

# Valley Lutheran High School Annual Report May 19, 2009

Prepared by Executive Director/Principal John Brandt, Academic Dean Lisa Meyers, and Dean of Students/Athletic Director Kurt Hofmeister.

## **Mission Statement**

Valley Lutheran High School believes that Christ is the foundation of our school and everything that we do. We prepare our students as children of God academically, physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually to serve in the world today and tomorrow.

## **Core Values**

LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN - Proclaiming Christ as Savior according to the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE - Challenging and equipping students to utilize their talents to the highest level.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS - Nurturing Christ-like relationships within the VLHS community and beyond.

PURPOSEFUL SERVICE - Encouraging participation in activities that glorify God, benefit others, and help students discern His purpose for their lives.

## **Annual Theme and Bible Verse**

“Live and Die in Christ”

“For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.” Romans 14:7-8

## **Accreditation**

We continue to be accredited by:

North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

National Lutheran Schools Accreditation

Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools

## **21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom Initiative**

We are in our third year of the “Twenty-first Century Classroom” Initiative which combines professional development, changes in instructional strategies, and technology to become a school that produces students who are most ready for facing the intellectual, academic, and global challenges that await the millennial student. The initiative promotes improvement in the classroom by focusing on four areas.

The twenty-first century student will be able to:

- Use critical-thinking skills to solve real-world problems
- Collaborate with others to produce high-quality products
- Demonstrate high levels of literacy in reading, interpreting, and writing about complex information.
- Apply technology effectively as a tool in answering questions and solving problems.

The entire faculty is involved and is using our one hour per week of professional development time to work on this goal as well as a number of professional development days during the summer and on days off. The following highlights occurred this year:

**Critical Thinking** – The faculty participated in 10 workshop days that highlighted strategies for teaching critical thinking and improving students’ problem-solving skills. Teachers worked in teams to design lessons for their classes that called on students to think at higher levels.

**Literacy** – The faculty continued to work on strategies for improving reading comprehension skills. Students participated in more opportunities to read expository writing (newspaper and journal articles, textbooks, online material) in a number of their classes.

**Technology** – Teachers explored the use of the LCD projectors, Smart Board, and the student response system as tools for helping students grow in their 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills. Two Mimeo projectors were purchased that allow teachers to use the computer with the entire class and have students participate interactively with software and online material. A document projector was also purchased for the English department which allows teachers to project reading material on the large screen for classroom use. Teachers also maintained personal web pages that gave details on the lesson plans and assignments for each week as well as other important class information.

## **Academics**

Students were successful in the classroom.

We will graduate 83 seniors on June 7.

The average ACT score for the class of 2009 is 22.9 which is higher than both the state and national averages and the highest in Saginaw County. All seniors took the test as part of the Michigan Merit Exam. This score compares very favorably to the average of 22.2 for the previous 16 years when only college-bound seniors took the test.

Rachel Hahn, Ryan Holcomb, Micah Huegel, Ellen Milroy, Amber Peruski, Katie Pett, Megan Stecker, Andrew Weiss, Anne Weiss, and Emily Weiss are the Valedictorians and Dan Bo Anderson is the Salutatorian for the Class of 2009. This is the most valedictorians we have ever had, all with a 4.0 grade point average!

27 Academic Letters and 63 academic pins were presented to 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> graders, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

Ryan Holcomb, Katie Pett and Kevin Whalen were honored by the Tri-Valley Conference as All Conference Scholars.

Katie Pett was recognized as a member of the Saginaw News Academic Dream Team.

72% of our seniors earned the Michigan Merit Award for their performance on the Michigan Merit Exam. Since the inception of the Merit Award, 66% of all Valley Lutheran seniors have earned it. This compares favorably with other Saginaw County schools. It should be noted that Valley Lutheran’s curriculum has not been altered for this test.

The National Honor Society inducted 25 new members at its Induction Ceremony in October.

## Curriculum and Programs

The Social Studies curriculum review was completed under the direction of Bev Feldkamp. After a careful comparison of our curriculum to the new Michigan Merit Social Studies curriculum, decisions were made to combine the senior level Government and Economics semesters into one year-long course with the addition of some personal finance material. The U.S. History curriculum was revised to begin with a brief review of early American history and increased attention to the time periods which began after the Civil War. The new Michigan Merit graduation requirements include one year of geography/world history, one year of United States history, one semester of American government, one semester of Economics. Most of our students have been meeting those requirements for years.

