

Valley Lutheran High School

Annual Report

May 15, 2013

Prepared by Executive Director/Principal John Brandt, Academic Dean Lisa Meyers, and Dean of Students/Athletic Director Kurt Hofmeister.

Mission Statement

Valley Lutheran High School believes that Christ is the foundation of our school and everything that we do. We prepare our students as children of God academically, physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually to serve in the world today and tomorrow.

Core Values

LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN - Proclaiming Christ as Savior according to the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE - Challenging and equipping students to utilize their talents to the highest level.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS - Nurturing Christ-like relationships within the VLHS community and beyond.

PURPOSEFUL SERVICE - Encouraging participation in activities that glorify God, benefit others, and help students discern His purpose for their lives.

Annual Theme and Bible Verse

“When I am weak, then I am strong”

“That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weakness, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” 2nd Corinthians 12:10

Accreditation

We continue to be accredited by:

AdvancED (formerly known as NCA)
National Lutheran Schools Accreditation
Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools

April 22 – 24, Valley Lutheran hosted an External Review Team that evaluated our self-assessment, performed classroom observations, and conducted interviews of administration, teachers, students, parents, and community members. After completing their review, the team recommended that VLHS be extended full accreditation (AdvancED and NLSA) for another five years.

Valley Lutheran earned recognition of 5 “powerful practices” (standards that are met at the highest level:

1. Indicator 1.1: Christ-Centered Mission

In an ever changing society, Valley Lutheran High School stays true to a Christ-centered, world view. Throughout its history, the school’s purpose is continuously evaluated. Its primary mission remains unchanged; “Christ is the foundation of our school and everything we do.”

2. Indicator 2.3: Governing Body

The governing body honors, respects, and recognizes that the leadership team is comprised of gifted servants of the Lord who are skilled leaders. The governing board has a clear understanding of its role and purpose and governs appropriately. This model equips administrators and teachers to accomplish the mission and vision of Valley Lutheran.

3. Indicator 3.9: Family Groups

Administrators and teachers are committed to offering young adults a Christ-centered culture, inculcating in the hearts and minds of Valley Lutheran students about God’s gracious love and forgiveness while teachers educe from students a deep love for Jesus. The organization of “Family Groups” encourages Christian community and renders opportunity for Bible study, prayer, and service back to their community.

4. Indicator 4.1: Common Core Initiative and Student Needs Program

Administrators and teachers are passionate advocates for student learning, taking intentional efforts to foster a culture of professional development, implementing a “Special Needs Program” in efforts to assist students with learning challenges and disabilities, and persistent

upon enhancing instruction by transitioning to Common Core State Standards.

5. Indicator 4.2: Financial Sustainability

The governing board and administration consistently demonstrate fiscal responsibility, ensuring that the tuition costs remain competitive and affordable for interested families. This practice is evidenced in the comparatively low cost of tuition, the absence of debt load, the availability of surplus funds, and the low student to teacher ratio.

21st Century Classroom Initiative

We are in our eighth year of the “Twenty-first Century Classroom Initiative” which combines professional development, changes in instructional strategies, and technology to become a school that produces students who are most ready for facing the intellectual, academic, and global challenges that await the millennial student. We continue to work on the concept of increasing the level of “rigor” (defined as active student engagement using high-levels of thinking and increased individual responsibility.) The initiative also promotes improvement in the classroom by focusing on four areas.

The twenty-first century student will be able to:

- Use critical-thinking skills to solve real-world problems
- Collaborate with others to produce high-quality products
- Demonstrate high levels of literacy in reading, interpreting, and writing about complex information.
- Apply technology effectively as a tool in answering questions and solving problems.

The entire faculty is involved and is using our one hour per week of professional development time to work on this goal as well as a number of professional development days during the summer and school year. The following highlights occurred this year:

Collaboration – Teachers continued to provide multiple opportunities for students to work with others. Team members evaluated their own work and the work of their teammates. Teachers provide feedback to students on their effectiveness as a team member.

Literacy – Students took a computer adaptive test that measures their deep reading comprehension skills using the Lexile system. The Lexile system places readers on a scale from 200 – 1700 based upon their ability to handle complex text. For example, *Frankenstein* is rated at 1170 Lexile, while a college textbook typically measures at 1400 Lexile. Teachers used the assessment to identify and assist struggling readers and to measure their progress in improving reading comprehension within their classes.

Technology – Teachers continued to utilize various forms of technology in their courses. We began using Edmodo (an online learning platform) for hosting a web page for every course. Students receive and turn in assignments on Edmodo as well as communicate with teacher and classmates. We purchased an iPad lab (30 iPads and a moving cart) for teachers to use with classes as an interactive instructional strategy.

Rigor – We made several presentations to the entire student body and several to the freshman class about increasing their level of involvement in their course work. We began analyzing the data received from our students' PLAN/ACT testing in March to identify skill strengths and challenges.

Academics

Students were successful in the classroom.

We will graduate 96 seniors on June 9.

The average ACT score for the Class of 2013 is 23.2 which is higher than both the state and national averages and among the highest in Saginaw County. All seniors took the test as part of the Michigan Merit Exam. This score compares very favorably to the average of 22.2 for previous years when only college-bound seniors took the test.

Alex Holcomb and Bethany Rogers are the Valedictorians and Carlie Mueller is the Salutatorian for the Class of 2013.

31 Academic Letters and 76 academic pins were presented to 10th, 11th graders, and 12th graders after their first semester grades were recorded. Sophomores with a cumulative GPA of 3.7+ or Juniors/Seniors with a cumulative GPA of 3.5+ receive an academic award each year of eligibility.

Michael Felten, Alex Holcomb, and Bethany Rogers were honored by the Tri-Valley Conference as All Conference Scholars.

The National Honor Society inducted 30 new members at its Induction Ceremony in October. Mr. Steve Lampi, a youth leader from Messiah Bullock Creek, was the guest speaker.

