This holiday season can be a time for us to focus on the true meaning of Christmas as well as our relationship with a loving God.

In 2001, Pope John Paul II expressed how Jesus's birth reveals depth of God's love: *The Christmas season, in fact, once again brings Jesus' mystery and his work of salvation to the attention of Christians. Before the crib, the Church adores the august mystery of the Incarnation: the Child stirring in Mary's arms is the Eternal Word who has entered time and taken on human nature wounded by sin, to unite it to himself and redeem it. Every human reality and every temporal event thus acquire an eternal resonance: in the person of the Incarnate Word creation is wondrously exalted.*

St Augustine writes:

"God became man so that man might become God." Between heaven and earth a bridge has been built forever: in the God-Man humanity rediscovers the way to heaven. Mary's Son is the universal Mediator, the supreme Pontiff. This Child's every act is a mystery meant to reveal God's unfathomable benevolence.

From all of us at Vandebilt Catholic High School to you and your families, we wish you a merry, holy, and happy Christmas.

Yours in Christ,



President, Vandebilt Catholic High School

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

On December 8, 2016 there was an investiture ceremony for Lauren Neil, one of our alumni. She was given the name Sister Marie Sacre' Coeur. We ask you to continue to keep her in your prayers as she answers God call to religious life.



Everyone is welcome to attend all Masses at Vanderbilt Catholic High School.

Daily Mass is celebrated in the school chapel at 7:20 a.m., preceded by the Liturgy of the Hours at 7:00 a.m. Each Wednesday, during both junior and senior high lunches, Reconciliation and Adoration is offered in the chapel. School-wide Mass is held at 9:20 a.m. in the Brother Alfred Kolb Center twice a month.

VANDEBILT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL LITURGICAL CALENDAR	
Thursday, January 5, 2017	
Thursday, January 19, 2017	
Thursday, February 2, 2017	Catholic Schools Week Mass with Bishop Fabre
Thursday, February 16, 2017	
Thursday, March 9, 2017	
Thursday, March 23, 2017	
Tuesday, April 11, 2017	Holy Week Mass
Wednesday, April 12, 2017	Passion Play & Adoration
Thursday, May 4, 2017	Senior Mass
Friday, May 12, 2017	Junior Ring Mass
Saturday, May 20, 2017	Graduation Mass

Service hour information is available at <http://www.vandebiltcatholic.org/catholic-identity/service-hour-requirements/>.

We remember in our prayers

† Ms. Becky Gueniot
† Evan Fanguy
† Mr. Spice Vegas
† Mrs. Irma Colasurdo
† Mrs. Lisa Vegas
† Mrs. Wendy Couvillon

† Mrs. Janie Roger
† Ms. Anne Belanger
† Mr. Donald Banowetz
† Mr. Harold Haydel
† Liam Bascle
† Alaina Maiorana

EVENTS

Thank you to our Vanderbilt family for the overwhelming support of the Christmas Project. We exceeded our goal of \$15,000. The students and teachers at Legion Park Elementary were so excited with all the gifts and activities, and our seniors enjoyed getting to experience the true meaning of Christmas.

December

- 13 Band Concert
- 15-20 Semester Exams
- 21-1/2 Christmas Holidays
- 20 Mass
- 22 ACT

Calendars and schedules are available on the Vanderbilt Catholic Web site at <http://www.vanderbiltcatholic.org/about-vchs/calendar/>

ACADEMICS

As the first semester is coming to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and partnership in your child's education. It has been a great start to the school year, and I look forward to an even better second semester.

A few reminders:

- Mid-term exams are December 15th -20th (see schedule below).
- Mid-term exam counts as 25% of the second quarter grade.
- First quarter (at 49%) and second quarter (at 51%) grades are averaged together to calculate 1st semester grades.
- Classes resume on January 3rd.
- Academic professional development for staff is on January 17th. Students will not attend school on that day.
- Interim reports for 3rd quarter will be January 26th.

