



Welcome To:



**Venice
High
School**

About Us / Our Points of Pride

Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| About Us/ Points of Pride | 2 |
| Mission | 2 |
| A+ Status | 2 |
| Academic Scholarships | 3 |
| Notable Out-of-State College Acceptances | 3 |
| Athletics | 4 |
| The Arts | 5 |
| Venice Institute for Performing Arts | 5 |
| Dual Enrollment | 6 |
| International Baccalaureate Diploma and Career Programs (IB) | 7 |
| Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma Program (AP) | 8 |
| Career Pathways and Exploration for Success | 9 |
| Venice High School Medical Academy | 9 |
| Architecture, Construction, and Engineering (ACE) Mentor Program | 10 |
| Executive Internships | 11 |
| On the Job Training (OJT) | 12 |
| School-Wide Support Team (SWST) | 12 |
| Exceptional Student Education (ESE) | 13 |
| ACCESS Program-Students with Intellectual Disabilities (InD) | 13 |
| English Language Learners (ELL) | 14 |
| Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) | 15 |
| School Safety Measures | 16 |
| VHS Connects | 17 |
| VHS Warriors | 18 |
| Extracurricular Experiences at VHS | 18 |
| Principal's Cabinet | 19 |
| Interclub Council (ICC) | 19 |
| Sister Schools Partnership | 20 |
| School Advisory Council (SAC) | 20 |
| Rotary Futures | 21 |
| Big Brothers/Big Sisters | 22 |
| Girls Inc. | 22 |
| First Step of Sarasota | 22 |

[More information is provided by clicking on the links.](#)

Welcome to Venice High School!



About Us/ Points of Pride

Mission:

Venice High School, in partnership with the entire community, will empower every student to become a lifelong learner who is a responsible, productive and engaged citizen within a global society.



A+ Status

VHS has been recognized by Florida Department of Education as an A+ School for sustained high student performance seven consecutive years. The Florida School Recognition Program provides public recognition and financial awards to schools that have sustained high student performance or schools that demonstrate substantial improvement in student performance.



Thank you for taking the time to read about Venice High School's most notable points of pride in service to our students, families, and the local community. We are proud of our longstanding history of academic excellence and our strong school community partnerships. Consistent with our mission, we strive to ensure every graduate of Venice High School is well-equipped with the academic, social, and emotional competencies required for post-secondary education or the workforce. Please take the time to read about the many wonderful initiatives, programs, and partnerships we have implemented in support of our students. It's what makes our school and community special.

