February 2022 Newsletter

The Vision Voice

Voice. Choice. Achieve.

Upcoming Events in February

- 02/02- Exploration: Groundhog Day
- 02/03- PHAST Ski Program Starts (Pre-registration was completed in December.)
- 02/04- Presidential Perplexities: Virtual Escape Room
- 02/07-02/11- Book Fair @ VCA RC
- 02/09- Exploration: All About Books
- 02/12- Middle School Dance
- 02/16- Exploration: Native American History
- 02/18- Science with Mrs. Reese: DMEA
- 02/18- Last Day for NHS Coat Drive Items
- 02/21-02/25/2022- Winter Break- No classes
- No Field Trip in February due to PHAST Program

A Word From Caryn…

In the November newsletter, I provided information regarding some challenges Vision Charter Academy is facing in regard to how Colorado Department of Education personnel are interpreting the 1994 School Finance Act. Specifically, the issues revolve around what counts for funding purposes and the interpretation for teacher designation within Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). For the past several months, Vision Charter Academy has been actively pursuing a path that preserves the foundation of the mission "Individualized education through partnerships with families and communities" while still meeting the requirements of the 1994 School Finance Act. We are now in the midst of the planning stages with the state. One part of this plan includes being designated as an online school. This designation best fits our model as we do not have direct instruction in our building every day for all of our learners. However, we do have weekly meetings with families to resource, train, coach, progress monitor and adjust ILPs; therefore, it resolves concerns regarding compliance with ESSA. So we can celebrate successfully meeting one challenge thus far.

The next steps include completing the online application and fully developing the processes within our school that meet the regulations of the Finance Act as agreed upon by the school, our district and CDE Finance Division. I want to assure you that we are fully supported by our district, have a great charter school attorney and are working cooperatively with CDE personnel to define how we fit within the parameters of the twenty-eight-year old law. I share this to reassure you that we are working diligently to resolve the challenge that was presented to us and have strong support in preserving the heart of this model. The solution will not be without some alterations. Our focus is always on how to best serve our families and learners within the boundaries we have. Our HQCs may be reaching out to you for your input on ideas that we are developing. We are honored to serve our families and learners, and we are dedicated to doing it well for learners, families, staff, the district and, yes, for the state. We are a public charter school that is committed to serving its families well for a long time.

By: Caryn Braddy

Presidential Perplexity: What in the world happened to Abe Lincoln?

Here's your chance to find out!
Join us for a VIRTUAL Escape Room Friday, February 4, 2022.

PLEASE RSVP HERE!!!!

As the story goes…..

Once while traveling across the country with a group of fellow lawyers, Abraham Lincoln went missing from the party. Forty-five minutes later, as Lincoln rejoined them, he replied in a perplexed voice, "*I found a mysterious light-emitting device that seems to have originated from the future. My curiosity got the better of me and I ended up learning something extremely important about my future that causes me to quiver.*" Are you ready to figure out what Abe found on that fateful day??? You will be at the helm to discover the answers to this mystery! What did Abe find? Can you retrace his steps and figure out what wisdom he discovered? Join us for this **VIRTUAL** event in which you will solve a series of clues to discover the mystery! Time is of the essence and the first one to solve the mystery wins!

All puzzles are solved online, so detectives can participate from anywhere as long as they have access to the internet and join a **VIRTUAL** meeting. The briefing begins promptly at 1:00 p.m.; the first clue opens at 1:05 p.m.

If you have already RSVP'd, please do so again due to an error with the original form.

By: Stephanie Barnett

Mrs. Reese's SCIENCE Excursions!

We had a great time at the January Fish Hatchery excursion! For our next outing, we will be learning about electricity. DMEA has been working hard on increasing our local electricity production while saving money and creating jobs. Please join us on February 18th at 10:30 at Delta High School to learn about renewable energy! Keep your eyes out for an RSVP through ParentSquare.

By: Heidi Reese

VCA Prom

Dress Drive

Date: Friday 4/15/2022 3-5pm

Not sure what to wear to the 2022 Prom?

Have old formal dresses and suits lying around?

WE …..have the place for them at our VCA 2022 Dress drive!!!!

Used Dress and Suit drive

VCA will be collecting dresses and suits for our 2022 VCA prom that is being held at S & K event center on Saturday 5/7. These can be donations or be lent out. We will be taking any lightly used formal dresses, dress pants, ties, jackets shirts, shoes, etc.