Exam Schedule

12/15--> 8th period

12/16--> 7th & 4th period

12/19--> 1st & 3rd period

12/20--> 5th/6th & 2nd period

ACT TEST DATES FOR 2016-2017

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION (EXTRA FEE REQUIRED)
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June 11, 2016	May 6, 2016	May 7-20, 2016
September 10, 2016	August 5, 2016	August 6-9, 2016
October 22, 2016	September 16, 2016	September 17-30, 2016
December 10, 2016	November 4, 2016	November 5-18, 2016
February 11, 2017	January 6, 2017	January 7-20, 2017
April 8, 2017	March 3, 2017	March 4-17, 2017
June 10, 2017	May 5, 2017	May 6-19, 2017

STUDENT LIFE

OUTERWEAR

Just a few reminders about jackets as cooler weather approaches – Only the official Vanderbilt Catholic navy sweater, fleece jacket, or navy sweatshirt (purchased through the school office) or letterman jacket can be worn inside the building. Team, club, band, or any other organization’s apparel cannot be worn inside the school building unless it is a spotlight day for that particular organization or a dress down day. Hooded sweatshirts cannot be worn at school at any time. The official heavy school jacket that can be worn inside the building is available at School Time and Jakes.

EARLY DISMISSALS

Early checkouts for medical or dental appointments during the school day should be avoided. Requests for such dismissals, when necessary, must be in written form and signed by the student’s parents. The student must present this note before 7:55 a.m. in Mrs. Robertson’s office for an early dismissal slip.

LOST AND FOUND

Students should check with Mrs. Robertson’s office for lost and found items, this includes lunch boxes, school sweaters and jackets, and P.E. bags.

Reminder to students and parents: You can anonymously report bullying and harassing issues by sending an e-mail to bethechange@htdiocese.org. This e-mail is seen only by the Dean of Students, Mrs. Amanda Robertson.

ATHLETICS

The most important event coming up for athletics during the month of December is Semester exams. Both parents and athletes should be reminded that in order to be eligible to participate in athletics for the second semester, the student-athlete must pass six classes. With the sports of basketball and

soccer, which occur in both the first and second semesters, an athlete can be eligible right now, not pass his/her six classes after Semester exams and can be deemed ineligible for athletics in the second semester. Of course, the opposite can be true as well, going from ineligible to passing six classes and becoming eligible for the second semester. We wish all of our students well on their studies.

Congratulations to Coaches Dave Malone, Melanie Prentice, and Jason Ray along with the Girls' Cross Country Team for earning the school's first State Championship. Vanderbilt placed five runners in the top ten with eighth-grader Caroline Lindsay placing first and being named State Champion. Other top ten finishers include Leanna Tueton, Maddie Richoux, Eleana Callejas, and Amelia Viator. Our Volleyball Team performed well at the State Tournament ending as a Semi-Finalist. All of our Fall athletes and coaches did a great job!

The date for the Terrier Club Golf Tournament has been set for Monday, April 10, 2017, and will be held at Ellendale Country Club. More information will be sent out in January.



MUSIC

The choir would like to invite everyone to the Christmas concert on December 7th at 7 P.M. in the Kolb Center.

The band program will present their concert on December 13th at 7 P.M., with the elementary bands performing at 6 P.M.-both concerts are in the Kolb Center.

ART

Members of the Vanderbilt Art Club created Christmas cards that will be delivered by its officers to area nursing homes to share their talents and the spirit of giving this Christmas season.

Art students have once again volunteered to produce portraits for the Memory Project, an initiative that pairs our talented artists with children in orphanages from around the globe. Our students will create portraits in various media that will then be sent to children in the orphanage in the country that we will select for this year. We are proud to have participated in this project for over nine years now.

MOTHERS' CLUB

Mother's Club Newsletter Information

Thank you to all the moms/grandparents who have continued to volunteer in the bookstore and at our events.

