

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear VIA Families,

Thank you to all of the families who called and emailed to offer their condolences as we grieve the loss of Ms. Victoria Perez (Williams).

Families, we need your help! Please take a moment to complete the **School Survey**. The deadline has been extended for our school because we have not met the required number of submissions from our PARENTS. We are currently looking for 40 grade 9 (current middle school) students for next year's class. **The School Survey is one way that families select a high school. Please help us to recruit by completing your survey.** 

Finally, please be reminded that we have trips scheduled for next week Monday to Area 53 and all students and families are welcome. We also have a trip to The Edge on Tuesday. We have 10 seats left. PLEASE JOIN US and send in your permission slips.

Thank you so much for your support during this difficult time. We appreciate your patience and understanding with us as we navigate this challenging time together.

## **UPCOMING DATES**

May 6th
Area 53 Adventure Park (Trip)

May 7th

Edge @ Hudson Park (Trip)

<u>May 9th</u> End- of-Year MAP Growth Assessment Day 1

May 10th End- of-Year MAP Growth Assessment Day 2

May 13th

Junior Achievement Finance Trip

May 14th
Mock Regents (Day 1-Math)

May 15th Mock Regents (Day 2- Science)

May 23rd
Student-Led Conferences (Eveneing)

May 27th

Memorial Day (Schools Closed)

May 30th
SLT Meeting 6:00 PM
Parent Association Meeting 6:45PM



### Seeking Parent Volunteers...

Nominations for the 2024–25 Parent Association Executive Board are now open. Please refer to page 5 for position titles and descriptions.

To Nominate yourself or another amazing Parent please complete the following google form. (click here)

## **DID YOU?**

## **QUICK LINKS**



Download the Brightspace Pulse App(iLearn)



Set up your NYCSA Account so you can see your child's schedule and fill out our needed forms.

- NYC Schools Account (NYCSA)
- DEAR Template
- <u>Dear Expectations</u>
- Tech Support Password: 123456
- Grading Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Tech Newsletter

916 Eagle Avenue Bronx, NY 10456 347-563-4471

131 Livingston Street Brooklyn, NY 11201











It is with a heavy heart that we share the news of the passing of our beloved Special Education/504 Coordinator and Teacher, Ms. Victoria Perez (Williams). Ms. Perez (Williams) was a cherished member of our faculty and touched the lives of students, parents, and colleagues alike with her dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment to education.

As we come to terms with this profound loss, we extend our deepest sympathies to Ms. Perez (Williams)'s family and friends during this difficult time.

Please keep Ms. Perez (Williams)'s loved ones in your thoughts. Her presence will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

This month we will host a gratitude challenge for advisory that focuses on resilience and thriving at VIA.



## 5 Recommended Practices for VIA Families

in the experience of losing a community member

- 1. Validate and permit all feelings for yourself and your child. It is ok to feel sad, angry, shocked, scared, confused, or nothing at this time, or make a connection to memories or feelings from other personal things. Say these words aloud as needed rather than feeling a need to fix, explain, distract, or deny the hard experiences.
- 2. Encourage steady yet flexible routines. Some may feel guilty or uncomfortable returning to "business as usual," but it's ok to feel grounded in doing work to find purpose or even distract at times, and care for yourself and others. Make an extra offering or reminder about meals shared with others when possible, biological breaks, drinking water, and rituals like reading or calm music that help you sleep.
- 3. Channel your energy externally. There is research and historic community healing in the power of getting our feelings out and not bottling them up, minimizing, or self-blaming, which causes trauma. As possible with weather and health, try journaling, drawing, music, mindful breathing, physical affection with consent, time with pets or nature, activism, creating food, using art supplies or sports equipment, letting us know if you need any materials we may have. We know that VIA students are versed in online communication, but ask that everyone consider carefully with whom they share, never assuming other people's feelings. Check with an adult before you post via social media or engage with unknown sources or web searches.
- 4. Engage in memorializing the lost person and celebrating life. No matter how close you were to Ms. Williams (Perez), you can use the positive tenets of her life, work, and personality to honor her and yourself. Connect with Ms. Andrews at <a href="mailto:landrews2@schools.nyc.gov">landrews2@schools.nyc.gov</a> if you want to be part of the memorial project, read and contribute to our <a href="mailto:For Ms. Perez Padlet">For Ms. Perez Padlet</a> to engage with her impact as a teacher you complete your school goals, and ground yourself in a daily list of things you are grateful for to contribute to our May Gratitude Challenge.
- 5. Reach out for help at VIA and beyond. In the upcoming week, in addition to ongoing meetings with a counselor or advisor by request, we will be offering the VIA Open Circles listed below, where all students with any feelings or needs to be with others can join. All students and families can also work to put outside counseling services for summer or after hours in place via the <u>Talkspace App</u> with trained providers for teens, or near you via <u>NYC Well.</u>

