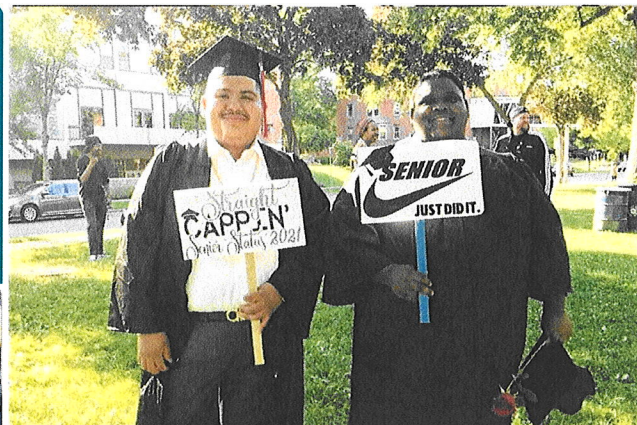


VOA HIGH SCHOOL State of the School Information 2021 – 2022 School Year



Accountability,
Innovation, and
Research



1

Agenda



VOA HIGH SCHOOL: WHO WE ARE

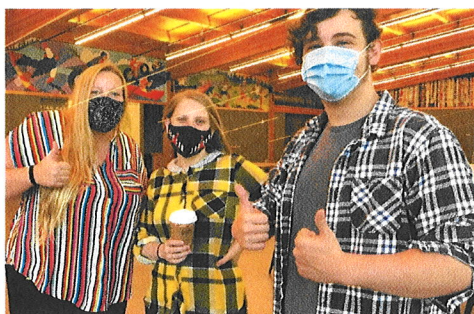
- Mission and vision
- Strengths
- Challenges

OUR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- Goals and strategies
- Sharing student progress

TITLE I

- Overview of Title I
- How we're using our Title I funds
- Title I and Family Engagement



2

VOA HIGH SCHOOL: Who We Are

3

3

Who We Are



Mission

Volunteers of America Minnesota's mission is to help people build hope, resilience and well-being in their lives. VOA High School's mission is to serve the whole student to support individual growth.

Vision

VOAMN envisions communities in which all lives are uplifted. Our organization prioritizes the values of compassion, respect and integrity. VOA High School envisions every student becoming actively involved in their education, their school, their community and, above all, their own success.

VOA High School focuses upon student engagement, knowing it is the best indicator for school and future success. We aim to increase graduation rates (4, 5, 6 and 7 year), strengthen our Project Based Learning programming, develop partnerships that will connect our students to the world and make their learning relevant, build civic engagement connected to learning experiences, provide instruction to fill students' knowledge gaps so students are able to access high school standards more readily, and to support EL's through language, reading and writing support in every classroom regardless of content area. VOA HS's current enrollment includes seniors (96%) and 11th grade students (4%). Our student body is comprised of youth with diverse identities including Black, African American, Hmong, LatinX, Native American and Caucasian students. 40% of students reside in homes where English is not the first language spoken. VOA HS offers students a variety of programming and flexibility in scheduling to make school more possible. Aside from Project Based Learning (PBL), we offer Independent Study, D3-College and concurrent high school enrollment, experiential learning in the wider Minnesota natural environment, Digital curriculum options and a hybrid schedule.

4

4

Our Current Reality



Strengths

VOA High School continues to show strength in relationship-building, engagement, offering effective student supports, serving EL's with licensed and bilingual full-time staff, supporting county-involved youth, offering multiple modes of learning, a justice lens and relevant curriculum in our classrooms.

Challenges

Regular student attendance, low 4- year graduation rates, improving retention, making school relevant for older, working students with multiple barriers to school success.

5

5

Our School Improvement Plan

6

6

What's a School Improvement Plan?

Our school improvement plan:

- Sets the **goals** that our school community is working to achieve
- Identifies the **strategies or activities** that will help us reach those goals together

Every Minneapolis Public School is required to develop, implement, and monitor a school improvement plan.



7

7

Our School Improvement Plan



Goal: RETENTION

By June of 2022,

- the number of 12th grade students enrolling before Oct 1 who are still enrolled or graduated by the end of the academic year will be 83% or higher
- the percentage of 10th and 11th grade students enrolling before October 1st who are still enrolled by the end of the academic year will increase from 0 to 25% (10th grade) and will be 86% or higher (11th grade-sustaining rate)

8

8

Our School Improvement Plan



Goal: GRADUATION

- *The Four-year graduation rate for all students will increase from 5.3% in 2017 to 35% in 2022*
- *The Seven-year graduation rate for all students will increase from 48.6% for the 2014 cohort to 78% in 2022 for the 2019 cohort.*

9

9

Our School Improvement Plan



Goal: Climate and Family Involvement

By June of 2022 100% of VOA families will be provided with a personalized opportunity to provide feedback to the school.

