



OCTOBER-DECEMBER • 2020

VIPS Happenings

♥ The NEW VIPS Online Volunteer Orientation and Raptor VIPS Application process was successfully launched on August 17, 2020. As of September 30, 2020, we have close to 5,000 approved volunteers in the Raptor Volunteer Management database. We encourage all new and returning volunteers to register at www.HoustonISD.org/VIPSlogin.

♥ Strategic Partnerships is now Community Partnerships! Community Partnerships drives district-wide impact through coordinating collaborative ventures which provide funding, people, and material resources to benefit students, families, staff, and communities in HISD. The department's goal is to strengthen the VIPS Program by:

- Training Volunteers and Coordinators/Back-Ups on HISD VIPS policies and procedures
- Communicating with and mobilizing volunteers to impact student achievement through VIPS
- Enhancing VIPS programs and deepen engagement
- Providing support to the VIPS programs, Coordinators and Back-Ups

www.HoustonISD.org/VIPS

United Airlines Impacts Student Achievement



United Airlines Volunteers at the United Airlines Cargo Facilities

United Airlines helps to prepare HISD students to take flight for the 2020-2021 school year by providing them with essential hygiene care packages and school supplies.

On Monday, September 21, 2020, over twenty United Airlines employees partnered with HISD Community Partnerships for a day of service at their United Airlines Cargo Facilities located at George Bush International Airport. The volunteers prepared over 1,500 hygiene care packages and school supplies to benefit students in HISD mentoring programs. The hygiene care packages consisted of a variety of toiletries and personal care items, such as deodorant, razors, shaving cream, shampoo, conditioner and feminine products.

The generosity of volunteers like United Airlines ensures that the needs of our students are being met on many levels from personal, social and emotional, while they are navigating the challenges of learning remotely. A huge thanks to United for their donation of school supplies, swag items, and enthusiastic volunteers in support of our Welcome Back Car Parades! You make a difference and we greatly appreciate all that you do to impact student achievement.

Sanctuaries of Learning



HISD Interim Superintendent Dr. Grenita Lathan set the theme for the 2020-2021 school year for all HISD students, families, and staff to **“Reconnect Safely and Return Strong”**. Director of Community Partnerships, Najah Callander responded to the need in the HISD community and teamed up with several local churches to provide **“Sanctuaries of Learning”**. These designated learning centers, located in some of the district's highest-need communities, were designed to help address the need for supervised learning environments, access to computer technology, and support with learning while the district was entirely virtual. The learning centers were managed by HISD staff and nearly 100 VIPS-approved church volunteers.

Continued

Volunteer SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to our volunteers who are being spotlighted for the Fourth Quarter of the year. VIPS appreciates our volunteers and would like to recognize their endless contributions of their time and talents on a regular basis in HISD Schools.



KIDS HOPE USA

Thanks to the ongoing commitment of Tracey Bogan, Kids Hope USA, Partnerships-Houston Director, there are over 70 KIDS HOPE USA Volunteers in HISD schools. The mentoring program, sponsored by St. Luke's Church, won the 2018-2019 Jean Davis Myers Award. Each mentor is matched with a student that has been identified by their teacher as needing some additional supports with academics, communication skills, self-esteem, or social skills. The Kids Hope Mentor commits to spent



Kids Hope USA Volunteers pictured with Tracey Bogan, Kids Hope USA, Partnerships - Houston Director

one hour per week with their mentee for an entire school year. The impact of this program has been fruitful over the years at Sutton. Kids Hope mentors have helped students improve their reading levels and their social and emotional development. According to Principal Landa at Sutton ES "It is truly an honor and I can attest Kids Hope USA is beyond worthy of this recognition. They have been our partners for almost a decade now and have been instrumental in supporting our student's academic and social emotional needs.

OMERO ESTRADA | Hamilton Middle School Youth Community Volunteer

Omero has been described as a true asset to the students and faculty at Hamilton MS. He is a student ambassador, Summer Bridge Counselor, Library assistant, Interact volunteer, and Yearbook staff photographer.



Omero Estrada, far right, from Hamilton Middle School

He is constantly on mission to capture all the events and activities that are happening at Hamilton. He has been described as the guy with the camera who thinks he is "Harry Potter" and the one who makes incredible magic wands. According to his teachers, he stands out among his peers because he is outgoing, highly dependable, and is very persistent when comes to accomplishing his goals.

Volunteers in ACTION



Volunteer Jim Behrmann with the My Home Library Project at Highland Heights.



Pastor Gusta Booker from Greater Saint Matthew Baptist Church at Bastian Elementary

BECOME A MENTOR



Anyone interested in volunteering for R.O.S.E.S. (Resilient Outstanding Sisters Exemplifying Success), (M.A.S.) Miles Ahead Scholars and (A.T.M) Ascending To Men should follow the steps below:

1. Complete a **ROSES/ATM** online application [Click here](#)
Complete a **MAS** online application [Click here](#)
2. Register to be a Volunteer In Public Schools (VIPS) [Click here](#)
3. Attend a training session

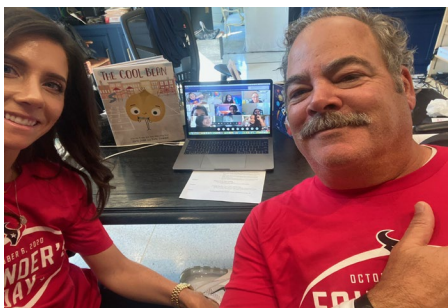
VOLUNTEERS make a difference!

The HISD Community Partnerships Department works closely with businesses, corporations and other community partners to meet the needs of our most vulnerable students and families. There are several programs within the District that rely on volunteers to accomplish their program mission and goals. If you or your company would like to learn more about how you can be engaged, please contact us!

Texans Celebrate Founder's Day in HISD Schools



Texans' Michael Thomas reading virtually to Alison Cline's class at Horn ES.



Cal and Hannah McNair reading virtually to HISD students



Steve Johnson is reading to Morgan Tomchesson's class at Travis ES



Houston Texans players at NRG preparing to read virtually to HISD students

The Houston Texans recently partnered with Houston ISD to celebrate the Texans' Founder's Day in honor of Bob McNair and his dedication to literacy. Each year, Texans Founders Day celebrates the acquisition of the team by the McNair Family and the team seeks ways to highlight and support key impact areas, like education.

During the Founder's Day celebrations, Cal and Hannah McNair joined the Texans staff as they surprised 100 HISD classrooms and held virtual reading sessions with 2,000 second

graders across the district. The students were filled with excitement as the Texans players, cheerleaders, Legends, team President Jamey Rootes and others, joined classes to read virtually and share encouraging words.

Thanks to the Houston Texans!



VIPS Contact Information

Interested in volunteering in HISD?

Register online to become a volunteer at www.HoustonISD.org/VIPSlogin

Monique Johnson-Garner, MA
VIPS Program Administrator,
Strategy & Innovation
4400 West 18th Street
Level I, SE
Houston, Texas 77092-8501

Telephone:
713-556-7206
Email:
VIPS@HoustonISD.org
Fax:
713-556-7244