Fine Arts (Paul Eschmann) and Technology (Barry Wittig) will begin their curriculum reviews in the fall.

The Special Needs Program (Lisa Meyers) is in its seventh year with faculty and parents working together to custom tailor the educational plan for more than 27 students. The Special Needs Program continues to demonstrate positive growth. Linda Rogers and Debbie Davis are the coordinators for this program and also work one-on-one with the students providing support as the students complete our standard college preparatory program. Melissa Rachwitz continues to volunteer her time to meet with the students monthly on planning their transition to post high school. Nine volunteers round out the program by meeting with students at least once per week to help with the tutoring portion.

Fourteen AP Calculus and 26 AP English students took the Advanced Placement Exam on May 6<sup>th</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup>, respectively. Seven students took the AP Spanish Exam. This was the first year we have followed the AP Spanish curriculum and prepared students for the exam. The instructor responsible was Renee Brenner. One student took the AP Government and AP U.S. History exam even though we do not offer formal AP Government or AP U.S. History.

Students, faculty, and some parents read the book, The Rhyming Season by Edward Averett. Each student selected a topic based upon the book and wrote an essay during the summer. Class discussions, writing assignments, and projects that were related to the book were used within classes. Family groups participated in quarterly Bible studies also based on the book. The 2009 summer read book is Warriors Don't Cry by Melba Patillo Beals. The non-fiction book tells the story of the 1957 integration of a high school in Little Rock, AK.

English 2 students participated in Literature Circles in the Spring where they were able to select their own book and work in groups to discuss the literature and respond in writing. Mrs. Kris Flora is the instructor.

The Christian Ethics classes (Pastor Mueller) took a field trip to Covenant Healthcare where they learned about the use of ethics in the medical profession and discussed real-life ethical situations.

Spanish III and IV (Renee' Brenner) participated in an authentic Spanish luncheon where only Spanish language was spoken.

Jim Kaiser from Lutheran Bible Translators spoke with Old Testament and New Testament classes about his work in Africa for LBT. He attended Michigan Tech and used to be an engineer before God called him to LBT. The classes also heard from Gene Pickelman on prayer and the difference it can make in your life.

Five students, Kevin Whalen, Marc Winter, Elizabeth Wittig, Rebecca Wittig, and Jordan Grant participated in the Math Field Day held at University of Michigan, Flint. Mrs. Barb Doyle was the advisor.

Art 2 classes took a field trip to the Frederick Marshall museum at SVSU and participated in sculpture making at the state park in Bay City. Studio Art classes spent time at the Alden B. Dow House and Studio and the Center for the Arts in Midland. Mr. Jay Kaelberer is the teacher.

The British Literature class (Mrs. Bess Winter) took a field trip to the Hilbury Theater in Detroit to see the play, *Hamlet*. After the play, they were able to participate in a “talk back” where the actors discussed the play with the audience.

A number of speakers made presentations to the Senior Christian Ethics class. Dr. Jason White spoke on an introduction to medical ethics. The students learned about Hospice Care and the program at Bethesda. Dr. Mike Papenfuse spoke on pain management as it relates to the public outcry for legalizing assisted suicide/euthanasia. Nancy Wittig spoke about her personal battle with multiple sclerosis. Representatives of TeamOne Credit Union spoke to the class about practical banking matters – loan & credit card interest, checking accounts, etc, as part of the unit on Relationships and Marriage. Pastor John Mueller teaches senior Ethics.

Students were able to work with Attorney Darrell Zolton and participate in the Law Day mock trial at the Saginaw County Court House winning best performance. Bo Anderson, Abigail DeHart, Elizabeth Wittig, Rebecca Wittig, Sarah Askew, Keven Washburn, Chris Washburn, Jenna Wittig, Nick Butcher, and Jocelyn Lance participated.. Mr. Barry Wittig is the faculty advisor.

The U. S. History classes heard from Mr. Frank Hofmeister (pilot in WWII). Students in U. S. History were the first to participate in a series of on-line quizzes and using a student response system. They also simulated a mock trial based upon the Pullman strike. The students also created a simulated investigation of the murder of Theodore Roosevelt. Mr. Barry Wittig is the teacher.

Physics classes (Abbie Reed) used new laptop computers along with LabPro software and hardware to perform data collection and analysis on kinematics and dynamics. They also used Vernier hardware to create the related representation of the data.

All Spanish classes began using the “Yabla” internet program which provides students with authentic language listening experiences through video.