We are with you and also following our own guidance for healing and strength in this time of love and loss.

Sincerely,

VIA Wellness Team



# VIA LUNCHROOM Counselor Drop-ins

Need Support? Coping? Counselors are available for you daily.

## WHERE



VIA Lunchroom Use VIA Lunchroom widget on ilearn

or

zoom link https://zoom.us/j/9460163 1188?

pwd=OXhjYWM4WTdmLz Q2WHFyd1ZQeWIFQT09

## WHO



Counseling services made available to all VIA students with Ms. Iyer, Ms. Garcia, and Ms. Andrews

## WHEN



Monday-Friday 12-12:45PM

## WHAT



- Support Groups
- Art Activities
- Workshops

## **Additional Support**

<u>Teenspace</u> mental health support for teenagers 13-17

# GRIEF LOOKS DIFFERENT AT EVERY AGE...



Teens: Ages 13-18

## **Contact Us**



COMMON GRIEF REACTIONS

Information and Referral griefsupport@jbfcs.org 212.632.4692

- Teens may question their identity after the death, and can be confused by how grief makes them feel
- Teens may look to friend groups to decide if what they're feeling is okay
- To avoid "upsetting" adults, they may keep quiet and to themselves
- Isolation may be a grief reaction at this age
- A fantasy that one could be with the person who died again is a common and normal grief reaction that does not necessarily mean your child wishes to die
- Teens can be impacted by new responsibilities
- May remain numb in order to keep functioning as usual
- . Can be tired or restless, have difficulty concentrating, or other aches and pains

Loss & Bereavement Program Referral Form https://forms.office.com/r/KairvStjbJ



## APPROPRIATE WAYS TO SPEAK WITH YOUR CHILD

- Offer non-judgmental comfort and support
- Answer big questions with honesty
- Listen more than you speak
- Try not to say "I know how you feel" or statements with "at least"
- Leave time for thinking, and also check-in





### **ACTIVITIES**

- Journal feelings
- Plan together ways to honor the memory of their loved one
- Create a memory box/book/poster
- Write a letter to the person who died
- Celebrate their loved one by eating a food that they liked, listening to music they enjoyed, or doing an activity they liked, together

#### THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Children's grief is based on one's culture, religion, and race
- Maintain a level of curiosity with your child's experience in grief
- There are no set stages; grief doesn't happen in any special order
- Grief and grieving changes over time
- Reach out to a professional if you or your child needs support



## A LOOK AHEAD...





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May is Mental Health Awareness Month Jewish American Heritage Month Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month			1	2	3	4
5	Area 53 Adventure Park (Trip)	Edge @Hudson Park 7	8	SLT Meeting - 6pm (Cancelled)  MAP Growth Assessment	MAP Growth Assessment 10	11
Cinco de Mayo	And			Day 1 TEST	Day 2 TEST  EXAMPLE STATES  AND THE STATES  2nd Marking Period Ends	
Jappy * 12	Junior Achievement Finance 1 3	Mock Regents Exams (Math/Science)	Mock Regents Exams 15 (Math/Science)	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
				Student-Led Conferences (Evening) 6:00pm - 8:00pm		
26	Memorial Day 27	28	29	SLT Meeting - 6pm. PA Meeting - 6:45pm	31	WELL AND REAL
	CLOSED			Freedom Ink Family Workshop		- 1/ 1/ 1/ 1/ - Homemade-

