



## Enhancing Students' Preparation for Life: Strategic Academic Partnerships

VLHS is excited to highlight a number of intentional academic partnerships, providing the opportunity for students to enhance their high school experience. "We are so grateful for the strong, positive partnerships we have access to in this region. Not only do they assist us in meeting the diverse needs of our student body, but they also allow for true personalization of the high school experience. Every student here has a custom-tailored program that addresses their individual strengths, passions, and future goals," explained **Dr. Lisa Meyers**. The graphic below highlights many of these valued academic partners.

### EDUCATIONAL

**Partners:**

- Delta College
- Concordia Univ. Ann Arbor
- Goodrich High School

**Involved Students:**

36

**VL Perspective:**

"Through dual enrollment I have had the opportunity to get a head start on college. It has also allowed me to get a glimpse into what the requirements will be to acquire my degree." - **Krista Kade ('22)**

**Programs:**

- Business/Accounting, Technology, Foreign Language, etc.

### CAREER/TECHNICAL

**Partners:**

- Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center
- Saginaw Career Complex

**Involved Students:**

35

**Programs:**

- Trades, Medical, Engineering, Technology, etc.

**VL Perspective:**

"The career center prepares you for the workforce and gives the hands on experience needed to get a full time job after high school." - **Cody Britton ('22)**



### STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

**Partners:**

- Saginaw ISD

**Involved Students:**

12

**VL Perspective:**

"Our partnership with the Saginaw ISD provides needed services to our students with diagnosed disabilities. While we attend to daily academic support, the teacher consultants from the ISD meet regularly with students, providing extra support and advocacy for both the students and their parents. They are able to facilitate connections with state & local programs that make the post high school transition to college or work an easier process. This partnership in providing students with the tools they need for success in high school and beyond is such a blessing!" - **Natalie Keup**, VL Student Support Services Coordinator

**Programs:**

- Teacher Consultant, Testing, PT or OT, Social Work Services, etc.

### LEADERSHIP

**Partners:**

- STEM @ SVSU
- SVSU Office of Diversity

**Programs:**

- Chief Science Officers, Dow SSEC Program, Youth Leadership Institute

**VL Perspective:**

"These programs give students real-world research and leadership opportunities. Students gain experience working with professors, professionals, undergraduates, students at other schools, and students at their own schools." - **Ben Cooper**, VL Science Teacher

# United Way awards Mini-Grants for classroom enhancement

The United Way of Saginaw County (UWSC) recently awarded 5 VL teachers each a mini-grant to assist with equipment, supplies, or classroom lessons.

Teachers will use funds from the mini-grant to provide a direct impact on the student experience in the classroom. Recipient teachers are:

- **Jennifer Blake** - treadmill desk
- **Karla Stahlecker** - pottery wheel
- **Rebecca Sugden** - Baritone Sax case
- **Patrick Winningham** - cultural classroom supplies
- **Eric Smith** - fitness equipment

When asked about the impact on her classroom, English teacher **Jennifer Blake** reflects, "the students and I are excited to be able to add more intentional activity to the classroom [with a treadmill desk and an under-the-desk peddle machine]. The Research Seminar classes are studying the effects of physical movement on learning, so it will benefit their research as well."

VLHS is grateful for the United Way of Saginaw County's commitment to improve and invest in our community. The impact of these mini-grants will add value to the classrooms and enhance the learning environment.



*Students practice using chopsticks as part of Mr. Winningham's Global Issues classes. The chopsticks, along with a number of other materials, help bring different cultures to life for students.*

## March for Life Reflections

On January 21, 2022 forty-five Valley Lutheran students and chaperones were among the thousands who participated in the annual March for Life in D.C. Below are a few of their reflections on the experience and on being a part of Valley Lutheran's Protect Life group. To read more head to [www.vlhs.com/marchforlife2021](http://www.vlhs.com/marchforlife2021)



"Becoming the voice to the voiceless is an honor and I believe that our actions should unite as a call for justice that each and every life deserves. All life is precious and loved by God - that's why we march." - Kaitlyn, Senior

"In dark cloudy D.C. the Lord's glory shone gleamingly upon the National Mall. The people there. The groups. The lives it touched. The love. Love triumphed in the streets of the nation's capital once again that day. We were inspiring others. Others inspired us. This wasn't any normal school trip. It was spiritually awakening and valuable to the faith journey of many of us, as it opened our eyes to America's silent genocide along with America's resounding fight to preserve life." - Gavin, Junior

"Being a part of the march is so inspiring. All around you there are people who have the same view on abortion as you do and are fighting for the same thing. Marching through D.C. to the Supreme Court steps put it all into perspective that we have power in our nation. I love seeing our group be on fire against abortion after the march, and more willing to share the pro-life message." - Kelly, Sophomore



*Announcing:  
Charger  
Accomplishments!*

- Danielle Ayotte (VL '22) and Chloe Horney (VL '23) qualified to attend the national 'Cook Around the World' competition at Disney, Orlando in April through their SCC Culinary program
- Miranda Urbanczyk (VL '24) was selected to attend the prestigious Washington Journalism and Media Conference at George Mason University this summer

*breathe*



VLHS SYMPHONIC BAND AND  
GOLDEN VOICE CHOIR

TOUR HOME CONCERT  
SUNDAY, MARCH 20  
3 P.M.  
BETHLEHEM, SAGINAW