

PTO

HSPVA

Kinder High School for the
Performing and Visual Arts

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President's Message

Welcoming winter at HSPVA, and specifically in the PTO, means we get to toot our own horns for a minute. And if this isn't the year for gratitude and acknowledgment, I'm not sure I know what is! Imagine the royal courts of medieval times, blowing trumpets to announce the guests of honor as you read this winter edition of the PTO newsletter. There are accolades to be given and I hope you'll relish in the fact that you, as a donor and supporter of the HSPVA PTO, have contributed to making a difference in the lives of our teachers, staff, and ultimately our students. Put on your most regal red velvet robe, your finest jewels, and your dazzling crown and enter the royal PTO courts!

This year's Fall Fundraiser raised over \$113,000. To put this into perspective, last year we doubled the previous years' donations and raised \$75,000. In a year where we were not sure we could communicate the needs of the school effectively, due to the lack of in-person events and school tours where we typically get to show you the remarkable things happening at 790 Austin St., our members pulled through and generously gave, as usual. The PTO worked tirelessly with Dr. Allen to determine how we could support the school and the academic classes best during this virtual/hybrid experience. The teachers diligently researched and found ways they could be more effective in this new-to-them model and the PTO purchased the necessary programs and materials to make that happen. Across the board, the academic departments had to create new systems, new set-ups, and new protocols to ensure all students received what they deserved, and none were left behind.

With your contributions, the PTO was also able to make some large school purchases! To make the outside areas more conducive to learning and eating comfortably, we bought a plethora of industrial-quality picnic tables. So, even when the students won't *have* to be outside so much, we now have fabulous furniture to draw them into the fresh air regularly. Additionally, we were able to contribute to providing a training program through a company, with which the school has partnered, to increase awareness around race and culture issues within our school. This program will be just the support we all need to continue our commitment to equity, inclusion, and diversity on our campus.

I can't wait for you to thumb through this edition of our newsletter. But remember, as you read about all the wonderful things happening in each department, it's in no small part because of you. So, put on your finest regalia, sip your tea, and enjoy!



Georgia Lister

President

Kinder HSPVA PTO



Left – David Escamilla Rivas; Right – Riad Hajiyevev. 9th Grade Rodeo Art

Visual Art

The Visual Arts Department continues to display artwork in our online gallery. Please check out shows at Artsteps.com. Search HSPVA and you will find the following shows: *Best of Junior Class*, *Best of Senior Work*, *The Sophomore Show*, *Hispanic Heritage Show*, *Day of the Dead Celebration* and *LBGTQIA Celebration*. To close out 2020, we had a virtual opening for *The Freshmen Show* which was attended by parents, teachers and the HISD Fine Arts Coordinator. Senior shows start February 18th and will occur every Thursday.

Young Arts has recognized the following students as Merit Winners: Blair Reeves for photography and Robin Schubert for Visual Arts. Tania Vega (Class of 2021) and Dana Combate (Class of 2022) were both recognized last school year as Scholastic winners. Congratulations!

Guests and teachers

The art department welcomes alum and previous guest artist, Robert Hodge as a consultant! We have been fortunate to work with various artists and alums in a virtual capacity this past fall. This includes Amy Cousins (alum), Li Harris (vocal alum), Prince Thomas, Kaneem Smith, Jacq Garcia, Turri Fleuker (vocal alum), among others.

Ms. Fowler has organized a Social Practice Series for the department. This is a series of lectures that features artists and works directly produced in and around the challenging times that we live in. This includes Chicago based activist artist, Terri Gardner, Texas based performance artist Mike Hull and Texas artist Kay Musick.

Currently, Mr. Glover has a large-scale sculpture in the esplanade on Richmond Avenue near the Galleria. Go drive by it!

Grade level news

At the senior level, we have attended virtual fieldtrips to the Blaffer Art Museum and the Lawndale Art Center. We have hosted many college representatives to our classroom. They have been reporting from across the nation from their own cities and homes.

Mr. Glover is proud of the hard work demonstrated at the junior level. Despite missing the tail end of the Spring Semester and the Summer Assignment, the juniors are gaining ground on developing a concept and a cohesive portfolio. They should be well prepared for next year's Third Coast Event. Juniors can look forward to electives in the Spring.

Ms. Fowler and consultants have worked with the amazing sophomores in painting, photography, mixed media and sophomore concerns. They can look forward to ceramics, video/4D work, art criticism and sophomore concerns in the Spring.

Ms. Phillips is having the ninth grade students enter Rodeo Art for the first time ever. They have had a productive first semester! The ninth grade students continue to apply themselves and are producing meaningful work. They will delve into sculpture and digital media in the Spring.

On A Personal Note

When the pandemic set upon us abruptly in the Spring 2020, we did all that we could in a quick scramble to create an “educational situation” to close out the school year. In mid-summer, I thought I had contracted the virus. In retrospect, it was nerves and anxiety over transforming the department into a virtual experience. Once we started the year, the students relieved my fears by putting their best foot forward. This fall, I was able to create a focused and in-depth drawing curriculum for the seniors. I was pleased with the results. Most students flourished with these assignments. In addition, we have been able to access and use all of the internet resources from reading to podcasts to videos. We have looked at many contemporary artists and issues that we would not normally have time to investigate. I see value in looking at systems and opportunities in new ways. This pandemic has presented many challenges.