Curriculum and Programs

We currently offer 6 Advanced Placement courses (Calculus, English Language, U.S. History and Spanish) where students who pass the AP Exam can receive college credit. AP Biology and AP Studio Art were new additions to the 2012-13 school year. A small number of students each year, take (and pass) AP tests in Psychology, and Government even though we do not technically teach the AP curriculum in those courses.

This year we entered our second year of transition to the Common Core State Standards which have been formally adopted by 46 states. The math and English departments met in the summer to work on the new standards that emphasize higher-level thinking and less memorization. The entire faculty is involved because the literacy standards require all curricular areas to contribute to the reading and writing process.

The Special Needs Program (Lisa Meyers) is in year twelve with faculty and parents working together to custom tailor the educational plan for more than 32 students with various physical and learning challenges. The Special Needs Program continues to demonstrate positive growth. Linda Rogers and Debbie Davis are the coordinators for this program and work one-on-one with the students providing support as the students complete our standard college preparatory program. Robin Scherting joined Linda and Debbie this year to work with students one-on-one. Melissa Rachwitz continues to volunteer her time to meet with the students monthly on planning their transition to post high school. Pastor Al Stoll volunteered three afternoons a week to tutor students in math.

In addition, Debbie Davis coordinates our growing International Student program. This year she supervised 9 students: 1 from Brazil, 1 from Haiti, 3 from China, and 4 from S. Korea. The students lived with host families, carried a full load of college prep courses, and participated in extra-curricular and social activities.

Eighteen AP Calculus, and 23 AP English Language Students took Advanced Placement Exams. Twelve students took the AP Spanish Exam, 8 students took the AP U.S. History exam and 10 students took the AP Biology Exam for the first time. Three students took the AP Psychology Exam and 1 student took the AP English Literature Exam. We also had our very first student submit both a digital and a physical portfolio for AP Studio Art. Scores come out in the middle of July. All courses designated at Advanced Placement must have a course syllabus approved by the College Board.

Students, Faculty, and some Parents read the play “Twelve Angry Men” by Reginald Rose and several poems by Poet Laureate Theodore Roethke (Saginaw native). The students completed a number of projects based upon the readings including a drawing, research, literature analysis, and an original script. The 2013 Summer Read selection is the book *Left to Tell* by Immaculee’ Ilibagiza which chronicles her survival of the Rwandan genocide in 1994 and her ultimate journey to faith and forgiveness. Students have several writing assignments based upon the readings that are due by the beginning of the school year.

Sophomores attended the “Sophomore Leadership Day” in March where they participated in a number of sectionals focused on making good decisions. The same day, ninth graders attended their first “conference” where they participated in a number of sectionals based upon the book, *“The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens.”* This was the fourth year for the freshman conference. It was led by faculty members.

Ninth graders enjoyed their new health books (Christian Paths to Health and Wellness) as well as guest speakers from Teen Challenge who spoke on the dangers of using drugs. Miss Ashley Stelter (student teacher from Spring Arbor) assisted with the Sex Education unit for the girls’ class for three weeks and student taught in all levels of Physical Education. Students also used technology to research several topics and complete writing projects. Mr. Eric Smith is the instructor.

English 2 students participated in Literature Circles where they were able to select their own book from 11 choices and work in groups to discuss the literature and respond in writing. Mrs. Kris Flora continues to teach students how to handle different roles and responsibilities within the circles. Students also created “story cubes” which depict the major elements of a short story on a 3-D cube. The class is also delving deeply into the topic of “Juvenile Lifers” by researching news articles and Supreme Court decisions and using their research to write persuasive papers and to participate in debates.

Spanish III and IV (Renee' Brenner) participated in an authentic Spanish luncheon at Los Cuatros Amigos where only Spanish was spoken. Spanish classes were visited by Ale Marcos from Paraguay where Valley students had a great opportunity to practice listening and speaking Spanish.

English IV students (Bess Winter) traveled to the Temple Theater in Saginaw to take in a series of plays based upon short stories by Edgar Allen Poe, Washington Irving, and W. W. Jacobs. In addition, students read the novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin" by Harriet Beecher Stowe combined with research, reflective writings, and discussions.

A number of speakers made presentations to the senior Ethics classes. The students learned about Hospice Care, and Mrs. Nancy Wittig spoke about MS and the issue of euthanasia. In World Religions, Mrs. Melissa Rachwitz spoke with the classes about growing up in a Jehovah's Witness house. Ethics students also completed a major unit on media and the political campaign. Pastor John Mueller teaches Ethics, World Religions, and Christian Vocation.

Students were able to work with attorneys Darrell Zolton (VL class of 1980) and Amber Davis-Johnson to prepare for Law Day. Student attorneys were Kendall VanAmburg and Becca Scherting. Witnesses were Libby Bradley, Jacob Lyday, and Andres Niederstadt. The students participated in a mock trial as the plaintiff in a violation of Title IX (gender equity). Dr. Lisa Meyers is the faculty advisor.

Students in U. S. History participated in a series of online quizzes using a student response system. They also simulated a mock trial based on the Pullman trial. The students created a simulated investigation of the murder of Theodore Roosevelt. They also heard from speaker Fred Bauer (veteran) about the Korean War. They traveled to the Henry Ford Museum in Detroit where they toured the facility investigating ways in which technology has influenced society. Students performed a social history investigation by interviewing someone over the age of 60 and reporting on their life. Mr. Barry Wittig is the teacher.

Old Testament classes (Smith) completed a year-long statement of faith and presented it to the class along with a visual representation of faith. They also wrote the story of Jesus using only Messianic prophecies from the Old Testament and they regularly worked in "Bible Study Circles" (similar to Literature Circles) as they participated in a Bible study on Psalms.

