

What's New?

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 1

FALL 2011-2012



NEW VISTA HIGH SCHOOL

700 20th Street

Boulder, Colorado 80302

720-561-8700

<http://schools.bvsd.org/nvhs>

Kirk's Comments

Hello New Vista Families!

Our 2011-2012 school year has gotten off to a fantastic start. Our freshmen class is one of our biggest ever! I've been meeting with seniors for credit counts and I am so impressed with each and every 12th grader. They've done a great job of embracing New Vista's philosophy of finding their path and holding themselves to high standards.

One of the biggest changes to our routine this year is our *bond project*. While major construction has wrapped up, workers are still here every night smoothing out all the details. Our bond allowed us to remodel our front entry plaza, main entry area, admin area, counseling suite, faculty lounge, study center, cafeteria, and a science room. In addition there was a significant and serious reworking of our life safety infrastructure.

After the construction was finished in the study center, we completed our **tech refresh**, replacing all of the computers in our labs, special education department, and administrative offices. We will be installing new projectors in our computer labs, conference room, and study center. Providing even more flexible teaching and learning spaces for staff and students.

We've been meeting and discussing how to maximize the resources of our new study center and all of our new computers. In addition to technology, this year we have been able to staff the study center with a para-educator. Also, we've been able to invite tutors from CU Boulder to come to New Vista from 3:15-4:15 pm every day. To combine all these resources for students, we will

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begin piloting a new program, called “**Finishing It**”, beginning third quarter. “Finishing It” will be a structured time from 3:15- 4:15 pm for struggling students to do their work and have the support they need to be successful. We’re proud to be able to offer this intervention for students and are looking forward to your support. In addition to placing struggling students in the class, any student who wants to enroll may do so.

Stage two of our construction will begin in December. We will be remodeling the southeast entry to the school to include an elevator. We also will be upgrading our kitchen and bringing a lunch program to New Vista. This process will mean a remobilization of our construction crews. There is the potential for disruption of foot traffic in the school as the entry under construction will most likely be closed during the construction.

I want to **thank all parents** for your support of our school. Our football parking fundraiser brought in almost ten thousand dollars! This was our most successful year to date, and we couldn’t have done it without dedicated parents who showed up, in spite of the windy weather and all. Parents have also been instrumental in supporting our award winning robotics team. The team is on its way to regional competitions after winning two second place awards in the state competitions.

If you’re looking for ways to get involved, our Parent Advisory Council meets the third Thursday of each month. Check out our website for more information. PAC is growing and looking forward to sponsoring more community building events!

As always, I am available for your concerns and questions at 720.561.8703, or kirk.quitter@bvsd.org.

Sincerely,



Kirk Quitter
Principal

Open Enrollment

Parents are one of the best recruiters we have, please use the enclosed open enrollment sheet about upcoming "**Evening Information Visits**" about New Vista and shadowing dates for families in your world that are interested in hearing more about our program. To open enroll their student for the next school year. (See pages 3 & 4) Thank you!

Informational Meeting and Shadowing at New Vista High School

We have two options for families and students to learn about New Vista High School during the Open Enrollment process: Evening Informational Meetings and Student Shadowing. You may participate in one or both activities.

Evening Informational Meetings

Students and parents are invited to attend an evening informational meeting about the school.

Administrators, teachers, the Special Education Team and students of New Vista will present information, answer questions and showcase demonstrations of student learning. These meetings will take place at New Vista High School. They will begin at 7:00 p.m. on each of the following dates and will end at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Informational Meeting Dates:

Tuesday, November 29, 2011, Thursday, December 8, 2011, and Monday, January 9, 2012

Student Shadowing

On most Tuesdays and Fridays during the Open Enrollment period, student guests may shadow a current New Vista student for the entire morning. This will be an opportunity to participate in two classes and Advisory.

