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## Press Release

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# **Olympic Gold Sparks Increased Interest in Volleyball at Vermont Commons School**

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Misty May-Traenor, Kerri Walsh, Todd Rogers, Phil Dalhausser. Name recognition for these athletes has sky rocketed thanks to their gold-medal winning performances in Beach Volleyball last month at the Beijing Summer Olympics. Their success on the sand court coupled with the gold-medal winning performance of the US Men's Volleyball Team has provided a tremendous boost for volleyball across the US. It has also sparked a surge of interest in the sport at Vermont Commons School, one of the few high schools in Vermont that offers volleyball as a competitive team sport.

"I was amazed at the turnout this fall," notes Peter Goff, Science Instructor and Volleyball coach at Vermont Commons School. "We typically have about 15 students, mostly girls, sign up for indoor volleyball. This year, we had 30 sign up, which is especially impressive when you consider that this represents nearly one third of the 98 students enrolled at Vermont Commons. And 13 are boys!" Coach Goff is anticipating a successful season for his Flying Turtles and plans to field three teams: Girls, Boys, and Coed.

The increased interest in volleyball is welcomed by Coach Goff who is passionate about the sport and has been committed to promoting volleyball at the high school level for the past decade. Goff started an annual spring volleyball tournament four years ago that attracted 17 teams in 2008. He also offers seasonal volleyball workshops to introduce kids throughout the greater Chittenden County area to the sport. This past spring, Goff received a grant from USA

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Volleyball to formalize his role as ambassador to promote volleyball at the high school level in Vermont. “Vermont is the only state in the US that does not offer a high school championship in volleyball at in most public high schools,” claims Goff. He is committed to changing that by working within the local volleyball community. With the support of USA Volleyball, Green Mountain Volleyball, Enosburg Falls High School and the Vermont Principal’s Association, Vermont Commons will be hosting the first-ever Vermont High School State Championships for volleyball in early November.

The Vermont Commons Flying Turtles will kickoff their volleyball schedule this week with two games: Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> vs Trinity Baptist Kings at Allen Brook School in Williston at 4:00 pm and Wednesday, September 10 at Enosburg Falls High School at 4:30 pm. The Varsity Boys first game is on Monday, September 29 vs. Lyndon Institute at VCS’s home court, the Sports and Fitness Edge on Farrell Drive in South Burlington. For a complete VCS volleyball schedule, please visit the CALENDAR section of the Vermont Commons website:  
<http://www.vermontcommons.org/calendars/athletics>

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**About Vermont Commons School:**

Vermont Commons School is an independent day school for students in grades 7 – 12. The school offers a rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum that includes a focus on community service and experiential education. The mission of the Vermont Commons School is to provide a vision of education that crosses traditional boundaries and develops ecological citizenship, with the goal of empowering students with the knowledge, character, skills, and moral vision necessary to become responsible, pro-active members of the world community. For more information, please visit [www.vermontcommons.org](http://www.vermontcommons.org).

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