We have yet to have a full year in our new building and yet we were now imagining a whole other way to teach and learn.

I have experienced slow losses, quick losses and unexpected losses in the past year. What has grounded me are the people, the community and the conversations. The desire to produce and find meaning in artwork is uplifting. I cannot wait for the classroom to be healthy, safe, full and bustling again. Until then, we have been patient through all of the challenges.

Mr. Waddell

School Store

After many years without them, the School Store was VERY excited to launch Limited Edition Class Shirts in December! The PTO collaborated with the Art Department on this incredible venture. One artist from each class was chosen to design a shirt and these designs will become part of the HSPVA legacy and history.



Left to right: 2021 Naomi Ho; 2022 Olivia Scott; 2023 Annie Watts; 2024 Cam Ferrell

The Annual PTO Supply Sale went all online this year. Over 300 students ordered books, supplies and school merchandise during the sale. We are hoping to continue with online sales of merchandise in the spring as scheduling and Covid regulations permit.

Chiarra Elayda-Stratton
VP School Store

A woman with dark, curly hair adorned with a crown of white daisies is the central figure. She is wearing a white, long-sleeved top with a ruffled neckline. She is seated on a bed, surrounded by a vibrant arrangement of flowers, including purple and pink blooms, and yellow fabric. The background is a deep blue, draped fabric.

My greatest passion is to serve my community through medicine and music. Through this, I became a member of the multi-genre choral group, The Phillip Hall Singers. Our performances range from singing at the Texas Children's Hospital, as we support families, who mourn the death of their loved ones, to jazzing our way across the stage of Midtown Arts Theater Center to the classic Fats Waller's *Ain't Misbehavin'*. My heart is so full when I share space with this group and these special audiences. It exemplifies the healing powers of music, and its ability to bring people together.

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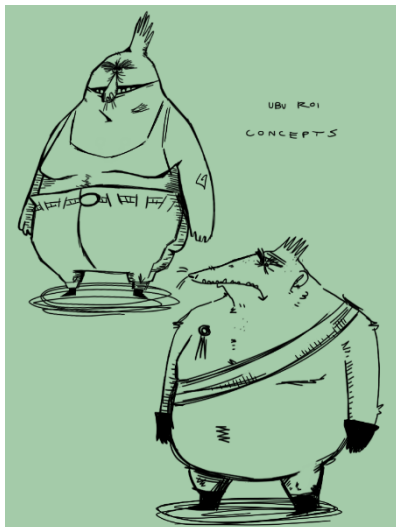
The Kinder HSPVA Newsletter is published twice times a year by the PTO and emailed to parents and faculty and/or posted at the website. Articles for the Spring 2021 issue can be submitted via email to Principal Allen at RAlLEN4@houstonisd.org, or the PTO President Georgia Lister at PresidentK@KinderHSPVAPTO.org or newsletter co-editors, Irmi Willcockson and Barbara Haverkamp at Newsletter@KIndeHSPVAPTO.org . Kinder HSPVA is located at 790 Austin St., Houston, TX 77002.

Theatre

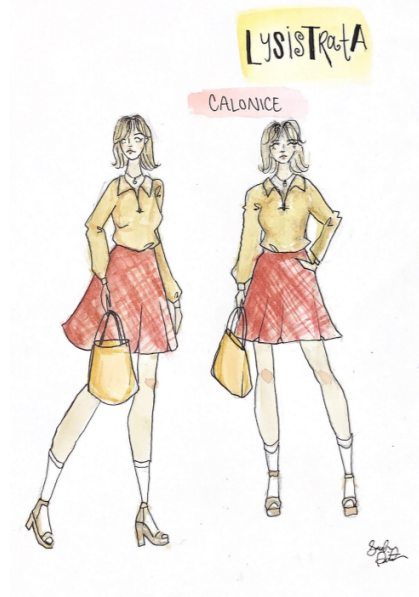
Some design concepts and applications from the Fall Red Studio Series. Paul Davis Kinder HSPVA Theatre Chair/Design



Ollie Grishaber – Level 3



Colin Mee – Level 3



Sarah Painter – Level 3

Principal's Message

Kinder HSPVA Parents and Families,

Happy New Year! What a year these first few weeks have *already* been. My hope is that the coming weeks will bring more normalcy at Kinder HSPVA and that we might begin to see more performances and events, but that all depends on COVID-19 rates. I continue to think positively and pray that the vaccine will soon be available to everyone resulting in herd immunity. This is Texas after all, and infection rates should drop.

With our *Weekly Wrap* e-mail updates, I struggle to find words to share with you as we enter the spring semester on February 1st. My goal is to continue to provide clear communication with what is happening on campus, and remotely, week to week at Kinder HSPVA.

Speaking of the *Weekly Wrap*, which is sent to all parents and students each Friday afternoon, our aim is to get its information to 100% of our parents. I know some of you do not get it for one reason or another. If you are not getting e-mails from HSPVA, please check your "junk" mail and, if you still do not find them, e-mail Mrs. Patel at dpatel2@houstonisd.org. We will be able to do some investigating and hopefully get e-mailed information to your inbox *soon*.

