



# BHS

# VPA Department

NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 29, 2020: THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL EDITION

Wonderful VPA Families,

It's hard to believe we're on in the last weekend of this "endless Spring Break," and your Booker High School family is excited to welcome you newcomers and to see those familiar faces again as well. We've been working so hard these past few weeks (and, really, as a VPA team), throughout the summer to provide safe, inspiring, and enriching learning opportunities for our incredible and passionate aspiring artists.

**AN ENORMOUS THANK YOU** to those families who have stepped up to contribute to our effort to provide the safest environment possible for our VPA students and staff. **Denise Bizzaro, Lori and Larry Diner, the Jarrars, Ethan Weiss, and Susan Hudson Smith**, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you!



VPA Theatre Dept. teachers Sunny Smith, Caleb Carrier, Cynthia Ashford and Scott Keys show off the bounty of health-inducing air purifiers we've received.

### THANK YOU!

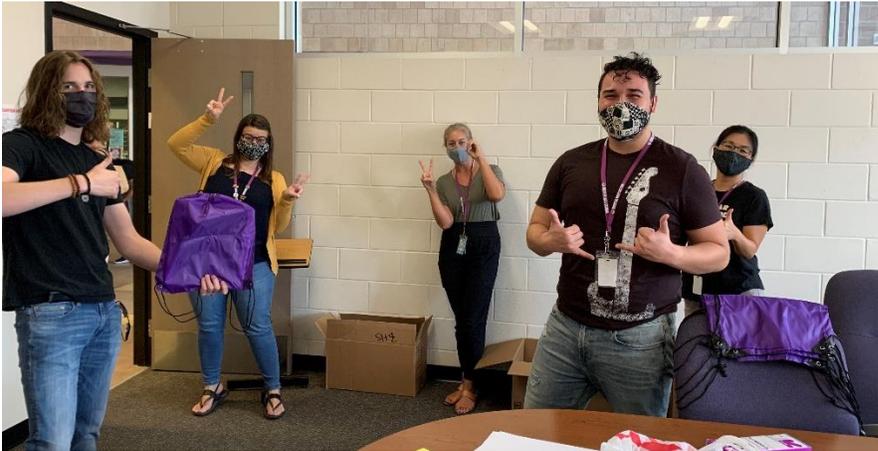
If you'd like to help, please check out our Amazon wish list [HERE](#) to learn about the needs that remain.

**THE BHS REOPENING MANUAL** is an important resource for understanding expectations and preparing yourself for the school year ahead. These are different times and this guide addresses the school's safety measures and expectations of all learners. Find that resource [HERE](#).

**VPA REMIND:** our all-VPA remind group exceeded the limits of participants permitted for the free version of that app, so we've divided up participants into groups. If you haven't yet signed up for Remind.com for VPA, please do so according to the following categories; text the code to the number 81010, and please use your full name:

STUDENTS	PARENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class of 2024: @vpa09-2021</li> <li>• Class of 2023: @vpa10-2021</li> <li>• Class of 2022: @vpa11-2021</li> <li>• Class of 2021: @vpa12-2021</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent of c/o 2024: @bhsvpa2021</li> <li>• Parent of c/o 2023: @vpap23</li> <li>• Parent of c/o 2022: @vpap22</li> <li>• Parent of c/o 2021: @vpap21</li> </ul>

**THE VPA MUSIC DEPARTMENT** distributed care packages to all Music students on Friday to ensure all students have everything they need to begin the new year. In a purple cinch backpack, they included a three-ring binder with important course materials, pencils, and ... While distribution served this practical purpose, Music faculty had an ulterior motive: seeing the students they've missed so much since that dismissal bell on March 11.



Senior Colin Leonard receives his package, greeting Music faculty Ellen Saxton, Amanda Nix, Alex Zickafoose, and Sung Choe.

Colin is a multi-instrumentalist, primarily saxophone and guitar, whose skills have set the stage ablaze during Category 5 concerts.

**WALL OF TRIUMPH:** The VPA this year will maintain a special Motivation Message Board where students and staff can post positive and uplifting messages to help inspire joy in this uniquely challenging time. The wall was the brain-child of Chorus Director Alex Zickafoose, who enlisted the help of Art senior and Category 5 frontwoman Anne-Marie Sledziewski.



VPA Art senior Anne-Marie Sledziewski shows off her creation of detailed letters encompassing VPA disciplines. Along with being a tremendous, award-winning visual artist, she has been a spunky and charismatic frontwoman for Category 5 for several years.

Category 5 is looking for new members, and Mr. Z will start another modern band this year! Contact him for details.

**THANKS TO ALL WHO CAME OUT TO OUR ZOOM INFO SESSIONS** last week! We loved seeing your smiling faces, and we've come up with a whole new term, "smeyes," which is what you may have seen: us smiling with our eyes behind our masks! If you couldn't make it, or just for everyone's reference, I've attached our notes that outline expectations, the VPA contract vis a vis new learning norms, and contacts of all our VPA staff. Communication is key! Please stay in touch with us and apprised of all we have going on in the classrooms and more!

And finally, rest up, stay safe, and we'll look forward to seeing you Monday at (gasp!) 7:30 a.m.!