An Old Testament class (Mr. Eric Smith) participated in an on-line course on prayer. Students participated in discussions, asked and answered questions, and read information from Pastor Bob Smith’s book on prayer. They also worked through a unit on “Messianic Prophecies Fulfilled” as seen through the “Passion of the Christ.”

The senior Economics classes heard from speakers from the International Credit Association and August Hurt who spoke on stock market tips. A number of students entered the ICA competition to promote credit. The senior Government classes learned about 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment rights from Officer Don Koski. The senior Psychology classes participated in the “Baby Think it Over” program where they took care of computerized “babies” over a weekend. All three classes are taught by Jon Frank.

Chemistry classes (Abbie Reed) also heard from a speaker on the “Amazing World of Plastics.” Physics classes (Abbie Reed) enjoyed a Physics day at Cedar Point where they were able to apply their learning while riding amusement rides.

The Global Issues classes (Miss Bev Feldkamp) completed a culture project where they were able to “tour” numerous countries (and try their food!) by visiting student scrapbooks.

The Western-Civilization class (Miss Bev Feldkamp) read the book, The Hawk That Dare Not Hunt by Day, and experienced how literature can be used to study history.

AP English (Melissa Klamer) spent the day studying Theodore Roethke (a Pulitzer prize-winning poet from Saginaw). They watched a video, toured his Saginaw home, and participated in poetry writing and reading at local areas where Roethke was known to reside.

Spanish (Renee Brenner) classes enjoyed hearing from SVSU students on “Alternative Spring Break” where students went to the Dominican Republic and worked on improving literacy.

Students in Algebra classes used graphing calculator technology (Barb Doyle) with the TI-Navigator system which allows students and teacher to send information to each other and to the main computer screen.

## Student Activities

### Athletics

#### *Spring 2008:*

The *girls' track team* won the Tri-Valley West. Congratulations to Coach Jon Frank, his teams, and all the assistants.

The *boys' baseball team* placed Kerry Hofmeister on the All-District, All Region, and All State First Team in Class C as a catcher. The *girls' softball team* had Natalie Begick, Andrea Weiss, and Jenna Weiss named to the All-District Team. Baseball was coached by Mr. Kurt Hofmeister and softball by Pastor John Mueller, who was also named TVC West Coach of the year.. The *baseball, softball, and girls' soccer teams* all finished second in the TVC West Division. The soccer team was coached by Doug Guenther.

#### *Fall 2008:*

Our *volleyball team*, had another outstanding year, finishing second in the TVC West division with a 6-1 record. They fell in the District final game, however. Valley fielded a 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Junior Varsity, and Varsity team this year. The 9<sup>th</sup> and JV teams had the best record of any conference schools at that level.

The *boys' cross country team and the girls' cross country team*. Three boys and three girls earned All-Conference honors. All-State honors went to one boy, James Rogers, who performed the third fastest time in Valley Lutheran history at a state meet.

Our *varsity football team*, with sixth year co-op help from the Saginaw Arts and Science Academy, finished with a 3-6 record but managed seven players on the All-Conference team. This marked head coach Mr. Eric Smith's fourth year at the helm.

Our *boys' soccer team* finished first in the Tri-Valley East Division. No less than eight Valley Lutheran players were selected to the all-conference team. The soccer team was coached by Mr. Doug Guenther. Senior Kevin Flory and Sophomore Adam Kunding were named Third Team All State. Kunding and Micah Huegel were named Lutheran High School All-Americans, as well.

#### *Winter 2008-09:*

The *boys' basketball team* was under the direction of Mr. Randy Rogers, his fourth year at Valley Lutheran, finished as TVC West Champs going undefeated in the process. Six players earned all-conference selections. Coach Rogers was named Coach of the Year by his fellow TVC West coaches. The JV and Freshman levels finished with winning records going 12-8 and 8-10, respectively. Aaron Meckes (3.52) and James Rogers (3.99) were Academic All-State winners.

The *girls' basketball team* finished first in the TVC West dropping just one game in the conference. Their overall record was 18-3. They were ranked in the top five all season in the state of Michigan for Class C schools, but were defeated in the District tournament. Coach Roekle was voted one of five Regional Coaches of the Year in

Class C by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan (BCAM). The JV team went 19-1 and the Freshmen team boasted a winning record of 12-5.