On January 29th, we are saying goodbye to Mrs. Janis Norman, our attendance clerk and gatekeeper for entering the PVA campus. Mrs. Norman is retiring from HISD after 27 years with the district. She has been with us at HSPVA since 2010 and we wish Mrs. Norman the best as she begins her new adventure. Mrs. Claudia Torres will join our PVA Team on February 1st as her replacement.

Our kids and faculty did an amazing job on our Virtual All School Musical, *FAME!*, this month. Lots of hard work and hours went into making that production. We are currently working to bring the Virtual Black History Production to fruition. With timelines and editing, it will be presented after February. We will communicate more as details are finalized!

I am working with Mr. Klein and all our Art Chairs to finalize tentative performances, exhibits, and events, including senior recitals, for the spring. While we are still at the mercy of COVID, we plan to give students as many opportunities as possible. Ideally, the plan will be shared in the first couple of weeks of the new semester. Thank you for your patience.

On February 2, 2009, I arrived as the fifth principal at The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts at 4001 Stanford Street. The past 12 years have flown by; I continue to be thankful to be the leader of this magical school. Thank you for sharing your students with us. They are *amazing*! I look forward to a good spring semester, both virtually and in person here at 790 Austin Street!

Thank you for your support, encouragement, and flexibility this year!

Sincerely,

R. Scott Allen, Ed.D.

Diversity Series

Despite the challenges of virtual production, the 3rd annual Kinder HSPVA Diversity Series continued this year with two events this past Fall! **Carnaval** kicked off the series with the school's annual celebration of Hispanic and Latinx Heritage and Culture in early October. Next up was **Alphabet Soup**, which celebrated and educated the community about the LGBTQ+ Community. Both of these events were led by two incredible teams of student leaders who worked closely with school administration as well as two partnering organizations in Spanish NHS (Carnaval) and Pride at PVA (Alphabet Soup). Coming up for the Spring of 2021 are three more diversity series events that are sure to impress. First up is **Koffee House** celebrating Black History and Heritage and will premiere digitally on February 19th. Koffee House will feature a full band on stage (socially distanced) and will be the first diversity series event to be recorded entirely on campus this school year. Later in the Spring, **Venus**, celebrating Women's History Month, will premiere on March 31st, and **790 Night Market**, celebrating Asian American Heritage Month, will premiere on May 19th. All of these events are student inspired and led from the performances themselves to behind the scenes. Thank you to all who continue to support and recognize the importance of the Kinder HSPVA Diversity Series.

Sean Tellez

Assistant Principal



Dance



When the Sun Goes Out - Choreographer – Roderick George

The Kinder HSPVA Concert Dancers presented our first Fall Dance Concert – Virtually on Friday December 11th, 2020. The dance concert featured contemporary ballet, jazz and modern dance choreography by the Kinder HSPVA dance faculty choreographers, Ben Delony, JoDee Engle, Carla Flores-Keniston, Roderick George and Courtney D. Jones and guest-choreographed works by HSPVA Dance Graduates Allysen Hooks, Justin Prescott and Gage Self. Five of the pieces were created virtually through the computer, and three pieces performed in masks on the Denney stage. The concert is still available to enjoy at https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=hspva+fall+dance+concert+2020

We have hosted Peabody University, Boston Conservatory, Ohio State University and The HARTT School Dance Programs teaching master classes virtually to our Senior Dance Majors this fall and were lucky to have Jamie Williams from San Jacinto College, Jen Mabus from the University of St. Thomas and Teresa Chapman from the University of Houston dance programs on campus teaching in our studios in December. We look forward to George Mason University, the University of Oklahoma, Sam Houston State University and Texas Christian University recruiting the 2021 Dance Seniors in January and February 2021.

Looking ahead, we have started rehearsals for our Spring Dance Concert, tentatively titled the *Park Project*, that will be performed at Memorial Park's Eastern Glades on March 27th. This is our first site-specific work and our HSPVA Concert Dancers are eager for the challenge. Our hope is the audience will be able to see live dance in the Park safely in a beautiful space in the city of Houston and our talented young artists can share their talent with family, friends and the community.

Math

Here are some thoughts from the Math Department:

I am so grateful for the Kuta Works online assessment and practice tool and the accompanying software. It makes it so easy to create assignments and make multiple versions of assignments. Creating reviews that match their tests and quizzes is so easy now! Additionally, thank you for the Christmas gift. I used it to purchase an adorable little space heater so I can be comfortable while teaching. It's made a huge difference. 🌲❤️

Rachel Williams

I'm just really happy to be part of such a wonderful community from staff members to students. I've really enjoyed seeing students' talents blossom during their performances and can't wait to see more! We did a Christmas tessellation project right before Winter Break—picture attached. 😊

Khoa Pham



This was a project that Mr. Trout assigned.

This project was by: **JAMES BELANGER, DANIELA PRADA, JAIDEN LANG, AND JOYCE ZHANG**

As he gets to the last house, Santa wants to calculate the distance it will take for him to land safely on the roof. Santa knows that the angle between him, the top of the roof, and the bottom of the roof is 50° . He also knows that the angle between the top of the roof, him, and the bottom of the roof is 67° . The side of the roof facing Santa is 16 ft long. Since Santa knows all of this information, what is the distance between him and the top of the roof?