Recent Accomplishments and Recognitions

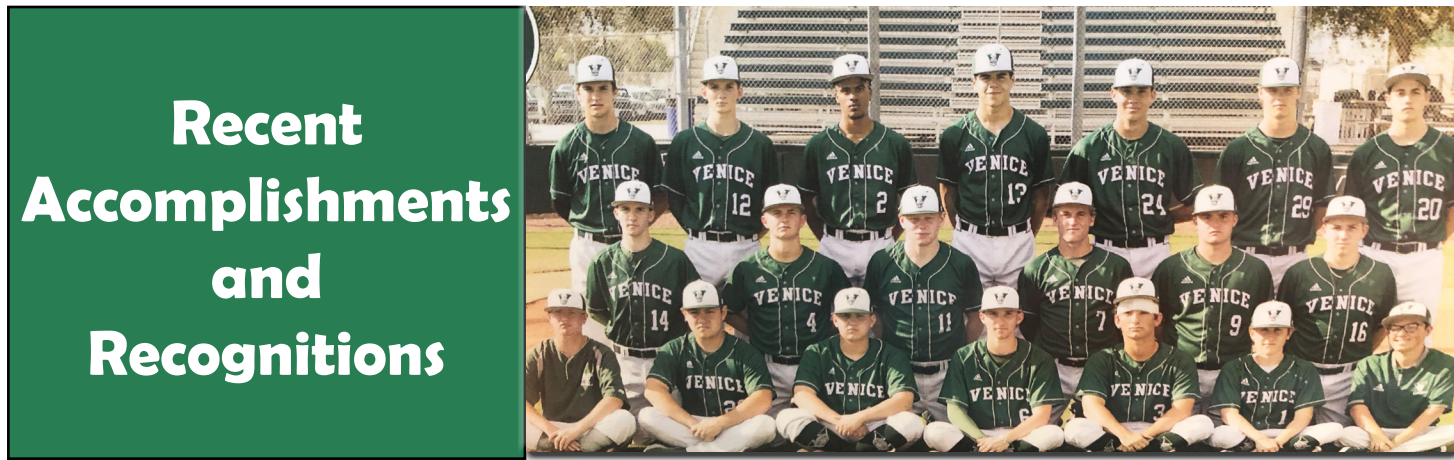


Academic Scholarships

- 5 – National Merit Semi-Finalists
- 4 – National Merit Finalists
- 2 – Quest Bridge College Match recipients
 - National scholarship program providing full cost of attendance to high-achieving (low income) students
- 1 – Jack Kent Cooke Scholar
 - National scholarship program providing full cost of attendance to high-achieving (low income) students
- 3 – Alexander Hamilton Scholars
 - National program to provide high-achieving, underserved students with support as they transition from high school to college to career
- 5 – Carson Scholars
 - National award for juniors who excel academically and are dedicated to serving their community
- 3 – George Jenkins Scholarship recipients at Florida Southern College
 - The total cost of attendance, an annual stipend, study abroad, and laptop
 - Awarded to high-achieving students who have overcome significant obstacles

Notable Out-of-State College Acceptances:

Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Duke University, Georgetown University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Notre Dame, New York University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Richmond, Stanford University, University of Virginia, University of California Berkeley, United States Coast Guard Academy, United States Military Academy (West Point), Vanderbilt University, Williams College, and Yale University.



Recent Accomplishments and Recognitions

Athletics

Venice High School athletics programs have won a total of 15 state championships since 1998.

Girls' Volleyball – 1998, 2005, 2012, 2014, 2017

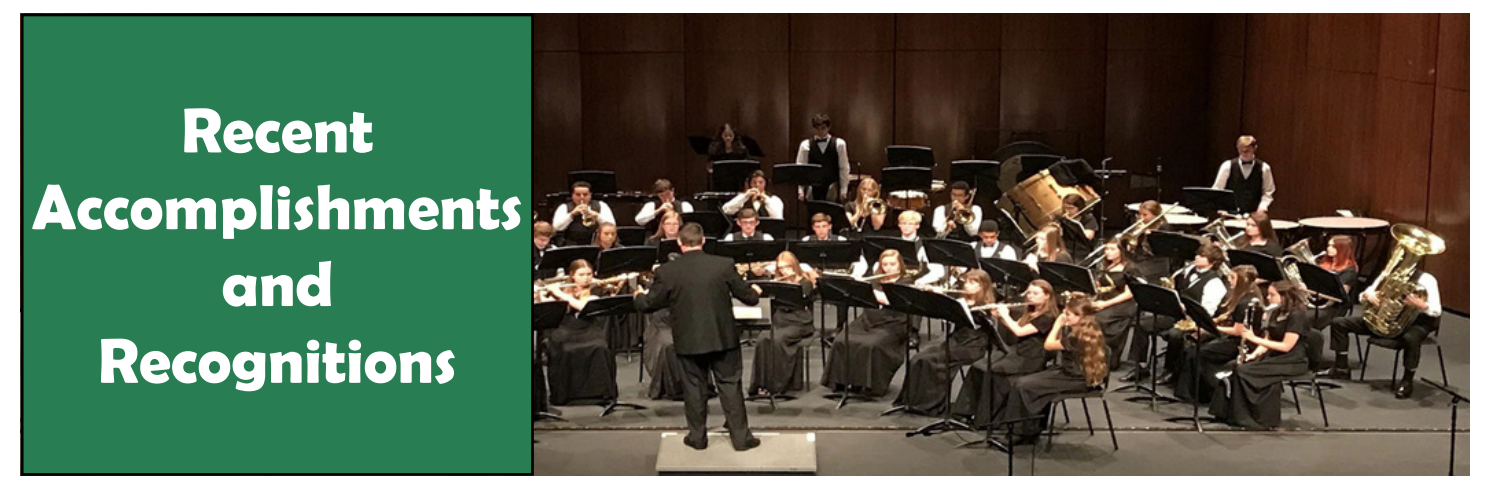
Baseball – 2007, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2018, 2019

Football – 2000, 2017

Boys' Swimming – 2019

Boys' Tennis – 2019

Additionally, Venice High School has won 32 individual State Championships in Track, Cross Country, Golf, Wrestling, Weightlifting, Tennis (Singles and Doubles), and Swimming. We also won 16 Academic Team Championships for athletic programs with a collective grade point average that is highest in the State of Florida. This award is given out by the Florida High School Athletics Association.



