

QUARTER TWO, 2020-2021

# VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

*Quarterly Newsletter*

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## Student Voice

*By Ashley Fulbright, Senior at VLHS, Class of 2021*

I made the decision to come to Valley after the student ambassadors came to my middle school my 8th grade year. I admired how the teachers and faculty were so helpful and respectful to the students. After years of having hard relationships with teachers and school I felt I had finally found a place where I felt wanted and loved no matter what. The teachers at Valley have genuinely changed my life and taught me what it is like to be respected and validated by an adult figure. I feel like I have such good relationships and connections with not only my peers but also my teachers. As a senior I look back at my high school years and I am so thankful I got to spend it here at Valley Lutheran. It has been such a blessing in my life and I will cherish the memories I made here forever.



## Student Voice

*By Andrew Baker, Senior at VLHS, Class of 2021*



My time at Valley has been better than I ever thought it could be coming into highschool. Because of the smaller feel of the school and the intentional engagement of the faculty to interact with all the students, I feel this high school is more of a community rather than a group of people who meet to teach and get taught to. I'm confident every teacher wants to be in the position they're in, which makes a huge difference for the student because we feel like we can be involved and participate in a place where it's safe to. Overall, I feel prepared for the future socially, spiritually, and academically and my time at Valley has definitely been an enjoyable and worthwhile time of my life.

## Alumni Voice

*By Ben Schrank, Class of 2005, Youth Pastor at Concordia Lutheran Church, San Antonio, TX*



I was not always the best student. I had an attitude... and I had a big problem with authority. I was one of those “extra grace required” students (you know the type).

However, during my senior year at Valley Lutheran, I was voted “most changed since freshman year.” I credit this largely to the teachers who never wrote me off. They showed me that I was more than my mistakes, and pointed to a grace that is rooted in Christ. They challenged me...and more significantly...they modeled forgiveness for me.

Now, 15 years later, I am married, have three kids, and I work full-time with students as a youth pastor in Texas. And...honestly...I can't think of anything else that is more important to learn than forgiveness. Forgiveness is the foundation I want to be communicated to my own children and the students that I work with. Forgiveness transformed my life...and has the power to transform every life.

I pray that God can continue to build on that foundation of Christ's forgiveness at Valley Lutheran through the teachers, staff, and its' important ministry.

## Alumni Voice

*By Courtney Baker (Krieger), Class of 2006, Director of Nutrition and Dietics, Grand Canyon University*

IVLHS is an atmosphere that harvests strong relationship building, opportunity for individualized strengthening of faith, and a strong foundation of academic skills that set students up to be successful in the next step of life. I look back at my time at VLHS fondly knowing that this foundation allowed me to transition to college and into my career seamlessly. Many of the relationships I established at VLHS remain some of my closest friends and mentors to this day. When returning to VLHS to coach volleyball with my dad, it still felt like home and has maintained that unique family environment that is hard to find anywhere else.



## Alumni Voice

*By Lori Doyle (Merritt), Class of 1994,  
Director for the MAEd: Curriculum &  
Instruction program for Concordia University,  
Irvine*

My name is Lori Doyle and I was a student at Valley Lutheran High School from 1990 -1994. On top of the wonderful education I received, I graduated with experiences and memories from playing three sports a year, singing in two choirs, and serving on student council. When I metacognitively reflect on a time in my life when I first learned the value of time management it would be during those blissfully busy years in high school. I now put those skills to work daily as I balance my roles as wife, mom, professor of education, director for the MAEd: Curriculum & Instruction program for Concordia University, Irvine, doctoral candidate working toward a PhD in Psychology, and real estate agent. Most importantly, my faith in Jesus as my Lord and Savior was fed and nourished during my years as a VLHS student, but I'm also thankful I had the opportunity to truly get involved in high school because I learned the value of time management during those formative years.



## Alumni Voice

*By Grace Bradshaw, Class of 2015, Teacher at  
Emmanuel Lutheran School, Maui, HI*

I am incredibly blessed to have gone to Valley Lutheran High School. During my time there I was able to grow in many different ways. Valley was able to give me many opportunities and resources to grow spiritually, professionally, and personally. Through chapel and theology classes I was able to grow closer in my walk with Jesus, and now I am able to share my experiences and beliefs with my students and friends. One aspect that I appreciate from attending Valley is the passion and support the staff has for their students' success. Through their love and encouragement this was able to give me academic and personal success. I now get to encourage my students that also helps create that family feel that is so unique to Valley. I praise and thank the Lord for my time at Valley Lutheran High School!



# Homecoming 2020

*By Madison Schulz, Teacher*

Homecoming is a time honored tradition of dances, football games, competition and so much more. But this year, our Student Council was put to the test. We had to reimagine our Homecoming Week in a way that had never been done before. So, we took a deep breath, strapped on our masks, gave socially distanced high fives, and got to work.

While we were not able to carry out a lot of the activities we originally planned, the students had a blast decorating the buildings. From hand crafted signs that said “Go Valley!” or “Red Hot” to designing an entire football field out of streamers, the students made sure that Valley looked as spirited as we felt.