Our *wrestling team* found 2008-09 to be a rebuilding year as 5 of the 8 wrestlers were 9<sup>th</sup> graders. No all-conference or state honors were earned this year. The wrestlers were coached by Mr. Dennis Lawrence.

*Spring 2009:*

The *boys and girls track teams* are poised to make a run at the TVC West crown this May as well as some Regional honors. The *girls' soccer team* is currently in first place in the TVC East with a game and a half lead with 3 games to play. The *softball and baseball teams* seem destined to finish second again this year.

Students named to the Tri-Valley Conference (TVC) post-season honors: (this does not reflect this spring's sports teams as the all conference selections have not yet been made.)

First Team TVC

Cross Country:

Baseball (08): Kerry Hofmeister

Football: Jeff Brady-Linebacker, Alex Denno-wide receiver, and Kye Sugden-punter

Boys' Soccer: Adam Kundinger; Micah Huegel, Kevin Flory, Andy Weiss, Cory Cookingham

Girls Soccer (08): Megan Wegener, Sarah Breen, Kate Morse, Hilary Peil

Girls Basketball: Katie Pett, Kayla Engelhard

Boys Basketball: James Rogers, Aaron Meckes

Softball (08): Natalie Begick, Andrea Weiss, Jenna Weiss

Volleyball: Jackie Stone, Kate Morse

Wrestling:

Golf:

Second Team TVC

Cross Country: James Rogers, Abbey Greenwell

Football: John Holtrop, Tim Holden,

Boys' Soccer: Aaron Meckes, Jon Weiss

Girls' Soccer (08): Katie Pett, Jenny Ferguson

Girls' Basketball: Stephanie Faller

Boys' Basketball: Kaleb VanAmburg

Volleyball: Megan Wegener, Maureen Yurgens

Baseball (08): Jon Weiss

Softball (08):

Wrestling:

Golf:

Summer sports camps and clinics were conducted for area students going into grades 5-9 during June 2008.

Camps also being planned for this summer include baseball, soccer, basketball, football and volleyball. We have included a Fine Arts Camp for this coming summer which includes Art, Music, and Science.

Tournaments were held for our area Lutheran elementary schools: girls' basketball in December, boys' basketball in the February, and girls' volleyball in September of 2008. We also hosted a track meet in May of this year. We plan to continue hosting grade school tournaments but will likely move them to accommodate the grade school league change of seasons in the fall of 2009.

Coaches attending clinics this past calendar year: Eric Smith and John Duclos—football, Doug Guenther-soccer, Randy Rogers and Tom Roekle-basketball, Jon Frank and Mandy Neumeyer-volleyball, Dennis Lawrence-

Wrestling, Jon Frank and Kayla Kramer-track, John Mueller – softball, Kurt Hofmeister and Heath Vincent-baseball.

We have enjoyed competing in the Tri-Valley Conference once again this school year. Less travel and neighborhood rivalries have been both exciting and challenging.

### Music

The Symphonic Band, under the direction of Lindsay Meyer, received a “2” at the State Festival and the Golden Voice Choir, under the direction of Paul Eschmann, received a “1”. Both groups received “1” at the District Festivals.

“Glorify”, the handbell choir under the direction of Mrs. Barb Doyle, organized a bell concert that involved 4 local parish bell choirs totaling nearly 70 ringers. They really enhance Sunday worship at local congregations.

The Jazz Band, Jazz Choir, and Barbershop music groups performed for various school functions and several retirements homes in the community.

The Flute Choir and Acclaim enhanced worship at several member congregation Sunday services.

In October, the music department presented a "Musical Extravaganza" for ten area Lutheran grade schools, with small samples of many of the musical groups at Valley Lutheran

The Brass Quintet and Golden Voice contributed their gifts to the annual Good Friday service held at Horizons Conference Center.

The annual Christmas concert was sung at Zion Lutheran Church in Auburn.

The annual band and choir Lenten Tour traveled to Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio for concerts before returning for a home concert at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. This is always a highlight of the year.

The Spring Concert was performed at the Malcolm Field Theater at Saginaw Valley State University.

### Drama

Mrs. Bess Winter directed the winter production of *Miracle Worker* by William Gibson. It was performed at the White Pine Middle School Theater..

Mrs. Renee Brenner directed *The Nerd* by Larry Shue in the spring.

Mr. Barry Wittig, assisted by Mr. Paul Eschmann, directed the musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie* in the fall..