Student guests must pre-register. We can only accommodate 30 student guests on each date, so please call early. Student guests who do not get a slot during this round of shadowing will have the opportunity to shadow after the Open Enrollment deadline. Regardless of the time of shadowing, every interested student must complete an Open Enrollment application and turn it in to the District before the deadline.

In order to manage this process, we have established the following procedures and guidelines:

Please call Julie at 720-561-8707 to make a reservation in advance. If you do not have a reservation, please do not just "drop-in" as we will not be able to accommodate you on a shadow day.

Student guests should arrive between 8:15 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Please do not come earlier! We need a parent or a designated adult to sign in each student upon arrival.

Parents/adults must fill out a permission slip at the time of drop off.

Please call your student's current school to excuse them for their time at NVHS.

Classes will end at 11:45 a.m. All student guests will go to a short question and answer session and be ready for pick up out front at noon. Parents/adults must pick up their student by noon or sign a release form so we can let the student leave on his/her own.

Shadow Dates before the O/E Deadline

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Friday, December 9, 2011

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Friday, January 6, 2012

Friday, December 2, 2011

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Friday, January 13, 2012

Completed applications must be submitted online at www.bvsd.org Click on the open enrollment tab by 4:00 p.m. Friday, January 13, 2012.

New Vista High School

700 20th Street, Boulder, Co. - 720-561-8700 - <http://schools.bvsd.org/nvhs>

Stay updated about our school, visit our website: <http://schools.bvsd.org/nvhs>

New Vista High School is a school of choice without an attendance area. All students enroll via the Boulder Valley School District Open Enrollment process which begins November 28, 2011 and ends January 13th, 2012, 4 p.m. Submit your online application www.bvsd.org, click on the open enrollment icon. We strongly encourage students and families to visit our school before submitting an application in order to make sure that there is a good fit. This website provides information about the school, about the open enrollment process, and about the important factors to consider in deciding whether to apply. *Please take the time to find out more. The choice is yours!*

New Vista High School has re-invented high school in order that all students:

- Acquire strong skills in core academic subjects.
- Identify and develop individual talents, gifts and interests that give unique meaning and purpose to their lives.
- Develop a set of self-advocacy, and organizational and interpersonal skills to effectively negotiate our complex society.
- Experience membership in a values based community.

The community of New Vista values:

- The cultivation of each individual's talents and gifts.
- Respect among students and between staff and students.
- Conflict resolution through problem solving and negotiation.
- Quality work and disciplined effort.
- Multi-cultural perspectives and cross cultured competency.
- Social justice and environmental stewardship.

In order to actively engage every student in learning, our program includes:

- Personal relationships, built on mutual respect, with all adults in the building.
- An advisor who supports each student from enrollment through graduation.
- Choices that allow students to shape the educational program to meet their needs and interests.
- Active learning within all classrooms as well as varied and engaging course offerings.
- Credit earning opportunities in the community.
- A school climate that values individuals, community, and learning.

Unique programmatic elements of New Vista High School include:

- A culture of high expectations, revision and practice.
- Course offerings that respond to student and teacher interests, including opportunities for students to teach.
- Advisory groups.
- End of Quarter Exhibition Days that celebrate learning across all disciplines.
- Heterogeneous and multi-age class groupings.
- A full inclusion approach to special education and English language learning.
- Weekly time for learning in the community and four full school days in May devoted to social action.
- Contracts for mentored learning outside of the regular school day and year.
- Off-campus learning in technical or post-secondary programs.
- Extra-curricular activities such as: Volleyball & Frisbee teams, After School Band, Restorative Justice Team, Student Equity Leadership Cohort, and Yearbook.

New Vista's unique graduation requirements expect that each student will:

- Fulfill Common Learning Requirements which specify grades of A or B across a range of disciplines: Applied Technology, Arts, Interpersonal Skills, Intra personal Skills, Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, World Language
- Earn additional credits (almost half of required credits) in learning opportunities chosen by students to explore their personal path, which, for many students, includes meeting college entrance requirements.
- Write a graduation proposal, convene a graduation committee and complete a Culminating Project (minimum 120 hours).

