



New Visual and Performing Arts Hall of Fame Selects First Recipients

Victor Central Schools is proud to announce the first ever inductees of its new Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) Hall of Fame. The program, which was rolled out earlier in the school year, was created to celebrate and honor the accomplishments of outstanding alumni, staff and community members who have excelled in the arts. It was also established to inspire current students to make contributions to the arts by reconnecting those selected for the hall of fame with our students, staff and community.

Please join us in welcoming our first four inductees into the new Visual and Performing Arts Hall of Fame!

Visual & Performing Arts HALL OF FAME



David Cowles - 1979 Senior Photo



Alan Hood - 1982 Senior Photo



Betty Kocher - 1959 Yearbook



Beth Thomas - 1988 Yearbook



Creator:

David Cowles/Visual Arts

Artist David Cowles graduated from Victor Senior High School in 1979. After attending graphic arts school he landed a job with the *Democrat and Chronicle* in Rochester as a visual artist. Two years after joining the *D&C*, he began his freelance illustration career and in 1991 he left the newspaper completely to launch his freelance career full-time. Cowles' work has appeared in *Entertainment Weekly*, *Rolling Stone*, *Vibe*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *People*, *The Village Voice*, *Money*, *Worth*, *Fortune*, *Fast Company*, *Los Angeles Magazine*, *New York Magazine*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Chicago Tribune* and *the New York Times* to name just a few. He also produced a pilot for Playhouse Disney, several award-winning videos for *They Might be Giants* as well as videos for Sesame Workshop, The Rochester Philharmonic, the *Democrat and Chronicle* and the award winning spot H2O Hero. Senior High School art teacher and nominator David Denner said the art department unanimously agreed that David would be an excellent selection for the Hall of Fame's first inductee.



Performer:

Alan Hood/Music

During his high school years, Alan Hood was the top trumpet player at Victor Central Schools. Upon graduating in 1982, Hood transferred his love for the trumpet into collegiate music studies earning him a bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky, a master's degree from Northern Illinois University and a doctorate degree from the University of Miami. In addition to an illustrious teaching career that took him from the University of Texas and the University of Virginia to the University of Denver's Lamont School, Hood has performed music for more than 35 years. Among his most notable gigs Hood toured the world with Phil Collins, appeared with the orchestras of Woody Herman, Glenn Miller and Harry James and performed on stage with Ray Charles, Doc Severinsen, and Natalie Cole to name a few. In 2013 he was named a VCS Graduate of Distinction for his incredible music accomplishments. Senior High band teacher Eric Everhart said that it was during these festivities that Alan willingly gave of his time and talents to teach a master class to music students in the new JH/SH Arts Center.



Practitioner:

Betty Kocher/Music

Former music teacher Elizabeth "Betty" Kocher (1956 – 1980) was instrumental in bringing the Suzuki method to VCS, a program that has taught thousands of young musicians how to play the violin through the years. After attending the National Suzuki Conference in the summer of 1966, Kocher was so inspired she worked with the Board of Education to start a program at VCS in the fall of 1966. She also arranged to have founder, Dr. Shinichi Suzuki visit Victor four times! Prior to VCS Kocher earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the Eastman School of Music, taught music for two years at Georgian Court College in New Jersey and Misericordia College in Pennsylvania before coming back to Victor where she taught for more than twenty years. Nominator and current Junior High School strings teacher, Elizabeth Knapp said that the District's music program, specifically its orchestra program would not be what it is today without the inspiration and everlasting hard work of Betty Kocher.



Visual & Performing Arts

HALL OF FAME

Visual & Performing Arts
Hall of Fame
Induction Ceremony

Thursday, June 14th

Early Childhood School Boardroom

6:45 ~ Reception

7:15 ~ Board Presentation

Family and friends of all of our new inductees
are welcomed to attend!

Contributor:

Beth Thomas/Theater

Former Senior High English teacher Beth Thomas (1983-2014) was an integral part of the Senior High School theater arts community for more than two decades serving as the theater arts coordinator, International Baccalaureate (IB) theater teacher and the Senior High drama director. Under her leadership Thomas directed numerous plays and musicals that engaged literally thousands of young artists both on and off stage. She also helped with the monumental job of transitioning the entire high school theater arts program into the new JH/SH Arts Center. Senior High School English teacher and nominator Jeremy Hawkinson said that Thomas was instrumental in inspiring theatre at VSH not only through her work with students but by fostering new faculty into their roles as teachers of theater.

Candidates for the Visual and Performing Arts Hall of Fame can be nominated in one of four categories:

Creators - Individuals and/or groups of Victor Senior High School alumni who graduated a minimum of ten (10) years ago.

Performers - Individuals and/or groups of Victor Senior High School alumni who graduated a minimum of ten (10) years ago.

Practitioners - Staff and community members who have made significant and extraordinary contributions to the Victor Central Schools' Arts programming for a minimum of five (5) years.

Contributors - Individuals who have made a significant impact on Victor Central Schools' Arts programming, administration, and/or on regional, state, national, professional, or international levels. This honorary category may include, but is not limited to, VCS staff and local community supporters.

