



VOA Family Informer



New Beginnings at VOA High School

AUGUST

- 1 School Office hours 9am - 1pm
- 7 School Office hours 8am - 3pm
- 14 - 18 Open Registration for new students
- 22 Teachers return to school
- 28 First day of school for students!

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Labor Day No School
- 19 MAP testing 10th grade
- 18 New Student Orientation 8 am

OCTOBER

- 2-6 Accuplacer testing 11& 12th grade
- 9 New Student Orientation 8 am
- New Family Check-In 12pm - 3pm
- 17 Student release 12:30pm
- Conferences/Title 1 meet/Latino Family night: 4 -7pm
- 18 Conferences 8-11am
- No school for students
- 19 - 20 MN Educator days
- No school for students

corner. The staff at VOA hopes your summer has been full of rest and family time. We are excited to share some plans, to improve our programming, that we have been working on for a while. Last year, you may have heard from your students and our staff that we piloted Project Based Learning (PBL) during our school day. What this entailed was longer, blocked class periods, project-driven learning and the opportunity for students to earn credit in several different content areas while working on more complex projects. PBL allows students to learn new skills and information in a way that is more practical and meaningful. Students work on projects they design and take the lead in their own learning. Skills such as time management, developing reflective process and learning how to research, mine resources and design products to show what they have learned are all a part of PBL. This year all students enrolled at VOA HS will be engaged with PBL and will start their first quarter of school in an introductory version of the programming model. During this first quarter they will learn how to create and monitor their own projects on a digital platform, learn to access digital curriculum like the Aleks math program and Odysseyware and also design and execute their initial project with teacher guidance. It is our goal to have every student become a life long learner and develop the skills necessary to investigate and learn about what it is that interests them. These skills transfer into successful career and/or college experiences. We look forward to seeing our students take off with this new opportunity! Look for invitations to our **First Friday** project sharing days soon. Family, friends and community members are all invited on the first Friday of each month, beginning November 10th, to see what our students are creating!

TESTING HELPS STUDENTS MOVE TOWARD COLLEGE

Right after the school year gets underway, VOA HS students will begin to hear about the up and coming school year's testing schedule. Minneapolis Public Schools and the State of Minnesota require standardized tests to be taken by our students and they include the **ACT with Writing Exam, (11th grade) MCA Reading (10th grade) , MCA Math (11th grade), MCA Science, WIDA ACCESS (EL students) and the Accuplacer (11th and 12th grade)**. We do our best to keep testing low-stress and work with your student's needs during testing sessions. We will do our very best to keep families informed of testing dates so students are present, well-rested and on time.

An exciting update starting with the class of 2018:

Students may use their MCA scores for placement at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities! This means that students at or above certain scores will not be required to take remedial courses in the corresponding subject area. In short, doing well on the MCA can eliminate significant costs during college.

The Accuplacer is required for students who are interested in pursuing a degree at area community & technical colleges. Our students will take the Accuplacer three times this year and their scores can be reported to schools of their choosing.

If you were enrolled at VOA High School on June 14th, you are already enrolled for the 2017-2018 school year. There is no need to re-register.

The first day of school is August 28th

Come at 8 am and we will have your schedule ready for you!

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the school .

**VOA High School
612-375-0700**