NEW VISTA RESOURCES

There are many resources at New Vista to help you be successful. We recognize that sometimes life can get hard both in and out of school, and we want you to know that though there is an expectation to be responsible and independent in many ways at New Vista, but, that doesn't mean you won't need support throughout your journey. Being responsible and independent means knowing your limits and when you need some help. Please take advantage of the following resources:

ACADEMIC

- Homework/Schoolwork help in the study center before school, at lunch, and after school.
- Math help at lunch in the study center.
- Individual appointments with teachers/advisors
- Talk with your advisor
- Accessing your teachers in the teacher room on the 1st floor next to the Art Room
- Meeting with Diane to get help with organization, study skills, etc.
- Signing up for a "Making It"



SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL



- Meet with Diane, the counselor.
 - Meet with Chet, the intervention specialist
 - Meet with Ken McLaughlin, the school psychologist
 - Accept invitations to join support groups (Boys' Group, Girls' Group, Transition Groups, ELL/Latina Support Groups, etc.)
 - Talk with Kirk or Ivette
 - Get resources from Diane or Chet without having to tell them what's going on
- Attend "Mate Circle" at lunch
 - Join a club or activity at school
 - Take Yoga or Meditation classes at New Vista
 - Take Natural Highs Workshop



A NOTE FROM THE ATTENDANCE OFFICE!

Please call your student in whenever he/she is absent for any reason.

Our Attendance/message phone number is **720-561-8702** 24 hours a day.

Leave your student's first and last name, date/time and reason for absence, and your name.

Automated attendance calls for your student go home via a phone message and/or email message. These messages are sent between 4:00 pm and 5:30 pm the same day as the absence.

The caller ID will say, Boulder Valley School District. Email messages are sent to parents at the same time as the calls.

To avoid calls home, please call to excuse your student's absence on the same day the absence occurs.

On the third day of an absence due to illness we are willing to ask teachers for homework, (shorter absences can be made up upon return). Please request homework by 8 a.m. when you call in to excuse your student. The office will let the teachers know and homework will be sent home by providing a home email address.

Excused Absences are marked as absent, meaning even if you excused your student he/she still missed class and this may affect the grade or credit for one or all classes. This will be reflected in Infinite Campus and could affect the grade of your student, because they missed the participation part of a class.

Extended Absences from School

New Vista's block schedule and quarter system mean that extended absences, for example: family trips, have a heavier impact for your student than they would in a traditional high school. Each day or week missed is the equivalent of two, and the highly participatory nature of our classes often means that class time simply cannot be replaced by a homework assignment. Extended absences of 3 days or more require an "extended absence forms" to be completed by parent, student and teachers, finally signed by an administrator. This completed form will allow your student to be excused for a long absence such as a family trip or out of town college visit. (ONLY 5 days per school year will be excused.)

If your student has an extended absence during a quarter, please consult with us ahead of time. If the trip cannot be planned to coincide with school vacations, the most advisable course of action may be to take the entire quarter off. With careful advance planning, credit may be obtained during such an absence by designing learning experiences for credit through Learning Unit Contracts.

When Your Student is Sick at school

Please help your student to understand that when he or she becomes ill at school, he or she should report to the office/health room, and we will call a parent. A student should never call a parent and leave without going through this process.

Unexcused Absences may result in-school-suspension

As part of our school goal to increase student achievement, we are working to improve attendance. Please know that we are concerned about any student's absences from school.

Our renewed policy states that unexcused absences lead to detention. **Unserviced** detention leads to **in-school suspension**, if the student has accumulated 4+ hours of unexcused absences in the same class or if the unexcused absences are spread out throughout different classes but do not amount to more than four in each class, the consequence is still **in-school suspension**.

I am sure you recognize the importance of prompt and regular class attendance in your child's education. Frequent absences from classroom learning experiences disrupt the continuity of the educational process. Our experience has shown that the benefit of regular classroom instruction is lost during an absence and cannot be entirely regained. Please, help us maintain our high expectations around attendance.

