January 2022 Newsletter

The Vision Voice

Voice. Choice. Achieve.

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Upcoming Events in January

- 1/12/2022- Exploration @ Forest Service
- 01/19/2022 Exploration TBA
- 01/20/2022 Field Trip to the Hatchery
- 01/26/2022 Exploration TBA
- 01/28/2022 Ski Days Begin

Coming in February

- Book Fair
- Virtual Escape Room

*For info on explorations/field trips email pr@visioncharteracadey.org.

A Word From Caryn…

"The decisions you make are a choice of values that reflect your life in every way." -Alice Waters

Welcome to Semester 2! I hope you all had a wonderful break and are eager to achieve great things together this semester.

One of the things I love about education in this district is the variety of choices available. There are many reasons and factors to consider when choosing to enroll in or work for Vision Charter Academy. Each person must weigh their priorities and needs in order to make an informed choice and recognize that with choice comes responsibility. Sometimes that responsibility can feel like a burden, especially towards the end of semester. I encourage you to take a deep breath, remember why you chose to be a part of the Vision Charter Academy family, and enthusiastically embrace the new semester!

It is a time to reset, reaffirm, and recommit to the educational journey you have chosen to embark upon. Learners have the opportunity to learn new skills each day and parents experience the wonder and pride that comes with being present for those "aha" learning moments with your child. Staff relish the chance to help learners and parents achieve their educational goals.

I am so glad you have chosen to be an active part in the education of your child; and I am excited to see the great things that transpire during the second semester at Vision Charter Academy.

By: Caryn Braddy

Field Trip: Hotchkiss National Fish Hatchery 01/20/2022 @10:30

We are going on a field trip to the fish hatchery. On this field trip we will be learning about fish habitat, water issues, local fishing opportunities, and the management of our lakes and streams.

Where: Hotchkiss National Fish Hatchery, 8077 Hatchery Rd, Hotchkiss, CO

When: January 20th @ 10:30.

Remember: Wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Snacks will be provided!

By: Heidi Reese

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.

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. When: Friday, February 4, 2022. RSVP: Click here: Sign me up! OR email sbarnett@visioncharteracademy.org for the link to sign up.

PRIZES!!!!!

Also…..

SAVE THE DATE!
Friday, March 4, 2022, 1:00–5:00 p.m.
Movie and a Mystery

How did a math problem change the course of history? Check back in the February Newsletter for more clues……

By: Stephanie Barnett

We would like to announce

VCA 2022 Prom!

A Black Tie Event

Date: Saturday 5/7/2022

Location: S & K Event Center 5955 Sawmill Mesa Rd, Delta, CO

Grand March 4pm, Prom 5-9pm

Tickets- $12 single, $18 per couple

Open to all VCA high school learners and approved guests.

Volunteer Chaperones will be needed for our dances this Spring. Please fill out the volunteer application here and email khigginbottom@visioncharteracademy.org.

Vision Character Academy will be offering boys and girls groups for middle and high school learners starting in the Spring 2022 Semester.

These will be three week sessions with one meeting and one outdoor activity per week. Meetings will be on Monday and activities on Friday. These groups will be broken into single gender, boys and girls, groups with 10 slots per session.

Middle school girls- 1/17/2022 to 1/31/2022

Middle school boys- 2/7/2022, 2/14/2022, 2/28/2022

High school girls- 3/21/2022-4/11/2022

High school boys- 4/25/2022-5/9/2022

Contact Kayleigh Higginbottom @ khigginbottom@visioncharacteracademy.org.

Student Spotlight!

Jordyn Vodopich

Jordyn Vodopich has been chosen as a Student Spotlight for January by the high school team. In her senior year, Jordyn has worked diligently to make sure she has earned enough credits to graduate in May. Despite many challenges, she has stayed on track and is thriving this year! We are proud of the growth and responsibility we see in Jordyn.

Jordyn is passionate about animals and dreams of opening her own animal shelter in the North Fork valley. She is pursuing this dream in the Spring semester by working with the CAWS cat shelter in Paonia for a Service Learning class. Through this experience she will learn all about how to run a shelter from the business side as well as the day to day tasks of managing a cat shelter. We are excited that Jordyn will have the opportunity to engage in her passion and proud of her for completing all of her core class credit requirements.

Jordyn is also a valuable member of the Horizons class where she puts in many hours to improve our community here at Vision. She helped put together the float for the Parade of Lights and has been an integral member of the team to help with Food for Thought, the Murder Mystery Dinner, and many more activities sponsored by this class. She has also pushed her own limits personally by rafting, mountain biking, and other exciting activities through Horizons. Thank you for all your contributions to our community, Jordyn! We are so grateful for you!