### Chapel Presentation Teams

Several student groups and faculty members presented over 40 chapels at our Lutheran Elementary Schools. This was a wonderful opportunity for Valley Lutheran High School students to share their faith. Our Lutheran Elementary Schools greatly appreciated these chapels. The following groups were involved:

Students for Life (under the direction of Dr. Lisa Meyers)

Impact (under the direction of Mr. Paul Eschmann)

## Social Opportunities And Assemblies

Over 300 students and their guests attended the Homecoming Dance.

Over 180 students and their guests attended the Prom at the Germania Club.

The Charger Post Prom Party was also held at Saginaw Valley State University. This was organized by parents and provided students with a safe and fun conclusion to their prom night. 140 students and their guests were in attendance.

The annual Freshman Lock-in was held at the Saginaw YMCA with nearly every 9<sup>th</sup> grader in attendance.

65 Seniors attended the annual Senior Retreat at Camp Timbers in West Branch.

The students were able to benefit from several assemblies during the school year.

Dr. Jean Garton, founder of Lutherans for Life, addressed our students on life issues. It was one of the final speeches of her career!

Pam Stenzel, a nationally known speaker on sexual issues, addressed our students thanks to finding and organizational efforts by The Rock Youth Center. We also hosted students from six other Christian schools (Lutheran and non-Lutheran) for the assembly.

Dancers from St. Joseph's Orphanage in Haiti performed for our students.

Konnie Lacavoli who lost her son in a drinking accident, spoke to our student body about unintended consequences and the need to care for each other. The assembly was sponsored by SADD.

A representative of the American Bible Society spoke in chapel.

Former NFL player Larry Cobb shared his message with our students.

Former VL teacher and contemporary Christian musician Dave Britton presented a chapel assembly.

Our second Sophomore Futures Day was held on February 11. The event was held at the Candelite Banquet and Bowling Center. Students heard about, discussed, were challenged in areas such as the use of alcohol and drugs, boy/girl relationships, college life, pornography, the messages of clothing, and simply getting to know each other. It was funded in part by grants from the Safe and Drug Free Schools, the Parent Organization, SADD, and a fund established in memory of Konnie Lacavoli's son..

We participated in the Tri-Valley Conference Language Arts Competition for the first time. Our "team" finished second under the direction of Bess Winter.

Student leadership skills continued to be developed through our Student Council. This year's president is Bo Anderson and the faculty advisors are Mrs. Kris Flora and Pastor John Mueller. Bo's outstanding leadership was recognized by the National Association of Secondary School Principals with one of six national regional leadership awards. He is the first VL student to receive this honor!

Our student council participated in a "student council exchange" with both Carrollton and St. Charles where the student groups shared ideas with each other while visiting the other schools.

A new group, Student Improvement Committee (SIC), was formed and utilized 17 students in finding ways to improve the school. The two major projects for the year were putting microwaves in the lunch room and large clocks in the hallways.

## Service Opportunities

The Key Club continues to provide service to the community. With over 100 active student members, the Key Club works with a number of local non-profit agencies to make a difference. Sophomore Lilly Schmidt was elected Key Club Governor of Michigan! Katie Pett is the chapter president and the parent advisor is Lori Milroy.

Two school-wide service days were conducted, one in September and one in May. In the spring Saginaw Township enjoyed working with our students so much that they scheduled a special “Recreate State Street ” community effort on Service Day! Steve Zill coordinates service activities.

The New Testament classes (Mr. Steve Zill) spearhead the campaign to adopt 8 children from Compassion International. Money is collected from the student body each week and sent to CI to help cover the costs of food, clothing, and education for the adopted students. Valley supports these students until they turn 18.

The Global Issues classes raised over \$800, which was given to World Vision, Lutheran World Relief, and UNICEF as part of their unit on hunger.

Two blood drives were hosted by the National Honor Society for the Michigan Community Blood Center. The NHS advisor is Mrs. Barb Doyle.

Several “grass roots” efforts began. Students formed “Environmental Club” that promoted a number of environmental issues including recycling at school. Small groups went on prayer walks and collected food for food pantries.

The 26<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Family drive was very successful. Miss Beverly Feldkamp organized and directed this project.

Crystal Bauer (senior) painted a mural for Zion Lutheran school in Beaver and also at Covenant Medical Center in the children’s wing.

The school building was also offered as “service” to the community as it was used by the American Red Cross for Operation CPR.

## Facility Improvements

Much time and money were invested in upgrading the technological infrastructure to facilitate the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom Initiative. Most notable this year was the upgrade to the computer lab so that it can also serve as a language lab and the installation of two interactive white board systems. In addition 6 laptop computers were purchased to expand the use of technology in classrooms.