Holidays and Observances: 5: Cinco de Mayo, 12: Mother's Day, 27: Memorial Day

#### May 2024 Exam Schedule

May 9th - End of Year Map Growth
Assessment (Day I)
May 10th - End of Year Map Growth

Assessment (Day 2)
May 14th - Mock Regents (Math/Science)

May 15th - Mock Regents (Math/Science)

If you have any questions, please contact your child's Advisor or School Counselor

VIA's May SLT/PA Meeting Thursday, May 30th @ 6:00pm Special Family Workshop Presented By: Freedom Ink, LLC

> Join Zoom Meetings https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/922918821942 pwd-VUJndUFIUXBSVm5vbllSRVgg-VkdWdz09

> > Meeting ID: 922 9188 2194 Passcode: 186026







May 6th - Area 53 Adventure Park May 7th- Edge @ Hudson Park May 13th -Junior Achievement Finance Trip

To sign up or complete the Trip Consent Forms, please refer to trip details and instructions on iLearn.







## **WORK-BASED LEARNING**

Virtual Innovators Academy

# JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT FINANCE PARK

**TRIP** 

Some thoughts from students after experiencing Finance Park:

"Now I understand why it's important for me to work harder in school so that I can make a better life for myself in the future."





"This really made me think about how I spend and save money. I learned how easy it is to run up a lot of debt on credit cards if they are not managed properly."

Jow I know how my mother when I am asking her for 'e can't afford."



JA Finance Park students build a foundation for making intelligent, lifelong personal, finance decisions, including decisions related to income, expenses, savings, and credit.

JA Finance Park, a realistic on-site facility, where students engage with volunteers and put into practice what they've learned by developing a personal budget.

Students in Grades 9 & 10, join us May 13, 2024 for this trip.

Location: 1 Dekalb Ave, Brooklyn,

NY 11201





**TRIP FORM** 



To Register, please complete this form:





## SY 2024-25 PARENT ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS

## We want your talent!

Do you have fresh ideas that can enhance our children's education? Are you a leader who wants to participate in positive growth and change? Do you enjoy getting involved and meeting new people?

Consider running today!

We are holding our Annual Parent Leader Elections on MAY 30th, 2024 @ 7:30pm

## THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS NEED TO BE FILLED FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

<u>POSITION</u>	DESCRIPTION		
PARENT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT	A superstar role who "GETS THINGS DONE!" Responsible for running and managing all aspects of the Parent Association and holding meetings.		
PARENT ASSOCIATION VICE PRESIDENT	A crucial assistant to the PA President. Handles tasks and assist with all Parent Association activities and meetings.		
PARENT ASSOCIATION SECRETARY	Maintains the official record (minutes) of the proceedings and actions of all association meetings. Prepare agendas, meeting notices, sign-in sheets and materials for distribution.		
PARENT ASSOCIATION TREASURER	Responsible for all financial affairs and funds of the association. Maintaining an updated record of all income and expenditures on school premises and shall be one of the signatories on checks. Prepare to present and provide copies of financial reports at all association meetings.		

IF YOU ARE SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS INTERESTED, PLEASE USE THE LINKS BELOW TO NOMINATE YOURSELF:
THE NOMINATIONS DEADLINE IS TUESDAY, MAY 28TH (APPLY TODAY!)



Parent Association: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdcrn51Qiy3\_otzxfn0erdMKmgQmD9GKAisPfVKp\_exEc4Jew/viewform?usp=pp\_url

For more information, please contact Ms. Bernard (Parent Coordinator) cbernard10@schools.nyc.gov or (347)841-6145



We are proud to announce the introduction of a 6 session series "Growing Up and Staying Safe" for our 9th and 10th grade students that will start on May 14th. This initiative is part of a New York State Education Department's mandate that requires HIV education be taught annually to all students in kindergarten through grade 12, as part of comprehensive health education. Each session will be taught during advisory (9:00-9:45am).

