

The RV Buzz

An Official PVRHS Publication



The Buzz | Fall 2022

MAKING HISTORY ON THE NEW TURF

The installation of the new turf field and track renovation was completed right in time for the start of fall sports in September. It was a historic moment for the Passaic Valley Regional High School Hornets, with the first ever game on turf played under the bright lights at Walton Field on September 2nd. Nearly 1,800 spectators packed the house and created an electric atmosphere. The football team delivered a resounding 35-14 win; our cheerleaders and the squads from our three towns' elementary schools supported with enthusiasm on the sidelines, and the marching band debuted their new uniforms as they set the tone leading the fan zone throughout!



PV RECEIVES OUTSTANDING SCHOOL REPORT CARD!

Niche.com, regarded as the most reliable and accurate school report card company, just released their new school rankings. PVRHS earned an A- and was rated as one of the top schools in Passaic County! This is the best grade our school has ever received. "It's a gratifying moment as the Superintendent to see our students and staff being recognized for their outstanding contributions over this past year," stated Dr. Healy. "I am extremely proud of our entire school community!"



PV PARTNERS WITH SANDY HOOK PROMISE TO COMBAT SOCIAL ISOLATION

PVRHS enjoyed another successful year supporting *Start With Hello Week*, one of Sandy Hook Promise's no-cost "Know the Signs" programs. Through this initiative, we organize activities and curricula to teach and empower students to end social isolation and reinforce a culture of inclusion. Our Senior Mentors are now teaching the program to 9th graders! A big thank you to Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Vigilante for organizing all of the activities that make Start with Hello week so effective, and for shaping the Senior Mentoring program into the success that it is today.



Peer to Peer Learning
WORK TOGETHER, ACHIEVE MORE.

The Peer Mentoring Program, advised by Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Vigilante, is designed to help Seniors to understand their leadership potential and empower them to create positive changes in themselves, our school and our community. The goal is to have Senior Mentors be the "go-to person" for underclassmen seeking advice and support, whether it is socially or academically. Mentors facilitate monthly outreach discussions with their freshmen groups, covering topics like study skills, HIB, healthy relationships, stress management, and substance awareness. They also take part in training workshops where they learn to identify risk behaviors and promote positive outcomes, team building and group facilitation. "The students really enjoy learning from one another and getting feedback from peers going through similar feelings - we look forward to another successful year!" said Mrs. Vigilante.

SHAPING A STRONG SCHOOL COMMUNITY

The Superintendent Ambassadors are an elite group of Passaic Valley Regional High School students in grades 9-12. The Passaic Valley Superintendent Ambassadors (PVSA) program supports the district's vision, mission and goals by providing our students with a platform to positively impact our academic programming, extra-curricular activities, school culture and the overall student experience here at Passaic Valley.

"It was a very competitive process with over 70 students submitting applications and several teachers involved in the selection process," said Superintendent, Dr. Healy. The individuals that were selected for this committee meet with Dr. Healy, Athletic Director Mr. Benvenuti, and Assistant Principal Dr. Christopher on a monthly basis to collaborate and share ideas. The PVSA will help shape the future of PVRHS!

Congratulations to this year's Superintendent Ambassadors:

- Grade 12: Mallory Cestone, Giancarlo Peluso, Nate Stone
- Grade 11: Eric Allmendinger, Amean Hamdan, Rianna Hasbani
- Grade 10: Ryan Condon, Rachel Harraka, Aiyman Shanaa
- Grade 9: Dante Benvenuti, Sally Capizzi, Valentina Herreros



PVRHS WELCOMES NEW STAFF

OUR SWARM JUST GOT BIGGER!

Mrs. O'Brien, Director of Special Services

Mrs. O'Brien has seventeen years of experience in Special Education. Mrs. O'Brien worked as a Supervisor of Special Services at Clifton Public Schools and is now eager to continue her time here with our PV students.

Mrs. O'Brien oversees the Child Study Team and makes sure that teachers are implementing IEPs (Individualized Education Programs) to provide all students with an environment conducive to learning and growth. She is passionate about making sure students enjoy their time in high school by helping to make positive changes and impacts on her students' lives, both in the present and for the future.