1.) $\sin A = \sin B$

.....a..... c

2.) $\sin 67^\circ = \sin 63^\circ$

16ft c

3.) $c = \frac{16 \sin 63^\circ}{\sin 67^\circ}$

4.) $c \approx 15.5$ ft

$A + B + C = 180^\circ$
 $67^\circ + 50^\circ + C = 180^\circ$
 $C = 180^\circ - 117^\circ$
 $C = 63^\circ$

A (SANTA)

The distance between Santa and the top of the roof is about 15.5ft!

Even Santa uses math to drop off presents. Here JAMES BELANGER, DANIELA PRADA, JAIDEN LANG, AND JOYCE ZHANG helped Santa with his deliveries. Using the Law of Sines, Santa was able to drop off every present to every child. Thank you Math! **Mrs. Garza**

I know that this year has had its challenges, but I am grateful to PTO for the purchase of Kuta Works. It has really helped with my Algebra 2 and Pre-Calculus classes in seeing where students need help. Also, thank you for all of the support given to our teachers and staff throughout the year. I am happy to be part of the Kinder HSPVA family, and I hope all of you stay safe and healthy.

Dan McCommis

This year has certainly been a challenge, but with the PTO support with Kuta Works software in addition to the holiday gifts and treats have helped us make the best of it! I am excited that my freshman Algebra 1 students we have started to “bond” with inside jokes popping up in meetings and in person. Laughter is back! I know that this year is far from normal, but I have hope that upon them all being able to be back on campus that they will not miss a beat. Excited for what the spring has in store!

Eastman Landry

Physics & Algebra Teacher

PVA Hero Honoree

**Five Minutes with Nurse Jordan – A Hero Among Us**

Kimberlyn C. Jordan, BSN, RN, our Nurse Jordan, a native Houstonian, began her career in healthcare in Medical Technology working in blood bank and research prior to joining the Navy Reserves. During her 23 years, she was a Hospital Corpsman serving in Desert Storm on the USNS Comfort, one of the Navy's two hospital ships and in Iraq (primarily Fallujah). She was also a member of the medical team for NMCB 28, Navy Seabees whose unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force. Additionally, Nurse Jordan served on one humanitarian mission, Operation Unified Response, providing relief efforts after the earthquake in Haiti. Her final mission in the Navy was as a Senior Medical Department Representative for a priority one battalion, NCHB 13. After retiring from the Navy, she switched gears and became a nurse in 2016. While new to nursing, she is not new to healthcare or working under stress. Upon graduating nursing school, she worked in the IMCU at East Houston Regional Medical Center. This facility was destroyed by Hurricane Harvey. Shortly after Harvey, she transitioned into school nursing with HISD. Her first school post was as the nurse for Madison High School prior to coming to Kinder HSPVA last year. Her daughter Kyla Jordan graduated with HSPVA's Class of 2011 in musical theatre.

"Nurse Jordan is battle ready. Her time in the US Navy means she knows command presence...she takes charge in a time when we desperately need someone we trust for information and a firm adherence to rules and regulations. Her concern for explaining the WHY behind the myriad changes helps the teachers keep their panic at bay!

Jennifer Lankau Chase

AP European History and World Geography"

What do you love about Nursing?

"Nursing is an incredible field. I love it! I wish I had gone into nursing right out of high school. There are so many fascinating things that you can do all under the umbrella of nursing. You can work anywhere in the world, even at home. I choose to work as a school nurse at a high school because I enjoy working with teens and supporting them through the challenges they face transitioning into young adulthood."

What are your art interests?

"I really am an introverted nerd with flavor. It's the flavor that makes people miss the fact that I am a nerd (and proud of it). I like all kinds of music. I enjoy a good drama or something that's action packed. I love documentaries and movies on wars and conflicts and of course anything about the US Navy. At this point in my journey, most of the books I read are philosophical or sacred texts or books of wisdom."

What are your Hobbies?

"My hobby is learning. I love to learn. When I was a child I loved to go to school, I hated to miss a day. I love to read and look at videos or movies that I will learn something from. I love the outdoors and being in or near any body of water."

What are some ways you support the students and faculty that we wouldn't expect?

"COVID-19 has changed just about everything in our world. I think it has brought out the importance of school nurses and the impact we make. School nurses have duties and responsibilities beyond COVID-19 and taking care of all things COVID-19 has become a full day's work and more all by itself. You probably would not expect or believe the amount of time I spend working on COVID-19. My days are generally very long and still I don't get everything done, but I do all that I do with a sense of service in my heart and the goal to keep Kinder HSPVA students, families and staff safe and healthy."

How can we as parents better support you and the clinic?

"I have some things that I would like to do but I simply do not have time to do them. What kinds of things? Putting together a virtual health fair for our students, families and staff. Changing the health posters around the school. Creating a series of videos, News from the Frontlines, interviews with people sharing helpful information about anything COVID-19 related and better ways to do things in a COVID-19 world. Presenting a different medical topic each month to our students, families, and staff. Expansion on a theme of the month each month. For example, Diabetes Awareness Month, providing information on the theme of the month, but also creating ways for our students, families and staff to be engaged at the same time. I have a lot of ideas like this, but I just do not have the time to bring them to life. I would love to see some or all of these ideas become a part of the enriching experience that is HSPVA for the benefit of our students, families and staff."