A parent notification letter and a detailed curriculum outline will be sent for your review. These documents will provide you with an overview of the topics that will be covered, as well as the objectives and learning outcomes we aim to achieve.

We recognize that families hold diverse views on these subjects, and we respect your right to make the best decision for your child. Therefore, if you would prefer that your child not participate in this program, we have provided an opt-out procedure. Detailed instructions for opting out are included in the parent notification letter.

Please contact your child's advisor or the parent coordinator for more information.





## **AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITES**



Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Lunch</b> 12:00 p.m12:45 p.m.		eSports		eSports	
After School 2:45 p.m4:15 p.m.		Foreign Language		Foreign Language	
After School 3:15 p.m4:30 p.m.	Epic Theatre				
After School 3:00 p.m4:30 p.m.	Video Game Development	social media	Broadcasting and Journalism	Anime	Digital Animation

Students may signup on iLearn.

Additional activities will be added throughout the year. Please check postings for availabilty.



## **Tutoring/Subject Area Support**

## **Littera Tutoring**

Dates: Tuesdays & Thursdays
Times: 4th Period Study Hall -11:15am
7th Period Study Hall - 1:30pm

Students should log in by going to: TeachHub -> Clever-> DOE Email

**Study Hall** 

Study Hall is built in tutoring during the day. Study half is a productive space where students can drop in to study, work on homework assignments, or collaborate with peers on group projects.

## **Remote Learning Devices**



Students in need of remote learning can be issued a device for their educational use. If reasonable precautions and care are taken in the use of the device, the laptop should not experience physical damage. Each parent/guardian should review this information carefully with their child.

All devices issued to students are to be used to access remote learning and other educational uses. Students are expected to follow the guidelines below and take any additional common sense precautions to protect the device. Students are responsible for taking care of the device. The policies outlined in the device loan agreement are intended to cover all available technologies, not just those specifically listed.

By accepting any equipment Parents/Guardians and Caregivers agreed to ensure that your child adheres to the following:

#### **Return of Device:**

This device is being loaned for the student's use during remote learning. This device is the property of the NYCDOE and contains a tracking device so that the device can be located. This device must be returned when student graduates or is unenrolling from VIA, unless otherwise instructed by VIA/NYCDOE.

#### **Care and Maintenance:**

- The student/family is responsible for the daily care and maintenance of the laptop. Any damage or theft must be reported to the school within one school day.
- · Keep the laptop in a safe place when not in use.
- · Students/families should report problems to the school immediately. Do not attempt to remove, add, or change the physical structure of the device, including keys, memory, battery, screen, charger, ID labels, etc.
- Carry the device carefully at all times. Do not store items on top of the device.
- Do not stick labels or decorative stickers on the device.

A device may be returned or replaced due to "REASONABLE" wear and tear or unexpected malfunctions. Screen cracks are not covered under warranty and must be paid for by the Parents/Guardians/Caregivers of the student. MacBooks that have been damaged due to poor maintenance will be replaced with Chromebooks only.

#### **Usage Guidelines:**

In general, all students are expected to use good judgment and common sense; be safe, appropriate, careful and kind online; not attempt to get around technological protection measures; and ask an adult if they need help.

#### Student Acceptable Use Guidelines:

#### Students must:

- · Use the device provided only to access remote learning activities.
- · Follow the same guidelines for respectful, responsible behavior online that students are expected to follow offline.
- Treat this device carefully, and alert the helpdesk there is any problem with the operation.
- Understand that this equipment is property of the New York City Department of Education and should be treated as such. If equipment is stolen, a police report must be filed.
- · Alert a teacher or other staff member if students see threatening, inappropriate, or harmful content (images, messages, posts) online.
- Be cautious to protect the safety of the student and others.
- Help to protect the security of school resources.