Spanish classes continue using the “Yabla” internet program which provides students with authentic language listening experiences through video.

Biology classes (Ben Cooper) learned the proper use of microscopes and were able to use them regularly in the Biology lab. An emphasis of the course is learning about God’s world from a Biblical worldview. Biology students also experienced “inquiry learning” where they designed and carried out their own experiments involving live crickets! Additional inquiry labs were completed in the areas of photosynthesis and osmosis. AP Biology and Freshman Biology classes each spent a day at the Bay City State Park completing lab modules on aquatic ecology, biochemistry, and the human impact on the environment.

The senior Government/Economics classes heard from Laurie Arnold representing the International Credit Association who spoke on maintaining a good credit score. A number of students entered the ICA competition to promote credit with Michaela Meckes taking 1st place with her “baking show” on credit and receiving \$500. The instructor also earned \$300 for his class. In Economics, the students were led through the Junior Achievement program by consultants Jim Milroy (CFO of 1st State Bank), John Schnepf (sales manager at Hausbeck), Hal Schilling (President of Kokomos), and Nick Gibbons (President of Howard Structural Steel). The Economics students played in a virtual competition using the Titan program at both the local and state levels where they simulate a business. Economics students also went through the Dave Ramsey “Financial Peace” program for high school students. All seniors read George Orwell’s Animal Farm and Ayn Rand’s Anthem. The senior Psychology classes participated in the “Baby Think It Over” program where they took care of computerized “babies” over a weekend. The Government classes created projects using “Educreations” and “Show Me” apps on the iPads and presented them using the Apple TV. They also completed extensive “Election Projects” before the presidential election. All three classes are taught by Jon Frank.

Chemistry students (Mrs. Jessica Schwarz) solved a “murder mystery” based upon their investigation of a solution found at the “murder.” They also designed their own experiments to calculate a rate/reaction constant and later compared their results to the actual number. They used the iPads to create videos telling the “story of atoms” and used Google Docs and Forms to collaborate on lab reports.

English III classes (Jeanette Weilnau) completed a “word project” where they did extensive research on one word – conducting interviews, group work, internet investigation, writing fables, and then presenting all the information to their peers. They also participated in debates over themes discovered in “Oedipus.”

The Global Issues classes (Miss Bev Feldkamp) completed a culture project where they were able to “tour” numerous countries (and try their food!) by visiting student scrapbooks. They enjoyed hearing from guest speaker, Linda Rogers, who talked about her visit to Rwanda and the impact of the 1994 genocide. They also completed a “fasting” project in their unit on hunger and they took a collection of almost \$900 for donation to World Relief. Latin I enjoyed their new textbooks and all classes utilized the Mimeo projector which turns the white board into an interactive touch screen.

Students in Algebra 1 & 2, Geometry, and Statistics classes used graphing calculator technology (Barb Doyle and Amy Cooper) with the TI-Navigator system (along with TI-84’s and TI-Nspires) which allows students and teacher to send information to each other and to the main computer screen. Students complete lab exercises using the TI-Nspires. They also experienced online education by using the “Khan Academy” which incorporates videos and practice problems over the internet.

Several classes learned how to use Yodio (internet software) to create digital stories. Spanish, English and some Math classes uploaded pictures and did voice-overs to create the unique presentations.

The senior Honors Biology courses read Jurassic Park, Double Helix, and Lost World as a part of their class which incorporates modern fiction into their science curriculum. Anatomy & Physiology classes used iPad technology to create and present two lessons to their classmates. Mr. Doug Guenther teaches both classes.

Intermediate Algebra 2 and Algebra 1A students (Mr. Tom Roekle) completed independent math projects that asked them to create/invent/innovate by using real world mathematics in a project that represented their own interests.

Physics classes used their knowledge to build roller coasters and also took a field trip to Cedar Point for Math/Physics Day where they apply their math and science learning to real life coasters with the help of NASA consultants. Introduction to Physics students completed toothpick bridges as a way to show what they learned. Mr. Heath Vincent is the teacher for both courses.

The Symphonic Band enjoyed the guest conducting of Dr. Fisher (Concordia University – Chicago). Golden Voice Choir enjoyed the guest conducting of Glen Thomas-Ridout who is the conductor for the Saginaw Choral Society. Both groups along with Wind Ensemble and Mixed Chorus enjoyed working with a student teacher, Chris Switzer, from Concordia University, Ann Arbor.

Student Activities

Athletics

Spring 2012:

The *Girls' and Boys' Track Teams* finished second in the TVC West Division. Samantha Shafer finished 6th in the State high jump competition and Darius Taylor 6th in the high jump, as well. Other state qualifiers were Madison Diehl in the discus, Ricky Butler in the 110 and 300 hurdles, Chris Deneen and Evan Howard in the shot put, AJ Glumm in the long jump and 300 hurdles, Sarah Treiber in the high jump, and Haley Wehner in the long jump.

The *Softball Team* won their fifth straight Tri-Valley West Conference, and third straight District title. This group of girls was also recognized as being an All-State Academic team with an average GPA of 3.82. Sarah Appold and Kassie Stressman were also voted to the All State Academic team as individuals.

The *Baseball Team* finished second in the TVC West. Austin Gatza and Zach Seder were voted to the All-District team.

Girls' Soccer participated in a revised division this spring. They finished second in conference play. Faith Palmreuter was named 1st team All-State and Kaelin Martlock 3rd team All-State. The girls are coached by Doug Guenther.

Our *Boys' Golf* team finished 4th overall in the TVC West competition. Jordan Rajewski qualified for the Regional event hosted by Valley Lutheran at the Bay City Country Club. They are coached by Chuck Ricklefs.

Fall 2012:

The fall of 2012 marked the inaugural season of *Girls' Golf* at Valley Lutheran. We competed in the TVC East Division. Rachel Meyer earned second team All-Conference honors in our first year of sponsoring golf for our girls. Pastor Ed Meyer served as our coach.