Please have donations in by Monday, 4/11/22.

Contact Kayleigh for more information, khigginbottom@visonchartracademy .org.

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ASSESSMENTS

Thank you to everyone for getting your learners scheduled and completing the Acadience and Galileo assessments in December and January. We were not quite at 100% participation due to illness but we came very close. We are already using the testing data to plan activities to help learners with reading and math skills. Your HQCs/POCs are reviewing the testing data and will be reviewing that with you in the near future to help you understand how you can apply the information to your learner for this second semester.

By: Nicole Peterson

A Message from our Registrar

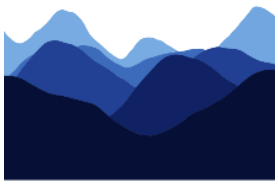
We will be sending out letters through ParentSquare later this week with information about how to set up your Parent Access account in PowerSchool. The Parent Access account allows you to login to PowerSchool to see your learners' official attendance and final semester grades. Your HQC or POC will be following up with you during your February meeting in case you need help getting it set up.

We are also finishing up grade verification for fall semester and are planning to have report cards available the first week in February. If you would like to receive a report card for fall semester for your learner please fill out the Report Card Request form letting us know whether you would like to have it sent to you through ParentSquare or by email. This request is for report cards for this school year only. Requests for high school transcripts must still be submitted using the Transcript Request form found here or on our website.

By: Angela Valentine

News from Climb a Peak

Our Climb a Peak fitness challenge is still going strong. In fact, we want to highlight one of our learners who is a **super achiever!** This learner has not only climbed all the peaks twice, he also climbed the world's tallest mountains too!



Congratulations to Tyler Koch! For this fantastic achievement, we will receive a pass to Bananas, we will have it waiting for him at the office. Keep climbing everyone!

By: Kimborlee Etter

HQC Spotlight!

Stephanie Barnett

Stephanie Barnett is our High School Social Studies HQC and she has become an invaluable member of our High School team. We love her passion for Social Studies as she continually brings unique ideas to increase learner engagement. Her positive attitude is infectious and she has such a heart for our learners. Thank you for supporting our learners and Family Partners the way that you do. We want you to know how deeply you are appreciated and how sincerely you are valued!

By: Tammy Nelson

Learner/Parent Team Spotlight!

Nicole and June Pulver

The High School team has warmly nominated Nicole and June Pulver for the spotlight student/parent team. They homeschool because it allows their children to learn at their pace without all of the distractions of a large classroom. Since they have fewer distractions, they have more time to focus on interests they enjoy and to develop important skills such as music. It also gives them more time to experiment with their interests to discover what type of major and or career they would be interested in. June enjoys homeschooling because she has a better work/life balance and some flexibility to adjust her schedule to fit in other important tasks into her day. June has said that she learns more at home because she can learn at her pace, and because she's more focused. She likes that there are more options to focus on different interests and there are more opportunities to explore them. She appreciates that she can take some crossover classes to participate in band and other classes but can also have more time at home. To her, it's the best of both worlds. She appreciates that she can get her work done quicker than her classmates that are in school all day. June is an excellent student and works without reminders. She reaches out to her HQC's if she has a problem and does really well. She really takes ownership of her education and has high standards for herself. She was recently nominated for the Best of the West Music Festival at CMU. She auditioned and made it into the top honors band which was conducted by Dr. Birch Browning the director of the music department at Cleveland State University. After getting her band assignment, she received 4 college pieces of music to play. They practiced for about 7 hours and then performed in a concert. She really enjoyed the experience and is even more excited about music than she was before. Nicole is always in compliance with the program while guiding and supporting her children's education. They make an exemplary team and are a pleasure to work with.

By: Jane Knob

Learner Spotlight!

Anise Blair

The high school team is excited to select Anise Blair for a spotlight student in February! Anise has centralized community service her entire life. From helping care for people in her family, volunteering at Heirlooms for Hospice in Delta, and mentoring young students in karate; Anise is always helping others and looking for ways to improve the community.

Anise is an active member of her karate community and has been for many years. Now she is giving back and working with young kids to share the skills and knowledge she has gained from her experience. Anise is also a supportive member of her family. She is the oldest and helps take care of her younger siblings while also helping to care for her grandparents. On top of all this, she also volunteers with her family at Heirlooms for Hospice in Delta where she jumps in to help wherever is necessary.