Our next Rosary gathering will be on Dec. 14 at 2:00 p.m. at the picnic tables near the Brothers' Hall. Please join us for this time of fellowship and prayer for our students as they embark on exams.

As always, the bookstore has wonderful items for Christmas—the new monogrammed fleece blankets and the pajama pants are great for any Terrier!

We also have a special promotion of VC mugs filled with candy available for \$5, and each purchase gets a chance at a drawing for a \$10 Chick-fil-A gift card.

We will be teaming up with the school to host a garage sale in March. Please consider donating items and/or assisting with this event. We will begin accepting items as soon as we return from the holidays. (No clothing EXCEPT formals will be collected.) Please be on the lookout for information on where to drop off donations.

Have a very Blessed and Merry Christmas!

Kerry Diebold
Communications/Publicity Officer
VCH Mothers' Club 2016-2017
Vchsmothersclub@gmail.com

LIBRARY NEWS

Library News - December 2016

Mrs. Danae' Jackson (school librarian) and Mrs. Barbara Bourg (library aide) would like to invite all students to visit the Vandebilt Catholic Library.

Please remember that the library is continuing to collect Box Tops for Education and Community Coffee labels all year. The money earned from both goes toward the purchasing of new books and e-books, or anything else the library may need.

The Vandebilt Catholic library also has a memorial program in which a person can honor another by donating money to purchase a book in his or her memory.

Required reading novels for English classes (\$1.00 per book) are sold in the library (by the Mother's Club). These sell out quickly!

Ask us about our new books and e-books that are now ready to be checked out. Do not forget about our numerous online resources that will help with your class projects.

Check the school web-site or Plus Portals for more library information and links, such as databases that students can utilize on or off of campus. The library page on plus portals is under groups.



The VCHS Book Club has already had several meetings. The Book Club is reading its second book, *The Fifth Wave* by Rick Yancey. Students may still join Book Club, even though they may not be able to attend every meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

VANDEBILT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

CALENDAR FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

October 10-13	First Quarter Exams
October 14	Fall Break
October 29.....	New Autumn Festival
November 8.....	Election Day Holiday
November 21-25.....	Thanksgiving Week
December 15-20.....	First Semester Exams (over a weekend)
December 21-January 2....	Christmas Holiday
January 3.....	Classes Resume
January 16.....	Martin Luther King Holiday
February 21-24.....	Third Quarter Exams
February 27-March 3.....	Mardi Gras Holiday
March 6	Faculty In-service
April 13	Social Justice Day for Faculty
April 14-April 21	Easter Break
May 8-11	Senior Final Exams
May 20.....	Graduation
May 22-25	Final Exams
May 26.....	Records Day / Exam Review Day

VANDEBILT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL MAJOR DATES 2016-2017

October

01 Homecoming Dance
 06 Mass
 06 College Night at VCHS 6:30 p.m.
 10-13 First Quarter Exams
 14 Fall Break
 19 PSAT
 20 Mass
 22 ACT
 24 Underclassman Retreat
 28 Football Senior Night
 29 New Autumn Festival

November

01 Mass
 08 Election Day (holiday)
 09 Open House
 11 Veterans Day Assembly
 12 Soup Bowl Benefit
 17 Mass – Thanksgiving
 21-25 Thanksgiving Holiday

December

02 Christmas Project
 07 Choir Concert
 08 Mass – Immaculate
 Conception/Christmas
 10 ACT
 13 Band Concert
 15-20 First Semester Exams
 21-31 Christmas Holiday

January

01-02 Christmas Holiday
 03 Classes Resume
 05 Mass
 13-15 VC Theatre Production
 16 MLK Holiday
 17 Kagan Workshop
 19 Mass
 20-22 VC Theatre Production
 27 Junior High Dance