Mia Maruca

The high school team is excited to Spotlight Mia Maruca for the month of January! Mia is an exceptional senior graduating in May. Mia has overcome many challenges and persevered to put herself in a great position for her senior year. She is passionate about cosmetology and is excelling in the TCR Cosmetology program. Because she has been responsible by completing her core credits and remains in good standing throughout her high school career, she is able to put most of her energy into pursuing her passion of hair styling. It is inspiring to hear Mia talk about styling hair because she exudes dedication and excitement even at such a young age. She will complete the Cosmetology program after she graduates with a hard earned license.

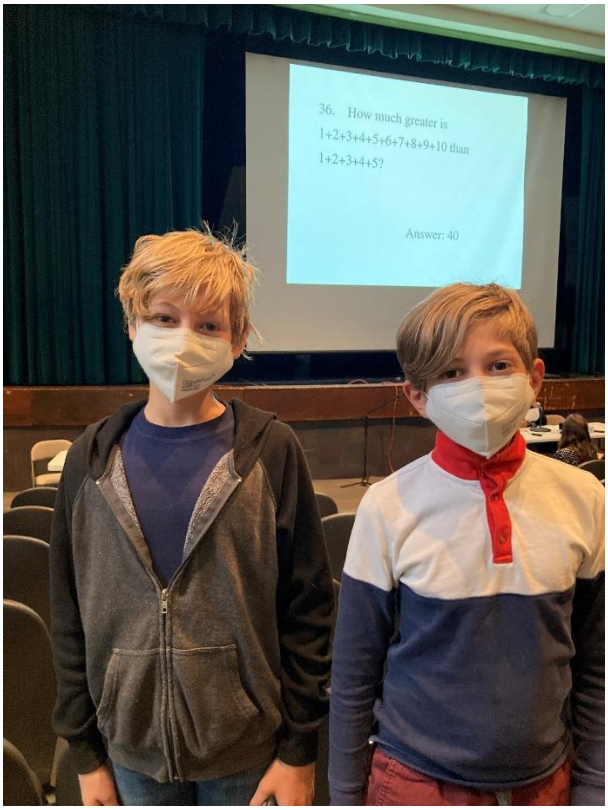
In addition to her studies, Mia also works many hours at her job in Cedaredge. Balancing high school classes, TCR classes, and work is not an easy job but she has shown great maturity and time management skills to accomplish everything. She is an independent and responsible young woman who is already navigating living on her own, paying for all her needs, and taking it all on with a positive attitude. Mia is an incredible example of resiliency and we are all so proud to see her successes in her Senior year.

By: Jennifer Wray

MATHCOUNTS WINNERS!

Kudos are in order! VCA learners Jonah Kassoff and Elijah Kassoff won first and second place in the Sixth Grade Individual Round of the Delta County MATHCOUNTS District Competition!

Participating sixth-graders from schools all over the district answered written math problems during a Sprint Round and four Target Rounds to qualify for the final Countdown Round. Only the top ten students competed in the Countdown Round. During the Countdown Round, two students faced off against each other to answer questions presented to them verbally. Students only had 45 seconds to answer each question! The first student to answer the best of three questions correctly went on to verse another student. Jonah and Elijah, who are fraternal twins, competed for first and second place against each other. Elijah scored higher on the written portion of the competition, but Jonah was the first to answer the final Countdown question correctly, so he claimed first prize. Jonah and Elijah both take Jalene Hoff's virtual math class. They are homeschooled in English, science, social studies, and music by their mom, Roslyn Bauer. They spent considerable time preparing for the competition by doing extra math at home with their dad, Jason Kassoff.



Jonah Kassoff, on the left, and Elijah Kassoff, on the right, in front of the final question.

By: Laurel Jones

High School Happenings

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

Join a tour of the Technical College of the Rockies on January 14, 2022 at 1:00pm

Learners, families and staff are invited to join a campus tour and learn more about the outstanding career programs available right here in Delta County. Please arrive by 12:50pm to start the tour promptly at 1:00pm.

- Sign up on this TCR Tour Sign Up Form.
- Watch this video for an introduction of the opportunities they offer. TCR Video

You are climbing the Summit towards Graduation and getting closer to the Peak.

All Juniors will take the ICAP Junior Summit Class 2nd semester
Virtually Each Friday at 10:00am
Via Google Classroom starting Jan. 7 to May 20, 2022

At VCA we are always striving to meet the needs of all Learners on their individual pathways toward Graduation and your future goals. The Summit Class will offer resources to help you prepare for Senior Year and Graduation and is your required ICAP credit for the year.

