GREETING

As we near the end of 2nd trimester, and we enjoy the fact we are now back in school in a hybrid fashion. I feel like it is an opportunity for a fresh start of sorts. The staff and students are settling into a routine for hybrid learning and how to toggle between in person and at home learning activities. Third trimester represents an opportunity to finish strong and move closer to putting the past year behind us. The struggles of remote learning, while not entirely gone, are hopefully becoming a thing of the past. So, I challenge all of us to come to school each day, the rest of the year, with the mindset we are going to do the best we PERSONALLY are capable of to be kind, caring and respectful, and to engage in the learning we have in front of us. Third trimester can be the best days of the school year, and I hope they are. The sunny weather doesn't hurt either..... :) Here are this week's announcements:

MASTER SCHEDULE COURSE OFFERINGS 2021-22

Vancouver Public Schools has decided to align the middle school master schedules for next school year. All Vancouver Middle Schools will be on a 7 period day, and will unblock math classes so they will once again become one period instead of two. This means students will have two elective options for next year instead of one. The reason for this is two fold: 1. Create consistent and equal access to academic time and class opportunity for all 6-8th grade students regardless of what school they attend (currently some schools offer 7 periods and some offer 8 periods), and 2. Provide opportunity for 6-8th grade students to explore elective classes suited to their interests and/or potential career pathways as originally designed for the middle school program. We will begin forecasting for next school year in the next few weeks so I wanted to let you know of this change and what it means for your student. When a student forecasts for next year, they will have the following courses:
- Math
- English/Language Arts
- Humanities/History
- Science
- PE
- Arts Elective choice
- Academic Elective choice

Counselors will review the elective choices for Arts and for Academics when they do forecasting with students. If a student is below grade level in math or reading, we may place them in an Academic Support Elective for their Academic Elective choice so that we can support them in getting back to grade level in math, reading, or both. Otherwise, students will have the capacity to choose two elective choices for next year instead of one. Please contact your grade level counselor with questions on forecasting.

OFFICE OF THE EDUCATION OMBUS

Vancouver Public Schools has a new program to offer to the students and families of the district. The Office of the Education Ombuds works with students, families, schools, and the community through the discipline process to resolve conflicts, build supportive partnerships, and foster collaboration so that every student can engage in a valuable educational experience within Vancouver Public Schools. The Ombuds will provide confidential and unbiased guidance, resources, information, and support when parents need assistance navigating the student discipline process or a conflict exists within a discipline matter. If you have concerns about your child's experience within the discipline process, please reach out to the Education Ombuds, Rachel Cason. The Ombuds is here to help you navigate the district's processes and procedures as well as provide you with the assistance you may need in resolving conflicts specific to student discipline.

The Education Ombuds, Rachel Cason, can be reached at rachel.cason@vansd.org or 360-313-1340.

https://vansd.org/equity-initiative/#ombuds

BUS ROUTE CHANGES

Transportation has an immense job to coordinate getting thousands of students to and from school. Now that we are into hybrid in person learning, and high schools have also come back to hybrid learning, there have been some adjustments to bus routes. If your student rides a bus, please remember to check your bus routes as some have recently changed due to hybrid learning schedules. Routes are kept up-to-date on the district website.

SPIRIT WEAR

I am SO excited to announce the PTSA is facilitating an opportunity to buy some Alki spirit wear now that we are back at school. I bought a couple of shirts yesterday using the attached flyer information. Super easy. Lots of things to choose from, so I hope you are able to order some spirit wear this spring as well. Just click on this link for the flyer, order, and it will be delivered to school to hand out to families. You have until April 4th to get your online orders in. Go Alki!

UPCOMING DATES
- 3/15 Last day of 2nd trimester
- 3/16 First day of 3rd trimester
- 3/24 PTSA general meeting- 6:00 p.m.
- 3/26 2nd trimester report cards available
- 4/4 End of Alki spirit wear sale