#### Students must not:

- · Attempt to bypass the school's mobile (internet) filter.
- Use this device in a way that could be personally or physically harmful.
- Attempt to find inappropriate images or content.
- Engage in cyberbullying, harassment, or disrespectful conduct toward others. Such conduct will result in disciplinary action and loss of privileges. In some cases, cyberbullying can be a crime.
- Try to find ways to circumvent the school's safety measures and filtering tools.
- Use school technologies to send spam or chain mail.
- Use language online that would be unacceptable in the classroom.
- Use school technologies for illegal activities or to pursue information on such activities.
- Attempt to hack or access sites, servers, or content that isn't intended for student use.
- Alter a school's device hardware or installed software.

#### Personal Safety and Privacy:

- · Users should never share personal information, including phone number, address, social security number, birthday, or financial information, over the Internet without
- · Users should recognize that communicating over the Internet brings anonymity and associated risks, and should carefully safeguard the personal information of themselves and others.
- Users should never agree to meet someone they meet online in real life without parental permission. If students see a message, comment, image, or anything else online that makes them concerned for their personal safety, they should bring it to the attention of an adult immediately.

#### **Limitation of Liability**

The NYCDOE will not be responsible for damage or harm to persons, files, data, or hardware. Devices employ filtering and other safety and security mechanisms, but there is no guarantee as to their effectiveness. The NYCDOE will not be responsible, financially or otherwise, for unauthorized transactions conducted over the school network.



# SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM & PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING SCHEDULE

Month	Date and Time	Zoom Meeting Link	
November	SLT Meeting Date: Thursday, November 30th, 2023 Time: 6:00pm (Virtual)	https://zoom.us/j/97527628720?pwd=c1VkaEliK0tyN0M5dDMvdG5FL0IWQT09&from=addon  Meeting ID: 975 2762 8720 Passcode: 866766	
	PA Meeting Date: Thursday, November 30th, 2023 Time:6:45pm(Virtual)	https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/922918821947pwd=VUIndUF1UXBSVm5vbllSRVgrVkdWdz09  Meeting ID: 922 9188 2194  Passcode: 186026	
December	SLT Meeting Date: Thursday, December 21st, 2023 Time: 6:00pm (Virtual)	https://zoom.us/i/97527628720?pwd=c1VkaEliK0tyN0M5dDMvdG5FL0IWQT09&from=addon  Meeting ID: 975 2762 8720  Passcode: 866766	
	PA Meeting Date: Thursday, December 21st, 2023 Time:6:45pm(Virtual)	https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/92291882194?pwd=VUJndUF1UXB5Vm5vbllSRVgrVkdWdz09  Meeting ID: 922 9188 2194 Passcode: 186026	
January	SLT Meeting Date: Thursday, January 25th, 2024 Time: 6:00pm (Virtual)	https://zoom.us/i/97527628720?pwd=c1VkaEliK0tyN0M5dDMvdG5FL0lWQT09&from=addon  Meeting ID: 975 2762 8720 Passcode: 866766	
	PA Meeting Date: Thursday, January 25th, 2024 Time:6:45pm(Virtual)	https://nycdoe.zoom.us/i/92291882194?pwd=VUIndUF1UXBSVm5vbllSRVgrVkdWdz09  Meeting ID: 922 9188 2194 Passcode: 186026	
February	SLT Meeting Date: Thursday, February 29th, 2024 Time: 6:00pm (Virtual)	https://zoom.us/j/97527628720?pwd=c1VkaEliK0tyN0M5dDMvdG5FL0IWQT09&from=addon  Meeting ID: 975 2762 8720 Passcode: 866766	
	PA Meeting Date: Thursday, February 29th, 2024 Time:6:45pm(Virtual)	https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/92291882194?pwd=VUIndUF1UXBSVm5vbllSRVgrVkdWdz09  Meeting ID: 922 9188 2194 Passcode: 186026	
March	SLT Meeting Date: Thursday, March 28th, 2024 Time: 6:00pm (Virtual)	https://zoom.us/i/97527628720?pwd=c1VkaEliK0tyN0M5dDMvdG5FL0IWQT09&from=addon  Meeting ID: 975 2762 8720  Passcode: 866766	
	PA Meeting Date: Thursday, March 28th, 2024 Time:7:00pm(Virtual)	https://nycdoe.zoom.us/i/92291882194?pwd=VUIndUF1UXBSVm5vbllSRVgrVkdWdz09  Meeting ID: 922 9188 2194  Passcode: 186026	
April	SLT Meeting Date: Thursday, April 18th, 2024 Time: 6:00pm (Virtual)	https://zoom.us/i/97527628720?pwd=c1VkaEliKOtyNOM5dDMvdG5FL0lWQT09&from=addon  Meeting ID: 975 2762 8720  Passcode: 866766	
	PA Meeting Date: Thursday, April 18th, 2024 Time:6:45pm(Virtual)	https://nycdoe.zoom.us/i/922918821947pwd=VUJndUF1UXB5Vm5vbllSRVgrVkdWdz09  Meeting ID: 922 9188 2194  Passcode: 186026	
May (SLT will meet twice this month)	SLT Meeting Date: Thursday, May 2nd, 2024 Time: 6:00pm (Virtual) & SLT Meeting Date: Thursday, May 30th,	SLT Meeting Link (both dates): https://zoom.us/i/97527628720?pwd=c1VkaEliK0tyN0M5dDMvdGSFL0lWQT09&from=addon Meeting ID: 975 2762 8720 Passcode: 866766	
	PA Meeting Date: Thursday, May 30, 2024 Time:6:45pm(Virtual)	PA Meeting Link: https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/92291882194?pwd=VUJndUF1UXBSVm5vbllSRVgrVkdWdz09 Meeting ID: 922 9188 2194	
June (SLT will meet twice this month)	SLT Meeting Date: Thursday, June 6th, 2024 Time: 6:00pm (Virtual) & SLT Meeting Date: Thursday, June 27th, 2024 Time: 6:00pm (Virtual)	Passcode: 186026  SLT Meeting Link (both dates):  https://zoom.us/i/97527628720?pwd=c1VkaElikOtyNOM5dDMvdG5FL0IWQT09&from=addon  Meeting ID: 975 2762 8720 Passcode: 866766	
	PA Meeting Date: Thursday, June 27,2024 Time:6:45pm(Virtual)	PA Meeting Link: https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/92291882194?pwd=VUJndUF1UXBSVm5vbllSRVgrVkdWdz09 Meeting ID: 922 9188 2194 Passcode: 186026	