Recent Accomplishments and Recognitions

The Arts

The Marching Indians, Jazz Band, and Wind Ensemble have all earned Superior ratings at the district level Music Performance Assessments. The Wind Ensemble earned a Superior rating at the state level Music Performance Assessment. Our Thesopian troupe earned 9 superiors at Districts, one critic's choice, and two perfect scores, the most superiors our troupe has received in over 15 years. Several chorus students earned positions in an All-State Choir, including the only student in Sarasota County to make the All-State Reading Choir. Orchestra and guitar students achieved strong musical growth and put on wonderful performances.

Venice Institute for Performing Arts

Venice High School has partnered with a local performing arts organization, the Venice Institute for Performing Arts, to manage and expand performances at the Venice Performing Arts Center. Through our partnership, we are now hosting a combination of school-based and world-renowned entertainment to our community. With over 200 arts-based events per year, students and the general public have access to educational and cultural experiences on our campus.



Academic Initiatives, Programs, and Partnerships



Venice High School has expanded its college and career readiness program offerings, giving VHS Students several options. We offer International Baccalaureate Diploma and Career Programs, Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma Program, Dual Enrollment through the USF, and a variety of industry certification programs. Each prepare our students to be college and career ready. We are a leader in the nation for offering both IB and AP Diploma Programs for students.



Dual enrollment in USF classes is open to academically qualified students who are recommended by their guidance counselor or principal. This is an acceleration program that allows Venice High School students to take postsecondary coursework and simultaneously earn credit toward a high school diploma, a career certificate, industry certification or an associate or baccalaureate degree at a Florida public or eligible private postsecondary institution.

Academic Initiatives, Programs, and Partnerships



International Baccalaureate Diploma and Career Programs (IB)



“The IB career program was specifically developed for students who wish to engage in career-related learning while gaining lifelong skills in applied knowledge, critical thinking, communication, and cross-cultural engagement.” It combines academic subjects with personal and professional interests and skills. Students are engaging in courses intended to develop personal qualities, professional skills, and intellectual habits required for lifelong learning.

International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma and Career Programs provides a challenging two-year study for juniors and seniors with coursework that is broad, balanced, conceptual and connected. It offers an interdisciplinary approach to learning that includes critical thinking skills, global awareness, and personal development--physically, intellectually, emotionally, and ethically. Teaching and learning in the IB, celebrate, the many ways people work together to construct meaning, build on learning, and make sense of the world. Top universities and colleges across the United States and around the world recognize the IB program because of its rigorous academic requirements, balanced approach and lifelong learning.



Venice High School graduated its first International Baccalaureate Diploma cohort in 2016. Successive IB Diploma cohorts have increased our graduation rate well above the national and international average.

Academic Initiatives, Programs, and Partnerships

Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma Program (AP)

AP Capstone is a diploma program established by the College Board.

“Rather than teaching subject-specific content, these courses develop students’ skills in research, analysis, evidence-based arguments, collaboration, writing, and presenting. Students who complete the two-year program can earn one of two different AP Capstone awards, which are valued by colleges across the United States and around the world.”

AP Capstone™
Research, Academic Rigor, Distinction



Participating in AP Capstone can help students:

- Distinguish themselves with college and universities.
- Develop key academic skills they’ll use in college and beyond.
- Become self-confident, independent thinkers and problem solvers.
- Earn college credit.

Academic Initiatives, Programs, and Partnerships



Career Pathways and Exploration for Success

Our students have access to accelerated learning and may earn certifications through eight Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program pathways. Each program includes the academic and technical skills required to be successful in today’s economy. These CTE programs include Allied Health, Culinary Arts, Applied Engineering Technology, Digital Media Technology, Digital Design, Business Management and Analysis, Technology Support Services, and the Teaching Academy. These career pathways lead to industry certifications for our students which are a valuable component of the program. Venice High School pays for and administers industry certification examinations at no cost to the student.

Venice High School Medical Academy

The Venice High School Medical Academy’s mission is to educate future medical professionals through the integration of rigorous academic, medical and technical education. Students in the academy take one medical class per year. The academy is structured to allow students to participate in accelerated academic programs offered at Venice High School including the International Baccalaureate Career Program, Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, and Executive Internship. In the 2018-2019 school year, 100 % of our program completers were accepted to post-secondary institutions and 90 % of these students earned industry certification as Emergency Medical Responders and EKG Technicians.



