



VOA Family Informer

Spring /Summer 2018



Ends and Beginnings

SUMMER
& Fall Days to Note

JUNE
13 -15 Summer School Audubon Center Field Trip
18 - 29 Summer School Classes at VOA HS

AUGUST
27 First Day of School!

SEPTEMBER
3 LABOR DAY- No School

OCTOBER
16 & 17 Parent-Teacher Conferences
18-19 State Fall Conferences- No School
31 First Quarter Ends



The 2017 - 18 school year has come to a close and when something ends, we usually are sad for a while, thankful for all of the positive memories and then look forward to what is next with hope and excitement.

Many seniors began the school year at VOA with their diploma in reach. 26 of those seniors remained focused and committed to their ultimate goal. These students were celebrated at our commencement ceremony on Friday, June 1st at the Laura Ingalls Wilder School Auditorium. Congratulations to these 2017-2018 and potential summer school graduates and their families! We are so proud. 3 award winners are featured in this newsletter. We are sad these amazing graduates will be leaving us, but so hopeful for their bright futures!

This year we implemented school-wide project based learning and saw students take charge of their learning, creating projects in which they had great interest. Students made cosmetics, constructed bikes, investigated and became activists around issues related to race, culture, livable wage and more. They cooked, gardened, practiced yoga and became crime investigators. Our 11th graders raised VOA's average ACT score and many of our students scored college ready on the Accuplacer test. Students developed ownership of their education. They learned how to map out their credits for graduation, seek out the Minnesota standards they needed to meet and developed the projects that allowed them to meet those standards. The transition to this model of learning was a change from an old and comfortable way of doing things and was met with some uncertainty by all, but we accomplished a great deal and emerged with confidence, knowledge and credit! Be assured there is excitement building for the next school year and plans to improve on all of the good work that was started this year are underway!

Have a GREAT summer!

-Wendy Smith, Director

Summer Opportunities

MPS COURT CAMP

Court Camp is a summer program for students in grades 10-12 to recover Economics OR Government credit. MPS has partnered with the Federal Bar Association- Minnesota Chapter to provide this unique experience to focus on civic responsibility, legal issues, court cases and current events. The camp runs from June 14-26.

HOSPITALITY TRAINING

In just 12 days students will get trained, credentialed and connected to eager employers that are ready to hire in the hospitality industry. The program runs from June 11th-28th and students must be 18 years of age or older.

URBAN BOAT BUILDERS

This 3 month boat building and job readiness program allows students to earn \$9.65- \$10.65 per hour. The Summer session runs from June 11- August 16th.

Contact martha@urbanboatbuilders.org

VOA SUMMER SCHOOL

Classes and personalized, digital learning begin June 18th at 9 am.

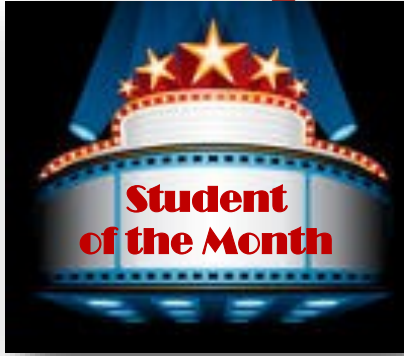
Breakfast and Lunch available to all students!

Students may choose a full day or half-day schedule!



Summer Slide

Don't let it happen to you!



SEMESTER 2

- Salih Abdi**
- Te'onna Alexander**
- Makayla Asrouch**
- Andres Barajas-Perez**
- Jonathan Barrera**
- Deyonna Becton**
- Juan Chino-Morales**
- Theresa DeFoe-Jackson**
- Najee Gill**
- Royaire Holliday**
- Denaisha Motley**
- Luis Paucar**
- Chris Quizphi**
- Edgar Rios-Martinez**
- Cristal Sanchez**
- Sofia Santana**
- Brenda Senteno**
- Skylar Sullivan**
- Dai'Shaun Wade**
- Tanaia Thompson**
- David Zuniga**

There are quite a few programs out there that require a lot of money on the part of the parents. ACT.org has practice exams and important information listed for free. Not only are the practices listed, but students can get immediate feedback on their answers. When they get the answer back, the site provides feedback as to why something is correct or incorrect.

The more access your child has to the type of questioning used by ACT, the higher their comfort level goes, and – in turn – the higher their score jumps. If you want to make it closer to the actual ACT, start timing your child. All of this preparation seems stressful, but this will help them to become more comfortable on test day.

Allow your teen to complete this practice at a coffee shop or restaurant as long as he or she is showing progress. These practices can be done weekly or daily, depending on the time you want your child to put in. This may be the most important routine you establish for your high schooler.

Get your kids out into the world and have them practice time management with a job. Learning a new skill, developing a work-life balance, and appreciating the value of their own money will pay off in more ways than the obvious.

Jeylan Mortimer found evidence that teens can benefit from employment if it is balanced with other activities. In Mortimer's 2010 article, "The Benefits and Risks of Adolescent Employment," it states, "We find evidence, however, that work experience can promote the healthy development of some young people, especially when it is moderate in intensity and steady in duration – attributes that assure that employment does not interfere with other important elements in a teen's life, and instead foster an appropriate balance between school and work."

Through employment, teens are gaining interpersonal communication skills along with becoming a contributing member of society.

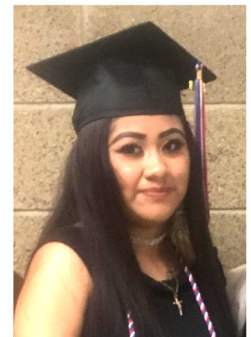
**VOA 2018 GRADUATION
AWARD RECIPIENTS**



VOA Excellence Award recipient, Deyonna Becton



SEAL college credit certificate recipient, Maria Cazares-Zamora pictured with MPS multilingual support specialist, Jenny Hopkins



VOA Excellence Award recipient, Cristal Sanchez-Cerrero

FREE YMCA MEMBERSHIPS FOR YOUTH!

Bring your state issued ID, student ID or report card to any one of 25 YMCA Twin Cities locations to sign up!

Learn more at ymcamn.org/getsummer