

Fall Update

Consideration for PK/Kinder Small Groups Onsite

Earlier this week, VEA was made aware of pending updates to Clark County Public Health (CCPH) guidance and confirmed yesterday with VPS that a formal announcement of those updates would come out Monday. PK-5 members received notification from VPS this morning stating that VPS is considering bringing small groups of preschool and kindergarten students in to receive onsite instruction sooner than the formal transition to elementary hybrid. This consideration is based on OSPI and [DOH](#) guidance for serving “highest needs students,” including “younger learners” and relates to Section C4 of the [VEA/VPS MOU](#). Once new CCPH guidance is announced Monday, VEA will begin negotiating with VPS around the health, safety, and workload impacts.

Have questions? Please reach out to your building administrator via email or phone.

Have concerns? Please share your concerns via email with the following key negotiators/decisionmakers:

VPS Admin - Debra.Hale@vansd.org,
Mike.Stromme@vansd.org, Kathy.Everidge@vansd.org;
Steven.Webb@vansd.org

VPS School Board Directors - Wendy.smith@vansd.org,
Kathy.decker@vansd.org, tracie.barrows@vansd.org,
kyle.sproul@vansd.org, camara.banfield@vansd.org

VEA Leadership - kvannostran@washingtonea.org,
rwilson@washingtonea.org

VAESP Support and Solidarity

We know VEA members share the frustration and disappointment our VAESP colleagues feel in response to the decision VPS Admin and School Board Directors made to reduce hours or furlough hundreds of our classified colleagues! And, we are grateful those VEA members who have already spoken up on behalf of our VAESP #UnionFamily at a community budget forum and at past school board meetings. Click here to view the [message VAESP has presented to VPS](#) and the greater community.

To make our support and solidarity all the more visible and to reinforce the message to VPS to bring back our classified staff here is a [car window sign](#) as well as a [name badge template](#) you can print and post/wear while you are on campus or simply around the community. VEA is also willing to help print and distribute signs and badges for you and your building colleagues – please email cbrown@washingtonea.org to place print/distribution requests if you’re interested!



Free Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Online Seminars

The VEA Equity Team invites you to join WGU for a free, four-part online seminar called “Understanding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I)”, presented by WGU Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Jason Thompson. We realize the timing for these sessions may be difficult based on teaching/learning schedules, but even if you can’t participate in real time, we encourage you to sign up anyway so WGU can send you a link to recordings and resources after the event(s)!



Wednesday, 10/28 @ 9 AM: Register here for Session 2 – Defining the Language of Diversity

Wednesday, 11/25 @ 9 AM: Register here for Session 3 – Let’s Talk About Race

Wednesday, 12/30 @ 9 AM: Register here for Session 4 – Answering Questions About Race (Panel Discussion)

1.5 Weeks until the Election: What can we do?

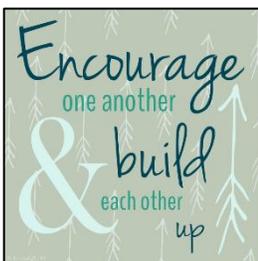
Tuesday, 10/27: Join other SW WA educators for a Labor “Fun Bank” to encourage fellow union members in SW WA to vote for pro-labor candidates like Carolyn Long (3rd CD), Daniel Smith (17th LD) and Tanisha Harris (17th LD)! [Register here](#) to volunteer from 5-7 PM! Options for other dates are listed as well!

Tuesday, 11/3: Don’t forget to mail or turn in your ballot before then! You can find a list of [WEA-PAC endorsed candidates here](#).

If you’ve already sent in your ballot and want to make sure it’s been received, visit vote.wa.gov.



We see you. We know many of you have found some semblance of a groove in regards to remote and/or onsite instruction and we know many of you are still working well beyond the contract day to meet the needs of your students and families under either combination of circumstances. We also know that any given day may present a new challenge – professional or personal – for you to tackle and none of this feels easy!



As physically disconnected from one another as we may still be, VEA is proud to support you and holds high value for each of the programs you facilitate! As we continue to navigate this strange school year, please remain confident in the capacity and commitment of your colleagues; reach out, encourage one another, build each other up! Just because you can’t see the great work other colleagues are doing doesn’t mean they aren’t working hard on behalf of the students and families we all serve. Thank you for the care you provide to the Vancouver community and for caring for one another along the way!