



Solidarity Report

SPECIAL EDITION: PRE-PLANNING 2024-25

Welcome Back!

On behalf of the VUE leadership and staff, welcome to the 2024-25 school year!

They say that time flies when you're having fun. This summer must have been a fun filled adventure for everyone because it certainly has flown by.

It is hard to believe that in just a few short days, we will welcome our students back on our campuses and into our classrooms.

As teachers and support professionals, we have an immense responsibility, as we hold the future of the next generation in our hands.

According to Article IX of the Florida Constitution, "*The education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida.*" Additionally, it is a paramount duty of the state to provide by law a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public schools." We know that our teachers, office specialists, and paraprofessionals are the best in Florida, and we are excited to start another year working for YOU!

It is a new day in Volusia County, and we have a great opportunity to create positive change.

We are excited, encouraged, and eager to begin the work of the 2024-25 academic year. We wish you the best and remember that together we are **VUE STRONG!**

PERC Election : Support Staff

The Public Employee Relations Commission (PERC) has ordered the election to determine if Support Staff will continue to be represented by VUE.

The outcome of this election will determine whether office specialists and paraprofessionals continue to have a contract.

Our ability to advocate for the changes we need, protections in the workplace, rights, and benefits, are dependent upon having a voice, and that voice is provided through our union.

When we unite and leverage our collective power, we are able to accomplish more than any individual standing alone.

Will you stand with your colleagues and vote YES to save your contract?

Will you return your ballot?

Ballots will begin arriving in mailboxes on August 2nd and must be received in Tallahassee no later than September 4th, however, there is no time to waste.

Vote YES and return your ballot right away. It is just that easy. Keep your contract, keep your rights, keep your voice, and **KEEP OUR UNION!**



Bargaining Update

The bargaining teams are ready to go back to the table to continue to advocate for improvements to your working conditions, pay, and benefits.

We are finalizing our financial proposal for both units and have already submitted a proposal to increase the district contribution to the health insurance premiums.

Our priorities are creating a safe and respectful working environment, mitigating the rising cost of health insurance, and obtaining professional pay for professional work. We can no longer allow inflation and insurance costs to take away any salary increase we receive. Moving backwards is not an option.

The schedule for bargaining is below:

Support Staff: 8/15 1-4:00 pm @ VUE

Instructional: 8/20 1-4:00 pm @ VUE

Please follow our progress at the bargaining table by visiting our website www.ourvue.net or our [Facebook page](#).

Professional Learning

The VUE Professional Learning Department is gearing up to roll out the courses slated for the fall. We will offer all five (5) ESE courses needed for recertification, the NEW 40-hour Reading/ESE course, Managing Behaviors in the School Community, and other important courses aimed at providing you the tools you need to be successful!

Continue to watch the Solidarity Report and our social media pages for registration information.

Meet the VUE Staff!

The VUE staff are excited and ready for the 2024-25 year. We are dedicated to advocating for you and are prepared to ensure that your contractual rights are followed.

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our staff.

- Office Manager: Ms. Beth Friedl
- Professional Development Specialist: Dr. Lekita Howard
- Member Representative: Mr. Matt Lawrence
- Member Representative: Mrs. Marlo Spallone
- President: Mrs. Elizabeth Albert

If you have any questions, concerns, or if you need help accessing the VUE website, please give us a call at (386) 238-1605.

Our VUE

Now more than ever, it is critical that we build our membership. This year we must exceed the state mandated 60% membership density requirement for both the instructional and support units.

Our ability to obtain the changes we seek is directly tied to our membership. Our power comes from our members who are the experts in the classrooms and worksites throughout Volusia County.

Ask a colleague to stand with you to fight for the things that matter and to preserve the rights that we've already won. Simply scan the QR Code below and help a friend become a member of our VUE family. Solidarity.