Thank you for your cooperation,
Ivette Visbal Assistant Principal



Counselor's Corner

The Counselor's Corner is updated every week on the New Vista website.

Hello everyone, and happy fall! It has been a pleasure to work with your students over the past few months by supporting them in their academics, college and career exploration and journeys, and social and emotional matters. We all know that it is not easy to be a teenager, and I am honored to have the opportunity to help your students' maneuver through the challenges and enjoy their successes.

Since our website is being updated regularly and my "Counselor's Corner Newsletter" is emailed out each month, we have decided to save paper and not duplicate that information in this section. I did, however, want to highlight a few things:

- **COLLEGE VISITS:** The College Visits to New Vista have been going great! Many students have been in attendance and the admissions representatives have shared such extraordinary feedback about our students. For instance one college rep said that she had never experienced a group of students who could carry on such mature conversations with adults. Another shared that the questions our students asked were both thoughtful and significant. Another one stated that visiting New Vista was like being on her own college campus, and that our students' maturity and genuine interest were things she had not experienced at other high schools.
- **PSAT:** We had about 70 students take the PSAT this year, which is nearly double last year's number. We are excited that many of those students were 10th graders. Test results will be sent to New Vista in 4-6 weeks from the test date. I will be meeting with the students as a group to go over how to interpret their scores, as well as explaining the tools available to them to prep for future college admissions testing. You will also receive an email with all of this information.
- **FINANCIAL AID NIGHT:** We are in the process of planning our College Financial Aid Night. The date is the evening of November 15th.
- **FOR SENIORS:** The time to be filling out college applications and looking for scholarships is NOW! Please encourage your Seniors to take advantage of "College Application Lunch" every Thursday in my office. Students can also sign up with me to make an appointment with a CU Student who specializes in college entrance essays. Many students are uncertain about their post-secondary plans, and though I have told them many times, please remind your student that I am available to help sort through the stress and the many options available to them.

Parents Place

Do you have books that you would like to get off the shelves so you can read others? Do you want to help NVHS students read those and other wonderful books? If so please consider donating them to The Bookworm, a used bookstore in North Boulder at Glenwood and 28th ST. If you donate them ask to have the credit go to New Vista High School. Last year we had over \$250 in credit and our staff used it all up getting copies for students for classes. If you have questions feel free to email susie.brantley@bvsd.org

"So many books, so little time."

Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and PARENT ENGAGEMENT NETWORK (PEN)

[Check our school website for the most up to date information about PAC and PEN.](#)

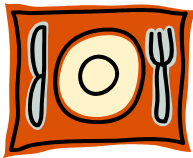


Calendar Information (access our school website for up to the minute information)

2nd Quarter 2011	M-Monday, T-Tuesday, W-Wednesday, TH-Thursday, F-Friday, SAT-Saturday	Time	Activity
17-Oct M	8:45 AM		Second Quarter Begins (7:35 AM- 1st period continues for Trimester One classes)
18-Oct T	7:40 AM		First period begins for Second Quarter classes
26-Oct			Grades for First Quarter on Parent Portal & mailed home
1-18-Nov			Parent/Student/Advisor Conferences after School by appointment
4-Nov SAT			CU Football Game Parking
9-Nov W			End First Trimester
14-Nov M	7:35 AM		Second Trimester Begins
16-Nov W			Third Quarter Course Selection Begins in Advisory
21-25-Nov	M-F		Progress Reports for Second Quarter on Parent Portal & mailed home
29-Nov	7:00 PM		Thanksgiving Break (no classes)
7-Dec W	3:00 - 4:00 PM		Information Meeting for Prospective Open Enrollment Families
2-Dec F			SIT (School Improvement Team Meeting) Parents and Students welcome
8-Dec TH	7:00 PM		Senior Yearbook Pictures Due (Date Subject to Change)
14-Dec W			Deadline for Graduation Committees of Seniors to Approve Culminating Projects
16-Dec F	8:45AM-noon		Information Meeting for Prospective Open Enrollment Families
			Last Workshop & Community Experience for Second Quarter
			Second Quarter Exhibition Day & December Graduation (attendance is mandatory for students; parents welcome) Noon Dismissal
Dec 19 - Jan 3 Winter Holiday (no classes) PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE EARLY OR RETURN LATE			

