

ALKI WEEKLY UPDATE 03-04-22

www.alki/vansd.org



WHERE OUR LEGACY IS VALUING EVERY STUDENT

Greeting

I came across a saying this week that has been percolating in my mind: "We are not given a good life or a bad life. We are given a life. It's up to us to make it good or bad." (Thoughts wonder)

One of my "whys" for working in education is to empower students to make the world a better place. It is the young people growing up to take our place who will continue to shape the world we live in. Part of why I love the middle school age is the fact we can still positively influence kids to have hope and believe in the opportunities of tomorrow. And yet, developmentally middle school students are just starting to wrestle with figuring out who they are and who they want to be. I want so badly to help them BELIEVE in the life they can create. Don't get me wrong, bad things happen to all of us. But my work every day is meant to help students (and staff!) see the good in themselves and the positive impact they can have even when things are not ideal. No matter what, I want students to know THEY CAN make it a good life. The thing is, it doesn't just happen. We also have to help them understand the effort and purpose they have to put into it to make it a good life.

Enjoy your weekend,

M

Mask Mandate Update

In the ever changing world of covid protocols, we learned this week that the mask mandate will end on buses as well as in school. Reminders, as of March 12th:

-Mask wearing will be optional on buses and at school- meaning students and staff certainly have the right to continue to wear a mask if they want to, but will no longer be required to

-We will be emphasizing the expectation that we need to respect the choices people make regarding wearing a mask or not. Teasing and making fun of people who continue to wear a mask is not consistent with the "kind, caring respectful" school I want to see.

-VPS has and will continue to do our best to follow mandates and guidelines put forth by the state and local health departments. We will keep you posted on updates regarding testing, contact tracing and social distancing.

Forecasting for 2022-23

- Believe it or not, it is that time of year where we ask students to think about next year and choose classes. Here are a few points to help you with supporting your child in thinking about their forecasting requests:
 - Current 6/7th grade students will forecast in Science classes on Thursday, March 17th
 - Elective choices for grades 7/8 include choosing one academic elective, and one arts elective
 - Academic elective choices include: Creative Writing, Robotics, Spanish, and STEM (labs in technology)
 - Arts elective choices include: Art, Band, Choir, Orchestra, Theater and Visual Art Design
 - Students who take Leadership or Yearbook may choose either an academic elective, or an Arts elective
 - Students below grade level in math, reading, or both (as measured by iReady and/or SBA) take Academic Prep (academic support class) instead of an Academic elective
- All students will take Math, Science, English, Humanities (social studies) and PE in addition to their 2 electives
- Counselors will review all of this information with students on the 17th, and have them complete a google form to make their requests.

Getting first choice requests is not guaranteed depending on staffing and scheduling factors, but we will do our best to honor first and second choice requests for electives

Upcoming Dates

- 3/11 8th grade forecasting for Skyview students- done in HULA classes
- 3/14 End of trimester 2
- 3/14 3:05 early release
- 3/15 Start of trimester 3
- 3/16 Band festival at Discovery MS- 9:30-12:00
- 3/17 Forecasting 6/7th grade students in Science classes

Mark Cain

Principal, Alki Middle School

[360-313-3200](tel:360-313-3200)

mark.cain@vansd.org

Working to empower students to create a better world!