As soon as you meet Anise, you can tell how sweet and caring she is. She is also incredibly responsible and is moving into adulthood with grace and determination. Anise has worked diligently throughout her high school career and is on track to graduate in May. She completed all the paperwork and requirements to earn her spot in the TCR CNA program. In the CNA program she is continuing to develop her caretaking skills and we have no doubt that countless individuals will benefit from Anise's care. She is perseverant and we know she will earn her CNA license and be able to put her passions into a career helping others.

Thank you for all you do for your community, Anise! We are so proud of you!

By: Jennifer Wray

High School Happenings

Important news you can use for High School Learners
2021-2022

Share the Love Event

Will you be able to attend the card/letter writing event at 1:30 P.M. on February 10th in Delta? We will be writing cards/letters to adults in long-term care facilities in order to brighten their day ahead of Valentine's Day. Come to the Resource Center in Delta.
Stationary and snacks will be provided.
Sign up form HERE

Importance of Service Learning:

Why Volunteer? There are many reasons to volunteer in our community. The first, and most obvious, is to help someone. You don't know going into a volunteer job what impact you will have on the life of the person you are helping. When you are Volunteering, or Service Learning, you are also gaining skills that will benefit you in future jobs. Another reason to volunteer, most college or scholarship applications will ask you to list your volunteer or community service hours. As you work your way through high school just volunteering for 30 minutes every week can add up to over 100 hours of work over 4 years! It is worth the time and effort that you spend on Volunteering/Service Learning just to have something to add to your applications. As you reflect on your efforts you will feel good about your time volunteering and you will know that you have helped others. You can find some possible volunteer opportunities in your community. Keep track of your activities and hours using this Activity Tracking Sheet.

KINDESS PASS IT ON: Watch this video for inspiration

SENIORS Due in February

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We will have our second Graduation meetings in February. You should have the following completed: Personal Essay, Rough Draft of Resume, Outline and Plan for your Senior Presentation. Turn these into your POC.

Graduation is May 18, 2022 at 5:00pm. Mark your calendar today!

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Montrose Community Foundation local scholarships are online.
Vision Charter seniors can apply for:

- DMEA Scholarships,
- CWOA - Rozman (focused on water engineering and agriculture)
- Squint and Juanita Moore (archeological focus)
- Automotive Enthusiast (for TCR or Intellitec Auto programs)

The deadline for most of these scholarships is Feb 20th or March 1st. The scholarship applications and additional details can be accessed at https://montrosecf.org/apply-for-a-scholarship/.

Western Colorado Community Foundation offers multiple scholarships using one applications. Application is now open.

DMEA Scholarship - due March 1, 2022
Two $1500 scholarships. Must have a 3.5 cumulative GPA and an ACT score of 27 or higher. Applicants must be planning to attend a 2 or 4-year university, college or technical school; and they must live in a house that receives DMEA electricity. Applications are all online at: https://www.dmea.com/scholarships

Drive Safe Colorado Scholarship $1500 scholarship. Essay on What Have You Learned About Yourself As a Result of Learning to Drive

Ute Trails Car Club for Seniors with a passion for cars. Due March 10, 2022

Laura Clock Cabin & A Clothesline Memorial Scholarship - due Mar 15, 2022
$500 to senior involved in 4-H and/or FFA
Clock Scholarship application

Delta Rotary Scholarship - due March 11, 2022
$500-$2,000 awards to awards to DHS seniors displaying exceptional leadership, service, extracurricular involvement, and academic dedication.
Rotary Scholarship Application 2022 Scholarship App Instructions-2022

Delta County Federal Credit Union For many years, the Delta County Federal Credit Union has provided scholarships to deserving Delta County high school graduates. This year we will be offering one $1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior at each of the Delta County Joint District 50 schools.

- Applicant must be a current Member of the Delta County Federal Credit Union, or if not currently a member, must become a Member prior to the scholarship application due date of April 1, 2022.
- Applications may be accessed on our website: www.deltacountyfcu.com (under "Your CU" tab and "DCFCU Scholarship" sub-tab), or picked up at any DCFCU branch.

High School Movie and a Mystery

Calling all high school students! Come and learn the intriguing truth of how one mathematician changed the course of history and turned the tide of World War II. Then stay to solve Enigma yourself!

The war is at its peak and Nazi Germany is continuing to bomb London. The only way for Great Britain to get an idea of what's going to happen next is for the team of codebreakers to decipher the encrypted messages from Germany. Your mission is to decode the war and save the world in the next 45 minutes. Can you do it?