Academic Initiatives, Programs, and Partnerships



Architecture, Construction, and Engineering (ACE) Mentor Program

In a unique partnership, VHS collaborates with the ACE Mentor Program. The mission of the program is to engage, excite and enlighten high school students to pursue careers in architecture, engineering, and construction through mentoring and to support their continued advancement in the industry. They can now benefit from a nationwide program designed to introduce them to the wide range of career opportunities open to young people in architecture, construction, engineering, and related areas of the building design and construction industry. At weekly meetings, student teams work directly with professionals from leading area firms, who volunteer their time to mentor the teams as they design hypothetical projects, tour local construction sites, and visit architectural, engineering and construction offices.

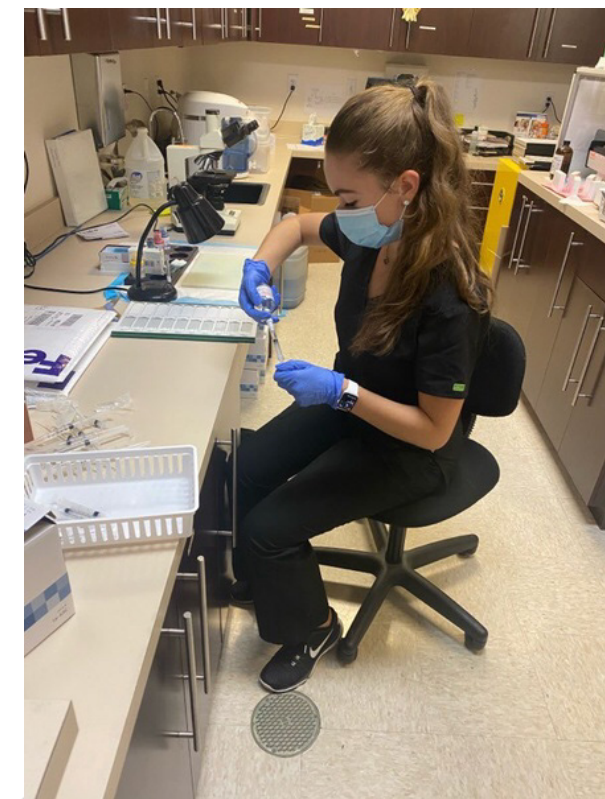


Academic Initiatives, Programs, and Partnerships



Executive Internships

Venice High School offers a great internship program for seniors who qualify to gain work experience in our community. Students select a career area they are interested in pursuing. Currently, Venice High School has over 50 student placements throughout our community. We have created tremendous partnerships with the City of Venice Government, Venice Regional Hospital, Venice Performing Arts Center, and a variety of doctor's and dentist's offices, veterinarian offices, law firms, pharmacists, engineers, architects, etc. It has been a valuable experience and opportunity for our students and like-wise for the employers.





Academic Initiatives, Programs, and Partnerships

On the Job Training (OJT)

Career and Technical Education (CTE) students, who complete a CTE track, may be eligible to participate in OJT as a Senior at VHS to provide work experience during the school day. Venice High CTE courses include Business, Culinary, Digital Design, Digital Media, Java Development & Programming, Engineering, Medical (EKG), and Principles of Teaching. Students must attain their Industry Certifications while enrolled in their CTE courses. Students can earn up to 2 credits from their work experience.

School-Wide Support Team (SWST)

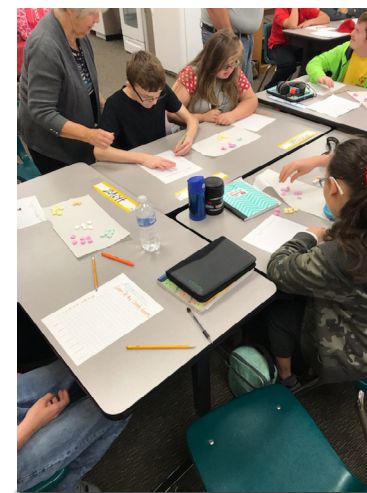
SWST meets weekly to support the needs of struggling learners. The group of educators includes school counselors, administrators, one school psychologist, one social worker, a drop-out prevention specialist, select teachers, and community partners. Together, they review and support high-needs students. Student data is collected to make meaningful decisions regarding which instruction and interventions should be maintained and layered. The team also determines how to allocate resources to improve learning for all students brought up for review through integrated academic and behavioral supports. Students are provided with targeted, supplemental interventions delivered individually or in small groups at increasing levels of intensity.



