Volunteers of America High School Newsletter

VOA Family Informer

Q1 & Q2 Fall Newsletter

Visit us on the web at: www.voamnwi.org/voa-high-school or call us at 612-375-0700

College and Career Readiness at VOA HS

October was College Knowledge Month in Minnesota! VOA students kicked off the month by taking an all-school field trip to the National College Fair at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Students were given a scavenger hunt to help them navigate through the fair and ask questions to further their knowledge on the college admissions process and life on a college campus. Hundreds of college representatives were available from schools all across the country including community/technical programs, public 4-year universities, and private colleges.

This school year, VOA FOCUS classes are planning at least one college and career event each quarter. Students collaborate in class to decide which college they would like to visit or invite a professional to speak in class on their career field. During first quarter, graduating seniors visited St. Paul Community and Technical College for an information session and college tour.

If you would like to learn about and discuss post-secondary options with our VOA HS Guidance Counselor, please email Bri Sauter: Brianna.Sauter@voamn.org

New Faces at VOA High School

Adrian Waters is VOA High School’s new Plus Case Coordinator. His main role is to support students who may need help with outside of school challenges and to help students be successful in school too. He comes to VOA with six years of teaching experience in MPS. Adrian is a big fan of sports, music, and giving back to the Minneapolis community he grew up in.

Olga Santoyo Comes to VOA High School from Chicago and recently graduated from Luther College. Her friendly face is the first one you will encounter at VOA HS when you walk through the front door. She is our new Receptionist and communicates with our Spanish and English speaking families to keep them informed about what is going on at VOA HS!

Follow VOA High School on Instagram!

VOAFIRE

Days to Note:

November
4   Quarter 2 Begins!
11  - 13 Audubon Student Trip
14  Q1 SIP Monitor Meeting 8 am
21  Native American Family Breakfast
22  Progress Period 4 ends
27 - 29 Thanksgiving Break, No School

December
4 – 6 Audubon Student Trip
13  Progress Period 5 ends
20  Last day of school before Winter Recess
23 – Jan 3 Winter Recess, No School

January
6  School Resumes after Winter Recess
15  Quarter 2 and Progress Period 6 ends
16 - 17 No School for students
20 – MLK Jr. Day, No School
21  Quarter 3 begins!
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Thank you!
To all of our students and families who attended Fall conferences, Title 1 info sessions and the Latino Heritage Supper! We are thankful for your support! We will hold mid-year conferences on February 18th, 2020, 1-7 PM.

PBL SHARE & Graduation!
At the end of each quarter, families are invited to come to VOA HS and celebrate our mid-year graduates, see student projects and find out about what students are learning! We just completed our First quarter graduation and PBL Share but there are more coming:
Quarter 2 Graduation and PBL Share: January 15th, 2020
Quarter 3 Graduation and PBL Share: March 26th, 2020
Quarter 4 Graduation and PBL Share: June 5th, 2020
Congratulations to Quarter 1 graduates: Juan Chino-Morales Jr., Abdiwahab Muse, Aymaiya Martin, Asmo Mahamed, and Michael Stenholm.

Some Important Reminders about Student Safety
Because VOA High School is located in a high pedestrian traffic area and students are also riding public transportation to travel to school, please help us by reminding your students of a few safety tips to get them to and from our school safely. When traveling to and from school or anywhere out in their community, it is important they are always paying attention to their surroundings.

- Always be aware of what and who are around you.
- Leave at least on ear uncovered so you can hear any potential problems.
- Travel with a buddy, strangers are less likely to approach you when you are with a friend.
- If you are alone, calling someone or pretending to be on the phone can discourage strangers from approaching you.
- Do not linger outside of the school. Come straight into the building in the morning. Wait until your train or bus is about to arrive and go there directly from the lobby at the end of the day.
- If you are approached by someone:
  1. Ignore them and do not make eye contact
  2. If they persist in bothering you, tell firmly to please leave you alone
  3. Walk away quickly
- If someone touches or grabs you make a lot of noise as this can shock or scare them away

Be sure to report anything that bothered you or you were concerned about to the front desk. If you feel uncomfortable walking in or out of the building please let a VOA staff member know so we can find someone to accompany you. If you ever feel unsafe on your way into the school building, you can call the front office 612-375-0700 and let the front desk know what is happening.

Remember to always call 911 if you feel you are in danger

In January, look for our next newsletter and information about how you can help your VOA student build skills that allow for success in school and beyond! Each quarter at school, we are focusing on a different topic and strategies to keep students growing and learning in the best way possible.

Q1 Self - Management
Q2 Growth Mindset
Q3 Healthy Relationships
Q4 Decision-Making

Success in High School