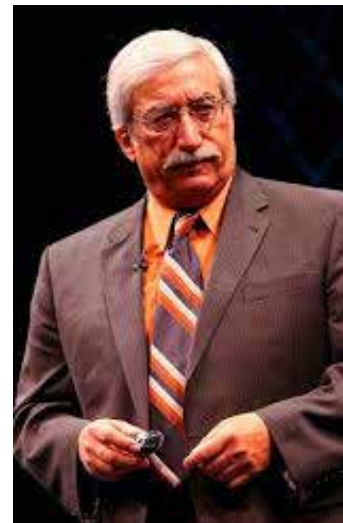
Local Educator and Advocate Dr. Ralph N. Spezio Named 2018 Graduate of Distinction

On Thursday, May 10th at 7:15 pm at a special ceremony at the Board of Education's regular monthly meeting, a well-respected local educator and leader in the fight against childhood lead poisoning, Dr. Ralph Spezio (VCS Class of 1965) will be recognized as Victor Central Schools' 2018 Graduate of Distinction. The Graduates of Distinction program was initiated in 2002 as a way to recognize VCS alumni who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and made significant contributions to society.

Ralph Neil Spezio, Ed.D. served for 33 years in the Rochester City School District as teacher, curriculum specialist, vice principal, and principal. As principal of Enrico Fermi School No. 17, a large urban elementary school in the heart of Rochester's "poverty crescent", Dr. Spezio initiated wide-ranging partnerships and groundbreaking programs to improve the health and well being of students and the entire community. For example, in partnership with St. Mary's Hospital, he raised \$1.2 million in private money, and built the only school/community medical center of its kind in New York State. Building on this success, Dr. Spezio raised another \$1 million and doubled the size of the health center to include a full-service dental facility operated by Strong's Eastman Dental Center. This health/dental center is open to the entire community with a full sliding-scale system so no one is turned away. Because there was no pre-kindergarten program at

School No. 17, Dr. Spezio formed a partnership with Kodak, and using Edison Tech students, built a facility that now houses a Montessori pre-school. This program was the first in Rochester to be located in a public school, and was the only public school at that time to have received accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Dr. Spezio created an authentic neighborhood/community-school and with it, a vibrant Parent-Teacher Association was formed and sustained during his tenure as principal.

Dr. Spezio has received numerous awards for entrepreneurial leadership and community service, including citations from parent and community groups, professional associations, business associations, and local and state government leaders. While principal of School No.17, Dr. Spezio was a founding member of the Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning in Monroe County, New York. The work of this coalition recently earned the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Justice Achievement Award and the Rochester Area Community Foundation's Ames-Amzalak Award for Nonprofit Excellence. Upon retiring as principal, Dr. Spezio served eight years as Senior Associate/Community Liaison in the University of Rochester Medical Center's Department of Community and Preventive Medicine. In May 2011, he received his doctoral degree in educational leadership from the University of



Rochester, Warner School.

In 2013, Dr. Spezio was asked to come out of retirement to lead School 17 again as Principal in order to remove the State Priority School Status currently held by that school. He recently was awarded the EPA's National Environmental Quality Award for his groundbreaking work to eliminate childhood lead poisoning.

VCS alumnae and former classmate, Anita Owens-Boulger, said she nominated Dr. Spezio for this esteemed award because his life has been filled with so

many extraordinary achievements. “Ralph put himself through college to reach the level of doctorate in education. He was a demonstration teacher, curriculum specialist, vice principal and principal in one of the most challenged and highest poverty-stricken schools in the City of Rochester. I have known Ralph since grade school in the Victor Schools and can say that he has been consistent in his passion to help children to achieve a healthy and successful future. He is a powerful inspiration and a credit to all the values that the Victor Central School District holds dear.”

Graduate of Distinction Ceremony

2018 Graduates of Distinction
Induction Ceremony
Honoring Dr. Ralph Spezio (Class of 1965)

Thursday, May 10th
Early Childhood School Boardroom
6:45 ~ Reception
7:15 ~ Board Presentation

Family and friends are welcomed to attend!

Larry Keefe (Class of 1964) Reminisces About VCS' First Foreign Exchange Student

This year marks the 57th year VCS has been hosting foreign exchange students.

In 1960, the Victor PTA began discussing the idea of hosting a foreign exchange student, and in 1961 that vision became a reality when the Senior High School hosted Masahiro Hirata, a young student from Japan. Hirata was part of the American Field Service program, a private, non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote better understanding among people through international scholarship. Alumnus, Larry Keefe spoke to us about what it was like to have a classmate from another part of the world.

What year did you meet Masahiro?

He came during my sophomore year, in 1961. I believe he would have entered as a junior because he was staying with the Southgate family, and their son James – who was my friend – was a year ahead of me.

How did the VCS student body react to their first exchange student?

People were very curious about what he would be like; it was something of an exotic event to have him here because I don't believe at the time very many people in Victor had ever met an Asian of any kind. In general they

tried to make him feel welcome; there were several impediments to him being fully accepted into the student body, the first of them being his somewhat limited English, and the second, his personality and cultural background, because he was extremely reserved and/or shy. He was probably, you have to think, chosen as an exchange student because of his intelligence and the fact he knew some English, rather than because of his outgoing personality.

What did you learn from the exchange with Masahiro?