A new phone system was installed greatly enhancing communications especially with the addition of voice mail. Alumnus and former board member Jeff Neuenfeldt installed the system.

## Faculty and Staff Notes

We are blessed with a wonderful group of Christian teachers and staff who believe in the ministry of Valley Lutheran High School.

Mrs. Bess Winter (English) received a Crystal Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching from the Saginaw News. Mr. Steve Zill was one of five nominees for the Diamond Award where educators nominate other educators for being an example of excellence.

Dr. John Brandt was awarded the Christus Primus award from Concordia University – Ann Arbor and the Christus Magister award from the Lutheran Educators Association. Both awards recognize excellence and major contributions in Lutheran education and administration.

Melissa Klamer (English) published an article on Theodore Roethke in Midwest Miscellany.

The faculty took advantage of opportunities to expand their knowledge and skills.

The faculty participated in a three-day retreat in preparation for the school year.

The faculty participated in two in-service days and regular meetings on late-start Tuesdays. The emphasis of their work this year was in the development of instructional strategies for teaching critical thinking, literacy instruction, creating team lesson plans, Bible study, and continued work on the “21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom Initiative.”

Bev Feldkamp (Social Studies) presented at both the National Council for Geography Education and the Michigan Council on Social Studies conferences. She also participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> section of a geography initiative in San Antonio sponsored by National Geographic and the Michigan Geographic Alliance.

Paul Eschmann (Choral Music) was asked to conduct the choir at the Michigan District Convention in the summer. He also adjudicated at the Lutheran grade school music festivals for both Bay area and Saginaw area schools.

Kris Flora (English) presented information to the faculty on “Teaching Literacy Strategies” that she learned while attending a 2 year program at SVSU on improving literacy.

Melissa Klamer (English) participated in a panel discussion on Theodore Roethke held at CMU.

Mr. Barry Wittig was a member of the accreditation team for Lutheran North High School in Detroit.

Other opportunities to expand knowledge and skills were:

Abbie Reed graduated with her Master of Arts degree in classroom teaching – Natural Science.

Pastor John Mueller took two graduate classes from the St. Louis Seminary on homiletics and project writing and research.

We hosted two student teachers from Concordia, Ann Arbor in the areas of English and Math/Spanish. Mrs. Kris Flora and Mrs. Renee Brenner supervised.

Mr. Barry Wittig and Mr. Heath Vincent attended the MACUL conference in Grand Rapids which emphasizes the use of technology in the classroom. The two teachers focused on the area of MOODLE – a web-based program that allows for online class discussions and internet course management.

Mrs. Barb Doyle attended a one-day conference on the use of TI-Nspire (graphing calculator technology). It was held in Ypsilanti.

Dr. John Brandt and Dr. Lisa Meyers attended the Association of Lutheran Secondary School Principals conference in March. The conference focused on developing leadership in students.

Mrs. Renee Brenner attended a week-long conference in the summer on how to start an AP Spanish program. She then implemented the AP Spanish curriculum into her Spanish 4 class.

Mr. Doug Guenther (Science) attended the Youth Specialties National Youth Worker conference. He also headed up a group of 20 students who went to Galveston, TX over Easter break to work on the Hurricane Ike relief effort.

Mr. Jon Frank attended a conference on Citizenship in Lansing at the Center for Civic Education. The topic was using “Deliberating Democracy” as an instructional strategy.

Mr. Randy Rogers (guidance counselor) attended conferences at SVSU on the ACT and MME tests and the Michigan Counselors Association conference where he was recognized as one of the “Counselors Who Make a Difference.”

Mrs. Kris Flora (English) and Mrs. Melissa Klamer (English) attended a writing conference in Grand Rapids on the “6 Traits of Writing.”

Mr. Barry Wittig (Social Studies), Mrs. Melissa Klamer (English), and Mrs. Renee Brenner (Spanish) attended conferences on Advanced Placement instruction in U.S. History, English Language, and Spanish, respectively.

Miss Lindsay Meyer attended the MSBOA conference on Instrumental Music instruction.

Mr. Doug Guenther (Science) and Mrs. Barb Doyle (Math) participated in a workshop at SVSU that highlighted teaching critical thinking in Math and Science. They each developed “inquiry lessons” and presented them to the workshop participants and the VLHS faculty.

