



BHS

VPA Department

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 5, 2020: THE FIRST-WEEK-BACK EDITION

Wonderful VPA Families,

Week one is in the books! Thank you for helping to make it so successful! The students—all of them, both remote learners and in-person ones—were simply delightful. The remarkable ways in which they've navigated this unusual first week back have been numerous: they've followed rules, patiently waited through tech glitches, and been so cooperative with each other and school staff. We are so grateful. Parents and guardians, kudos to you for preparing them for this. It's brought joy to a stressful transition.

SNAPSHOT OF A NEW PARADIGM: here are some pictures from our first week back. For more from the week, see our Flickr album [here](#).



Right: VPA Music junior Miguel Restrepo prepares to warm up in first period orchestra.

Below: VPA Animation freshman Katherine Wright completes a survey.



Far left: Ms. Saxton presides over a morning Music Theory 1 class.



Immediate left: VPA Art freshman Annabella Truong sketches a still life in Mr. Strenk's class.

REMOTE LEARNER LIFELINE they say it takes a village, and that has more resonance now than in normal times. Thanks to the parents of remote learners who reached out, we now have a directory of those learning from home that parents and students can draw from to coordinate combined learning opportunities, smaller social get-togethers, and virtual study sessions.

THE SHOW MUST GO ON! The VPA Theatre department ended the first week back with—what else?—a live performance! Students sang, danced, read original poetry to a very spread-out audience of their peers, relishing in taking the stage again. The Kwarantime Kabaret was a small showcase of solo acts, but it delivered enormous bliss to performers and audience alike. What a great way to celebrate a successful first week back and months of mourning the loss of live theatre in our lives.



Right: Theatre Senior Alara Ureksoy opens the Kabaret with a song, performed to a live audience and her peers at home.

Theatre Junior Bridget Marsh demonstrates spunk and spirit with her hip hop moves.

HOMECOMING: VPA Art graduate Izzy Stark ('20) returned to campus to deliver a donation to the Art Department, a place she says, “defined me.” Stark, who currently studies Art at Florida International University, visited the department to share her \$50 donation and stories about the accomplishments she’s already made in this, the infancy of her college career, including being selected for the FIU Color Guard!



VPA Art graduate Izzy Stark presents her donation to senior Art instructor Jeffery Cornwell.

Immediate left: Izzy with Cornwell and Art Dept. chair Steve Strenk.

MUSIC MASKS SHOW VPA PRIDE Music students received a special gift that will get lots of mileage this year: VPA Music masks. The gift was made to reinforce this health-promoting habit and show solidarity.

Left: VPA Music senior Jaelyn Jenkins smiles behind her new mask. Right: VPA Music junior Ben Strom can’t hide that VPA pride.



Have a restful, joyous holiday, and we’ll see you on Tuesday!