



# VERONA HIGH SCHOOL

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Principal

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August 21, 2017

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

We hope you and your family are enjoying the summer. The beginning of the school year is an opportunity for every student to have a fresh start. We encourage students to join a new club or sport, make new friends, and enjoy their new classes. We welcome each of you to encourage your child to get involved in a variety of activities during this school year. The faculty and administration are very excited to witness the wonderful work ethic and accomplishments of our students.

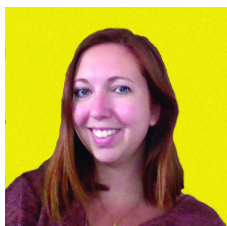
Our greatest initiative this year is to reinforce our commitment to and belief in kindness and respect for all people. While academics and accomplishments are extremely important, at VHS our number one focus is treating each other with respect and kindness so that we may continue to grow as a school community. I am confident that our amazing students will demonstrate why Verona High School is a special place to receive an education.

The custodial and technology team have been working diligently all summer to prepare the school. To share just a few examples, we have painted most classrooms, installed a new fitness center, added another 4 chromebook carts to our already impressive inventory, and updated the visual graphic lab with more powerful computers. This summer our teachers attended many professional development conferences and wrote curriculum. The VHS SCA Beautification Committee has rejuvenated our lobby with a fresh paint job and a sign welcoming people to our school. We are excited for these and other improvements to our school.

We believe technology is a useful tool for high school students. For this reason, Verona High School is a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) and Google Apps for Education school. A student's personal device will be useful when accessing Google Classroom, taking notes, and for academic research. Last year, we saw an increase in the number of personal devices used in the building. We encourage your child to consider bringing a personal chromebook or laptop computer for use in the classroom.

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.

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



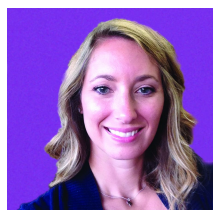
**Ms. Kimberly Andela** earned her bachelor's degree in Visual Arts from Ramapo College of New Jersey. After working in the photography industry for a year she decided to pursue a career in teaching. She received her Master's of Teaching from Drew University in 2016. She is certified in both English Education and Students with Disabilities. Ms. Andela is joining Verona High School as a second year teacher after completing her first year in West Orange, NJ. Throughout the year Ms. Andela attends workshops to further her education and bring fresh new

ideas into her classroom. During her free time she likes to spend time outdoors with her fiancé, hiking and kayaking, as well as traveling around the world. Ms. Andela is very excited to be starting this journey with the Verona family!



**Ms. Jennifer Da Silva** has a wide variety of experience working with school aged children and adolescents. She received her B.A. in Psychology from Seton Hall University in 2008. Ms. Da Silva directed the South Orange summer camp program for 4 years in South Orange, NJ. She has experience working as an Employment Specialist with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Ms. Da Silva returned to Seton Hall University for her graduate studies and also worked as a Graduate Assistant for the Career Center at Seton Hall University. She received an

M.A. in Counseling and Ed.S. in Professional Counseling in 2012. After receiving her degrees, Ms. Da Silva worked for UMDNJ's School Based Youth Service Program as a Mental Health Clinician where she counseled high school students in the Essex County Vocational School district. Ms. Da Silva just completed her 4th year as a School Counselor at Edison High School in Edison, NJ. Other interesting tidbits: Ms. DaSilva loves to travel as she believes it is one of the greatest ways to learn. Experiential learning goes a long way and leaves an everlasting imprint on memory. She has traveled to over 30 countries and states and counting! One of her bucket list is to visit all the the 7 wonders of the modern world. So far she has visited 3 out of 7!



After graduating from Lock Haven University in 2004 with a B.A. in Psychology, **Mrs. Jennifer Gadaleta** went directly into her Master's Degree program where she earned her M.Ed. in Secondary School counseling from Kutztown University in 2007; she moved to New Jersey the day after graduation! Though not originally from NJ (she was born in Texas but spent most of her life in Pennsylvania), she loves living in Verona now with her husband and daughter. Mrs. Gadaleta has been

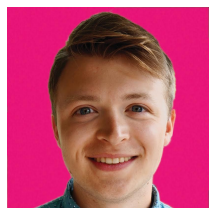
a school counselor for the past 10 years, first in Union City for four years, and then in Westwood for six years. Other interesting tidbits: Mrs Gadaleta LOVES dogs (she has two), enjoys hiking, Penn State football, the Dallas Cowboys, and traveling.