** No school for students*

28 Sadie Hawkins Dance
 30-31 Catholic Schools Week

February

01-03 Catholic Schools Week
 02 Mass with Bishop Fabre
 11 ACT
 16 Mass
 21-24 Third Quarter Exams
 27-28 Mardi Gras Break

March

01-03 Mardi Gras Break
 06 BOSH In-service at VCHS *
 07 Classes Resume
 09 Mass
 16 Reconciliation Day
 18 Elementary Rally
 23 Mass

April

07 Art Show
 08 ACT
 11 Mass
 12 Passion Play
 14-21 Easter Break
 28 Vandyfest
 29 Prom

May

02 Band Concert
 04 Senior Mass
 05 Senior Breakfast
 08-11 Senior Exams
 11 Choir Concert
 12 Mass – Junior Ring
 13 Band Dance
 15 Athletic Convocation
 16 Underclassman Awards
 17 Senior Honors Convocation
 20 Graduation
 22-25 Final Exams
 26 Records Day

** No School for students*



EXAM SCHEDULE 2016-2017

1st Quarter Exams

October 10 – 7th
October 11 - 3rd & 8th
October 12 - 2nd & 5th/6th
October 13 - 1st & 4th

2nd Quarter Exams

December 15 - 8th
December 16 - 7th & 4th
December 19 - 1st & 3rd
December 20 - 5th/6th & 2nd

3rd Quarter Exams

February 21 - 5th/6th
February 22 - 2nd & 4th
February 23 - 1st & 8th
February 24 - 3rd & 7th

Senior Final Exams

May 8 - 3rd & 4th
May 9 - 1st & 2nd
May 10 - 5th/6th & 7th
May 11 - 8th

Finals (8th- 11th Graders)

May 22 - 3rd
May 23 - 1st & 2nd
May 24 - 5th/6th & 7th
May 25 - 8th & 4th

Interims

1st Quarter- September 8
2nd Quarter- November 10
3rd Quarter- January 26
4th Quarter- March 30(seniors)
April 6 (8th-11th graders)

Vandebilt Catholic Bell Schedule 2016-2017

1 Regular (50 min. Classes)	2 Mass (40 min. Classes)	3 Pep Rally (46 min. Classes)	4 EXAM
7:56 Warning Bell	7:56 Warning Bell	7:56 Warning Bell	7:56 Warning Bell
7:59 – 8:49 1 st Period	7:59 – 8:39 1 st Period	7:59 – 8:45 1 st Period	7:56 – 8:05 Prayer & Announcements
8:52 – 9:42 2 nd Period	8:42 – 9:22 2 nd Period	8:48 – 9:34 2 nd Period	8:05 – 9:35 Exam
9:45 – 10:01 Homeroom / Recess	9:25 – 10:35 Mass	9:37 – 9:55 Homeroom / Recess	9:35 – 9:50 Recess
10:04 – 10:54 3 rd Period	10:35 – 10:51 Recess	9:58 – 10:44 3 rd Period	9:53 – 11:23 Exam
10:57 – 11:47 4 th Period	10:54 – 11:34 3 rd Period	10:47 – 11:33 4 th Period	
11:47 – 12:15 LUNCH I	11:37 – 12:17 4 th Period	11:33 – 12:01 LUNCH I	
11:50 – 12:40 5 th Period	12:17 – 12:45 LUNCH I	11:36 – 12:22 5 th Period	
12:18 – 1:08 6 th Period	12:20 – 1:00 5 th Period	12:04 – 12:50 6 th Period	
12:40 – 1:08 LUNCH II	12:48 – 1:28 6 th Period	12:22 – 12:50 LUNCH II	
1:11 – 2:01 Prayer & 7 th Period	1:00 – 1:28 LUNCH II	12:53 – 1:39 Prayer & 7 th Period	
2:04 – 2:54 8 th Period	1:31– 2:11 Prayer & 7 th Period	1:42 – 2:28 8 th Period	
	2:14 – 2:54 8 th Period	2:28 - 2:54 Assembly	