



Greeting

Happy Friday! We made it through our first full week back from winter break! I think the kids have done a great job getting back into their school routines and it is nice to see them back in classrooms. We are doing inside passage again due to the weather, and they have done a great job staying to the right in the hallways and following the one way traffic around the library. All in all a good week. I hope it has been that way for you as well. Stay dry this weekend!

Second Step Social Emotional Curriculum

- As part of a new state requirement for schools, our district has adopted Second Step curriculum to teach students about social emotional well being.
 - Second Step is a research-based social-emotional learning program designed to improve students' social-emotional skills, such as emotion management, impulse control, problem solving, and empathy.
 - Skills and concepts include:
 - **Thoughts, Emotions, and Decisions:** Students learn how to recognize strong emotions and unhelpful thoughts, and apply strategies to manage their emotions and reduce stress.
 - **Recognizing Bullying and Harassment:** Students learn how to recognize bullying and harassment, stand up safely to bullying, and respond appropriately to harassment.
 - **Managing Relationships and Social Conflict:** Students learn strategies for developing and maintaining healthy relationships, perspective-taking, and dealing with conflict.
 - Alki will start teaching these lessons on Tuesday, 1/25 in 7th period classes (we will use the early release bell schedule to create a time block at the end of the day to do the lessons, students will still get out at 3:45 on Tuesdays.)
 - Lessons will be taught every Tuesday afternoon
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your grade level counselor

Semester Break January 28th

- Friday, January 28th is set aside for semester break, and there is no student attendance
- The school office will be closed on January 28th so all office staff can participate in district trainings

Covid Info

- VPS is offering free Covid testing at the Jim Parsley Center
- Here is a [link](#) to the district website that tells you more specific information about this opportunity and how it works
- If your child tests positive or is identified as a close contact, please make sure to let us know so we can work with you on the length of time they need to isolate.
- If your child has to isolate for a period of time, please make sure to have them go to Canvas for each teacher to stay current on their school work

Upcoming Dates

- 1/10 3:05 early release
- 1/13 PTSA General meeting on Zoom- 7:00 p.m.
- 1/17 No School- Martin Luther King
- 1/24 3:05 early release

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Working to empower students to create a better world!