Mrs. McMahon, Teacher of Theatre Arts, Dance & Choreography

Mrs. McMahon was a performer for five years. In college, she took her first choreography job and is now fulfilled to be a part of the creative process to our shows and in her classroom.

Since dance is an expressive medium, Mrs. McMahon grants her students as much creative freedom as she can. "The atmosphere is collaborative and supportive, welcoming new ideas to the table and finding new ways to teach," she said. Most recently she was Assistant Director on *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, handling the choreography for the Fall Play.



Mr. Clonan, Teacher of Television Broadcasting

Mr. Clonan went to college for TV Production in hopes of teaching students and sharing his personal love and experience with camera and audio work. Mr. Clonan also worked at Parsippany High School teaching similar classes last year.

Mr. Clonan is in charge of our audio communications and visual communications classes. In his classes, students work with professional audio equipment, learn how to shoot and edit video, and create podcasts and other multimedia recordings. "I want to be able to see what my students can do while in a fun and creative environment," said Mr. Clonan.



Ms. Pantale, Speech Language Pathologist

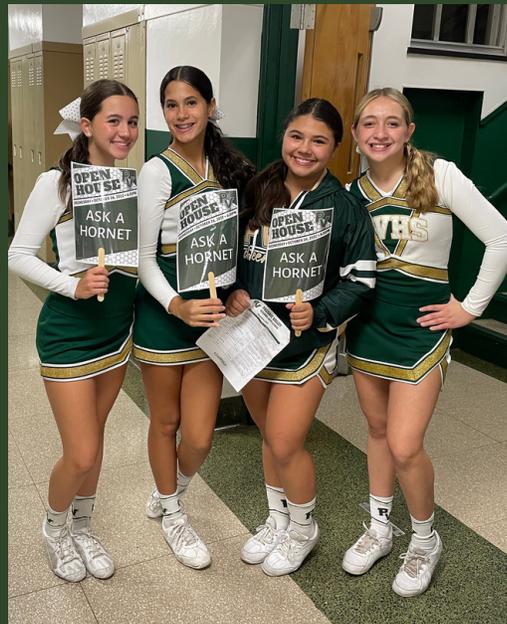
Ms. Pantale attended St. John's University for college where she was on the track and field team. During her college years, she was able to start growing her career working with children as young as three years and adults as old as ninety-six.

Ms. Pantale was already familiar with the Hornet community as her father, Mr. William Pantale, has worked in the Counseling Department for 27 years. Ms. Pantale is always mindful of her students' individual needs and hopes to make a positive change in her students' lives by helping them understand and express themselves through language. Ms. Pantale likes to make her sessions as interactive as possible, believing that engagement is an essential part of learning.



OPEN HOUSE 2022

The annual Open House was held on October 26th, welcoming nearly 700 prospective students and families to our beautiful campus. It was a perfect way for guests to see "a day in the life" of a Hornet! Guests learned about academic program enhancements, how to earn college credits, AP courses, peer leadership and student services, and athletic and extracurricular opportunities. They enjoyed performances by the Performing Arts Students, Varsity Cheerleading Squad and our award winning Marching Band. We look forward to seeing these future Hornets back on our campus in September 2023!



SPORTS REPORT

IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A HORNET



Football had a winning season with a record of 6-4. They won the first game ever on the new turf and under the lights vs. West Milford with a score of 35-14. The Hornets beat the following teams this season: West Milford, Lakeland, Nutley, Belleville, Millburn and Tenafly. The Freshmen Football team went UNDEFEATED with a perfect score of 8-0, only allowing 1 touchdown against them all season!



Marching Band hosted their first "Live at the Hive" competition on the new turf on September 17, 2022. The PVHS Marching Band finished in 3rd place.



Gymnastics had an excellent season, improving their scores all season long. The team finished with an average team score of 85. They earned a 3rd place finish at the Passaic County Championships.



Girls Volleyball qualified for the NJSIAA Group 2 North 2 playoffs for the second consecutive season.