One thing that I learned for myself was that Japanese were not at all like Americans who simply happened to speak a different language and use chopsticks. Masahiro's world view was quite different than ours. He was extremely polite and studious; I think any grade less than 100% bothered him quite a bit; he dressed formally at all times and found it difficult to just relax and play. My father had served in Japan right after WWII and liked the Japanese culture, and I was quite eager to learn about it, so when we became friends – something I worked on doing – we talked a great deal about our differences. He was quite ambitious, focused entirely on getting into university, and much of the time didn't really approve of the lack of seriousness of VCS students. Of course, he was too polite to say that, and was always very thoughtful, but our informal and unfocused life style shocked him a bit. I think much of the time he was lonely and homesick, and I had to admire the way he stuck it

out; back in those days you couldn't make overseas phone calls—at least he could not have afforded them—and of course there was no email, etc. So he would occasionally get letters he showed, but had little contact from home. After months of knowing one another he started to make jokes and to laugh, and we developed a genuine liking for each other; my mother and father became quite fond of him and he spent a lot of time at our house. He did invite me to call him 'Masa-chan' which he explained was an informal, friendly form of address, as opposed to Masa-san, which would have been much more formal. I eventually got him to just goof around a bit, but it was an uphill walk. Despite that, we developed a real bond of affection.

What was Masahiro like?

Masahiro seemed more interested in grades than extracurricular activities. He did like to paint, in a classic Japanese watercolor style, and my impression is that he was good at it in a traditional way. I don't recall him taking part in other activities.

Why are foreign exchange students so important for VCS students, especially today?

I don't know about their importance today; back then it gave me a tangible sense of how very different other people can be, but that their values, ambition and aspirations are every bit as important to them as ours are to us.

Postscript:

I lost touch with Masahiro after he left Victor and have never found an address for him since, though I've tried occasionally; it would be nice to know how his life turned out.

The Senior High School continues to host international students from every corner of the globe, only now through multiple exchange programs, including the Victor-Farmington Rotary Club.



The Win That Shocked Section V

VCS Celebrates 40th Anniversary of '77-'78 Boys Basketball Sectional Championship

It was a classic underdog story. So classic, that it was actually printed on the back of a Section V basketball program . . . “The 1977-78 Victor Varsity Boys Basketball Team was the only team ever to win a Sectional Championship with a losing record during the regular season.”

But their early-season losing record of 8 -10 didn't tell the whole story according to former player Scott Zahn. As Zahn (Class of '79) recalls, the team, made up of only two seniors and predominantly three sport juniors, “just needed time to adjust to the speed of the game and the competition.”

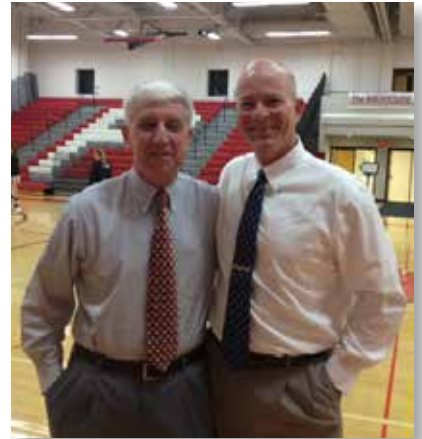
And adjust they did. Zahn recalls that by the end of their season his team took a Cinderella turn defeating North Rose

Wolcott 88-60, Lyons 74-58 and Wheatland Chili 65-42 before taking on Midlakes in the Sectional Championship game.

“I'll never forget that game at the Rochester War Memorial. The crowd was amazing. More than 7,500 people filled the arena and watched us beat Midlakes in the final seconds, 58-54.”

Zahn says he attributes his team's turnaround season to Coach Gary Wilkins, “the most prepared coach I know,” Zahn said.

Two years ago Zahn, a retired VCS teacher and Victor Girls Basketball coach had the opportunity to meet his former coach on the court again, this time as opposing coaches. Despite the final score, it is safe to say both Zahn and Wilkins were winners.



Coach Gary Wilkins and Scott Zahn

1977-1978 Section V Boys Basketball Champions

*Bob Dreste
Scott Johnson
Darren Bardun
Mike Bowe
Mike Broderick
Mike Cotton
Marc Czadzeck
Jeff Johnson
Mike Keller
Don Payne
Vince Siciliano
Brett Tyler
Scott Zahn
Jim Zumbo
Coach Gary Wilkins
John Butterworth, Assistant*

VCS Office of Athletics' secretary, Linda Dillman and co-worker Pam Spath recently put together a special memory board honoring the 40th anniversary of the legendary team win. Check it out! It's on display in the high school trophy case across the hall from the gym!





Date Set for 50th Reunion Dinner

The 1968 Class Reunion Committee has set a date
for their 50th reunion dinner:

Saturday, September 1, 2018

6:00 pm – 10:30 pm

Finn's Tap Room in Victor

Other events are in the planning process.

Please contact the Class Reunion Committee regarding
other event suggestions, and to submit contact information at:

vhs1968grads@gmail.com



WANTED! Your Reunion Information

Click on the link below to look for fellow alumni or post your reunion.