Our *Volleyball Team* had another outstanding year, finishing the TVC West division with a 6-1 record which put them in second place. They also captured a District title. Valley fielded a 9th grade, Junior Varsity, and Varsity team this year. The 9th and JV teams had the best record of any conference schools at that level.

Samantha Shafer, Jessica Askew, and Brandi Bartelt received All-Region recognition. Shafer was also a first team All-Stater (3rd year in a row) and Askew was a third team All-Stater. Shafer was also elected to the Saginaw News Dream Team. The varsity team also received All-State Academic honors with an overall GPA of 3.82 which included these individuals as Academic All-Staters: Askew, Bartelt, Shafer, Ali Fischer, Kaelin Martlock, Paige Sawicki, Kierra Wolverton, and Mikaela Yurgens. The varsity girls are coached by Jon Frank.

Cross Country: Coached by Tom Roekle, he referred to this year as a “rebuilding year” as he had many young runners come out for cross country. They are still learning the finer points of running as well as the dedication necessary to be a contender at varsity events.

Our varsity *Football Team*, with ninth year co-op help from the Saginaw Arts and Science Academy, started out with a victory over Bay City All Saints and added five more wins during the regular season. With those wins, our varsity team was the first ever Valley Lutheran football team to qualify for the playoffs with a 6-3 record. Swan Valley ended our season in the pre-district game, but the excitement was tremendous and support was everywhere. They had much to be proud of. The football team was coached by Randy Finney was also voted honorable mention for Coach of the Year in Division 5.

Our *Boys' Soccer Team* claimed the 2012 TVC Central title. The soccer team was coached by Doug Guenther. Ricky Butler, Nate Spencer and Nate Kern were named to the Saginaw News Dream Team. All Region team members: Spencer, Butler, and Logan Rechsteiner. All State honorees: Spencer-2nd team; Rechsteiner-3rd team; Butler-honorable mention.

Winter 2012-13:

The *Boys' Basketball* team provided lots of excitement for our school and its followers this winter. The boys finished second in the TVC narrowing missing taking the league crown. In the state tournament, however, Valley Lutheran made an historic run. After winning a District title over Hemlock, the boys advanced eventually to the Regional final suffering a loss to Beaverton. The District title was the first since 1997. Their twenty wins is a new school record. Nate Kern earned All-State Honorable Mention and was also named to the *Saginaw News* Dream Team.

The *Girls' Basketball Team* finished as champs in the TVC West again this year. They were ranked in the top ten all season in the state of Michigan for Class C schools. In addition, the JV team and the freshmen team boasted winning records. Becca Scherting was named to the *Saginaw News' Dream Team* and BCAM's Best for 2012-13. Scherting and Sam Shafer were selected as Honorable Mention All-State players.

Our *Wrestling Team's* season was highlighted by being very competitive in the TVC West. It, too, was marked as a rebuilding year as many new and eager wrestlers joined our team this winter. They won several league matches again this year and had several good showings in various invitationals over the season.

Our *Boys' Bowling Team* made some very big news. The boys finished second in the TVC Central. They finished in the Top 4 ("Final Four") for the first time in school history but knocking off the #1 school in the state. They had two bowlers qualify for the State Division 4 Tournament: Chad Jaskiewicz, and Matt Appold. Jaskiewicz also earned second team All-State honors as well as being named to the *Saginaw News Dream Team*. Randy and Daryl Appold were our coaches this winter.

Valley Lutheran also sponsored a *Girls' Bowling* team this winter. After a year in which finding enough girls to field a team was challenging, the girls participated in the State Tournament but did not qualify to move on.

Our *Varsity Pom Team* competed at both the Regional and State Competition sponsored by the Mid-American Pom Pon Association. The girls were coached by Wendi Fischer.

Students named to the Tri-Valley Conference (TVC) post-season honors: (this does not reflect this spring's sports teams as the All-Conference selections have not yet been made.)

First Team TVC

Cross Country (12):

Baseball (12): Zach Seder

Boys' Soccer (12): Nate Spencer, Ricky Butler, Nate Kern, Logan Rechsteiner, Grant Greenwood, Mike Weiss

Girls Soccer (12): Faith Palmreuter, Kaelin Martlock, Hannah Palmreuter

Girls Basketball (12-13): Samantha Shafer, Becca Scherting

Boys Basketball (12-13): Nate Kern
 Softball (12): Sarah Appold, Kara Engelhardt, Sydney Little
 Girls' Track (12): Samantha Shafer, Madison Diehl
 Boys' Track (12): Darius Taylor, Spencer Cabala, Evan Howard
 Volleyball (12): Samantha Shafer, Jessica Askew
 Wrestling (12-13):
 Bowling (12-13): (boys) Chad Jaskiewicz, Matt Appold
 Girls Golf (12):
 Football (12): Evan Howard, Travis Welch (SASA)

Second Team TVC

Football (12): Tim Iltis, Jacob Kaufmann, Darrien Benner (SASA), Royden Pett, Cody Rajewski
 Baseball (12): Austin Gatza
 Girls Golf (12): Rachel Meyer
 Boys' Soccer (12):
 Girls' Soccer (12): Marissa Cisneros, Kierra Wolverton, Ariana Worthing
 Girls' Basketball (12-13): Ali Fischer, Mikaela Yurgens
 Boys' Basketball (12-13): Josh Appold
 Volleyball (12): Brandi Bartelt, Ali Fischer
 Softball (12): Kelsey Schaus, Gabrielle Neuman
 Wrestling (12-13):
 Bowling (12-13) (boys) (girls) Keagan Karas
 Boys' Golf (12):

We entered into a cooperative arrangement for the coming year with Nouvel Catholic Central and Freeland for hockey. There is interest from this year's freshmen class. We plan on being in the co-op arrangement as long as we have boys interested in playing ice hockey. Freeland was the "host" school. Finances, uniforms, team name, mascot, etc. were handled by a hockey booster club that organized in April 2012. Hiring of the coach, securing practice and game ice, and scheduling was done by the athletic departments of the schools involved. Valley Lutheran has 4 students on the roster.

