



Solidarity Report

“Public Education is an investment in our future.” ~ Matt Blunt

American Education Week

National ESP Day

Every year since 1921, we pause to express our sincerest gratitude for the many people who make the education process possible for the future of our country – our children.

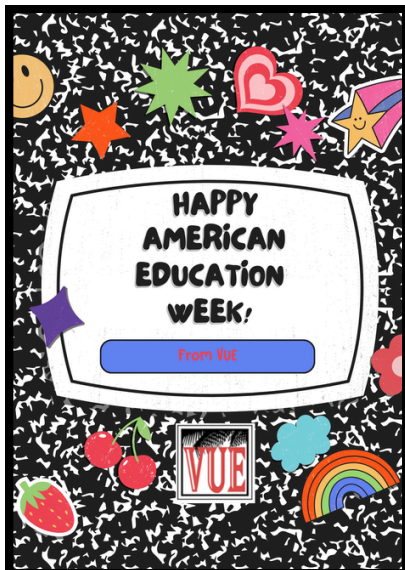
This special week, observed right before Thanksgiving, is the perfect time to honor the dedicated professionals who make it possible for all children to have access to a free and appropriate public education.

We are excited to celebrate and honor the vast and diverse community of people who make up our public education system- from teachers, paraprofessionals, office specialists and the other hard working professionals who make our school district run.

Our public schools are powered by dedicated educational professionals who help students learn, thrive, and succeed.

American Education Week—November 18-22, 2024—will present all Americans with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives the highest quality education.

As we celebrate all the MVPs of education this week, it is our hope that you know just how important you are, and that your hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated. YOU are shaping the future of our community, our state, and our great nation. #AEW2024!



School support staff, also known as Education Support Professionals (ESPs), strengthen our schools, communities, and unions across the country. They play a vital role on the education team and in students' lives inside and outside the classroom. They keep our schools running and our students safe, healthy, and ready to learn every day.

VUE loves our support staff!

On Wednesday, we will celebrate our paraprofessionals and office specialists and will acknowledge their invaluable contribution to our union by awarding five (5) lucky members with a \$50 Amazon gift card.

We will randomly draw names from the list of support staff members, and will announce the winners throughout the day. If you know a fantastic para or office specialist who hasn't joined yet, encourage them to complete their membership application before Wednesday in order to be eligible to win. Just scan the QR code below or visit the following link, www.ourvue.net/membership



District Updates

The VUE staff have been working tirelessly to find solutions to the concerns that have been brought to us. We are prepping for our next labor management meeting and wanted to share feedback from a few of the items we've been working on. The text in red is the response we received from VCS. We will provide an update from this week's labor management meeting in the next Solidarity Report.

- **Subs for middle school** – it seems that they can't get subs in middle schools and schools are using non-rostered teachers to fill the gaps. **A list of subs, by schools, was sent to principals. VCS will need to determine if the job is not picked up in SEMS or if direct calls are made to individuals. Responsibility for finding subs would fall to whomever oversees subs at a school.**
- **Focus communications-** parent's cannot see who the message is from when it is sent by the school. **The IT Department is aware. Schools have been given instructions on how to communicate using Focus. The messages all come from the same number, no matter which school is contacting the parent.**
- **Summative Scores from other Florida school districts-** Why does VCS not honor or recognize the final summative scores earned by educators who transfer into VCS from other Florida districts? **Ms. Workman will review and provide a follow up at the next meeting.**
- **Giving ESE students 60% for missing work/ESE students are not allowed to fail - VCS has never had a rule or policy that an ESE student cannot fail. However, teachers must ensure that all accommodations and services have been provided. The grade earned stands as long as the IEP has been implemented. Teachers must make sure that an IEP meeting is convened to revisit the supports and services if a student with a disability fails.**

eDues Reminder

As a reminder, if you have enrolled in eDues, the dues deductions are scheduled to align with each VCS payday. The next payday and ACH deduction will be Friday, November 22nd due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

If you are planning to separate from VCS, take a leave of absence, or change bank accounts, it is your responsibility to inform our office. We will not know if about a change in your employment status if you do not tell us.

Additionally, if you are interested in shifting to a check pay membership instead of using the ACH eDues, we can help. Many members have shared that it is easier for them to write a check and not worry about their dues for the remainder of the year. We understand that not everyone can afford to do this, but if this is something you are interested in discussing, we are available to provide you with information on switching to check pay.

Thank YOU for sticking with YOUR union!

Just In Case

You never know when you are going to get sick or need medical care. If you participate in the district health insurance, there are several options that you can choose from in order to meet your specific medical needs.

You can visit your primary care physician (PCP), utilize the Doctor on Demand video visit, tap into the extended hours clinics throughout the county, or if you need immediate medical attention, go to the emergency room.

Each of these options has its place in your personal health care plan. It is important to know that you are not locked in to just seeing your PCP or using the ER.

The extended hours clinics (there are clinics throughout the county, Palm Coast, and St. Augustine) offer same day- walk in appointments **at a cost of just \$8**. Using the clinics will save you time and money!

The Doctor on Demand benefit is the easiest way to see a Dr. anytime, anywhere! With just the click of a link you can connect with a medical provider in minutes, anytime of the day or night, receive a diagnosis and treatment plan in minutes, not hours or days, and have your prescriptions sent to your preferred FHCP pharmacy. **The copay for a general visit is \$0.**

Being educated about your health care not only gives you options, but it can also save you money. To learn more about your VCS health care benefits, click [here](#).

VUE Professional Learning!

**VUE's
40 Hour
Reading/ESE Course
is filling up!**
Register today using MyPGS

Course # 78544
Section #110934
Date: Begins on January 14, 2025*
Location: VUE Office
Time: 5-8:00 pm

*This is a 10 week course



Trivia Night at the Hall!

Thank you to everyone who attend the first ever Trivia Night at the Hall! It was a rip roaring good time and everyone who attended left with a big smile and a few goodies! We appreciate our benefits partners for supporting this event.



Thanksgiving Break

The VUE office will be closed beginning Friday, November 22nd at 4:30 pm and will reopen on Monday, December 2, 2024 at 8:30 am.

We wish everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving! ❤️



Fun Facts about Thanksgiving!

DID YOU KNOW:

Gobble, Gobble -

Approximately 46 million turkeys are eaten on Thanksgiving, which is about twice as much as at Christmas. Turkeys were abundant in the northeast during the first Thanksgiving celebrations.

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade-

The parade was originally a Christmas parade, and the first broadcast was on the radio. The parade route has changed over time, and balloons have been part of the parade almost since the beginning.

Presidential pardons-

Since 1947, the National Turkey Federation has donated turkeys to the president before Thanksgiving. The president can then "pardon" the turkeys.

When was the first Thanksgiving football game?

The first collegiate Thanksgiving game took place between Princeton University and Yale University, which occurred in 1876 and continued until 1881.

What state raises the most turkeys?

According to the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association, Minnesota has "long been" the turkey capital in the United States and has consistently ranked #1 in turkey production, raising 40 to 42 million birds a year.



What is a turkey's favorite dessert?

Peach gobbler!

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING
FROM
THE VUE STAFF!**

