



# VOA Family Informer

VOAHS is enrolling! If you know of students, behind in credit & looking for a fresh start, have them contact the school

**January - March**

**2023**

**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**

**Days to Note:**

## January

- 3 Back to School after Winter Break
- 16 **No School** | MLK Jr. Day
- 26 Progress Period 6/Q 2 ends  
**PBL Share 10am – Noon**
- 27 **No School** | Records Day
- 30 Quarter 3 begins

## February

- 3 Quarter 2 grade reports mailed
- 6 - 10 ACCESS Testing for ELs
- 17 Progress Period 7 ends
- 20 **No School** | President's Day
- 21 **No School for students**  
Family/Teacher Conferences 1-7pm  
African American Dinner 5-6:30pm

## March

- 1 **Family, Student Advisory Meet**  
UP café 3:15-4:15
- 3 **No School** | Staff PD Day
- 10 Progress Period 8 ends
- 12 Daylight Savings begins
- 15 **VOA HS College & Career Fair**
- 30 Progress Period 9/Quarter 3 ends  
**PBL Share 10am–Noon**
- 31 **No School** | Records Day

**April 3 - 7 Spring Break and  
Spring Break Academy**

**Save the Date:**

**2nd PBL Share:**

**January 26 , 2023**

## E-LEARNING DAYS AT VOA

Now that we are fully into the winter months, the weather is going to test even the hardest of Minnesotans! It is important to be prepared and that means moving to e-learning on days when travel is difficult and the weather is dangerous. VOA High School will follow Minneapolis Public School's announcement to close school and pivot to an e-learning day. The state of Minnesota has granted 5-learning days before we will close and move to regular good ol' snow days (which may need to be made up at the end of the school year).

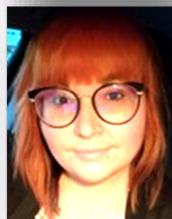
VOA High School is a 1 to 1 learning device school, meaning every student has been issued a laptop to use during the school year or has their own personal device. Make sure your laptop is in good working order and you have access to internet. If it is not, you should notify any staff member at VOA right away. When the e-learning day is called, students should log into their Google classrooms where they will find instructions from their teachers as well as links to connect with their teachers virtually. Students may also contact the school office if they have any questions! Attendance will be taken on e-learning days and students are responsible for class assignments!

## VOA HS Staff Spotlight

Two experienced professionals in the educational field have joined VOA High School this school year. We are so excited to introduce you to Amy and Janessa!



Amy Shafer-Mayhew is VOA's English & Language Arts Teacher. Amy previously was an English and Spanish teacher for 3+ years at Glendale Middle school in Salt Lake City, Utah and an ESL teacher at Margarita Muniz Academy in Jamaica Plain in Massachusetts. Amy has a Masters degree in Education and attended Utah State and Boston University.



Janessa Brackett is VOA's new School Counselor. She previously worked at South Saint Paul High School as their School Counselor for 2 years and with MPS for 3+ years as an Associate Educator and School Counselor. Janessa has a master's degree in School Counseling, and is currently attending graduate school to get a certificate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.



**VOA High School**

<https://www.voamnwi.org/voa-high-school>

**VOA HIGH SCHOOL MAIN  
PHONE: 612-375-0700**



**We are on Instagram!**

**VOAFIRE**



## Parent, student and community Advisory for VOA High School

VOA High School has a goal to be the very best alternative program it can be. Continuing improvement toward this goal means students and families need to be included in our work. We hope you will consider being a part of this advisory group and guiding VOA High School into a successful future.

**When:** Quarterly, one hour, meetings will take place at VOA High School. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 1st at 3:15 pm at UP Café, 1901 Traffic St. NE Minneapolis, MN 55413.

**Who:** VOA students, their family members, support professionals and administrators are invited to share ideas and unique perspectives.

**What:** Gatherings at which you can use your ideas and voice to shape our programming, policies, and our school culture and climate.



In January of 2022 VOA High School and VOA of MN senior leaders invited a team of caring professionals to come together and launch a campaign to get us to a new and improved location. Our school at 2300 Kennedy is this space and this school environment is reflective of how much we value our students' learning, safety and futures. We set a goal to raise \$650,000 dollars and I am so excited to report that we met and exceeded this goal! Our Move toward equity campaign, chaired by former HB Fuller CEO Jim Owens, raised \$651,110 and this amount was raised by just 100 individual donors, foundations, families and businesses. We couldn't be more grateful for the community outpouring of support for our mission, our students, and our hard working education professionals.

These funds are actively being used to offset the cost of the July move and new building preparations. They are also allowing for a financial cushion for the next few years as we build enrollment in our new home, NE Minneapolis.

We, at VOA, understand the importance of keep partnerships alive and know our mission is important to our WHOLE community. For this reason we will continue to promote our GiveMN page for future gifts that help fill in gaps where state funding falls short...especially for wrap around supports and services for our students.



## GRADUATION NEWS!

The best part about VOA High School is that each student has their very own timeline to their diploma. For that reason we get to celebrate graduates ALL YEAR long!

Our first 2022—2023 graduates are:

Kristy Huerta Loja  
Erik Huerta Loja  
Hanad Jeylani  
Iris Ramirez Munguia  
Dylan Ortega Ponce  
Congratulations!!

If you have a student at VOA High School and want to check in on their progress and timeline please call or email our school counselor any time!

Janessa.Brackett@voamn.org  
612-278-4236

Happy New Year! 2023...

In this new year, make mistakes...

Because if you are making mistakes you are making new things, trying new things, learning, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world.

DROP BY AND SEE WHAT WE ARE LEARNING

**PBL SHARE  
@VOA High School!**

11/3/22

1/26/23

3/30/23

10AM - NOON

2300 KENNEDY ST. NE  
SUITE 140