Zach Seder, Kaelin Martlock, and Samantha Shafer were Michigan High School Athletic Association Scholar-Athlete nominees.

Summer sports camps and clinics were conducted for area students going into grades 5-9 during June 2012. Camps being planned for this summer include

soccer, basketball, football and volleyball. We have included three Fine Arts Camps, once again, for this coming summer - Art, Music, and Science. A Pom camp and a Baseball camp were also held in January and March, respectively.

Tournaments were held for our area Lutheran elementary schools: girls' basketball in January, boys' basketball in the February (2013), and girls' volleyball in September 2012. Our grade school track meet in May was a success due to good weather this year. We plan to continue hosting grade school tournaments.

Coaches attending clinics this past calendar year: Randy Finney—football; Doug Guenther and Gary Sawicki-soccer, Jon Frank and Kayla Kramer-volleyball, Chad Fisher-Wrestling, Randy Rogers – Basketball, Jon Frank and Jessica Schwarz-track; Kurt Hofmeister and Gary Roth-Baseball; Wendy Fischer-Poms

Thanks to some very generous donors, our soccer press box has power to it. The press box adds a lot to our soccer facility and has already been a blessing to us.

We have enjoyed competing in the Tri-Valley Conference once again this school year. Less travel and neighborhood rivalries have been both exciting and challenging. One more school has been added to the Tri-Valley Conference: Lakeville Memorial High School located in Otisville. They compete mainly in the East Division. This brings the TVC total to 24 schools again. We may run into them on an occasional crossover situation.

Music

Golden Voice sang at the community event “Holidays in the Heart of the City” sponsored by Saginaw Pride.

“Glorify”, the hand bell choir under the direction of Mrs. Barb Doyle, organized a bell concert that involved 5 local parish bell choirs totaling nearly 60 ringers. They really enhance Sunday worship at local congregations.

The Jazz Band, Jazz Choir, and Barbershop music groups performed for various school functions.

Impact led Sunday worship at several churches, chapels at 10 grade schools, and held a praise and worship night for area congregations.

In October, the music department presented a "*Musical Extravaganza*" to over 500 students from ten area Lutheran schools, with a sampling of many of the musical groups at Valley Lutheran

The Brass Quintet and Golden Voice contributed their gifts to the annual Good Friday service held at Horizons Conference Center.

The annual Christmas concert was sung at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Frankenlust.

The annual band and choir Lenten Tour traveled to Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan for concerts before returning for an overflowing home concert at Peace - Saginaw.

The Music Department Spring Concert was performed at the Malcolm Field Theater at Saginaw Valley State University.

The Symphonic Band received a "II" at the District Band and Orchestra Festival.

Alex Holcomb received the highest rating at the vocal State Solo/Ensemble Festival.

Liesel Sievert received a "I" on the oboe at the State Solo/Ensemble Festival.

Drama

Mrs. Bess Winter directed the fall production of *Twelve Angry Jurors*.

Mrs. Renee Brenner directed the winter production of *Harvey*. Ms. Jeanette Weilmann directed a one act called *Soap Opera*. The plays were performed in the Delta College theater.

Mr. Barry Wittig, assisted by Mrs. Lindsay Mueller, Ms. Jeanette Weilmann, Mr. Paul Eschmann, and parent volunteers directed the spring musical *Seussical*.

Chapel Presentation Teams

Several student groups and faculty members presented 43 chapels at our Lutheran Elementary Schools. This was a wonderful opportunity for Valley Lutheran High School students to share their faith. Our Lutheran Elementary Schools greatly appreciated these chapels. The following groups were involved:

Students for Life, under the direction of Dr. Lisa Meyers and Impact, under the direction of Mr. Paul Eschmann, played key roles in this important aspect of our ministry.

Social Opportunities and Assemblies

Over 350 students and their guests attended the Homecoming Dance.

184 students and guests attended the Prom at the Hellenic Banquet Center.

The Charger Post Prom Party was also held at Saginaw Valley State University. This was organized by parents and provided students with a safe and fun conclusion to their prom night. 147 students and guests were in attendance. Rachelle Schumann chaired the parent committee.

The annual Freshman Lock-in was held at the Saginaw YMCA. This serves as a great first step toward making our new 9th graders an important part of our school.

75 students attended the annual senior retreat at Camp Timbers in West Branch.

Former VL teacher and contemporary Christian musician Dave Britton presented a chapel assembly.

Student leadership skills continued to be developed through our Student Council. In addition to organizing a variety of social events, the student council underwrote a David Paul Britton concert and the Freshman Seminar. This year's president is Becca Scherting and the faculty advisors are Mrs. Kris Flora and Pastor John Mueller.

Service Opportunities

The Key Club continues to provide service to the community. With 66 active student members, the Key Club works with a number of local non-profit agencies to make a difference. Among their projects they filled shoe boxes with basic

supplies for the homeless. Allison Dexter is the chapter president and the parent advisor is Bev Feldkamp and Steve Zill.

Two school-wide service days were conducted, one in September and one in May.

The Global Issues classes raised over \$900, which was given to World Vision as part of their unit on hunger.

The New Testament classes (Mr. Steve Zill) spearhead the campaign to adopt 8 children from Compassion International. Money is collected from the student body each week and sent to CI to help cover the costs of food, clothing, and education for the adopted students. Valley supports these students until they turn 18.

Student Council organized a food drive benefiting food pantries at several Lutheran congregations and our Christmas families.