"Nurse Jordan is a true hero. She served our country in the Navy and now she spends her days caring for our students and staff. Our nurse did a great job pre-pandemic, but now she has a fulltime job on top of her full time job, dealing with all things COVID-19. Long hours, lots of communication, and an abundance of care and concern for everyone at HSPVA make her an amazing part of our family. I feel fortunate to have Nurse Jordan on our team during these times."

R. Scott Allen, Ed.D
Principal"

Creative Writing

The Creative Writing Department is looking forward to the spring semester. We've added new electives that focus on making writing playful, creating narratives around food, or developing a podcast. Since we are not able to check out cameras to our students, we've morphed our sophomore photography class into one where they learn the basics of Adobe Photoshop and Premier, two programs that will help with their visual storytelling in the years to come.

Our "Off the Page" online presentation on Dec. 10, was well received. Contributors were sophomores, junior, and seniors.

And our seniors are enjoying a little extra time to develop their senior shows, as we've moved the dates from the usual February spots to the beginning of April.

We're proud of the work our students are creating and hope that you will join us as we celebrate this work in our Spring Off the Page reading in April.

Staff Appreciation



Tracy Painter, Staff Appreciation Chai, continues to deliver amazing goodies each month to our incredibly deserving staff! Here are just some of the things faculty members are saying about these lovely surprises! Thank You Tracy!

Thank you PTO for always being so special with us!! It's so nice to get these presents that make us smile and feel appreciated.

Oscar Perez

THANK YOU **Kinder HSPVA PTO** for being the GOAT PTO!

Dorothy Caldwell Patel

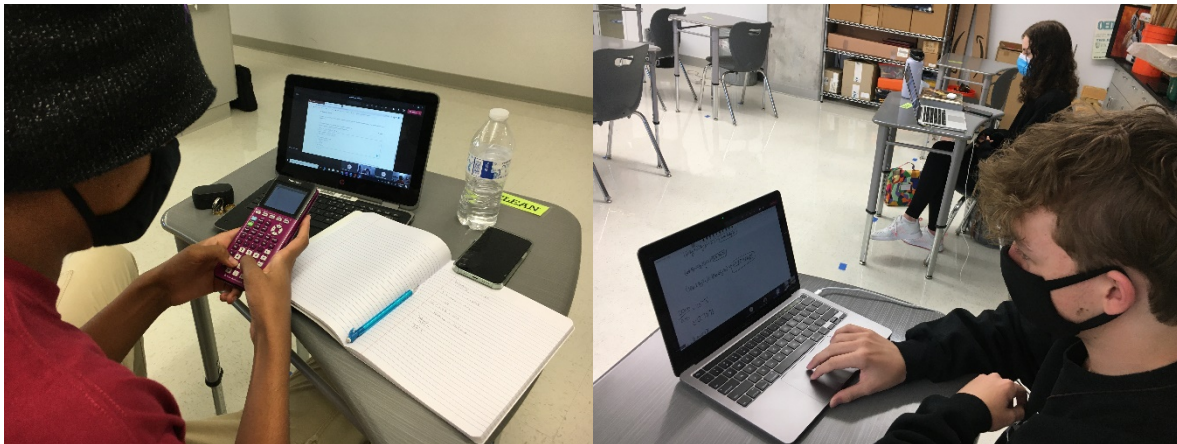
GOAT – Greatest Of All Time

Science

Thank you to the PTO for purchasing the Pivot Interactives subscription for our students! It may not look like much, but it has been absolutely essential in physics and biology courses this year to allow group work on high quality virtual labs that use real life scenarios rather than simulations. We look forward to when we are able to return to campus and we have my lab tables back instead of desks, but in the meantime, our exploration of science is more than just videos and worksheets and for that we are very grateful!

Thank you,

Amanda Alexander (formerly Camp)
Academic Biology/Research & Design Instructor
Science Department Chair



PTO Fall Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Fall Fundraiser! Whether you contributed \$5 or \$5,000 you helped us make history, bringing us closer than ever to our goal! As promised, all donations over \$175 are recognized in the winter newsletter. Thank you, again, to all members for your generous contributions!

CRUSADER

Family of Auden & Emerson Chen
The Fairbanks Family

AMBASSADOR PLUS

Elena & Richard Heaton
Tom & Eyvette Hetherington
The Kidd Family
Family of Andres Valenzuela
Workeneh Family

AMBASSADOR

Family of Carmina Andrade
Kathryn & Mark Artlip
Family of Clarq Bishop
Sigrid & Tony Brown
Café Poètes
Family of Maya Chorn
Jeremy & Johanna Craft
Patrick & Carmen Dessauer
Gazzilli Family
The Guite Family
Family of Meghana John, Reji & Haley John
Family of Ari Katz, Valerie & Benny Katz
Donna Lax-Edison & Andrew Edison
Phil Neisel
Katharine Newman & Jonathan Hook
Family of Samantha Pape
Sarah Rothenberg & Robert Azencott
Rounce Family
Sementelli Family
Samuel Shehadeh & Eman Elshareif
Josh & Susie Vanlandingham
Leslie & Eric Wade
Family of Zoe Yang