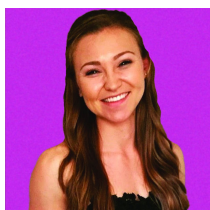
**Mr. Robert Hill** is in his tenth year teaching physical education and health in the Verona Public Schools. This will be his first year at VHS, as he spent the past nine years as the physical education teacher at F.N Brown and Brookdale Avenue schools. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise and Movement Science with a concentration in physical education from William Paterson University and also earned an M.A in Educational Administration from the University of Scranton. Mr. Hill is excited to be teaching at Verona High School, especially with the opening of the newly renovated Fitness Center. In addition to Mr. Hill's teaching responsibilities, he is also the JV Boy's Soccer Coach at Verona High School.



**Mr. Terence Lennon** is a new addition to the Verona High School STEM Department. He will be teaching physics and environmental science. He previously taught at Indian Hills High School and Cresskill High and Middle School, where he taught physics, chemistry, integrated science, and sixth grade science. In his most recent role at Indian Hills High School, he utilized technology in the classroom on a daily basis, offering virtual labs and online assessments. Mr. Lennon graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and Business Economics. As a student at Notre Dame, he competed on the university's cross country and track teams. He later furthered his education by studying physics and other STEM subjects. Mr. Lennon earned many of his physics credits at Rutgers University, Busch Campus. He continued to pursue his interest in learning by successfully completing Organic Chemistry II this summer. Mr. Lennon lives in New Providence, NJ with his wife and daughter. He enjoys competing in triathlons and served as a lifeguard in Long Beach Township for more than a decade.

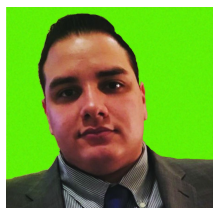


**Mr. Stephen Munoz** began his teaching career last year at H.B. Whitehorne, where he taught seventh grade English. He graduated from The College of New Jersey in May of 2016, and could not have been happier with his first year as a teacher. In addition to teaching at HBW, he co-directed the VHS Spotlight Players, which paved the way for his move up to VHS this year. He will now be teaching English I CP, English II CP, and Theatre Arts at VHS, while continuing to direct the Spotlight Players and coordinate the International Thespian Society. While not in school, he enjoys camping, reading, and participating in community theatre.



**Ms. Taylor Rehe** is a flutist and music educator from Branchburg, New Jersey. She previously worked as the leave replacement choir director at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School before accepting the position of Assistant Band Director here at Verona High School. She holds a Bachelor's of Music in Music Education from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University, and has spent the last few years working with several marching bands in the Central/North

Jersey areas. Taylor has 2 dogs and 2 cats, and trains in powerlifting. She is very excited to join the Verona High School community!



**Mr. Matthew Rosa** is happy to join the staff at Verona High School as a Special Education teacher for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year. After working as a Special Education teacher at West Essex Regional High School, he is happy to be joining the Verona School District. Mr. Rosa received his undergraduate degree from Montclair State University in History, and most recently completed his Master's Degree in Special Education. Matthew is looking forward to working with the students and staff at Verona High School. Mr. Rosa holds both a K-12 Certificate in Social Studies as well as a TOSD.

Our first day of school for students will be on **Wednesday, September 6, 2017**. On September 6th, there will be a delayed opening for students in grades 10-12. 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 Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 7:00 PM. On the first day of school, each student will meet all of his or her teachers and attend all of his or her classes (Periods 1-8).

I encourage you to please follow me on Twitter [@PrincipalVerona](#) or Mr. Lancaster [@Lancaster\\_Thoma](#). We often post high school accomplishments and information pertaining to thought provoking ideas within the educational landscape.

We look forward to a great school year and we thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

*Joshua Cogdill*

Joshua Cogdill

Principal of Verona High School