CAGT's 23rd Legislative Day Held the Thursday after Presidents' Day, Thursday, February 24, 2022. Registration will open the first week in January after Winter Break. DUE January 21, 2022. This year Legislative Day will allow students grades 9 – 12 ONLY a unique opportunity to connect with our state legislators. The day will be filled with a Keynote speaker, a choice of breakout sessions, two Q&A times, games and virtual tours of the capitol. The application process is not open. Application paperwork includes your essay! Get your writing skills honed and here is this year's essay prompt is: "Choose one political topic or social problem happening in Colorado right now and explain your stance on this issue. Which Senator or Representative would you want to discuss this with and why?"

Registration is now open for the NACAC Virtual & In-Person College Fairs! Please find the full schedule below.
You and your students can register for free at www.nacacattend.org/fairs.
All of our fairs will feature **MatchMaking**! At the time of registration, students will select the attributes that are most important to them in a college. They will then receive an email that best matches them to the specific colleges and universities based on the criteria they provided. Students will then reference this email on the day of the fair to connect with their best-fits! Make sure to register early so they can take advantage of this great new feature.

Michael W. Werner
West Point Southern and Western Colorado Admissions Coordinator
Class of 1994

"I wanted to alert you to an excellent STEM opportunity this summer at West Point for your Middle Schoolers (rising 7th and 8th graders) and High Schoolers (rising 9th and 10th graders).

West Point hosts a week-long STEM camp with participants from across the country. The goal is to increase interest in STEM through inquiry-based projects; develop and reinforce student science, math and problem-solving skills; and motivate under-resourced geographical locations to aspire to pursue STEM courses in high school and envision themselves in STEM careers.

For more information about this opportunity see this LINK. The cost of the event, room and board is paid for through donations made by our Association of Graduates. The candidate just needs to provide their own transportation to Newark International where the students are bused to West Point. However, if you have a perspective student that would not apply for concerns of the costs, local graduates of the Pikes Peak region will provide a scholarship for the cost of the transportation.

Go Army!"

BEST Scholarship Tips Book:

- **"All the Wisdom and None of the Junk" Short book, quick and easy to read, but valuable information worth reading!**
- **VCA Scholarship List**

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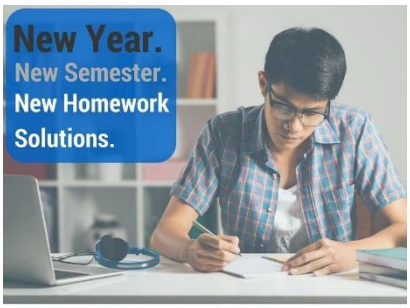

Let's start from the top. The first question you need to ask yourself is, "If I could improve one thing about homework, what would it be?" The first answer that came to mind was probably, "Get rid of it!" Honestly, homework is a fact of life and serves a very good purpose (whether we like it or not). So let's try again…
If you could improve one thing about homework, what would it be? Have your answer?
I've asked this question to many students over the past 20 years. The four most common answers:

1. **"I wish it didn't take so long to finish my homework!"**
2. **"I wish I could stop losing assignments; it's dragging my grades down!"**
3. **"I wish my parents would stop complaining that I wait until the 'last minute.'"**
4. **"I wish homework didn't cause so many arguments at home!"**

Now that you know the problem, create a solution!

Once you recognize a problem, it's much easier to identify a solution. The best solutions are "homework systems." Systems are procedures or routines that help you simplify the issue and develop positive habits to overcome it.
Here are some quick examples of "solution systems" for each one:

1. **The main reason homework takes a long time is due to lack of focus. If you fight to stay focused while doing homework, set an electronic timer for the amount of time you think an assignment should take and challenge yourself to beat the timer. Not only does this help you focus in on your work, it makes getting your homework done into a game!**

2. **If lost assignments are your issue, you first need to reduce the number of folders you have to manage. Most students juggle 7-9 separate folders and 7-9 notebooks… up to 18 different supplies! No wonder assignments get lost! Start by streamlining all folders into one, 1" binder. Then, "Take Ten" every time you sit down to do your homework; two minutes to put all loose papers into their correct folders and the next eight minutes to review any handouts or notes from the day.**

3. **If you are a victim of "Last Minute Syndrome," start having a Weekly Family Meeting. This meeting is an informal gathering (usually on Sundays) where everyone shares their schedules for the upcoming week (including parents). Discuss sports schedules, upcoming tests/projects, needed supplies, etc. Ask your parents to share if they will be working late one night or have other after-school obligations that may impact the family. This system is a great cure for LMS because it encourages everyone to be proactive and plan ahead together.**

4. **To stop most of the arguing, follow steps 1-3. It will eliminate at least 80% of your homework arguments.**

These suggestions are merely examples, but they illustrate the concept of developing systems to help solve common homework problems and are the skills all Freshman learned about in the ICAP Base Camp class last semester.

"What makes a VCA student successful?"

There could be a lot of answers to that question: a schedule, consistent attendance, great teachers… And those are all important. However, VCA staff also recognize the importance of a supportive, involved, and dedicated family partner for learning success. The high school team would like to introduce you to one of our many family partners who plays a critical role in her daughter's education.

