



# VERONA HIGH SCHOOL

151 FAIRVIEW AVENUE  
VERONA, NEW JERSEY 07044  
973-571-6750  
973-571-6765 FAX

Joshua Cogdill  
Principal

Thomas Lancaster  
Assistant Principal

Glenn Cesa  
Director of Athletics

Kimberly Ferlauto  
Director of Guidance

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians of Verona High School Students:

I hope you and your family are enjoying a well deserved and relaxing summer recess. I welcome you to view September as the start of a new beginning and an opportunity for students to continue “to achieve their potential as active learners and productive citizens through” our “rigorous curricula and meaningful, enriching experiences” at Verona High School.

Over the last year we accomplished a lot as a school community. Mr. Lancaster, the teachers, the administrative team, and I look forward to partnering with you in on our constant pursuit of creating a dynamic and rigorous learning environment. The teachers and administration at VHS look forward to witnessing the many great accomplishments and achievements that your children will create throughout this school year.

This summer we have had a lot of work done to our school. We have built an extension on the music wing of the building, refinished the white gym floor, finished the security vestibule entrance to the school, renovated a student restroom, refinished the hallway floors throughout the building, purchased three new computer labs, created a newly renovated STEM lab, added new furniture and books to the Learning Commons, added a fully renovated kitchen to the cafeteria, installed new heating units throughout the school, added all new lighting throughout the school, installed new ceilings in many classrooms, and are in the finishing stages for our new athletic fields and tennis courts. If you see one of our custodial or maintenance staff employees, please share our gratitude for their hard work and service to our school.

Last year we introduced Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) and Google Apps for Education throughout the high school. We continue to encourage your child to bring the electronic device that he or she is most comfortable using in school. Additionally, we have numerous Chromebook carts and computer labs available to students.

This year we have added quite a few new courses for students. Students will now have the opportunity to become engaged in AP Microeconomics, AP Computer Science Principles, Business Law, AP Physics I, Introduction to Computer Aided Drafting, Fabrication and Design I, Fabrication and Design II, STEM, STEAM, Striking a New Chord, Chamber Choir, and pull out Choral lessons. Additionally, we have updated curriculum throughout our course offerings.

Continued for this year will be the opportunity for every family to have personalized meetings with their child's school counselor. The purpose of these meetings is to help the counselor learn more about the goals the parents and students have for high school, college, and beyond. Our job is to create a satisfying experience where the student and the parent feel comfortable in how we are supporting their family throughout the child's secondary school years. Please make sure that you take the time this year to meet with your child's counselor.

I believe in sharing the great many things our students, staff, and community are engaged in during the school year. Please follow me on Twitter: @PrincipalVerona, where I will post high school accomplishments and information pertaining to thought provoking ideas within the educational landscape. Although summer is fleeting, our teachers and administrative team have told me how they are excited to see our students and they look forward to witnessing their continued success on the athletic fields, in the arts, in our various clubs and activities, and in the classroom. I welcome each of you to encourage your child to get involved in a variety of activities during this school year because these amazing opportunities truly enhance the student experience.

We are proud to welcome and announce the hiring of a few new staff members to our Verona High School family:

Mr. Robert Merkler	Director of Athletics
Mr. Laurence Fry	Language Arts
Ms. Michelle Della Fortuna	Mathematics
Mrs. Dina Rizzuto-Francis	Nurse
Ms. Christine Gish	Special Education Teacher
Mrs. Christine Garson	Spanish
Ms. Kenya Velarde	Spanish

I strongly believe that communication between the school and the home is the cornerstone to supporting your child. Much of the day-to-day communication pertaining to grades, attendance, discipline, assignments, etc., are available through the Genesis Parent Portal. All attendance and discipline letters will be available electronically through the parent portal instead of being sent home using "traditional mail". We encourage and recommend that you login to the parent portal at a minimum of once a week. Also, please take time to visit our [webpage](#) where we will post important information and wonderful stories of our individual and collective accomplishments. On our webpage we have an updated copy of our student handbook. With

your child, please take time to view the handbook prior to the start of the school year as there have been a few changes since last school year.

Please reference the Verona High School webpage under the heading "Back to School" for more information about the 2016 - 2017 school year. Additionally, we ask that you visit the [Parent Portal](#) to complete other important items located under the **Forms tab**. *Please read the information carefully and complete the forms by the first day of school.* During homeroom on the first day of school, your child will be given an envelope from the SCA which contains a number of requests for support, either financial or asking for your time, from various groups that support our school community. Please assist these groups as much as possible. They help improve our school community and provide valuable services to our students and staff.

**Our first day of school for students will be on Tuesday, September 6, 2016.** We changed the school start and end times for the 2016-2017 school year. The first class will begin at **8:00 AM** and the school day will finish at **2:45 PM**. Students in Concert Choir are expected to be in class by **7:10 AM**. Attached to this letter I am going to share with you some information about September 6th. Additionally, I'm going to share insight on some procedural items pertaining to this school year. **On September 6th, there will be a delayed opening for students in grades 10-12 and all eight periods will meet.** The freshmen will be arriving to school at our regular start time (**8:00 AM**) where they will be participating in Freshman Orientation. This year our Back-to-School Night is on Wednesday, **September 28, 2016 at 7:00 PM**.

For those I have not yet had the opportunity to meet, I look forward to meeting you very soon. I look forward to meeting each of you, seeing you at school events, and celebrating this year's successes! Thank you for your continued support of our school.

My very best,

*Joshua Cogdill*

Joshua Cogdill  
Principal of Verona High School