To create an even bigger hype with the students, Student Council created competition based games between our family groups. We started off with a school wide Trivia Game that featured fun facts about our teachers and ended the week with our annual Faculty vs. Senior Volleyball Game, where unsurprisingly, the teachers won. In the end, our students realized that dances, football games, and competitions are a fun part of Homecoming, but the most important part? Creating a space where laughter and school spirit was encouraged to thrive in a crazy time of life.





## Core Values of VLHS

*By Daniel Parsons, Teacher*

Amidst COVID19 and all the unique challenges it has brought to this school year, Valley is still maintaining its core values and mission as we enter into the season of celebration and anticipation of Jesus' birth, where we have the opportunity to come together as a community in love, hope, peace, and joy found in the Christ Child.

At VLHS, our core values are Christ-centered, learning, relationships, service, and leadership. In being Christ-Centered, Christ is at the heart of who we are and what we do at Valley Lutheran. Students are encouraged and guided in learning to love and follow Jesus Christ with their whole hearts and minds through classes, groups, and activities that model discipleship. With relationships, we strive to treat and see each other as Jesus would in the relationships on our campus in ways that are supportive and restorative. In valuing learning, teachers are committed to the academic success and well-being of every student. Through challenging and relevant curriculum, instruction, and learning opportunities, students receive support in their knowledge and ability to apply what they learn in the classroom. Our commitment to service calls us to follow Jesus in actively looking to help, support, and empower those in our community. At Valley Lutheran, we strive to serve those within our school and out in our community to be good neighbors. Students are challenged at Valley Lutheran to grow in their heart of service and awareness of community needs. As we value leadership, students are empowered through leadership opportunities that foster skills in discipleship and compassion. Through student groups and intentional guidance by teachers and staff, students grow in their ability to lead others responsibly and with care to prepare them for leadership beyond their education at Valley Lutheran.



All in all, we are thankful for the hope found in Christ's birth this Christmas season, and continue furthering our core values as we guide students in their walks of discipleship with Jesus.

# Supporting the Mission of Valley Lutheran

By Principal Kat Stokes

Dear Valley Lutheran Family,

2020 has been one of the most challenging and unique years on record, yet the opportunity to educate young men and women in a Christ-centered atmosphere is more apparent than ever. Learning, serving, and sharing Christ is the hallmark of Valley Lutheran, a mission we have tirelessly upheld and strengthened in our 39 years in the Valley.

Valley Lutheran has continued to boldly move forward in 2020 despite all the challenges in our world. While many schools have paused or slowed down, we have accelerated our endeavors in giving kids a quality, Christian education in which the love of Christ is proudly proclaimed. Through our in person and remote learning, weekly family groups, chapels, and servant leadership Fridays, we have continued to educate the youth of tomorrow.

I am writing to you during this season of gratitude and reflection to ask for your financial support of our ministry. While we are a tuition based operation, 70% of our students benefit from donations and scholarships from donors like you. Simply put, we could not do our ministry without the help of generous donors. Would you please consider a year end gift to the ministry of Valley Lutheran?

*Your generous gift to Valley Lutheran makes all the difference for our students- both **NOW** as they prepare for life after high school, and for **ETERNITY** as they grow in their salvation.*

In addition to a financial gift, I ask that you pray for our ministry. Our teachers, staff, students, and parents all need your support and encouragement as we navigate high school and our world today. God has blessed our ministry in so many ways, but it is with your prayers and support that we will continue to thrive and benefit so many students. I pray that God continues to bless you and watch over you as we celebrate this joyous holiday season.

God's Blessings,

Kat Stokes  
Principal  
**#StandFirm**

*To make a gift, please visit [www.vlhs.org/donate](http://www.vlhs.org/donate) or mail\drop off your gift to 5199 N. 7th Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85013 (payable to VLHS).*





## Athletics Update

*By Athletic Director Bob Parsons*

The fall athletics season is one that many of us will never forget. Through all the uncertainties of Covid-19, we were able to complete our Cross Country, Football, Cheer and Volleyball seasons. Our coaches, our student/athletes, and their parents are to be congratulated for staying the course and fighting through all the unexpected challenges that we faced.

The winter season, consisting of girls and boys basketball, will begin practicing in mid-December. The game schedule has been pushed back slightly and will begin in early January.

At this time the AIA has mandated that all high school games will be played without fans.

While that is disappointing, it is understandable. We plan to livestream all of our home games, and expect a large number of our away games to be livestreamed by the host school. Please follow social media for more details as to how you can follow the Flames on the basketball court.

We also look forward to announcing the 2021 class for the Valley Lutheran Athletics Hall of Fame during January. New nominations are being accepted through December 15, please go to our website [www.vlhs.org](http://www.vlhs.org) for additional information. When the new class is announced, we will also provide details on how we plan to recognize the new inductees.

GO FLAMES!

## STAY INVOLVED WITH VLHS

To keep up on what we have going on at Valley Lutheran, follow us on our social media pages.

We're on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Follow @valleylutheran for updates.

Special thank you and credit to VLHS Senior Andrew Baker for the photography used in this publication

We appreciate your support of Valley Lutheran.

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to navigate the unique realities of the 2020-2021 school year. If you feel called to donate to our programs and scholarships that we offer at VLHS, please do so at [www.vlhs.org/donate](http://www.vlhs.org/donate)