



BHS

VPA Department

NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 3, 2020: CREATIVITY IN THE TIME OF COVID

Wonderful VPA Families,

Unbelievably, we're in the home stretch of quarter one! The mid-quarter has passed, and routines are becoming set. Here's a look at the week that was.

AUTUMNAL ARTISTRY The VPA Theatre Department is hard at work staging pieces for a virtual showcase exploring inevitable changes in life, like the changing colors of fall foliage, and, ultimately, death. As this reflective time of the year approaches, we're reminded of the legacies of those we've lost, the lore that's been buried with the dead, and the deep importance of human connection.

The theatrical pieces, from *The Spoon River Anthology*, *The Bone Orchard*, and with excerpts from the original musical "Sleepy Hollow," created by Scott Keys and Johnnie Mnich, allow upper level students to ponder both mortality and what lives on in spirit. The pieces will be recorded; a heartfelt thanks to those who've contributed to camera equipment. Look for more details on this showcase on Facebook and in our weekly newsletter.



Left: Mr. Keys directs level 2 actor Kate Mobley-Tarpley in a moment from "The Bone Orchard."

Below: Production & Design students set the stage for a reflective and haunting showcase of works.



VPA-VIRTUAL PROJECTS ARCHIVE As the adage goes, "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade." This is exactly what VPA Production Manager and webmaster Nick Jones has done with his release of a new archive of VPA performances and films that fans can watch from anywhere. With an art form that is ephemeral, the ability to go view later breathes new life into these pieces. Plus, family and friends not able to make it to the theatre, especially now, can still watch the great works and share in these special achievements of our young artists.

The site's flexibility is one of its bragging points; patrons can watch on a "pay as you can" fee schedule, and anyone moved to donate will have the ability to do so during a livestream. Check out the current archive at www.bookervpa.com/virtual-events. Dig in more as the time comes to reveal this season's treasures.



Right: Virtual Genius—Jones peruses the new archive.

MASKING FOR A FRIEND: The district's ability to mitigate viral spread has surpassed the expectations of many, with very few reported cases and aggressive contract tracing that has helped slow the spread. But now is not the time to let down our guard—or our masks. VPA families, let's all do our part to keep the campus safe and healthy. Please be sure the mask your student wears covers both the nose and mouth and does not slip. Masks should fit like a glove: those that are too loose slip; when they're too tight, they get pulled and shifted, which presents a problem when hands approach the face. Need a lender? Just ask! The office has disposable masks with the wire bridge that helps masks stay secure, securing our wellness.



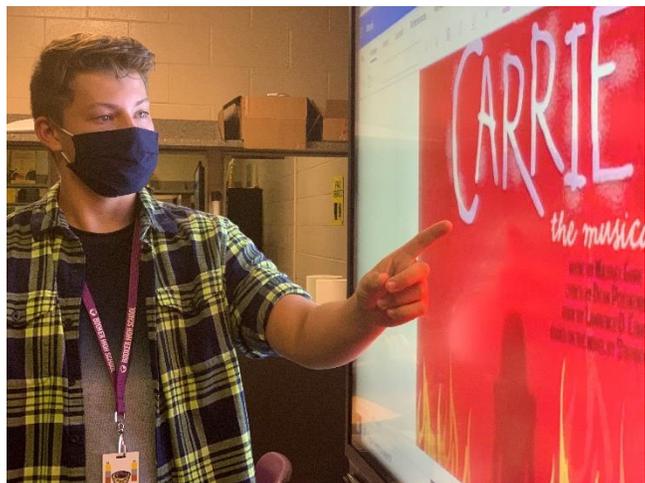
Far Left: Senior Carlos Montoya keeps it high and tight—his guitar won't gently weep over his viral spread.

Left: Senior Cam'ryn Brewer doesn't miss a beat with his mask snug against his face.

ART FOCUS OF THE WEEK—PRODUCTION & DESIGN: In Mr. Carrier's Production & Design classes, students are hard at work creating research bibles—the books that maintain all the ideas, themes, and design elements that lay the foundation of the feel of an event.

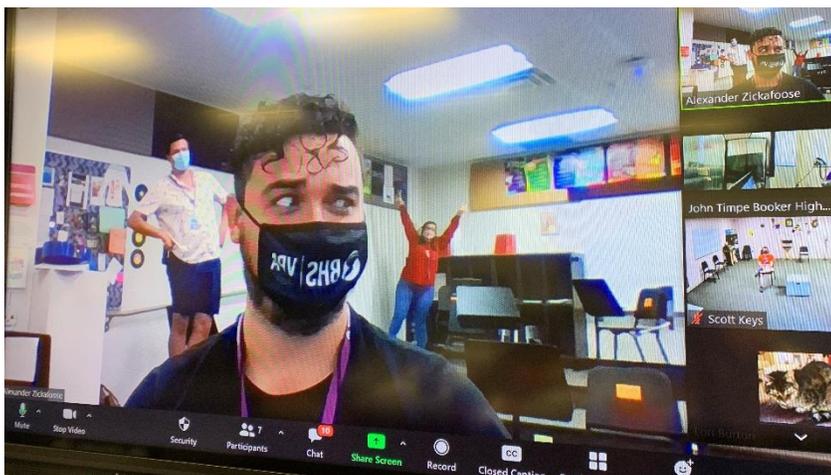
Research bibles are all-encompassing: students examine the show from many angles: the time period, themes, and locations that drive the entire design. Consideration goes to maximizing flats, so that they can be used as multiple locations, refurbishing furniture to create a certain look, budget considerations, and more.

Upper level Production & Design students recently presented their research bibles to the class, drilling down to details like specific paint shades available at the Home Depot to determining where objects and set pieces might be borrowed to maximize the budget.



Above: Level 2 Production and Design student Kai Maurice shares his extensive plan for Carrie: The Musical.

ZOOM MEETING ANTICS: Tense times call for intense doses of silliness, and VPA teachers engaged in humor at a recent PLC meeting.



Battle of Good & Evil—who's the angel and who's the devil in this pic? Nick Jones and Ellen Saxton sit upon the shoulders of Alex Zickafoose in a battle for his soul!

COLLEGE CORNER: As the world ups its online game to heights like never before, opportunities arise that have not yet been dreamt of. This year, college-bound students looking for performing arts programs can check out virtual college fairs, panel discussions, and more, all at their fingertips. Check out the national performing arts college fairs, coming up soon, at this [great compendium of college information here](#).