Three blood drives were hosted by the National Honor Society for the Michigan Community Blood Center. They also worked with volunteers from Hospice for Hope (Lutheran Homes of Michigan) making teddy bears for children attending Camp Hope who have lost a parent. Twelve additional projects were organized and implemented by teams of NHS members. The NHS advisors are Mrs. Barb Doyle and Mr. Heath Vincent.

The 29th annual Christmas Family drive was very successful. Miss Beverly Feldkamp organized and directed this project.

The boys' and girls' basketball teams raised over \$200 for Coaches v. Cancer.

Our school is a site for the Saginaw Valley Rehabilitation Center program "My Choice." This program gives clients with disabilities the opportunity to develop necessary job skills. They work one day each week in our food service.

Parents and other supporters serve us through prayer. Moms In Prayer meet several times each month to pray for our school, students, faculty and staff. Linda Rogers leads this faithful group. Chris Holcomb organized and led a prayer walk around the school early in the year.

The Environmental Club not only led recycling efforts within our school, they also conducted a community-wide technology recycling day. This year they collected plastic bottles, aluminum and tin cans here at school.

Facility Improvements

We continue to improve the technological infrastructure to facilitate the 21st Century Classroom Initiative. This year we expanded our technology capabilities by adding a 30 station mobile iPad lab. In addition, we added Wi-Fi access throughout the building in anticipation of students bringing their own devices.

Faculty and Staff Notes

We are blessed with a wonderful group of Christian teachers and staff who believe in the ministry of Valley Lutheran High School.

The VLHS faculty hosted a conference in January for all the Lutheran educators in the Great Lakes Bay Region. Over 220 people were in attendance. Educators from the various schools facilitated sectionals based upon the new Common Core State Standards and other topics such as Early Childhood, Administration, Technology, Literature Circles, and Christian World Views. This is the second annual conference for all of our Lutheran educators in the area.

The faculty took advantage of opportunities to expand their knowledge and skills.

The faculty participated in a three-day retreat in preparation for the school year. A main focus was on understanding and meeting the needs of our Generation iY students using the book, Generation iY, by Tim Elmore as the basis for the work.

The faculty participated in two in-service days and regular meetings on late-start Tuesdays. The emphasis of their work this year was in preparation for our AdvancED/NLSA accreditation visit that occurred in April. Faculty were divided into committees that completed in-depth self-analysis of the school in 5 different standards: Vision and Purpose, Governance and Leadership, Teaching and Learning, Resources and Support Systems, and Using Results for Continuous Improvement. Other areas covered were crisis response, writing across the curriculum, standardized test data analysis, and bible study.

The faculty also participated in “The Truth Project” for their Bible study. Barry Wittig led the discussions. The Truth Project is a Bible-based curriculum that conveys a Christian worldview and is hosted by Dr. Del Tackett.

The entire faculty attended the MANS conference in Grand Rapids in October. Several of our teachers presented: Bev Feldkamp (5 Themes of Geography), Barb Doyle (Using Graphing Technology in Algebra), Steve Zill (Reasons to Believe in Your Bible), and Randy Rogers (Instilling Confidence in Youth).

Miss Bev Feldkamp presented for the Michigan Council for Social Studies conference in the fall on the topic of “Genocide.” She is also on the Advisory Strategic Planning Board for the Michigan Geographical Alliance. She and her Global Issues classes are recognized in the textbook Exploring Global Issues (by Facing the Future) as field testers of the new book. They are the only Michigan school and only Lutheran school that participated.

Mrs. Amy Cooper was a sectional presenter at the Rocky Mountain District Teachers Conference in October doing a presentation on “Authentic Technology Integration in the Classroom.” She also contributed a chapter to the book, *Differentiated Instruction: Content Area Applications and Other Considerations for Teaching in Grades 5 – 12 in the Twenty-First Century* (editor Ervin Sparapani).

Dr. Lisa Meyers presented on the Common Core State Standards to the Detroit Lutheran School in August. She was a keynote speaker on Leading the Common Core State Standard movement to Lutheran school administrators from around the country at the POLS conference in January.

Mr. Barry Wittig participated in an NLSA accreditation visit to Peace Lutheran School in Saginaw.

Other opportunities to expand knowledge and skills were:

Mrs. Bess Winter and Mrs. Jessica Schwarz attended the MACUL conference in Detroit which emphasizes the use of technology in the classroom. Mrs. Winter attended sessions on iPads and creating ibooks. Mrs. Schwarz attended sessions on iPads and Edmodo (our online learning platform).

Dr. Lisa Meyers attended the Association of Lutheran Secondary School Principal conference held in Seward, Nebraska in March. The topics for the conference were: technology use in schools, international student programs, iPad initiatives,

international marketing and digital textbooks. She also worked on a yearlong grant program (through SVSU) with Mrs. Bess Winter on integrating writing into the curriculum. Dr. Meyers also took a year-long class on “Balanced Assessment.”

Dr. John Brandt attended the ALSS (Association of Lutheran Secondary Schools) conference in San Antonio, Texas in February.

Mr. Barry Wittig (Social Studies) attended a week-long workshop on “Following the Color Line” in Atlanta that was sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The focus was on tracing the history of the civil rights movement. He also participated in a workshop on teaching AP U. S. History in Livonia, MI.

Miss Jeanette Weilnau attended a workshop on teaching AP English Language in Livonia, MI.

Mrs. Jessica Schwarz (Chemistry) completed all of her colloquy courses towards her Lutheran teaching certification. She also began her master’s degree work at Michigan State.

Mrs. Bess Winter and Dr. Lisa Meyers participated in a second year-long grant workshop on “Leadership and Literacy Across the Curriculum.” The grant came from the Michigan Department of Education and the workshop was hosted by SVSU. This year focused on utilizing technology in literacy instruction and involved training on iPads.

Mrs. Bess Winter (English) completed a webinar on C.S. Lewis and The Hunger Games. She uses what she has learned in her Modern Literature course.