[ALUMNI RELATIONS](#)

The Passing of a Victor Legend

Kenneth R. Weigert Gave 33 Years of Service to the Board of Education

On Monday, April 16, 2018, the Victor school community lost a revered classmate, community member and former Board of Education leader. Ken, a proud alumnus of the Class of 1950 and 2007 Athletic Hall of Fame inductee, gave 33 years of service to the VCS Board of Education. In Weigert's words, holding a leadership post with the District for more than three decades was an honor. "I especially want to thank the voters for affording me the opportunity to serve as a member of the Victor Board of Education for 33 years. It has been an honor and a privilege to have served. With your support, we have accomplished much."

Board of Education

1968 - 1981, 1990 - 2008

Weigert's Board Accomplishments through the Years:

60's

- Approved purchase of land on Lane Road to construct bus garage
- Erected a new school building for use as Intermediate School

90's

- Approved capital project to create a complex housing the JH and SH
- Approved capital project for improvements to the District athletic fields

70's

- Passed participation of high school girls interscholastic program for 1970-1971 school year
- Approved Football Field and Track construction by way of a change order for \$63,478.50
- Approved addition to the Senior High School which included the swimming pool

2000's

- Constructed new wing on Senior High School
- Built new auditorium, auxiliary gym, new wing on Junior High, new wing in Intermediate Building, VEC wing, and updates to the Primary School
- Approved Capstone Project which included an addition to the Intermediate School cafeteria, two Senior High School science rooms, a fitness center as well as turf on the stadium field



Ken with his wife of 62 years, Ann (O'Dea) also from the class of 1950

"It's been a labor of love. I always tried to do what I thought was best for the kids, the taxpayers and the staff. I don't think you can go wrong if you do that."

– Ken Weigert

Community Service

Weigert's Community Service through the Years:

- 33 year Board of Education member serving as President, Vice President, VCS Board Policy Committee, VCS Code of Conduct Committee, Alternate Representative to Four County Legislative Committee, VCS Long Range Facilities Committee, VCS Campus Improvement Committee
- Member and Chairman of VCS Graduate of Distinction Committee
- Member of Victor Athletic Hall of Fame Committee
- Vice President of the Victor Alumni Association
- Past Grand Knight and member of the Victor Knights of Columbus
- Member of St. Patrick's Church
- Lifetime member of Victor Basketball Boosters
- Elected to Victor Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007

Obituary link:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/by/weigert/kenneth>

Save the Date!

June 10th Alumni Banquet Is a Time to Reconnect and Remember

This year Victor Central Schools will celebrate its 123rd Alumni Banquet. The Alumni Banquet will be held on Sunday, June 10th at the Ravenwood Golf Club, 929 Lynaugh Road, Victor, NY. The celebration will include a cash bar at 6:30 pm and a buffet dinner at 7:00 pm. The cost for this event is \$19 per person payable upon arrival. Reservations are required.

Organizers Kay Cotton ('64) and Sue Whitney Masseth ('66) said they had a wonderful turnout at the banquet last year. "We are so fortunate to have been residents of Victor-Farmington area and graduates of VCS. We encourage as many graduates as possible to attend the Banquet on June 10th. If your class is holding a reunion on another date, we invite you to attend the Alumni Banquet in addition to your class reunion," Cotton said.

For reservations, please contact Sue Whitney Masseth, Class of 1966, 585-727-2359 susanjmasseth@gmail.com



photos of last year's banquet

Senior High Principal Set to Retire

Victor Senior High School Principal Yvonne O'Shea recently announced that she will retire on August 4, 2018 after nearly sixteen years with the District.

O'Shea has seen a lot of changes during her tenure at VCS.

Her first graduating class in 2003 had 195 graduates. This year's senior class has 350 students!

"When I started at Victor Senior High School there were five Advanced Placement (AP) classes and pretty limited electives and programs. We now have 23 APs, a full IB Diploma program and Project Lead the Way," O'Shea proudly said.

Course work is not all O'Shea has seen change through the years. The graduation rate in 2003 was 86%. In 2017 it was 97%. Significant changes also occurred in athletics during this time.

When asked what she will miss the most in retirement, O'Shea unsurprisingly says, the people, of course.

"We have an incredibly talented and dedicated staff, respectful students who care about their school and their futures and a very supportive community," she said.

People are not all O'Shea will miss. She says she will also miss the challenges. "My work at Victor Senior High School has always been focused on getting better; finding ways to improve. I'm never satisfied with being okay or above average - my journey has been like Jim Collins' research on *Good to Great* - making that leap. Our team of administrators and counselors have worked really hard to identify

students who struggle and create unique, supportive programs. As a faculty, we focus on connecting better with students and engaging them in authentic learning. We have tried many different approaches and teaching strategies. Over the years, we have greatly reduced the drop-out rate and increased the numbers of students who challenge themselves."

Of all of the memories O'Shea has etched in her memory she says the most memorable might be the first time they did the Senior Parade where graduates marched through all of the schools they attended at VCS. "I loved seeing our seniors go back to their roots - the applause from the younger students and hugs and tears from their former teachers. They were truly goose bump moments!"

In retirement O'Shea says she will continue to make memories and hopefully have many more of those "goose bump moments" too.

"I will continue to work in some capacity. I've also been thinking a great deal about my next challenge. It might be going back to teaching, perhaps at one of the local colleges or an online high school or university. I'd be open to consulting and/or doing interim administrative work in our area. I'm also drawn to learning something completely new and taking classes like photography, piano, culinary arts, painting or computer programming. The one thing I know is that I'll be busy!"