ADVOCATE

Belanger Family
Sara & Jerrad Bloome
The A.W. & L.E. Butler Family
Family of Maya Cela
Family of Carley Christian

Nathan & Sharon Citino
Family of Mia Desalos
The Doyle-Madrid Family
The Fischer-Kalba Family
The Fu Family
Family of Sam Goldfarb
Family of Adrian Gomez
Ryan & Casey Hackney
Monica & Wallis Hampton
Thomas & Mindy Harper
Janis & Paul Jarosz
Grandmother of Eli Johns-Krull
Laura Friedl Jones
The Kimbro Family
Kirk Family
The Knight Family
The Lembcke Family
Family of Morgan & Madison Manning
Grandparents of Morgan & Madison Manning
Jenny & Andre Marshall
Lisa & Stephen Newman
Pennington Family
Meme & Grampy Pero (Boston)
Family of Lucie Phillips, Brad & Carrie
Family of Sophia Reinhardt
Rhonda & Carl Routh
Jason & Shannon Scarcella
The Schunneman Family
Juliette Sun's family
The Vandiver Family
Stephanie & Jeff Waller
Suzanna & Andrew Wilson
Lisa & Dennis Woods
Family of Izabella Zhang

COLLABORATOR

Anonymous
Anonymous
\$250 Collaborator
Lauren & Jim Adams
Kristin & Bert Adkins
The Alapat Family

Parents of Ire Asojo, Toyin Asojo & Scottie Dawson
Melissa Bailar & Philip Montgomery
Family of Lilly Baker
Barnett Family
Barron Family
Shelley & Mike Bennett
Bart & Christine Block
Adam & Donna Bocchetto
Family of Rose Britton
Family of Hayden Brown
April & Jake Bunch
Family of Fiorella Caro
Eileen Chen - 9th Piano
Beatriz Copello
Crowder Family
Isaiah Davis Family
Family of Lale Dean
Mark & Holly DiClaudio
Duong Family
Dustin & Alison Edwards
The El-Yafi Family
Family of Cy Esquivel
Beth & David Euscher
Kimberly & David Falconer
Freeman Family
The Gaither Family
Dr. Erika Gentry & Mr. Victor Gentry
Family of Olivia Gonzales
Nicole Graul
Family of Cyril Habal
Kanwal Haq Family
Hebert Family
Family of India Helzer
Mike & Jana Henry
Amy & Carlos Hernandez
Carlos Herrera
Herrera Family
Roxana Herrera
Hersh/Wenderfer Family
The Higdon Family
Mr. & Mrs. Hildum
Ovidio Hinojosa & Christina Rappazzo
The Hirsch-Martin Family

Todd & Autumn Hoffman
 Family of Mani Hourfar
 HSPVA Family
 Family of Melora Jackson
 Family of Rosie Joachim
 Family of Lucy Johnson
 Joyce-Fontenot Family
 Brad & Melissa Kalmans
 Family of Logan Knupp
 The Kolb Family
 Constance Lagrone & Russell
 Hartmann
 Lisa Lapinski & Will Fowler
 Family of Brandon Leong
 Karen & Benjamin Lin
 Loftin Family
 Lytle Family
 Derek & Monica Machart
 Family of Jaden Madgett
 Matt & Kahla Malinsky
 The Matthieu Family
 Mayberry Family
 Family of Rosemary McElrath
 Jonathan & LeeShawn McGuire
 Melanson Family
 Chad, Bobbi Jo & Hayden Miller
 Modad Family
 Family of Kyle Anthony Mosley
 Mr. & Mrs. Motomura
 The Mott Family
 Family of Madelyn Munz
 Family of Maika Nebgen
 Jose & Janet Nunez
 The Painter Family
 Family of Zoe Parrish
 Family of Payton Passante
 Family of Bishesh Paudel
 Family of Anna Pearce
 Family of Emily Pearson
 Pedroza-Josic Family
 Pietsch Family
 Pina Family
 Family of Zella Price
 Rommel & Jennifer Quartermann
 The Raguso Family
 Reese Family
 Laura Bricio & Francisco Reyes
 Hien & Margarito Reynoso
 Adrian Rodriguez
 Liz & Glenn Rogers
 Family of Myranda Sanchez

Family of Sappho
 Family of Robin Schaeffer
 Family of Jack Schufreider
 Family of Olivia Scott
 Shah Family
 Doug Shoemaker & Michelle Dugan
 The Shupe Troop
 Sitcheran-Amrein Family
 Family of Lali Snell
 Family of Jayden Stern
 Family of Lauren Sternenberg
 The Stratton Family
 The Strug Family
 Parents of Saylor Swick
 Tabrizi Family
 Family of Takeru
 Matt & Paula Tayrien
 Theatre Student Family
 Hanh Trinh
 Tynon Family
 R. Andrew Udden
 David & Sandra Wager
 Stuart & Suzanne Webb
 Cale & Ashley Wenmohs
 Lora Wildenthal
 Rob & Meredith Wise
 The Womack - Siptak Family
 Shuan Yang