Mr. Heath Vincent (Math) attended a workshop on using the TI-Nspire in the Algebra classroom. He also completed his colloquy courses towards his Lutheran teaching certification.

Mr. Steve Zill (Religion) attended the BAS Bible Fest conference in Chicago in November.

Mrs. Barb Doyle completed a course on “Data Driven Decision Making.” She uses the information she learned in her Statistics and Advanced Applications courses. She also spear-headed the initiative to obtain a Free TI-Navigator system to be used with the classroom set of TI-Nspires provided by the Parent Organization.

Miss Karla Stahlecker attended the Early Childhood conference in Seward, NE and also an Outdoor Education curriculum seminar in September.

Mrs. Renee Brenner attended a week-long institute on teaching AP Spanish Language at Oakland University over the summer. She also attended 2 different CLEAR conferences that focused on using technology in the Foreign Language classroom and teaching communication in Foreign Language. In April, she led a group of students and parents on a mission trip to Costa Rica.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Eschmann and Mr. and Mrs. Eric Smith attended the GRACE Place conference in July at Boyne Mountain. The focus of the conference is balanced health and wellness for Lutheran educators and ministers.

Mr. Ben Cooper is continuing his work on a masters' degree in Biology for Educators at Michigan State University. This past summer he completed his research part of the program where he developed lessons for his 9th grade Biology classes on "Increasing Environmental Awareness."

Mrs. Lindsay Mueller attended the Michigan Music conference in Grand Rapids in January. She continued her work on her masters' degree at Central Michigan University where she is pursuing a degree in Music – Instrumental Conducting. This past summer she completed the required major research project on "Teaching Leadership within the Music Classroom."

Pastor Mueller continues to take classes at St. Louis Seminary. He has been working all year on the major project for the Doctor of Ministry program in which he developed a number of lesson plans on various aspects of "Vocation." He anticipates finishing the degree in 2013.

The faculty hosted two student teachers this year: Chris Switzer (Concordia, Ann Arbor) and Ashley Stelter (Spring Arbor, MI). Mr. Paul Eschmann and Mr. Eric Smith served as cooperating teachers, respectively.

Our Faculty is:

Executive Director/Principal	John Brandt (Ed.D.)
Academic Dean/Special Needs Coordinator	Lisa Meyers (Ed.D.)
Dean of Students/Athletic Director	Kurt Hofmeister (M.A.) (35 years LCMS)
Guidance Counselor	Randall Rogers (M.Ed.) (30 years LCMS)

Teachers:

Renee Brenner (M.A.)
 Karen Bruner (M.M.)
 Amy Cooper (M.A.T.)
 Ben Cooper (B.S.)
 Barb Doyle (M.A.T.)
 Pam Eschmann (M.Ed.) (15 years LCMS)
 Paul Eschmann (M.Ed.)
 Beverly Feldkamp (M.A.T.)
 Kris Flora (M.A.T.)
 Jon Frank (M.A.T.)
 Doug Guenther (M.A.T.) (30 years LCMS)
 Lindsay Mueller (B.M.E.)
 John Mueller (M. Div.)
 Tom Roekle (M.A.T.)
 Jessica Schwarz (B.A.)
 Eric Smith (M.A.) (10 years LCMS)
 Heath Vincent (B.A.) (5 years LCMS)
 Jeanette Weilmann (B.A.)
 Elizabeth Winter (M.A.) (15 year LCMS and VL)
 Barry Wittig (M.S.)
 Steve Zill (M.S.S.)

Our Support Staff is:

Assistant to the Executive Director
 Krista Flory (M.A.)

Special Needs Aides
 Debbie Davis
 Linda Rogers (B.A.)

Secretaries
 Carol Casale
 Royce Wegener (B.A.)
 Nora Krueger (B.A.)

Food Service
 Peggy Herbolsheimer
 Tracy Bauer
 Kathy Davis

Custodians and Maintenance
 Scott Englehardt
 Jim Morgrette
 Mitch Fournier

Enrollment

9 th Grade	115
10 th Grade	82
11 th Grade	75
12 th Grade	97
Total	369

International Students: 4 South Korea, 3 China, 1 Brazil, 1 Haiti

Our students are from:

LCMS Congregations	29
WELS Congregations	3

Other Christian Congregations 24

232 (63%) are members of Association congregations

104 (28%) are members of Non-Association Lutheran Congregations

33 (9%) are from the Community

The Business of the Association

The “Peeks” process is an important focal point of our school’s efforts. At least twice each month a one hour “Peek at Valley” for anyone interested in learning more about the school. In five years over 1000 have attended. An annual highlight is the Sunrise at the Summit breakfast held at Saginaw Valley State University. Approximately 189 individuals interested in Valley Lutheran attended. An important part of this process is inviting people to join the “Summit Society.” Each member commits to giving at least \$1000 for each of the next 5 years. We currently have 79 members. Doug Guenther is our team leader.

Originally VOICE was a group committed to sharing about Valley Lutheran by word of mouth. This group expanded until there are over 200 people who receive weekly e-mail about good things happening at Valley Lutheran.

A team of volunteers began a Facebook page on behalf of Valley Lutheran. Leslie Perry, Leah Puskar, and Rachel Geddes provide regular updates that have resulted in a growing number of “friends.”

Valley Lutheran joined 22 local Lutheran congregations to develop implement a plan to ensure the sustainability of Lutheran schools across the region. The project has been named LEAP (Lutheran Education Advancement Plan) and is chaired by Pastor Bill Hoseman.

The standing committees of the board of directors do much work behind the scenes.

The Campus Life and Communications Committee expanded its work on the website revisions to include a marketing plan. They interviewed several local marketing companies and recommended Ohno Design to develop and implement a comprehensive marketing plan.