Stay updated about our school, visit our website: <http://schools.bvsd.org/nvhs>

This and That



Change in Policy

Starting January 4, 2012 New Vista High School will no longer be able to provide students with eating utensils, plates and/or bowls.

PLEASE SEE THAT YOUR STUDENT IS EQUIPPED WITH THE EATING UTENSILS THAT HE/SHE NEEDS TO EAT WITH. We offer tables and microwaves for students in the Community Room/CAFE during the lunch hour and breaks only. If your student needs to snack during other times of the school day, please provide food that does not need to be heated.

After the winter break the microwaves and vending machines will be available to students during breaks and lunch only in the Community Room/Cafe.

At New Vista students have 10 minute breaks between classes and one hour for lunch (12:05 – 1:05 pm), this is a very long time compared to other high schools. Please help us by encouraging your student to eat during these break times. Many students are eating early and/or late so they can be with their friends during the lunch hour. Microwaves in adult areas are not available for student use: this includes the main office, faculty lounge, or staff room.

Problems with the Voicemail System

If you call in and get a busy signal when attempting to leave a message then the entire voicemail system is down district wide. Be aware that our IT people are working on fixing it. Please keep trying or send your message via email. You can find the staff email addresses on our web page under Students and Staff.



Student Bus Pass Sold at School

RTD bus passes are sold for \$39.50 each month September through May. Please make your check to **BVSD**. These passes are available the last school day of the month and the first school day of the month, by Ann in the front office.

Special Education: Full Inclusion Model

At New Vista, students with disabilities are educated in the regular education classroom 100% of the time, always with their peers without disabilities. That means that our special education teachers are also teaching classes that include students with and without disabilities. Among the classes taught by our special education staffs are: Writer's Workshop: Foundations, Making it at New Vista (a supported study hall), Gardening, Moving Ahead in Math, and Experiential Writing.

Support Groups

New Vista High School has a long history of providing its students with social and emotional support through voluntary support groups. These groups meet during the day and rotate through the schedule in order not to impact any one class. The groups are run by trained professionals including our counselor, Intervention Specialist, social worker, school psychologist as well as a former NVHS school social worker. Students' participation is voluntary and confidential. If you do not want your student to participate in such a group, please contact Kirk.

Messages for your students

Unfortunately, we do not have the staff to permit us to deliver messages from you to your students. What we can do is write the message down on the message board outside the office. Students can find out what you're up to by checking the board each time they walk by. (And believe us; they walk by several times a day.)

Phone Access for Students

New Vista's phones are available for student use only on school business. Students should come to the office when they need to call home.

Exhibition Day is the morning of the last day of each quarter. This is an important educational and community event, and we ask that you do not excuse your student from this activity, even though classes are not held in the afternoon. Attendance at Exhibition Day is a mandatory advisory activity. Missing Exhibition Day for just about any reason could result in not passing advisory

Student Clubs and Activities

New Vista's history is filled with a variety of student clubs and activities that are based on student interest. While we host several activities that are initiated by an adult, the majority of activities we have are student initiated clubs. Students can create their own club based on interests and passions that they have. If you have an idea, talk to Ivette about it and pick up an application form. We do adhere to district guidelines for student-initiated clubs but there's a lot of latitude for what you'd like to do. Here's what we have so far this year:

2011-2012 STUDENT CLUBS (Student initiated)

