

# FALCON UPDATE

VAN HORN HIGH SCHOOL/JANUARY 2014/ISSUE 3/13-14

## Falcons Keeping The Courts Warm This Winter

The winter sports season is upon us. As the weather gets colder, our teams are starting to heat up. Both boys and girls basketball finish the month of January competing for tournament championships, before starting the conference part of their season.

With the amazing sound of our Pep Band and our new student section, dubbed the Union, providing a home court advantage, both teams have a shot to compete for a first-ever Crossroads Conference championship.

Our wrestling team will have several grapplers competing for the state championship qualification. Come watch a home wrestling match on 1/15, 1/30, or 2/10 in the gym.

Van Horn's first girls swim team for several decades is also competing. The girls are making rapid improvement.

Towards the end of the winter sports season, Student Council will sponsor our annual Courtwarming Celebration complete with Spirit Week, Pep Assembly, Courtwarming Royalty, and our winter formal - the Courtwarming Dance.

You can get all of our sports teams' schedules on [isdports.org](http://isdports.org).

### CONTACT US

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Main Office Hours: 7 AM - 3:30 PM  
Monday through Friday



## Coming Soon: Enrollment 2014-15

Beginning in the next few weeks, Falcons will start the process of choosing classes for the upcoming school year. Much of this process will remain similar to past years at Van Horn, with few notable exceptions.

One of the major changes for enrollment will involve how courses are picked in core areas - English, Social Studies, Science, and Math. In these areas recommendations will be made for each student based on his/her performance on standardized exams, classroom work, and state assessments. Though parents/guardians can still make a final decision by attending parent/teacher conferences in February, this recommendation process will be the primary way students are placed in core classes.

Students will still select elective options geared towards their post-secondary plans. We encourage families to discuss these options carefully. Students need to plan their course of study based on where they hope to be after graduation. More information about planning a course of study can be obtained on the school website under Academics by clicking on the Program of Studies.

## Enrollment & Parent/Teacher Conferences February 11th and 12th

Second semester parent/teacher conferences will be held on February 11th from 4-7 PM and on February 12th from 3-7:30 PM. These conferences are held to give parents a chance to meet second semester teachers, check up on their student's performance, and sign off with their student's advisor on 2014-15 enrollment.

There will also be two meetings for parents of graduating seniors. All senior parents need to attend one parent meeting before graduation. The meetings will be held each night of conferences at 5 PM in the Little Theatre.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### January 20:

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
Day - No School

### January 29:

Early Release at 12:13 PM

### February 11:

Parent/Teacher Conferences  
4-7 PM

### February 12:

Parent/Teacher Conferences  
3-7:30 PM

### February 13-17:

No School

### February 20:

Courtwarding Basketball  
Games and Royalty  
Crowning

### February 22:

Courtwarding Dance

## Are you on track for Graduation?

In order to graduate in four years, students must complete 25 credits in the following subject areas:

- English – 4 credits
- Math – 3 credits
- Social Studies – 3 credits
- Science – 3 credits
- Fine Arts – 1 credit
- Practical Arts – 1 credit
- PE – 1 credit
- Health - .5 credit
- Career Connections - .5 credit
- Personal Finance - .5 credit
- Electives – 7.5 credits

### MU System Requirements

The following requirements are specific to helping students obtain admission into the University of Missouri system.

- **English:** Four units, one of which may be in speech or debate; two units emphasizing composition or writing skills
- **Mathematics:** Four units, Algebra 1 or higher
- **Science:** Three units\* (not including general science), one of which must be a lab
- **Social Studies:** Three units\*\*
- **Foreign Language:** Two units of the same language
- **Fine Arts:** One unit

Students are enrolled in seven classes each semester making the total possible credits per semester 3.5. To be on track for graduation in four years, students need to successfully complete seven credits per year their 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade school years. There are several options available for students to “get back on track” including Summer School, Night School, and ALS classes. Students are encouraged to schedule an appointment with their school counselor to develop an individualized graduation plan.

## VH By the Numbers

*Current enrollment: 847*

*Average Daily Attendance to Date:  
88.5%*

*Percentage of Students over 90%  
Attendance to Date: 64.5%  
Last Year's Percentage: 57.4%*

*Number of Students with Perfect  
Attendance 1st Semester: 147!*

## Spotlight: Youth Entrepreneurs

For the past several years, students at Van Horn have been a part of an exciting program that brings real-world business experience into the classroom along with providing opportunities to see first hand how successful businesses operate in our larger community.

**Youth Entrepreneurs (YE)** is a yearlong class that teaches business and entrepreneurial education. YE gives students a chance to create a small business and sell merchandise to their school during lunch, through our Market Days program, potentially earning a profit which the student keeps. YE also exposes students to a variety of local businesses, an etiquette business lunch, and a variety of economics activities outside the classroom with the chance to earn money/scholarships to either help the student through college or to start their own business.

For more information about this program please contact Laura Solomon in room 206 or at [laura\\_solomon@idsdschools.org](mailto:laura_solomon@idsdschools.org).

VAN HORN HIGH SCHOOL

Principal • Mr. Patrick Layden

Associate Principal • Mr. Justin Woods

Assistant Principal • Mrs. Wendy Kline

Activities/Athletic Director • Mr. Chris Corrie