



VSSA Update 1.11.08

Families and Friends of VSSA:

Happy New Year! Here are few items to be aware of:

Chris Rapp, Director of Colorado Online, will be presenting to VSSA on Monday, 1/14 at 2:30 pm at MMS. If you have questions/feedback for him please stop in for this presentation. Chris is looking to provide pointers on 'troubleshooting' COL, then opening it up to students and parents. They are a young program as we are, and looking to put creative ideas into play.

Note that **the day to drop or add a COL course is Thursday, 1/17.** Students who wish to add a COL course, or drop one that they don't feel good about **MUST** occur by 1/17 at midnight. Requests submitted by midnight by email or voicemail will be honored. Contact ggrimmer@eagleschools.net, or call 970-904-6541.

Please note that ECSD is piloting some nifty online tools this year through VSSA. Both **Eboard and Blackboard are the best place for kids (and parents) to look when they have been or anticipate extended absences.** Almost everything your child has or will miss in terms of assignments will be posted to these two sites. Your child has a password to view and download documents, as well as submit assignments.

VSSA has been getting a good bit of attention from both **local and national press.** Here are a few links to check out:

Vail Daily: <http://www.vaildaily.com/article/2008399778105>

NPR: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=17185223>

Summit Daily: <http://www.summitdaily.com/article/20071209/SPORTS/112090072>

Also: Listen for us on Colorado Public Radio early next week.

As we look forward to next year, and in anticipation of hiring an additional teacher, we are hoping to gain a **rough estimate of student enrollment.** We will be looking at the 8th grade class coming in, the interest we've seen locally and nationally, but most

importantly our existing VSSAers. **If you are certain that your child will or will not join us next year we would like to know!** Email ggrimmer@eagleschools.net.

The **VSSA performance contracts** have been collected from all students. Attached is a copy of the contract for your records. Next year look forward to this contract before you register for courses. It will also be part of the interview/application process for student-athletes from out of town.

The shoulder season has been eliminated for Spring. Beginning March 31, your child will be in school from 8:30-3:30 everyday. Originally, we had discussed a Spring Shoulder Schedule which would have allowed for three full days and 2 half days in a week. This decision was based on the needs of the athletic side as well as the school's need to pad our required seat time for the 07-08 school year. Sorry for any inconvenience they may cause with your planning. If your child is competing in April, we will continue to make accommodations for their competition schedule.

As mentioned above we are now **searching for an additional teacher** for next year. A strong candidate must be highly qualified to teach Algebra II, Pre-Calculus/Trig, Calculus, and one or two electives. This should free up our existing teachers to teach an elective or two next year.

The Semester I grades are in from COL. We the staff feel like it was a relatively successful inaugural online experience. The average grade for VSSA was 90.45%. We had 12 students fail classes out of 82 total classes taken. Of those 12 Fs, 7 were accumulated by the three students who have since been dismissed from or left VSSA for various reasons. I believe this data shows that our kids were willing to put in a strong effort despite the sometimes frustrating nature of the courses. They were adaptive and tenacious – two excellent qualities to take on to college.

Well, that's all I've got for you. Hope you and your family are enjoying the wonderful snow this season. Be in touch.

Regards,

Grimmer