



JULY-SEPTEMBER • 2020

VIPs Happenings

VIPs has successfully launched the Read Houston Read virtual program in partnership with Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation (BBHLF). Read Houston Read volunteers will be sharing their prerecorded read alouds with HISD students and teachers. The BBHLF Ladies for Literacy Guild and the Top Ladies of Distinction/ Top Teens are also participating in virtual read alouds for students and teachers.

**DID YOU KNOW?** At the beginning of each new school year, the principal at each HISD school designates a VIPs Coordinator and Back Up to assist with coordinating volunteer efforts at their campus. Be sure to inquire about who has been assigned to these roles at your child's school for the 2020-2021 school year. VIPs Coordinators and Back Ups can help with all of your volunteering needs and also inform you about the best ways that you can help on the campus.

Stay tuned for updates regarding COVID-19 and how volunteers will be impacted for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year.

The VIPs website has a new look! Check out the transformation of the VIPs website at [www.HoustonISD.org/VIPs](http://www.HoustonISD.org/VIPs)

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Calling ALL Volunteers!!!! Ready, Set, Go...

We have exciting news to share! Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPs) will be implementing an **Online Volunteer Orientation** along with a new version of the RAPTOR Volunteer Management System. These changes are designed to inform volunteers of important rules and guidelines for working with students and improve the volunteer application process.

**Beginning on August 17, 2020, all new and returning volunteers will be able to access the VIPs Online Orientation and Application to volunteer for the 2020-2021 school year.**



**STEP 1** Log on to the **VIPs website**. Once at the website you will be prompted to take our new online volunteer orientation. [Click HERE to access.](#)

**STEP 2** Volunteers will complete the training, review and sign all forms (VIPs Code of Ethics, Code of Civility, and Confidentiality Statement).

**STEP 3** After the orientation, you then need to complete the VIPs Online volunteer application. [Click HERE to access the VIPs Application](#) and agree to the Annual Background Check. The Background Check will take 3-5 business days to be processed.

**STEP 4** Once your application is APPROVED you will receive an email from Raptor notifying you of your status. You will be given the option to create a volunteer portal account. Now you are set to volunteer at any HISD school for the 2020/2021 year!!

**STEP 5** Sign up for your volunteer shift.



What this new process means for you:

- Faster background check processing times (contingent upon if all required information is on the application).
- Automatic responses from Raptor will be sent via email to you once the registration is complete with your updated status.
- You will have the ability to sign up for opportunities and track your volunteer hours!

Volunteers must complete all the required steps in order to become a VIPs.

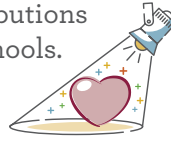
It is our hope that the new enhancements in VIPs will ultimately make the overall volunteer experience more engaging and fulfilling for everyone.

Due to implications from COVID-19, volunteer opportunities will be limited. There will not be field trips or lunch visits per the HISD reopening plan.

For more information about how to volunteer virtually please visit the [VIPs website](#). For information about the Districts Reopening guidelines visit [HoustonISD.org/Reopening](http://HoustonISD.org/Reopening).

**Volunteer SPOTLIGHT**

Congratulations to our volunteers who are being spotlighted for the Third 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.



**ROSARIO LOZANO PENA**  
**Burbank Middle School | Founder of Parent Patrol**



Rosario Lozano Pena (pictured with Interim Chief Academic Officer Yolanda Rodriguez) was a finalist for VIPS Charles Harding Senior of the Year Award for 2018-2019.

**Congratulations** Ms. Rosario Lozano Pena for being chosen as a Spotlight Volunteer! Ms. Pena has been volunteering at Burbank Middle School for over 11 years. Everybody knows that Ms. Pena is at the school to make a difference for the students, parents, teachers and staff. Ms. Pena has served as the PTO secretary; and she assists with Literacy night, the Kickstart Kids martial arts program, Math and Science Night and the Robotics tournaments at Burbank. Ms. Pena's strong convictions led her to create a parent organization called Parent Patrol. The mission of Parent Patrol is to keep the students, faculty and staff safe by assisting with hall monitoring, cafeteria duty, and other duties as assigned. Ms. Pena is affectionately referred to as "Ms. Burbank Mom" by the students because she is always willing to help with any and every need that they have daily. According to the staff, Ms. Pena contributes 110% to Burbank MS every day of the school year.

**Volunteers in ACTION**

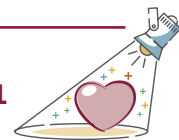


Volunteers from First Book at NEFF ECC.



Microsoft Partners at Hattie Mae White during Coding Bash for HISD students and staff.

**NANCY HENNESSY AND STAFF | Harris County Constable Precinct 1**  
**Office of Alan Rosen**



Officers from Alan Rosen Harris County Constable Precinct 1 (pictured with Helms ES staff) was a finalist for the VIPS Jean Davis Myers Year Award for 2018-2019.

**Congratulations** Ms. Nancy Hennessy and Harris County Constable Precinct 1 Office Staff of Alan Rosen. Ms. Hennessy and the staff have been volunteering at Helms ES and other HISD schools for over 7 years. The "Constables Building Bridges" program is an initiative between law enforcement and the community which aims to educate and engage high risk youth in meaningful interactions with law enforcement. Constable Alan Rosen's staff hosts a holiday toy drive at several HISD schools every year. They select the scholars who will receive the gifts; plan the Christmas party and they top it off with the Lieutenant dressing up as Santa Claus as an extra treat for the scholars. Harris County Constable Precinct 1 has made a long-term commitment to impacting the overall well-being of HISD scholars and their families.

**VOLUNTEERS make a difference!**

HISD has several programs that rely upon volunteers to accomplish their program missions and goals. ROSES (Resilient Outstanding Sisters Exemplifying Success) and ATMP (Ascending To Men Project) are two mentoring programs that focus on the overall development of young women and young men in HISD schools.

**ROSES (Resilient Outstanding Sisters Exemplifying Success)**

A mentor with the Resilient Outstanding Sisters Exemplifying Success (ROSES) acts as a positive role model and advocate for students who need guidance and opportunities for educational, social, and professional growth. ROSES aims to cultivate these areas of growth for students of color in the Houston Independent School District.

To become a ROSES mentor follow the steps below:

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



For additional information, please contact:

**Candice Castillo**  
Director  
ROSES@HoustonISD.org  
Phone: (713) 556-7290

**ATMP (Ascending to Men Project)**

A mentor with the Ascending to Men Project (ATMP) acts as a positive role model and advocate for students who need guidance and opportunities for educational, social, and professional growth. ATMP aims to cultivate these areas of growth for students of color in the Houston Independent School District.

To become an ATMP mentor follow the steps below:

1. Complete an ATMP online application [Click here](#)
2. Register to be a Volunteer In Public Schools (VIPS) [Click here](#)
3. Attend a training session (Register). The training session dates will be determined upon receiving confirmation for VIPS.



For additional information, please contact:

**Wilson Rentería**  
Senior Manager, ATMP  
ATMP@HoustonISD.org  
Phone: 713-556-8902

**VIPS Contact Information**

**Interested in volunteering in HISD?**

Register online to become a volunteer at [www.HoustonISD.org/VipsLogin](http://www.HoustonISD.org/VipsLogin)

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