VCS Business Administrator Retires

VCS School Business Administrator, Michael Vistocco officially retired in March after 26 years with the District. Vistocco started in Victor as the District Treasurer in January of 1992 and became the School Business Administrator in 1995. Before arriving at VCS he worked at Romulus Central School District.

Over the past 26 years Vistocco was part of many changes at Victor Central Schools. During his tenure he worked with four Superintendents and thirty different Board of Education members. He also oversaw a budget increase from \$21 million for the 1991-92 school year to our current \$66 million budget and watched our student population grow from 2,721 in 1991-92 school year to today's enrollment of approximately 4,500. In addition, he was involved with more than \$100 million in capital improvement projects.

While putting the budgets together throughout the years Vistocco said he always made recommendations and decisions based on what was best for the students at Victor Central Schools.

"Our internal, external and New York State audit reports during my tenure were outstanding. According to our Auditor, our District is in great financial shape. One of the things I am most proud of is that we have been able to remain fiscally responsible while we worked to fund educational programs, provide the necessary tools and create a school campus that enables one of the best educational experiences in the state. If you compare the older

aerial picture of the campus that I have in my office to our campus today, it is very easy to see why our campus is the envy of all other school districts," Vistocco said.

VCS changed immensely since his early days. "When I started, I knew every staff member on our campus. Today, we have grown so much that it is sometimes hard to put a name with all of the new faces I see regularly on campus these days." he said.

One thing Vistocco says he can definitely identify very clearly is that VCS is an amazing school district.

"Our teachers, administrators, aides, secretaries, food service, transportation staff, cleaners and especially our business office staff are incredible individuals. Some staff members do not realize how awesome it is to be working at VCS. I always say, go work at another district first, and then come to VCS, then you will realize what a wonderful place this is. Change and growth are good. I know that the infrastructure in place here at VCS will continue to allow it to thrive. Victor Schools will be an amazing place to educate the children of the district for many years to come."



VCS Director of Health, Athletics And Physical Education Announces Retirement

Long time VCS Athletic Director, Ronald Whitcomb announced that he will retire effective June 30, 2018. Whitcomb came to VCS in 1991 with more than 13 years of experience as a Health and Physical Education teacher at schools in Ohio and Athletic Director/Drug Prevention Coordinator at East Rochester Schools. Before VCS, he was also a Varsity Wrestling Coach and Assistant Football Coach at other districts.



While at the helm, Whitcomb led not only a nationally recognized Physical Education program, but also, one of the most competitive athletic programs in the area.

Under Whitcomb's leadership VCS athletic teams have achieved 318 League championships, 177 Sectional championships and 15 New York State championships.

"It has been a pleasure and honor to serve the student athletes, coaches and physical education teachers at Victor Central Schools for the past 26 years. I am proud that we have one of the finest physical education programs in New York State, thanks to the dedicated teachers and coaches at VCS! It has been rewarding to witness first-hand the growth of the district, especially the changes in the athletic facilities and our level of competition in the Monroe County League," Whitcomb said.

Victor Bids Farewell to Retirees

This school year, Victor Central Schools bids farewell to fourteen men and women who have made a big difference both inside and outside of our classrooms. Congratulations and best of luck in your future!

Victor Early Childhood School

Ellen Osborn, 1999-2018, Elementary Teacher

Victor Intermediate School

Anniken Molinari, 1988-2018, Elementary Teacher

Jackie McCaffery, 1991-2017, Library Clerk

Junior High School

Carla Clark, 1988-2018, Social Studies Teacher/Standards Leaders

Lori Babcock, 2002-2018, Typist

Senior High School

Jerold O'Dell, 1985-2018, Social Studies Teacher

Diane Hartz, 1987-2017, Typist

Yvonne O'Shea, 2002-2018, Principal

Facilities

Luigi Maenza, 2002-2017, Cleaner

Transportation

Barbara Flugel, 1993-2017, Bus Driver

Alfred Lucas, 2012-2017, Bus Driver

Food Services

Maureen Weigert, 1996-2018, Food Service Manager

District

Mike Vistocco, 1992-2018, School Business Administrator

Ronald Whitcomb, 1991-2018, Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics

V I C T O R C E N T R A L S C H O O L S

123RD ALUMNI BANQUET

Ravenwood Golf Club

929 Lynaugh Road, Victor, NY 14564

Sunday, June 10, 2018

6:30 p.m. Cocktails

7:00 p.m. Dinner

\$19 per person, payable on arrival

For reservations please contact:

Sue Masseth '66

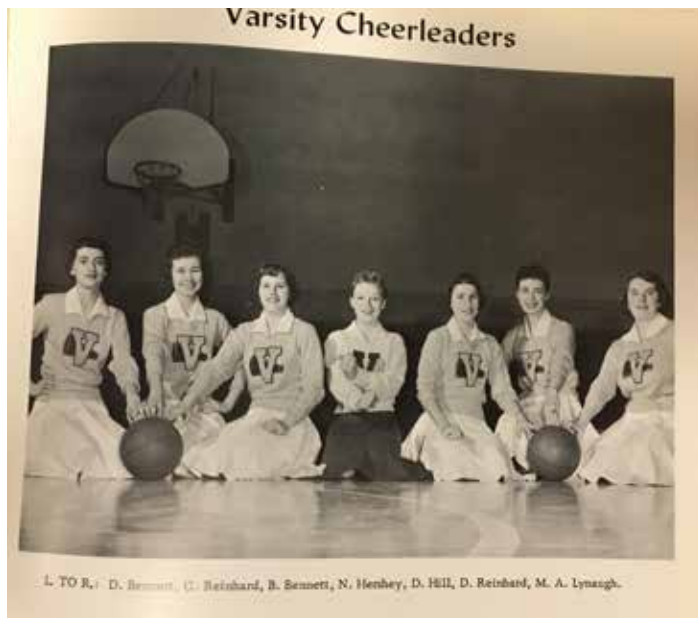
585-727-2359, Susanjmasseth@gmail.com

Please give your name and class, or class you wish to sit with.

Then and Now



2018 State Champions



from 1995 yearbook

from 1959 yearbook



Row 1: M. Falter Row 2: K. Monroe, S. West Row 3: T. Wemple, W. Newton Row 4: S. Wagner, S. Matejka, K. Shaffer, G. Milicello, E. Raulli, L. Armstrong

VCS Educational Foundation Devil Dash 5k Participants Help Fund an Art of Teaching Grant for Young Scientists at the Victor Primary School



Giving your toddler scissors for the first time can be a harrowing experience for a parent. What if they cut themselves? What if they give themselves a haircut? The next thing you know, you are proudly taping their artwork on your refrigerator; a perfectly cut-out handprint arranged to look like a butterfly painted with watercolor paints of vibrant hues from red to violet. Where did the time go? Think about it: The trust you put in your child to be safe yet experiment with scissors allowed them the freedom to create beauty from the depths of their imagination.

It is this imagination, curiosity, and responsibility that the scientists at the Victor Primary School are engaging in. Over the past several years, the scientists at the Victor Primary School have participated in an incredibly unique opportunity. Victor is one of the only schools in the area to house and maintain a science lab at the elementary level. Scientists here learn about electricity, magnetism, physical and chemical interactions, simple machines, buoyancy, weather, insects, and our ecosystem among many other topics. Of course, the most engaging part of science instruction is the inevitability of getting messy but, in the process, discovering something that will remain with them for a lifetime.

This year, the VCS Educational Foundation provided an Art of Teaching grant to purchase five compound microscopes, five tripod magnifiers, and insect and plant slide kits for Victor Primary scientists. The grant has allowed students to make close-up



observations of different plants and animals in a variety of ecosystems. For example, when learning about insects, students explore different parts that all insects have: a head, abdomen, and thorax. This concept, itself, is a very basic demonstration of knowledge and comprehension skills. However, when you look at different insect heads and mouths under a microscope, otherwise impossible to see with the naked eye, you will quickly realize that even just a head is much more complex than you ever knew. Insects have many different mouthparts that each have their own purpose. From sucking, chewing, to lapping mouthparts, there is a lot that scientists can infer about an insect, its diet, defense mechanisms, and even habitat.

The Victor Primary School scientists all thank you so much for supporting our youngest students! This is the kind of higher-level thinking that Victor students are engaging in due to the support of the VCS Educational Foundation and Victor students, community

members, and alumni who participated in the Devil Dash 5K.

The 2017 Devil Dash grew to 277 participants including 49 alumni and raised over \$10,000. There was a three-way tie for the class of '79, '86, and '15 for most participants in the Devil Dash Alumni Challenge. The Devil Dash is a great way for alumni to support current VCS students that sit in the desks and classrooms we all fondly remember.

Aggie Gullace (Class of '89) participated in a Devil Dash 5k virtual course with some local friends in Maine while her mother, June Gullace (Class of '65) participated on the VCS campus. Aggie is excited to participate with her Devil Dash team again in 2018. She feels the Devil Dash allows VCS alumni to participate, contribute, and create a sense of the Blue Devil community regardless of where they now reside. The Devil Dash Virtual 5K also included other alumni from Georgia, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.

Please consider signing up and recruiting a team for the fourth

annual Devil Dash 5K and family walk on Saturday, September 29, 2018. All Devil Dash proceeds will support the four main VCS Educational Foundation projects including Field Trips Forever, Technology for Today and Tomorrow, The Art of Teaching, and a general fund. The Devil Dash registration site is open at <http://devildash.itsyourrace.com>.

For more information on the 2018 Devil Dash 5K or other VCS alumni stories, you can follow the VCS Foundation on: Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/VCSEFoundation/> and Twitter - @VCSEF. You can also find out more about the Foundation by going to Victor Schools website at www.victorschools.org and selecting Educational Foundation on the left side under Quick Links. Please feel free to contact the VCS Educational Foundation Devil Dash 2018 Planning Team at victordevildash@gmail.com for additional questions or feedback.



