VERONA HIGH SCHOOL

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

Glenn J. Cesa
Principal

Gary Farishian
Director of Athletics

David Galbierczyk
Assistant Principal

Kimberly Ferlauto
Director of Guidance

March 14, 2013

Dear Parent/Guardian;

In our continuing effort to maintain and promote school safety, we would like to inform you of a program that will be piloted in our school. Beginning on Monday, March 18th, and continuing through May 1st, we will be requesting that our students wear their Student Identification badges throughout the school day. Student Identification badges are issued each school year, and students have been encouraged to have them in their possession during the school day.

The proposal to have students display their ID badges has been discussed and planned with the assistance of our Administrative Team, Verona Police Representatives and Superintendent Forte. District representatives have attended school security workshops and have received information on what many experts feel are the best ways to promote school safety. The display of Student Identification badges is mentioned as one step in this process and has also been included in the *New Jersey Department of Education School Safety Manual Best Practices Guidelines*. Some of the reasons we are interested in the creation of this Pilot Program include:

*Display of Student Identification can assist our staff in the identification of an individual who is in our building without permission;

*It promotes student accountability and awareness regarding the creation of a safe environment for VHS;

*It allows for swift identification of students by school or local enforcement teams in case of a school emergency or evacuation;

*It provides VHS students with an opportunity to partner with our staff and community in our collective efforts to promote a safe and secure school environment.

During a homeroom period on March 18th, we will be issuing VHS lanyards which a student may use to attach their ID. These are break-away lanyards that already have been distributed to our teachers and staff. The lanyard is one way students may display their ID. They may also attach their ID to their shirt or belt, or attach it to their backpack. We continue to issue ID badges for those who are visiting during school hours.

We have a procedure in place to assist our students to become familiar with the process of displaying their ID's. This includes checking for Student ID's when students enter our building, when attendance is being taken, and during School Safety Drills. Students who do not have their ID displayed will be encouraged to locate it and to have it properly displayed during the school day. While students will not be issued any disciplinary consequences for non-compliance with this Pilot Program, we are hopeful that we will have the support and cooperation of our outstanding student body. As stated above, this is a Pilot Program that will be in effect until May 1st. At that time, the program will be evaluated and recommendations will be made for the future.

We thank you for your cooperation and support of VHS. This is part of our on-going effort to review and monitor our school safety procedures. Together, we can work to provide the best possible environment for our students to achieve and reach their full potential as they prepare for their future. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have about this Pilot Program.

Sincerely,

Glenn J. Cesa	David Galbierczyk
Principal	Assistant Principal