<sup>\*\*</sup>The SLT Team is a closed group but monthly meetings are open to all parents and members of the School Community. Open Meeting Law allows spectators, but no interaction unless specifically granted by the SLT as a whole\*\*

## PARENT RESOURCES





Looking for work, change of career or fresh start? Search and post your resume on these job posting sites today. Your dream job may be one click away!

Indeed.com
LinkedIn.com
Monster.com
CareerBuilder.com
Glassdoor.com
SimplyHired.com



Now all teens 13-17 living in New York City have access to free mental health support through NYC Teenspace, a new program from the NYC Health Department that's powered by Talkspace, the leading provider of online mental health care.

https://b2b.talkspace.com/introducing-nyc-teenspace-mentalhealth-support-at-your-teens-fingertips

## **Parent University**

<u>Parent U(parentu.schools.nyc)</u> is for all families supporting students from early childhood through adulthood.

You can access free courses, resources, events, and activities to educate and empower families as partners in their student's education.

With an expanding course list, Parent University is ready to support all families or anyone interested in supporting students and lifelong learning

You can browse as a guest or login with your NYC School Account and enroll for a course today!





Child Mind Institute is dedicated to transforming the lives of children and families struggling with mental health and learning disorders by giving them the help they need. Please visit their website for more information and support resources.

https://childmind.org/

## Opportunities For Students At The Whitney Musuem of Art

Check out the amazing Teen Programs being offered at the Whitney Museum of Art.

<u>Open Studio for Teens</u> - a free art making program for teens on select Friday Nights

<u>Insight For Teens</u> - an after school and summer program that connects NYC High School Students with art and artist

https://whitney.org/Education/Teens



NYC Parks Department Spring Celebration Events

Spring is here! Looking for free fun family activities? Check out the NYC Parks Departments Event Calendar for fun celebrations in local Parks near you!



https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/first-day-of-spring