The Committee also completed an annual inspection of all of the campus buildings and the grounds to determine if there are any outstanding safety issues or other areas in need of improvement. While we did not find any urgent areas of concern, we did submit a list of 40 items which we felt needed to be addressed and/or corrected as time and the budget allow.

In addition, the committee approved a plan for renovating the school office during the summer months.

The Finance Committee monitors the budget both in its development and implementation to maintain the school’s financial integrity.

The Educational Excellence Committee monitored several reports to insure the quality of our academic program.

A task force to address the long-term financial condition of the high school completed its work and provided a report to the school board in March.

Yeo and Yeo audited our financial records in August 2012 giving us an unqualified approval.

	<u>June 30, 2012</u>	<u>June 30, 2011</u>	<u>Change</u>
Total Net Assets	\$5,083,757	\$5,047,597	\$36,160 (.7%)
Total Property Debt	\$357,695	\$469,222	(\$111,527) (-23.8%)
Operating Revenue	\$2,662,996	\$2,630,997	\$31,999(1.2%)
Operating Expenses	\$2,595,709	\$2,513,183	\$82,526 (3.2%)
Net Excess/Loss	\$67,287	\$117,814	(\$50,527)(-43%)
Cost per Student	\$7772	\$7525	\$247 (3.3%)
Operating Reserves	\$357,673	\$359,045	(\$1372) (-.3%)
Valley Lutheran Foundation	\$1,999,863	\$2,030,990	(\$31,127) (-1.5%)

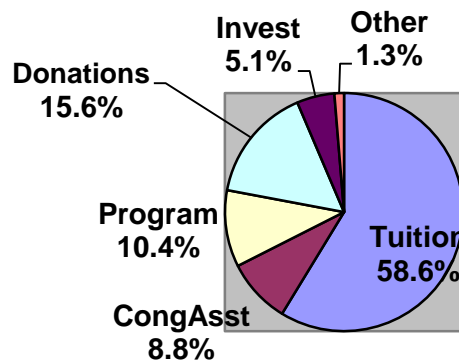


Figure 1- Sources of Revenue

Tuition rates for 2013-2014 will be \$5175 Association, \$6275 Non-Association LCMS, and \$6500 Community.

Association rates for 2013-2014 are the lesser of \$27 per communicant member or \$11 per communicant plus \$750 per enrolled student or \$2400 per enrolled student.

At the end of the third fiscal quarter (March 31, 2013) we had \$2,154,003 in revenue and \$2,047,647 in expenses for a positive balance of \$106,356. We project a balanced budget.

Valley Lutheran Foundation

The Valley Lutheran Foundation is charged with developing long-term financial support for the school. Foundation board members include: President Rodney Wakeman, Vice-President Jim Milroy, Secretary Rich Marker, Treasurer Jeff Benjamin and members, Jim Bernthal, Dave Duclos, Kathy Engelhardt, Ken Gremel, Carole Hemminger, Al Kaul, Roy Schmidt, and Darrell Zolton.

The Foundation launched the Legacy Circle which includes those who have made a documented gift to the Valley Lutheran Foundation or who have included Valley Lutheran High School in their planned giving. There are 20 documented members of the Legacy Circle.

The annual appreciation dinner was held on April 16 at the Horizons Conference Center in Saginaw. Jack Anderson, Roy Schmidt, Laurie Zolton, Mary Kern, Robin Scherting, Bill Holden, and Cheryl Behmlander were presented with the Angel Award for their board and volunteer service.

Charlie Nunn from Endowment Horizons continues to help us build a sustainable planned giving aspect to our development program. He works with us onsite six times annually helping us with planning and making donor visits.

The Foundation distributed \$63,533 for student aid and help underwrite the cost of technology improvements.

Account Balances March 31, 2013

Valley Lutheran Foundation	\$1,586,221
Faculty Compensation Fund	\$476,155
 Total Assets	 \$2,062,376

Named Funds:

Wheatley (college scholarship)	Boehm (college scholarship)
Olson (fine arts)	Reichard (VL scholarship)
Keinath (VL scholarship)	Fiedler (VL scholarship)
Schwarz-Smith (VL Scholarship)	Teacher Appreciation Fund*
David and Bonnie Duclos **	Summer Music Scholarship
Bronner (VL Scholarship)	Wakeman (VL and college scholarship)
Faith Bridgeport (VL Scholarship)	Brunner (VL Scholarship)
David Krause (VL Scholarship)	

* The Teacher Appreciation Fund has been established with the intent of building it for 10 years before making distributions. At that point it will supplement faculty salaries.

** The Duclos Fund is a new fund that is in the building process and has yet to identify a purpose.

The “Auction for Action Benefit Dinner-Auction” at the Apple Mountain Conference Center was a high point again this year. Chaired by Beth Kaul this event was sold out with over 400 participants and donors of many items for bid. Over \$57,000 was raised at this event including \$11,000 for resurfacing the track.

The 12th annual golf outing raised a record \$15,800 with leadership from Lori Drinan and her team.

Board Members

Carol Laux, President-Elect	Bethlehem, Saginaw
Lori Appold	St. Paul Frankenlust
Matt Princing	Good Shepherd, Saginaw
Rich Schiemann	St. Peter, Hemlock
Kimberly Martlock	Faith, Bay City
Dave Peruski	Trinity, Monitor
David Duclos	Holy Cross, Saginaw
Thomas Beyerlein	Trinity, Reese
Todd Brechtelsbauer	Immanuel, Frankentrost
Mark Treiber, Secretary	Zion, Beaver
Debbie Beffrey, President	Messiah, Carrollton
David Little	Zion, Iva
Sue Kuck, Treasurer	Peace Saginaw
Pastor Michael Korte	Pastoral Delegate
Lisa Helmreich	St. John, Amelith
Cindy Rauschert	Teacher Delegate
Cindy Ankoviak	St. Mark, Shields