Our Faculty is:

Executive Director/Principal	John Brandt (Ed.D.) (30 years VL)
Academic Dean/Special Needs Coordinator	Lisa Meyers (Ed.D.)
Dean of Students/Athletic Director	Kurt Hofmeister (M.A.)
Guidance Counselor	Randall Rogers (M.A.)

Teachers:	Beverly Baldwin (M.S.)
	Renee Brenner (M.A.)
	Barb Doyle (M.A.T.) (10 years VL and LCMS)
	Pam Eschmann (M.Ed.)
	Paul Eschmann (M.Ed.) (10 years VL)
	Beverly Feldkamp (M.A.T.)
	Kris Flora (M.A.T.)
	Jon Frank (M.A.T.)
	Doug Guenther (M.A.T.)
	Jay Kaelberer (M.A.T.) (10 years VL)
	Melissa Klamer (B.A.)
Margee Keoshian (B.A.)	
Lindsay Meyer (B.M.E.)	
John Mueller (M. Div.) (10 years VL)	

Abbie Reed (M.A.T.)  
 Tom Roekle (M.A.T.)  
 Heath Vincent (B.A.)  
 Jeanine Westendorf (B.S.) (30 years VL and LCMS)  
 Elizabeth Winter (M.A.)  
 Barry Wittig (M.S.)  
 Steve Zill (M.S.S.)

Out Support Staff is:

Communications Director  
 Cindy Wickersham (B.A.)

Assistant to the Executive Director  
 Krista Flory (B.A.)

Special Needs Aides  
 Debbie Davis (5 years VL)  
 Linda Rogers (B.A.)

Secretaries  
 Shelby Wieck (30 years VL)  
 Royce Wegener (B.A.)  
 Nora Krueger

Food Service  
 Peggy Herbolsheimer  
 Tracy Bauer  
 Kathy Davis

Custodians and Maintenance  
 Jerry Neuenfeldt  
 Scott Englehardt  
 Jim Morgrette (15 years VL)

Enrollment

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	93
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	83
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	95
<u>12<sup>th</sup> Grade</u>	<u>83</u>
Total	354

International Students 4 (South Korea), 1 (Thailand)

Our students are from:

LCMS Congregations	28
WELS Congregations	3
ELCA Congregation	2
Other Christian Congregations	31

218 (62%) are members of Association congregations  
 67 (19%) are members of Non-Association Lutheran Congregations  
 69 (19%) are non-Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

## The Business of the Association

At the outset of the year, the Board of Directors was actively developing a new strategic plan upon completion of the prior plan. The downturn in the economy required the Board to direct its attention to those issues. The strategic planning process continues with plans for implementation in the fall.

The “Peeks” process is an important focal point of our school’s efforts. At least twice each month a one hour “Peek at Valley” for anyone interested in learning more about the school. During our first year over 330 had attended a “Peeks” event! Part of this process is the annual Summit Society Breakfast. 350 attended our first breakfast after which we identified 42 founding members of the Summit Society. Each member commits to giving at least \$1000 for each of the next 5 years. Tom Roekle is our team leader.

We continue with an on-going rental relationship with Concordia University-Ann Arbor to provide classrooms for their off campus graduate courses.

A billboard campaign was launched in January that will feature one billboard that moves between three locations over the next 6 months. This is part our communications plan.

Several new policies were passed that provide greater transparency and accountability as required by our auditors.

In addition to work on the Strategic Plan the standing committees also addressed the following issues:

The Campus Life and Communications Committee reviewed the current long-term maintenance plan. It discussed several options concerning the addition and/or deletion of some sports. It planned retirement celebrations for Jeanine Westendorf.

The Finance Committee studied and recommended the budget for approval. The School’s 403(b) plan was reviewed and ultimately discontinued. Studied various VL financial interests to insure safety and the best possible return on investments. The Committee began work on a 5-year strategic financial plan.

The Educational Excellence Committee interviewed and recommended for employment a new science teacher and math/computer science math teacher. It studied and recommended for adoption the new social studies curriculum.

Yeo and Yeo audited our financial records in August 2008 giving us an unqualified approval.

