



BHS

VPA Department

NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 10, 2020: CREATIVITY IN THE TIME OF COVID

Wonderful VPA Families,

Though temperatures remain stubbornly high and humidity keeps us soaked throughout these days, fall fun is brewing at Booker High School. Next week is Homecoming Spirit Week, with fun dress up days planned Tuesday thru Thursday (remember: there's no school on Monday!). Dress-up days are as follows:

- TUESDAY – Twin Day
- WEDNESDAY – Pajama Day
- THURSDAY – Character Day
- FRIDAY – Spirit Day! Wear your Purple & Gold!

Here's a look at the week that was.

PHANTASMIC PLANS SHAPING UP The VPA will host a final live performance in the current VPA Theatre before demolition begins in December as we prepare for our \$22 million renovation project that will give rise to a state-of-the-art performance facility, art gallery, and classroom space. The performance, "Phantasmic," will feature contributions from each VPA discipline and works explore the end of life, death, and legacy—a fitting nod to the end of this monumental space. To ensure a safely small audience of just 50 people, "Phantasmic" will be live to select patrons including Booker staff and school board leadership. It will also be broadcast via livestream to all, so plan to tune in at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30 for a delightful final spectacle in this memory-filled space. Here's the link: www.bookervpa.com/events/phantasmic



GIRLS INC. PARTNERSHIP Dance Department chair Courtney Smith is known for securing robust partnerships with community groups, including The Ringling and SPARCC. This year, she's partnering with Girls Inc., an organization that "inspires all girls to be strong, smart & bold." While the discipline of dance creates physical strength, the mission of Girls Inc. is to create inner strength. Dancers on Friday worked with Girls Inc. representatives to merge the two concepts by developing short choreography centered on concepts of strength, notably what makes them feel strong in general and specific ways. The result was a moving and powerful lesson about confronting our fears, accepting vulnerability, and knowing when and how to draw on strength from within. Eventually, the dancers will work with younger girls in the community, inspiring them to find their own strength after this series of workshops building their skills.



Above: Kristin McCook demonstrated for her team. Pieces examined the role of friendships, collegiate aspirations, and societal pressures in relation to strength.



Above: Maija Boelkins and Alexis Aker's piece explored actual confrontation, fears, and digging deep for strength.

ART FOCUS OF THE WEEK—SENIOR AP ART: In Mr. Jeff Cornwell's Level 4 AP Art class, students are challenged to re-create works of art in several different styles. In this first lesson of the year, students first created small still life scenes to draw. Next, they revised those initial images with ink recreations. This week, they are back to the drawing board (pun intended!), using whatever mediums they choose to re-imagine those first still life drawings as abstract pieces. To make it yet more challenging, Mr. Cornwell purposefully changed the aspect ratio this time, so however the realistic drawings were laid out must now take on a new shape. All of this strengthens these artists' ability to process and repurpose works and master new styles that are not their signature style.



Left: Akos Fuszfas uses watercolor to paint a cubist recreation of a teapot's vine pattern; Right: Isabella Zaccone goes for bold shapes and colors in her piece depicting an assortment of common building tools.



Left: Chloe Rusek opted for a digital medium in her recreation of an abstract of items including palettes and ordinary objects; Right: Nicolina Morra utilizes many mediums—from oil pastel to acrylics—to re-envision her piece in a style reminiscent of Salvador Dali.



DANCE AND MUSIC COLLABORATE FOR SPECIAL PERFORMANCE The Dance and Music Departments will present a very special outdoor performance, "Under the Willow," on Thursday, Nov. 12, at 5 p.m. Come out to enjoy a variety of performances, from choral works to rock songs, and from ballet to hip hop. This celebration of the arts will delight all. Check back for information about admissions.



TEACHERS ROCK IT OUT FOR STUDENTS As a special thank you to our amazing BHS students, Ms. Ladd (aka: The "Laddbrarian") devised a surprise dress up day—teachers were asked to dress like rock stars to send the message that our students ROCK! Spandex, eyeliner and fingerless gloves all made appearances as we celebrated our community through spirit!



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](#).