ENTHUSIAST

Monica & Michael Adeeko
 The Afghani Family
 Family of Ishan Baker
 Pat Bonner - HSPVA Music (ret.)
 The Curtis Family
 Agnes & Victor Ezike
 Family of Olivia Follis
 Family of Sydney Gibson
 Mylinh & John Hartsgrrove
 Family of Ellis & Alums Zach & Katie
 Haverkamp
 Keeleey Henderson, Parent of
 Kaleigh Medlow
 Family of Garner Lazar-Pope
 Novoa-Gueneau Family
 Family of Caroline Paden
 Susie, Larry, & Samuel Tachleff
 Amy & Aaron Tate
 Joe & Louise Trevino
 Mark & Toni Valle
 Withrow Family

Volunteer Update

Even though we can't be on campus serving as much as we would all like, we appreciate our amazing team of HSPVA PTO Volunteers who are ready & willing to help however needed! Our team of volunteers helped execute our first drive through registration. Thanks to your hard work, and positive attitudes, we made the most of a bad situation and were able to welcome our students back to campus in a safe & effective way! Stay tuned for volunteer information & updates via your email and the PTO FaceBook Group. If you haven't already, be sure to complete your volunteer interest form on the PTO membership page at www.KinderHSPVAPTO.org so your info will be up to date when we are allowed to volunteer regularly on campus.

We sure miss seeing your smiling faces at the school store and other PTO events, but we are staying connected by hosting Zoom Socials. Despite virtual fatigue, they have been a FUN way to interact and get to know our fellow volunteers. Our January social was a "Cheers to the New Year" theme, where our very own "Master Mixologist," Rysee Goldfarb, (mom to 10th grade classical pianist, Sam) led us in mixing a yummy PVA Smash... the perfect way to toast surviving the first semester!

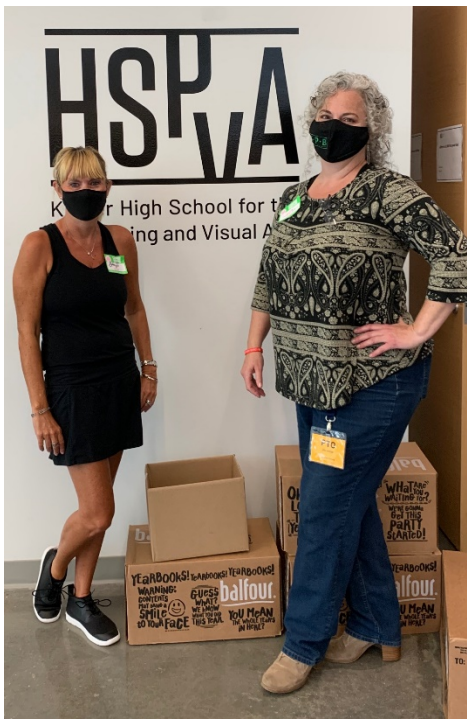
Mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 16th for our next social. We hope to see you there! More details will be posted soon. ALL HSPVA parents are welcome to attend the socials. It's a great way to meet other parents and take a fun break from the stress of navigating this pandemic!

Thanks again to everyone who is willing to serve and for your patience as we continue to adapt to this crazy year!

Bobbi Jo Miller & Christine Peters

HSPVA Volunteer Coordinators

kinderhspvpto.volunteers@gmail.com



Technology

As we near the one-year mark of being virtual, the following information may answer new questions/issues you have.

Downloads/Installations

Nothing can be downloaded or installed on PowerUp laptops except through the HISD Software Center or HISD Microsoft Store. Please contact Mrs. Patel at dpatel2@houstonisd.org if you run into issues downloading from these sites.

Adobe

Students in an art area, that is using Adobe Creative Cloud, MUST download it from Software Center on their PowerUp laptop. It cannot be downloaded from the Adobe site. If the laptop has updated recently, this can be done from home. If there is no Creative Cloud icon in Software Center, you will have to exchange the laptop for one that is updated. This can be done with minimal contact. Just contact Mrs. Patel at dpatel2@houstonisd.org. She will have one prepared with all the updates and downloads so that you can just stop by the first-floor office and exchange your old laptop for a fresh one.

The Adobe licenses are assigned to a user, not a device. So, students who have personal devices can download Creative Cloud using their HISD email credentials.

Personal Devices

Speaking of personal devices – neither HISD nor HSPVA supports student personal devices. Please help your teacher by using an HISD – issued PowerUp laptop for classes and assignments. It may not seem like a big deal, but trying to address the different interfaces and variants on multiple types of devices adds much to their already full plates.

Issues with PowerUp Laptops

If something is not functioning correctly on your PowerUp laptop, it can be exchanged for a fresh one with minimal contact!

Just contact Mrs. Patel at dpatel2@houstonisd.org. She will have one prepared with all the updates and downloads so that you can just stop by the first-floor office and exchange your old laptop for a fresh one.

HISD Filters and Blocks

HISD filters for inappropriate content. Unfortunately, there are no controls for excessive amounts of time on games or sites that are otherwise deemed acceptable. Check with your internet provider to find out if they offer parental control services with your plan.