*The Devil Dash
registration site is open
at [http://devildash.
itsyourrace.com](http://devildash.itsyourrace.com).*

Academic, Athletic and Artistic Distinctions

- In June, 2017, 97% of our students graduated with a Regents Diploma, 33% percent earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation.
- In 2017 Victor Central Schools' SAT scores were among the highest in the Greater Rochester Area ranking 15th out of 51 school districts.
- This past year the *U.S News and World Report* ranked Victor Senior High School the sixth best school in the Rochester area, the 71st best school in New York State and the 689th best school nationally out of 21,000 public high schools nationwide.
- Last fall senior Cole Vandenberg was named a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist. Cole was one of approximately 16,000 semifinalists in the 63rd annual National Merit Scholarship Program.
- This past fall, 99 juniors and seniors were inducted into the prestigious National Honor Society.
- The Junior High School has maintained its extraordinary status as a New York State high performing middle school and "School to Watch" for the past 12 years, since first being designated in 2006.
- This spring, Victor DECA students took home 12 medals and 16 trophies at the 2018 New York State DECA business competition in downtown Rochester. Of those, four were first place winners. Sixteen students also qualified for the national competition in Atlanta, Georgia.
- This past fall, 15 students were inducted into the prestigious Tri-M Music Society.
- This past fall two students, Casey

Schreck and Lauren Bayles were named to the 2017 All New York State Orchestra.

- This past fall our Senior High Drama Club produced the play *The Diary of Anne Frank* and this spring, they put on the musical, *James and the Giant Peach*.
- This winter art students, Hanna Gefell and Brian Martin took home two of the 24 awards given at the Rochester-Finger Lakes Middle and High School Art Exhibition at Rochester Institute of Technology.
- Victor Central Schools boasted many Sectional and State athletic winners during the 2017-2018 school year:

Fall 2017 Sectional Champions: *Girls Tennis Team; Individual Girls Tennis Doubles*, Sarah Marro and Emily Stanley; *Girls Volleyball*

Winter 2018 Sectional Champions: *Varsity Hockey Team; Varsity Cheerleading Team; Indoor Track:* Girls 4 x 400 m relay – Paige Lind, Grace Kitterman, Payton Elliott and Sarah Urban; *Indoor Track: Boys* 4 x 800 m relay Hunter Braun, Conrad Bremer, Connor Preston, Nico Bellavia; *Indoor Track: Boys* 600 m Run - Nico Bellavia; *Alpine Ski:* Slalom and Overall, Alpine Combined - Lucy Haggerty; *Alpine Ski:* Giant Slalom – Katie Carrier; *Wrestling:* Alex Samson and Jack Kumpf

2017-2018 New York State Champions: *Alpine Ski:* Giant Slalom and Overall Alpine Combined – Katie Carrier; *Varsity Cheerleading* – New York State Large Division One; *Varsity Hockey* – New York State Division 1

Construction Update

Victor Central Schools' \$25,000,000 capital project continues to move along. The project, which includes a \$4,000,000 energy performance contract was approved by District residents in the fall of 2016. Project highlights include the expansion of the Intermediate School gymnasium and an improved bus loop and additional classrooms at the Early Childhood School. Chris Marshall, Victor Central Schools' Director of Facilities said construction plans were approved by the New York State Education Department and formal project bids were received in April. The District hopes to break ground on the construction project this summer.

FREE Yearbooks

VCS has a variety of old yearbooks from various years available at no cost. For more information contact, Chuck Callari at 924-3252, ext 2130.

1948	3	1970	1
1949	2	1971	1
1950	3	1978	1
1951	3	1979	4
1952	3	1982	1
1956	1	1983	1
1959	1	1984	1
1960	2	1985	4
1962	2	1986	1
1965	1	1987	1

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Nominations Sought

JUNE 8TH DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS

Victor Central School District is seeking nominations for the Athletic Hall of Fame Program. Any individual can nominate a potential candidate by completing a Hall of Fame nomination application. Applications are available on the school district website at www.victorschools.org or may be picked up at the office of Victor's Athletic Director Ronald Whitcomb located in the Senior High School.

Through nomination and committee selection, the VCS Athletic Hall of Fame will recognize individuals who fall under any of the following categories:

ATHLETES

Individuals who were athletes in the Victor Senior High School and have been graduated a minimum of ten years.

COACHES

Individuals who have made a significant and extraordinary contribution to the Victor Athletic program.

HONORARY

An honorary candidate must have made a significant impact on Victor athletics and/or on sectional, regional, state, national, professional, administration or international levels of athletes. The honorary category may include but not be limited to counselors, faculty managers, scoreboard/book operators, cheerleading coaches, as well as local community supporters.

Inductees will be chosen by the VCS Hall of Fame Committee which is comprised of eight voting members representing coaching staff, administration, Board of Education, students and/or community residents. The Athletic Director will serve as a non-voting permanent member of the Committee.

The Hall of Fame was established in order to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding athletes, coaches, administrators and Blue Devil supporters. Through recognition, those individuals and their families will be reconnected with Victor Central School providing current student athletes with a deeper understanding and appreciation for the history of Blue Devil athletes.

Honorees selected for the annual Athletic Hall of Fame will be announced in the Fall of each school year along with an announcement of the planned celebration event.

For more information on the Athletic Hall of Fame program, please contact Ron Whitcomb, VCS Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics at (585) 924-3252 ext. 1460 or whitcombr@victorschools.org.

TEN WAYS TO MAKE IT A

Blue Devil Day!