RSVP HERE!!!!

Friday, March 4, 2022: 1-5 p.m. Movie and snacks begin at 1:00 p.m.! Then it's your turn to break Enigma's code!

Please note: While the purpose of our activity will be to explore the history of the Enigma machine and those unsung and unsuspecting heroes who were able to quietly change the course of one of the greatest conflicts to engulf the world, there is sensitive material that is part of this story. Parents are encouraged to watch the The Imitation Game movie trailer. You can also read about Enigma or mathematician Alan Turing here.

Questions? Please contact Stephanie Barnett, sbarnett@visioncharteracademy.org.

"The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future." –Theodore Rosevelt

Please sign up in advance so we can plan appropriately for teams, snacks and prizes!

VCA National Honor Society Announcing Winter & Spring Coat Drive

Vision Charter Academy's National Honor Society Chapter will be holding a Winter & Spring Coat Drive to benefit children in Foster Care in need of a warm coat or jacket. Please bring your donation of new, or gently used winter coats or lightweight spring jackets in sizes 0-8 to the Resource Center before Feb. 18th and leave in the drop box.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity to help these children experiencing difficult times.

For the month of January we had the following staff highlighted for Kudos! Way to go VCA!

- **Amy Bader by Kerstin Owens:**
  - "I am nominating Amy Bader. She goes above and beyond not only for her learners but for fellow staff as well. She is greatly appreciated!!"
- **Amanda Gerhardt by Amy Winston:**
  - "She is a fantastic lady that deserves a pat on the back. She always treats those that she leads, with respect and love. Amanda, thank you for being the COVID Police! You go above and beyond to make this a safe and healthy place! It is an honor to serve this community with you!"
- **Kim Signs by Nicole Peterson:**
  - "She is always such an empathetic and encouraging supervisor for me. I am lucky to work with her."
- **Naomi Archuleta by Angela Valentine:**
  - "Sometimes it isn't what you see, it's what you don't see that tells you what an amazing job someone is doing. Naomi comes in after I go home for the day so I don't actually get to see her working but I know she is working hard because when I get to the office the trash has been emptied, the floors have been cleaned, and everything is ready for another day. Thank you, Naomi, for everything you do behind the scenes to keep our facility ready for staff and families."
- **Amanda Gerhardt by Angela Valentine:**
  - "Whether it is keeping up with frequently changing COVID guidance, contact tracing and notification of potential exposure, or assisting families and staff in understanding their options, Amanda handles the responsibility for maintaining COVID compliance with grace and consistency."
- **Laurel Jones by Catherine Wright**
  - "I don't think anyone knows how much she does and how well she does the constant communication to families using Parent Square like we are supposed to. All of her communication is professional and positive and well-written and it takes time to compose nice messages to families. I only see it because I am a parent and am on the receiving end of those emails. I've said it before, but VCA would save time and money if they just hired

Laurel as the communication director to compose emails/parent square messages. 😁"

- **Amy Winston by Shannon White:**
  - "Amy is an amazing mentor. I see her put aside anything she is doing to help families, co-workers, and me. I am so proud to work with her. She has taught me so much over the last year, I feel like I can conquer anything when working beside her."
- **VCA by Darci Hellman:**
  - "There are so many great people who work at VCA! We are a caring and compassionate family who support each other, which has become even more apparent with the influx of illnesses and everyone jumping in to help others who are out ill. The VCA Team is INCREDIBLE!"
- **Theresa Hardin by Darci Hellman:**
  - "Theresa works so hard for each of her Learners and supports all of her families. Her documentation of progress and support is outstanding and shows a clear picture of the learning taking place and the success of her families."
- **Trey, Nicole, and Angela by Darci Hellman:**
  - They "orchestrated our Mid-year Galileo and achieved 98% participation. Amazing accomplishment!"
- **Nan Latta by Darci Hellman:**
  - "Nan for completing all the mid-year Dibels in December amid the germs and busyness of end-of-semester and doing so always with such a pleasant smile."

⇨ Winners of the $5 gift card will be drawn and announced at staff All Access on 02/07/2022 and printed in our next newsletter!

Want to earn a shot at winning a $5 gift card of your own? Send kudos when you catch staff going above and beyond to:
hrdocuments@visioncharteracademy.org

YOU CAN'T WIN IF YOU DON'T PARTICIPATE!