Sarah Hatter had to adjust to homeschooling her children out of necessity when Delta students were unable to attend in-person classes due to COVID-19.Sarah wanted her learners to have stability and consistency–things that would be hard for in-person schools to provide considering the ever changing responses to a global pandemic. So, rather than participating in the online learning offered by her children's schools, Sarah decided to enroll them in Vision Charter Academy. Enrolling her learners in Vision made more sense because it enabled them to participate in virtual learning that was designed for that purpose and would be consistent for the entire school year.

When her children were able to go back to their classrooms, Sarah recognized that homeschooling with the help of VCA, was a better fit for her daughter, Cheyenne. Cheyenne was thriving in her virtual classes with VCA. The flexibility of learning at home was especially helpful when Cheyenne's chronic medical condition became an obstacle to attending school in person and on a typical schedule. Sarah was confident that sticking with Vision was the right decision for her daughter.

Sarah attributes their success to a number of things. First, her own experience with online learning helped. Sarah graduated from high school at the age of sixteen by completing her junior and senior years entirely online. Also, as an adult, she has taken online courses to advance her career. Second, Sarah notes that Cheyenne's independence and self-discipline mean that she is naturally motivated and gets her school work done without a lot of oversight. Third, Sarah makes sure that she checks in with Cheyenne every evening to track her progress, answer any questions, and to maintain a close connection with Cheyenne and her education. Sarah also recognizes that every child is different, and it's critical to make choices that include individual personalities, strengths, and challenges related to school.

Our staff, excellent curriculum options, supportive community partners, and technology all contribute to the success of Vision Charter Academy. However, family partners who are committed to their children's education are also a key component of home based learning. Cheyenne attributes her success to her mother and says, "She is the only reason I can be at Vision." VCA is thankful for the opportunity to collaborate with outstanding family partners like Sarah Hatter to provide learners with an excellent, personalized, and meaningful at-home learning experience.

By: Amy Bader

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

- **Kimborlee Etter by Angela Valentine:**
  - "Kimborlee has been a huge help in the registration office. She kept up with all of the paperwork for learners entering and exiting VCA, responded to transcript requests, and also took care of her responsibilities as Enrollment Coordinator. She continues to work on projects to get all of our learner files in order in PowerSchool and in the cum files."
- **Trey Jones by Karen Decker:**
  - "I want to send a shout out to Trey Jones! Trey is always such a positive light to not only his learners, but to all employees here at Vision! He always makes a point to say hi with a cheerful attitude. I have seen him interact with learners and he is so encouraging and motivating. You can tell he has such a positive effect on his learners. Thank you, Trey, for your positive attitude and your dedication to learners!"
- **Jennifer Wray by Darci Hellman:**
  - "I would like to give kudos to Jennifer Wray for going way above and beyond for her Seniors to ensure they start life on a good path. She personally attended meetings with outside agencies to secure housing for one learner and drove out of her way to another community to arrange an internship for another Learner. Thank you Jennifer, for going the extra mile to make a difference in these Learner's lives and their futures in a BIG way."
- **Kayleigh Higgnbottom and Kersea Calhoun by Darci Hellman:**
  - "I would like to give kudos to the team of Kayleigh and Kersea for the energy and enthusiasm they put into events for our high school learners. They are making genuine connections that are making a difference in Learner's lives."
- **Stephanie Barnett by Jennifer Wray:**
  - "After I became a learner's Family Partner, she continued to do all the grading for her class so I wouldn't have to. Thank you, Steph!"
- **Kersea Calhoun by Jennifer Wray:**
  - "Kersea has done all the grading for her English IV as well. Thank you, Kersea!"
- **Shannon White by Angie Gauthier:**
  - "While her family waited, and her day was over, Shannon helped me get curriculum selected and out to a new VCA family. I suggested they come

back the next day and I would put in the order, but she said "they are here now" and just got to work finding an entire set of curriculum -after hours. The great attitudes and hard work do not go unnoticed! Thank you Shannon!"

- **Kim Signs by Wendy Shima:**
  - "...For taking on her new role with its many components this year! I appreciate the time she takes to listen and respond to all of our thoughts and ideas and that she is such a strong support when we run into challenges. Thank you for being available and interested🙂".
- **Veronica Diaz-Adame by Wendy Shima:**
  - "For being the supportive, fun, kind teacher who always works to make sure her learners are understanding their work, and also the teacher with the **hot chocolate**! What!?! Thanks for being the teacher that kids want to not miss class for!!"

★ **Previous winners were Kersea Calhoun and Angie Gauthier! Congrats!** ★

⇨ Winners of the $5 gift card will be drawn and announced at staff All Access on 01/10/2022 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!