Club Name	Student Contact & Mentor	Meeting Time	Meeting Place
Anime/Manga Club	Taylor Moreno/Allison Bell -Kate Hartman	Tuesdays & Fridays after school	Kate's Classroom (212)
Holiday Season Giving Club (Not yet official!!!)	Michaela Johnson/Susie Brantley & Cheryl McBay	TBD	TBD
B-Boy Dance Crew	Isaac Hernandez-Diane Mastromarino)	Tuesdays & Thursdays after school	Auditorium
Soccer Club	Christian Lavery-Mike Codrey	Mondays after school	Lower Field
Magic Club "Boulder Coalition of Illusionists"	Harrison Puterbaugh & Josh (Mouse Archer-Jeff Mogab	Tuesdays after school 3:15-5pm	Study Center
Video Game Club	Logan Perryman-Kara Pfouts	Thursdays @ Lunch	Kara's Classroom (200)
NV Model Train Society	Ben Converse-Alex Robertson	Fridays at Lunch	Alex's Classroom (202)

2011-2012 STUDENT ACTIVITIES (Staff initiated/facilitated)

Activity	Contact	Meeting Time	Meeting Place
Ultimate Frisbee	Mike Codrey (Coach)	After school 3:15 – 5 pm; Tues & Thurs	NVHS Field
Volleyball	Tessa Burman	Fridays After School	Gym
GSA	Faith Stone Andrew Pfouts	Thursdays @ Lunch	Art Room (100)

Lunch Jam Band	Dave Solzberg	Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays @ Lunch	Music Room
Mate Philosophy Circle	Kyle Sheperd (student) Avani Dilger	Mondays & Fridays @ Lunch	Tas' Room 322
Restorative Justice Team	Ivette Visbal	Every three Thursdays @ Lunch. Posted on RJ Bulletin Board	Room 314 or Posted on RJ Bulletin Board
Robotics	Mark Olofson	Mondays after school plus other times	Mark's Room (214)
English Language Learners Support Group	Ivette Visbal	Every other Tuesday 11:30 am-12:30 pm	Conference Room
Natural Highs Leadership/Action Groups	Avani Dilger	Every Wednesday 12:30-2:30	N/A
Advisory Council	Kirk Quitter & Ivette Visbal	Second Day of Advisory Course Selection	Community Room
PROM Committee	Ivette Visbal	As announced in "What's Happening"	Study Center
Earth Task Force (Sponsored by the Cottonwood Institute)	Paige Doughty, Kate Hartman, Andy Stephens	Tuesdays @ Lunch Wednesdays 11:45am	Room 212
Latino Boys Group	Andy Stephens	Mondays @ Lunch	Chet's Office (389)
Life After School Group	Joel Simon, Kara Pfouts, Chet Chavez	Monday after school	312
Mountain Bike Club	Andy Stephens	Mondays @ 3:30 pm & Wednesdays @ 4pm	Parking Lot

Making a Difference

Donations Needed

Tissues

White copy paper

Driver's Ed classes at Boulder Driving Academy

(2081 30th Street, Boulder. Behind the Target Shopping Center)

All classes at BDA meet from 8:30am-4:30pm

Registration fee is \$195.

More locations available. Check online at www.bvsvd.org/LLL

Stay updated about our school, visit our website: <http://schools.bvsvd.org/nvhs>

Please Purchase Grocery Coupons!!!

Profits from the sale of grocery coupons support many programs in the school. We sell coupons for all major grocery stores in Boulder (King Soopers, Safeway, and SunFlower). You buy the coupons and have the same purchasing power you would without them. The profit comes from the store selling the coupons to us for less than their face value.

To buy coupons: Send money and the attached grocery coupon order form with your student for pick-up, or contact Ann or Donna at 720-561-8700.

If you shop at Albertson's, you can obtain a swipe card from Donna. Just present this when you make your purchases, and they will donate a portion of your purchase to our school. Target has a similar program if you use their charge card; just inform the check-out person what school you would like to receive a portion of your purchases. Office Depot gives 5% back to schools. Just give them the name of our school. They do the rest.