10

10

Our School Improvement Plan



Strategies that support our school goals:

- 1) Increase capacity to support students' diverse PBL efforts through acquiring partnerships, improved technology, text libraries and tools.
- 2) Revitalize PBL by giving students space, hands-on learning support and structure, and allow time for peer-to-peer instruction and learning.
- 3) Utilize a prepared, short survey delivered in multiple languages and methods to families of enrolled students, and partner with an outside organization to deliver a research-based student survey.
- 4) Promote Literacy in all content areas, especially for ELs through the use of standardized reading guides, individualized student reading interventions and ESL whole group support.
- 5) Supply students with exciting opportunities to learn math, relating math class to career and technical fields and offering students practice with Algebraic skills in all PBL classes.
- 6) Identify and coordinate support services for students to promote academic and engagement success.

11

11

How We Measure Student Progress



We want to make sure our students are learning as much as possible, so we use state and district assessments to determine their strengths and areas for growth. The results of these assessments help us figure out how we can better support our students in the classroom.

Assessments help us answer questions such as:

- *Are we teaching what we think we are teaching?*
- *Are students learning what we intend for them to be learning?*
- *Are all students improving and being appropriately challenged?*

Some of the assessments our students will take this year are:

- MCA
- FAST
- ACT

12

12

How We'll Share Student Progress with You

Throughout the year, we'll share information with you about how your student is doing in the classroom.

We'll do it in the following ways:

- Parent-Teacher conferences on October 19th and 20th (Fall Conferences), February 22nd (Winter Conferences).
- Quarterly report cards mailed home and 3-week progress reports emailed or delivered via phone calls.
- Regular calls from staff about improvements, successes and concerns as well as general school programming information and events.



13

13

Title I

14

14

What is Title I?



Title I is a federal program that provides **money to schools and districts** to help them ensure all children have an **equal opportunity to get a high-quality education** and achieve proficiency on our state's academic standards and assessments.

Title I supports our School Improvement Plan, and the funding we receive helps us reach our goals.

15

15



VOA High School is a schoolwide Title I program, which means all our students are able to benefit from the services we provide with our Title I funding.

For the 2021-2022 school year, we received \$69,069 in Title I funding, which makes up 5% of our school budget.

We are required to use Title I funding to improve the academic achievement of all students and engage YOU, our families, in that process!

16

16

How We're Using our Title I Funding



Curriculum and Instruction Support

- Providing students with a licensed ESL teacher to make sure they continue to develop academic language skills in VOA classrooms and have targeted supports.
- Reading supports delivered by VOA's Academic Manager, in small groups and individually during Focus.
- Coordination of student supports by a Student Services Manager to make engagement and learning in the classroom possible.

Family Engagement

- PBL Public Share events
- Mailing important information to families: newsletters, grade or progress reports with feedback,
- Celebrations that elevate our students' cultures
- Academic events for students near or at graduation

17

17

As a family member in a Title I School, you have the right to...



- **Request information from the district** about whether your student's teacher meets State licensing approval for the grade and subject being taught, is teaching with a waiver, and/or has certification for the field being taught
- Request information about the qualifications of any paraprofessional providing instruction
- Know how your child's **school is rated** on its state test scores
- Expect **regular communication** with your school in a language that you can understand
- Work with other families and staff to develop a **compact** between our school and our families
- Help plan how **money for family involvement** should be spent
- Work with teachers, other families, and the school principal to develop a **family engagement plan**
- **Ask for a meeting** with your school principal or your child's teacher at any time



18

18

Opportunities for Families to be Involved!



We want your input on our:

- School Improvement Plan goals and strategies
- Family Engagement Plan
- School-Family Compact

You can find these documents on our school website and contact the school at any time to give feedback!

- Participate in VOA High School events for families. We seek input at these functions.
- Participate in the family survey available to families during Quarter 2 and 3
- Talk to your youth's teacher about events and issues that may be affecting their work, attendance or behavior.

We'd love to see you at the following school events:

- Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 19th & 20th and February 22nd
- PBL Shares after each quarter ends
- Family cultural events in Nov, Feb, May
- End of year celebration for all students and families
- Anytime you want to meet with staff at VOA HS

19

19

School Staff Information



Director

Wendy Smith
612-278-4235
wsmith@voamn.org

Academic Manager

Morgan Nichols
612-375-0700
Morgan.Nichols@voamn.org

Student Services Manager

Jennifer Owens
612-375-0700
Jennifer.owens@voamn.org

Family liaison-Somali language: Farhiyo Mohamed 612-375-0700, farhiyo.mohamed@voamn.org
Family liaison-Spanish language: Olga Santoyo 612-278-4242, olga.santoyo@voamn.org



20

20

We appreciate you!

21