- 1 Be a Cheerleader!** Attend any one of our hundreds of yearly sporting events.
- 2 Support the Arts!** Take the family to a school musical, play or art show.
- 3 Get in Tune With One of Our Music Programs.** Go to a band, orchestra or choral presentation.
- 4 Play!** Take some time with your children after school or on the weekend and play on one of our great playgrounds.
- 5 Get Involved.** Volunteer in your child's classroom or for a special event or organization.
- 6 Jump In!** Take a dip in our swimming pool during open or family swim times.
- 7 Make a Difference.** Take part in one of our District's food drives or community service efforts.
- 8 Take a Walk.** Our new campus fitness trail makes for great exercise.
- 9 Show Your School Pride.** If you are a VCS alumni, get involved in the VCS Alumni Association or attend your class reunion.
- 10 Stay Connected.** Check out our website on a regular basis for the latest news and information at www.victorschools.org

For more information contact the School and Community Relations Office at 585-924-3252, ext. 1407

VCS Seeks Names of Distinguished Graduates

Do you know a Victor Central School alumnus or alumna who has made a significant contribution to society? The Graduates of Distinction program honors such individuals. Applications are currently available in the Office of School and Community Relations or on-line at www.victorschools.org. Alumni selected for this honor will be recognized at a special Graduate of Distinction Day next fall.

Nominees to the Victor Central School District Graduates of Distinction program shall be selected based upon the following criteria: A. Nominees must have graduated from Victor Senior High (or have attended Victor Schools BEFORE there was a high school in the case of Honorable Recognition) at least 15 years before they are eligible for selection. The committee may waive the graduation time limit requirements in certain circumstances, as it deems necessary; B. Significant achievement after attending Victor Schools which include: (1) Educational achievements; (2) Professional achievements; (3) Job-related achievements; (4) Honors, awards, professional affiliations, publications; (5) Civic or community involvement; (6) Other appropriate qualifications which the committee believes merit consideration.

Nominations must be submitted by Monday, January 22, 2018 to:

Graduates of Distinction Committee
c/o The Office of School and Community Relations
Victor Central Schools
953 High Street, Victor, New York 14564

Send Us Your News

If you are an alumnus of Victor Central Schools, we encourage you to e-mail us at **alumni@victorschools.org**.

Feel free to tell us about accomplishments or events in your life such as a wedding, birth of a child or grandchild. Whether or not you have visited campus lately, participated in a recent alumni event, or browsed our directory, you are sure to find information instrumental in helping you maintain a connection to your alma mater and other Victor graduates.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Deborah Palumbo-Sanders, *President*

Timothy DeLucia, *Vice President*

Karen Ballard

Kristin Elliott

Gary Gilbert

Christopher Parks

Michael Young

Maureen Goodberlet

District Clerk

Dawn A. Santiago-Marullo, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Liz Welch & Sherri Lasky

Office of School and Community Relations

alumni@victorschools.org

17th Annual Senior Citizens Ball



Free and open to ALL
Victor Central School District
Senior Citizens!
(55 and Older)



Scenes from our 2017 Ball

Presented by
VICTOR CENTRAL SCHOOLS
Office of School & Community Relations
and the Senior High Key Club
Special Thank You to the Kiwanis Club

ENJOY

Dinner & Dancing

AND ENTERTAINMENT BY

Western New York Big Band

Saturday, May 12, 2018

5 – 7 p.m.

Victor Intermediate School Gymnasium

Reservations required, call School & Community Relations at 924-3252, ext.1407 or e-mail welche@victorschools.org and laskysh@victorschools.org



Victor Central Schools Seeks Archives

“Students can benefit in several ways from researching their school’s history... This is history that is near at hand and that has a direct connection to their lives.”

~ Larry J. Hackman, Director, Truman Presidential Museum and Library; former New York State Archivist

Do you have photographs of the victory garden that students in our school planted and tended during World War II?

Does an old box or filing cabinet hold copies of letters that students wrote concerning our country’s involvement in Vietnam?

Did the science curriculum at Victor Central School change during the formative years of the personal computer revolution?

Schools produce rich historical records. Yearbooks, school lunch menus, flyers promoting dances, student elections, musicals, plays, photographs, letters, issues of the school newspaper, and other items document not only the history of the school, but often reflect the history of our community, state, and nation.

We have developed a school archives in our records center, housed in room 130 of the Primary School Building. Hopefully, this archive, or historical collection can serve two primary purposes:

1. Be a repository for the collection and preservation of historically valuable documents relating to the history of our school, which would otherwise be lost.
2. Constitute an important element of programs for teaching research-related skills to students.

As a key element in establishing this archive, we are urging the public to help support our endeavors by donating artifacts to the archives that they may have in and around their homes, which may otherwise be lost to future generations. We are particularly interested in:

Student handbooks

Student newspapers

Photographs

School lunch menus

Course catalogs

Student term papers about the school or Community

Artifacts (trophies, flags, uniforms, memorabilia)

Older Newspaper articles from the local newspapers

Special awards received

Records of special school programs

Audiotaped or videotaped oral histories

Scrapbooks

Videotapes of school performances and athletic events.

Perhaps you don’t wish to part with your piece of history. You can still help our efforts by loaning us the article to copy, scan, or photograph. We look forward to your response. We also plan on having the artifacts exhibited from time to time. By the way, does anyone have a school bell from one of Victor’s many one-room school houses? We’d love to hear from you.....

**Contact Chuck at callaric@victorschools.org or 585-924-3252, ext. 2130*