Academic Initiatives, Programs, and Partnerships

Exceptional Student Education (ESE)

Students with exceptionalities are provided with personalized, inclusionary education to meet their unique learning goals and interests in all classroom environments. Our students achieve through a wide range of resources and strategies appropriate for their learning styles, abilities, and interests, as well as social and emotional needs. Personalized education allows our students to be engaged and empowered to take responsibility for their learning.



ACCESS Program-Students with Intellectual Disabilities (InD)

The Access Program allows for students with cognitive disabilities to receive a modified education program. The program uses the same graduation requirements as the Standard Diploma option and exposes the students to the same content. Students are met at their academic and functional level, with accommodations and modifications to be successful. They interact with their general education peers through electives, lunches, school-wide assemblies, and clubs.



Academic Initiatives, Programs, and Partnerships

English Language Learners (ELL)

Venice High School is committed to ensuring that ELL students will acquire the 21st century, bi-literacy (written language and literacy skills) and cross-disciplinary knowledge required for success in college and/or careers. Teachers of every subject and at every grade level help their ELL students to reach full academic English proficiency as quickly as possible, while learning important content along the way. Our goal is to respect the dignity of each ELL family, its culture, customs, and beliefs. We strive to help all students feel connected, welcomed, valued and respected.



Florida PBIS



Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

Venice High School first launched our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program (PBIS) in 2017 to teach students desired social and emotional behaviors resulting in reductions of reported bullying, student suspension, and chronic absenteeism. PBIS encompasses “a range of research-based strategies used to increase the quality of life and decrease problem behavior by teaching new skills and making changes in a person's environment”. PBIS is not a solitary program, it is the integration of many effective strategies and programs that create a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) for behavior. When VHS educators implement PBIS, they use strategies that:

- Teach students how to achieve expected outcomes through a multitude of resources that encompass our school-wide expectations of; “Be Safe, Be Responsible, & Be Respectful.”
- Prevent problem behaviors from taking place by adhering to schoolwide procedures and building a positive and safe learning community within the classroom.
- Provide relevant incentives and goals for students to demonstrate desired behaviors.
- Use positive reinforcements and set high expectations that are aligned to the function of the student's behavior.
- Hold students accountable for appropriate actions as they flourish into contributing members of society.
- Enhance community partnerships through collaborative lessons and rewards.



**SARASOTA COUNTY SCHOOLS RECOGNIZES
18 PBIS MODEL SCHOOLS**



School Safety Measures

Student safety is job one. Our collective goal is to provide a safe environment that supports and fosters student growth and achievement. VHS employs two full-time school resource officers. We work collaboratively with the school board police department, the City of Venice first responders, district administrators, and other stakeholders in the areas of safety, security, emergency planning, and safety preparedness. School administrators, teachers, and students engage in monthly announced and unannounced safety drills aligned with approved district emergency protocols and response plans.

School & Community Programs and Partnerships



School & Community Programs and Partnerships

VHS Connects is a weekly activity/advisory program that is built into the bell schedule to promote social and emotional wellness and student connectedness. The intention of VHS Connects is to build a sense of community among students and adults in the school. A student's sense of belonging at school is important to academic achievement. Students are more likely to succeed and want to come to school when they believe that adults in the school care about their learning and about them as individuals. In cooperation with the local community and on-campus partnerships, students select from a wide range of activities to participate.



Through these activities, the intention is for students to:

- Develop positive student to student and student to teacher relationships.
- Gain exposure to qualities essential to good character, citizenship, and personal responsibility.
- Support and promote a physically and emotionally safe school environment.
- Increase self-efficacy, self-perception, confidence, and motivation.
- Improve student attendance and attitudes towards school.
- Increase academic achievement and graduation rate.

School & Community Programs and Partnerships

VHS Warriors

VHS Warriors is comprised of select upperclassmen who serve as positive role models for younger students and have been successful at Venice High School. Warriors work with the incoming freshman class and students who are new to Venice High School. At Fall orientations, each Warrior is given a small group of new students to tour around the campus so that they may help them get acclimated and feel more comfortable at VHS. Warriors also assist new students with any challenges they may face during the first week of school as they acclimate to VHS.



Extracurricular Experiences at VHS

Venice High School offers a variety of extracurricular programs, sports, clubs, and activities for students to develop their talents and make them well-rounded individuals. Currently, we host 82 active student organizations on campus, including athletic programs. We are always striving to encourage student participation in extracurricular activities that connect them to our school, which increases their chances of graduating and being successful. Our purpose is to help nurture, guide, coach, and develop our students to not only graduate, but to become productive citizens and successful in life.