Bypassing HISD Filters

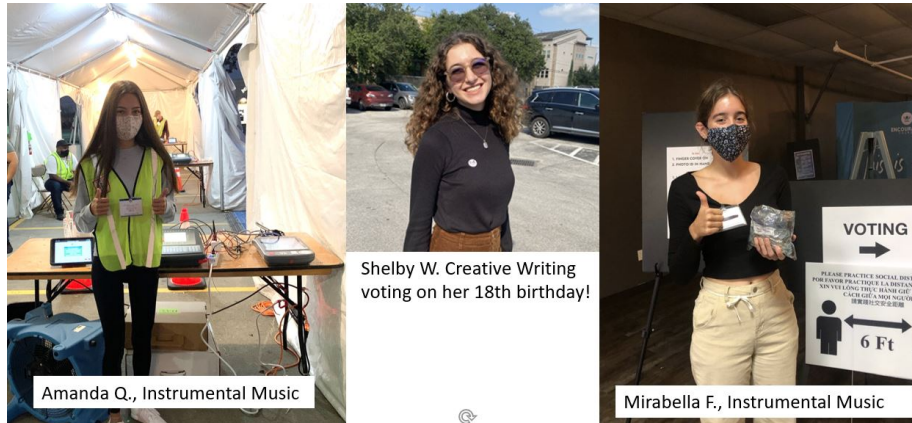
This is just a reminder that any attempt to bypass HISD filters is a violation of HISD's Acceptable Use Policy. Use of VPNs open our network to potentially dangerous activity which puts everybody's internet security at risk.

Internet Access Issues

If your situation has changed, and you no longer have adequate internet access at home, please contact Mrs. Patel at dpatel2@houstonisd.org about the possibility of getting a hotspot.

Ms. Patel

Social Studies



Amanda Q., Instrumental Music

Shelby W. Creative Writing
voting on her 18th birthday!

Mirabella F., Instrumental Music

As is the case every year, the State of Texas and the County Clerks recruit high school students to work the polls on election day and reach out to social studies teachers to promote this program. Students 16 and older are encouraged to volunteer and they even get an excused school absence to do so. This year, we were proud to have a few seniors help in Harris County!

The last few months have provided no end to relevant social studies material in our classes, and we try to make time for current events as well as our assigned curriculum. When asked for help answering “what social studies has been doing” for this newsletter, one teacher jokingly replied with “just fighting to preserve the Union”. While this was tongue in cheek, it has been impossible to ignore the earnest questions asked by our students (and colleagues). A great deal of time these last few months has been spent by all teachers explaining, mythbusting, and clarifying our election process and transfer of power. Something for parents to consider... the current seniors at Kinder HSPVA were in 8th grade for the 2016 election and the current 9th graders were in 5th grade. That’s a lifetime ago for a teenager! In Texas, US Government is taught (at most schools) in the 12th grade. *This means, for the majority of our students, they have not had any formal education regarding the election process.* Many students do not even understand (at this age) the difference between the US House of Representatives and the US Senate and who these elected representatives are, how long they serve, and how they are elected. Some of the most frequently asked questions we’ve had in Social Studies land relate to the following:

- How states create and enact their own voting laws and procedures and that different states have different processes.
- The Electoral College
- Bicameral System of Legislature
- Election Certification steps in the legislature (what were they actually doing in there when the Capitol was breached?).
- What impeachment is and is not and how it occurs.

It’s a tricky time to be a public social studies teacher, but we are really trying our best to provide answers to our students that are factual, informed, and empathetic. (PTO’s generous subscriptions to a wide variety of various news publications are very helpful!) We hope your students continue to bring us questions. In addition, several clubs exist at PVA if your student is interested in politics, civics, and ethical discourse including Junior State of America, Young Democrats and Young Republicans, and Ethics Bowl.

Jennifer Lankau Chase

AP European History and World Geography

Languages Other Than English

Thank you so much for your generous support with the subscriptions to all the sites I had requested. They are a huge help for students. I'm able to introduce new topics using Showme.com and, then, can post the lesson if students struggle with grasping the new content. They've told me how much it has helped them. I can also now offer a more fun way to review and assess with Socrative – keeping students engaged in these crazy times. And wizer.me is such a great resource for foreign languages! We can have students practice all 4 language skills – reading, writing, listening and speaking. I don't know of another site that can do that. You all have truly helped to make French a more engaging and fun class and to make students more motivated to learn! Merci mille fois!

Madame White – French

Thank you so much for your generous support! With all the tools I have now, I've been able to provide a wide variety of resources to help my students. Socrative has allowed me to create rooms for each one of my classes, and I've been able to merge different assignments to enrich the activities. In the past, we struggled to find meaningful videos with activities. Yabla allows me to share with my students videos of native speakers from different nationalities so they can have the experience to listen to different accents while they learn. Also, wizer.me is an incredible interactive source where students can improve their language skills beyond the multiple choice format. ¡Muchas gracias!

Señor. Alarcón – Spanish

Having the opportunity to work interactively in class is a key element in learning a second language. Our challenge was huge when we started teaching remotely, but thanks to the access we were given to Yabla, Socrative and Wizer.me, everything has been more manageable and motivational for both students and teachers. Language is presented in more real contexts and students see the benefit of learning it and applying it in a more dynamic approach. For us, it has alleviated the amount of grading, and it has also facilitated the way we provide feedback and differentiation. We are very thankful for your generosity and continuous support! ¡Mil gracias!

Señor. Pérez – Spanish



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For more contact information go to www.KinderHSPVAPTO.org.