Cross Country The Boys' team finished in 8th place at the NJSIAA Sectional Meet. The Girls' team finished in 10th at the NJSIAA Sectional Meet. Senior Katharine Cottone, finished in 3rd place at the Group 2 North Sectional Meet and qualified for the 2nd year in a row for the Group 2 Championships. Freshman Victoria Corprew, was a Passaic County Freshmen Champion taking first place and the gold medal.

Girls Tennis Juniors Danica O'Brien, Ava Mania and Stefani Koneska all advanced to the 2nd round of the Passaic County Tournament this year.

Boys Soccer played a competitive season, finishing with 8 wins and qualifying for the NJSIAA Playoffs.



Senior Football Player Joseph Mancini was selected as Passaic Valley's recipient for the Super Football Conference (SFC) Steve DiGregorio Young Man of the Year Award! The SFC Young Man of the Year Award emphasizes community service, selflessness, leadership, academic standing, and a positive attitude. Congratulations, Joseph!

In October PV PLAYS FOR A DIFFERENT GOAL



Every October, in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, our Hornets sports teams join the campaign in spreading awareness. The PV Hornets fight together by adding pink, the international symbol of Breast Cancer Awareness, to their traditional green and white uniforms. By doing so, together they support the fighters, admire the survivors and honor the taken.

This year the Girls' Soccer Program held their 8th annual Breast Cancer Awareness event. They welcomed honored guests made up of PV alumni, staff members, and friends and family onto the field to participate in a ceremony supporting them in their fight. This tradition started in 2016 in honor of Little Falls resident Vicky Campbell, PV

Class of 1986. At the time, her daughter, Kayla (class of 2016) was a defensive back for the Hornets and Vicky had recently begun her battle with breast cancer. Vicky's strength and fight inspired the theme *Soccer Moms are the Strongest Moms* for the inaugural event. This year's theme, *In October PV Plays for a Different Goal*, continues to show the true purpose of what it means to make a difference as a student athlete. Head Coach Kathleen McMaster shares, "This special event has become a big part of our team's identity and the girls take much pride in bringing together members of the PV community for a purpose beyond the game of soccer."



Coach Wassel was selected as the PVRHS Coach of the Year for the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Wassel is the Head Coach of two sports, Wrestling and Golf, and he is also an Assistant Varsity Football Coach. Last winter, Coach Wassel led the PVRHS Wrestling team to their 2nd straight League Title. In both of these championship seasons, the team went undefeated in league matches. The Passaic County Coaches Association honored Joe Wassel on Wednesday, November 9th at the Brownstone.



This year's Fall Musical, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!" was co-directed by Ms. Surace and Ms. McMahon. Ms. McMahon is new to the Passaic Valley district this year, and really enjoyed getting to know the students through choreographing this light-hearted production. A small cast of 13 students lit up the stage on October 28th, 29th, and 30th with a powerful performance debuting our brand new auditorium. Emma Giron took lead roll for her first time ever as Charlie Brown, adding, "It was a lot of fun embracing my inner child!" Every member of the cast had a lot of fun with this production. It was a unique, youthful experience that really shined through in their performance.

"I am so thrilled that our students, staff and award-winning performing arts program finally have the home they deserve." - Dr. Healy



PVRHS Administration

- Brack Healy, Ed.D. / Superintendent
- Colin Monahan / Business Administrator
- Krista Voorhis / Vice Principal
- Adam Christopher, Ed.D. / Assistant Principal
- David Settembre / Assistant Principal
- Tara Torres / Director of School Counseling
- Kelly O'Brien / Director of Special Services
- Joseph Benvenuti / Director of Athletics
- Chester Parlavecchio / Dean of Students
- Bill Pantale / Guidance Specialist
- Mario Gaita / Supervisor of Building & Grounds

PVRHS Board of Education

- Vincent Varcadipane / President
- Peter D'Angelo / Vice President
- Lori Brigati / Commissioner
- Charles Cathcart / Commissioner
- Giovanni D'Ambrosio / Commissioner
- Raymond Luke Damiano / Commissioner
- Nicholas Doell / Commissioner
- Jaelyn Luker / Commissioner
- Sam Yodice, Jr. / Commissioner

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