School & Community Programs and Partnerships

Principal's Cabinet

In 2016, Venice High School established a "Principal's Cabinet". It is a student leadership program that gives our students a voice in maintaining a safe, respectful and positive learning environment. Students across all grade levels, backgrounds, and abilities come together to participate in a monthly meeting in which they discuss all things Venice High School with administrators. Monthly meetings focus on student-driven topics and challenges to address and solve together.

Interclub Council (ICC)

The ICC is composed of representatives of all student organizations at Venice High School. The purpose is to assist in their planning and operations. The ICC provides student leaders with a platform for discussion to address concerns, share organization accomplishments, and promote student involvement on campus. It also serves as an opportunity for student organizations to work together and collaborate on events and activities that best represent the student body. Membership is decided by each student organization board.



School & Community Programs and Partnerships

Sister Schools Partnership

In 2017, Venice High School imitated an urban/suburban school partnership program called “Sister Schools,” promoting school practices that validate, recognize, and value our individual differences. The experience involves an on-going partnership with Booker High School. Students from both schools engage in an academic shadowing experience along with a historical and cultural tour of the two communities. Through this set of experiences, students work together to increase cooperation, understanding, and interaction. This is an opportunity to cultivate strong interpersonal relationships among students of a different race, ethnicity, and background. It is an opportunity for our students to gain a deeper understanding that differences in view-point and culture are to be appreciated.

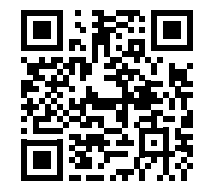


School Advisory Council (SAC)



“The purpose of the School Advisory Council is to enhance school-site decision making, to serve in an advisory capacity to the principal regarding school improvement, to assist in the preparation and evaluation of the school improvement plan, and to provide input on the budget and use of school improvement funds pursuant to Florida Statute 229.58.” It acts as a liaison between the school and the community. It assists in the development of the school improvement plan and provides recommendations on specific components of the plan, such as the goals of the school, indicators of school and student progress, strategies, and evaluation procedures to measure student performance. It serves as a resource and advises the principal in matters pertaining to the school program.

School & Community Programs and Partnerships



<http://rotaryfutures.youcanbook.me>

Rotary Futures

The Rotary Futures College Resource Center is a community-based, 501(c)3 non-profit organization located on the campus of Venice High School. Since opening in January 2002, Rotary Futures has provided post-secondary planning assistance, personal guidance and vital computer-based resources to area students at absolutely no cost. Rotary Futures developed and implemented the first local scholarship database, which has been utilized by over 6,500 area students. This database contains approximately 500 scholarships, including local, state, national and institutional scholarships. Since Rotary Future’s inception, VHS students have more than tripled the annual scholarship dollars earned totaling \$60 million in the last 18 years. In addition, Rotary Futures organizes the South Sarasota County College Night, which hosts over 60 colleges and 700 students and parents each year. Rotary Futures also coordinates student/parent meetings, an annual tour to Suncoast Technical College, SAT prep classes for VHS students, as well as Venice High’s Senior Awards Celebration. Rotary Futures is an invaluable and unique resource for VHS students.

Community Resources for Social-Emotional Wellness at VHS

First Step of Sarasota

Big Brothers/Big Sisters



Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast provides one-to-one mentoring relationships to Venice High School students. Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast holds itself accountable for children in its program to achieve measurable outcomes, such as educational success, avoidance of risky behaviors, higher aspirations, greater confidence, and better relationships. The organization provides children facing adversity, often those of single or low-income households, with strong and enduring professionally supported with one-to-one mentoring relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.



Girls Inc. inspires all girls to be strong, smart and bold. The group meets regularly on the VHS campus and provides an opportunity for students to learn media literacy and guidelines for healthy social media with a focus on personal development.

First Step of Sarasota



In partnership with Venice High School, the First Step of Sarasota provides our campus support to our students. We employ a full-time Prevention Specialist who offers a spectrum of preventative services. First Step of Sarasota is a nonprofit organization that provides addiction recovery programs in Sarasota, Manatee and DeSoto Counties. They are helping Sarasota County youth be drug-free through the D-FY (Drug-Free Youth) initiative. D-FY is an initiative for youth in 6th through 12th grade that has created a movement among VHS students who share a commitment to live a healthy, drug-free life. D-FY is also helping to grow a community culture to support our youth. Students sign a written agreement to be alcohol, drug, and tobacco-free. They agree to be randomly drug tested. D-FY members gain discounts at partnering businesses who want to support them in making great choices for themselves.