	<u>June 30, 2008</u>	<u>June 30, 2007</u>	<u>Change</u>
Total Net Assets	\$3,771,034	\$3,636,059	\$134,975 (+3.7%)
Total Property Debt	\$859,908	\$943,923	-\$84,015 (-8.9%)
Operating Revenue	\$2,552,807	\$2,845,346	-\$292,539 (-10.3%) <sup>1</sup>
Operating Expenses	\$2,399,805	\$2,353,500	\$46,305 (+2%)
Cost per Student	\$6779	\$6447	\$332 (+5.1%)
Operating Reserves	\$328,221	\$272,622	\$55,599 (+20.4%) <sup>2</sup>
Valley Lutheran Foundation	\$1,906,156	\$1,637,143	\$269,013 (+16.4%) <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Several large one-time donations were received in 2006-2007.

<sup>2</sup> Money from a large gift in 2006-2007 was transferred to operating reserves in response to the economic problems.

<sup>3</sup> Money from a large gift in 2006-2007 was transferred to the Foundation.

Tuition rates for 2009-2010 will be \$4500 Association, \$5590 Non-Association LCMS, and \$5900 Community.

Association rates for 2009-2010 are the lesser of \$21 per communicant member or \$8 per communicant plus \$700 per enrolled student.

### Valley Lutheran Foundation

The Valley Lutheran Foundation is charged with developing long-term financial support for the school. Foundation board members include: President Ken Gremel, Vice-President Jim Milroy, Secretary Rich Marker, Treasurer Roy Schmidt and members Jeff Benjamin, Carole Hemminger, John Herzog, Kathy Engelhardt, and Dave Duclos.

The annual appreciation dinner was held on March 31 at the Germania Club. Virgil McGuire, Terry Burkhard, and Lori Milroy were presented with the Angel Award their board and volunteer service. The evening's program centered on an update on developments at school.

The Foundation distributed \$33,975 for student aid and to help underwrite the cost of new textbooks. This was less than expected due to the significant drop in investments.

#### Account Balances April 30, 2009

Valley Lutheran Foundation	\$902,095
Sub Accounts	
VL Foundation (undesignated)	\$693,011
Wheatley (college scholarship)	\$8,491
Boehm (college scholarship)	\$15,437
Olson (fine arts)	\$13,728
Reichard (VL scholarship)	\$30,504
Keinath (VL scholarship)	\$32,855
Fiedler (VL scholarship)	\$32,855
Schwarz-Smith (VL Scholarship)	\$37,496
Teacher Appreciation Fund*	\$1508
Duclos **	\$11,385
Summer Music Scholarship	\$2865
Bronner (VL Scholarship)	\$7916
Wakeman (VL and college scholarship)	\$11,042
Faith Bridgeport (VL Scholarship)	\$2999.25
Nuechterlein Endowment (VL scholarship)	\$46,143
Miller Trust Fund (VL scholarship)	\$103,051
Faculty Compensation Fund	\$634,738
Total Assets	\$1,686,027

\* The Teacher Appreciation Fund has been established with the intent of building it for 10 years before making distributions. At that point it will supplement faculty salaries.

\*\* The Duclos Fund is a new fund that is in the building process and has yet to identify a purpose.

### **“The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom Campaign”**

This Campaign concludes on June 30, 2009. The Campaign goals are to raise \$470,000 to provide financial aid, improve technology, provide the necessary support to implement the classroom goals of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom Initiative and build the Valley Lutheran Foundation. Because of the increase in needed student aid, the board increased the goal to \$550,000. At this writing the Campaign has raised \$703,545 far exceed that goal. Praise God for this outpouring of blessings!.

The “Auction for Action Benefit Dinner-Auction” at the Apple Mountain Conference Center was a high point again this year. Chaired by Beth Kaul this event attracted a record 390 participants and donors of many items for bid. Nearly \$40,000 was raised at this event.

#### **Board Members**

Mike Denno, President	Bethlehem, Saginaw	Connie Mossner	St. Paul Frankenlust
Sharon Lawrence	Good Shepherd, Saginaw	Rich Schiemann	St. Peter, Hemlock
Jack Anderson, President-Elect	Faith, Bay City	Dave Peruski	Trinity, Monitor
David Duclos	Holy Cross, Saginaw	Eric Rupprecht, (Sec.)	Trinity, Reese
Todd Brechtelsbauer	Immanuel, Frankentrost	Terry Wegener	Zion, Beaver
Debbie Beffrey, President	Messiah, Carrollton	David Little	Zion, Iva
Steve Ott, Treasurer	Peace Saginaw	Pastor Michael Korte	Pastoral Delegate
Lisa Helmreich	St. John, Amelith	Cindy Rauschert	Teacher Delegate
Rachel Geddes	St. Mark, Shields		