

2023-2024 Educational Goal Reporting

All students will make progress toward graduation.

Teacher mentors will monitor student academic progress weekly through activity and course completion tracking and documentation. In addition, teacher mentors will obtain weekly two-way course specific contacts with all students. VLA staff will support student academic progress through tutoring, mentoring and intervention strategies with the goal of students completing one course per month.

Per VLA’s public school academy contract, “The educational goals shall also include students earning a minimum of one class per month (at least 70% or better) and at least a 35% yearly graduation rate.

End of Year Progress:

- **Course Completion:** On average, from September through May, 30% of students completed one course per month. For students who did not complete a course per month, those students completed on average 52 activities per month. An average core course has around 175 activities. Students collectively completed 848 courses. Below are by month percentages.

○ September – 22.4%	○ February – 38.6%
○ October – 36.3%	○ March – 26.9%
○ November – 32.7%	○ April – 26.5%
○ December – 26.1%	○ May – 33.9%
○ January – 28.6%	○ June - 27.8% (in progress)
- **Two-Way Communication:** On average, through the month of May, VLA staff held two-way course specific conversations with 81.5% of our enrolled students.

○ July – 77.4%	○ January – 76.4%
○ August – 79.5%	○ February – 83%
○ September – 80.6%	○ March – 85%
○ October – 84.4%	○ April – 85.2%
○ November – 81.8%	○ May – 81.5%
○ December – 82.4%	○ June – 75.3% (in progress)
- **Graduates:** 30 students have graduated earning their state-certified high school diploma during the 2023-2024 school year bringing our total graduate number to **500 VLA graduates!** Yearly graduation rates will be shared out when they become available for the 2023-2024 school year.
- **Parent Engagement:** Progress reports were mailed home quarterly. We held parent teacher conferences on December 13, 2023 and May 1, 2024. We had over 50 parents attend conferences (in-person or remotely) for both conferences averaging around 35%

participation. In an effort to keep students making academic progress toward graduation, targeted interventions and academic goals were discussed at these meetings. Parents were given access and guidance using Parent Portal if they had not been using it prior.

- **Student Rewards & Recognition:** We are continuing to offer student rewards and incentives for course completion and academic progress (water bottles, wrist bands, stickers, candy and gift cards). We are also recognizing student success and achievements through caseload students of the month, TOP 15 lists shared out on the VLA app and Facebook, newsletter highlights, hallway TV slideshow highlights and more.
- **Hands-On Learning:** We are continuing to provide hands-on learning opportunities for students to earn credit.
 - 10 students completed Applied Science this year where they demonstrated learning through completion of labs, submission of course exit slips, reflective journal entries, notebook checks, video quizzes and course final projects including a hydroponics bucket tower, a Zen room design, a homemade planter box and more.
 - 38 students completed Exploratory Art 1, 13 students completed Exploratory Art 2, 4 students completed Exploratory Art 3, 17 students completed Introduction to Art A and 4 students completed Introduction to Art B where they demonstrated learning through completion of individualized art assignments and projects. Art class and afternoon open art also served as a social, emotional, and mental outlet for many students.
- **Academic Learning Gaps:**
 - VLA launched the use of NWEA MAP Growth – an innovative assessment for measuring achievement and growth in K-12 math, reading, language usage and science. We are currently focusing on math and reading. We ran four terms of testing this year. For next year, we will only be running two terms to better assess the growth data. In math, 48.1% of students who tested met or exceeded their projected RIT score from fall to spring and 75% of students who tested met or exceeded their projected RIT score from winter to spring. In reading, 48.1% of students who tested met or exceeded their projected RIT score from fall to spring and 54.4% of students who tested met or exceeded their projected RIT score from winter to spring.
 - VLA launched the use of IXL – a platform that provides personalized learning in mathematics, English language arts (ELA), science and social studies. 7 students participated in the ELA IXL workshops run by our ELA teacher mentor. 4 demonstrated growth in their MAP Growth testing. 6 students participated in the math IXL workshops run by our math teacher mentor. 5 demonstrated growth in their MAP Growth testing. Students were able to engage in personalized learning tailored to them to close academic learning gaps. We are excited to see this expand in the upcoming school year as we identify a greater number of students for the IXL workshops.
- **Reading Room:** We continue to encourage students to get into our reading room to check out books and other materials to not only get students reading and improving reading skills but to also get students excited about reading - finding topics, series and

materials that are of interest to them. Our collection of books continues to grow and improve.

All students will leave VLA with a post-high school plan.

All students will have access to work with VLA's career advisor whose primary goal is to guide students toward a successful career path. All students will utilize Xello, an engaging platform that builds self-knowledge, personalized plans and critical life skills. Xello helps students discover relevant college, university, trade and career options based on their personality, skills and knowledge.

End of Year Progress:

- **Xello Lesson Completion:** 76% of students completed all 4 required lessons in Xello - Another 7% have completed at least 1 of the 4 required lessons in Xello.
 - 9th grade lessons include Getting Experience, Personality Styles, Study Skills & Habits and Exploring Career Factors
 - 10th grade lessons include Work Values, Program Prospects, Workplace Skills & Attitudes and Careers & Lifestyle Costs.
 - 11th grade lessons include Choosing a College, Entrepreneurial Skills, Work/Life Balance and Career Demand
 - 12th grade lessons include Job Interviews, Defining Success, Career Path Choices, Career Back-Up Plans
- **Xello Post-High School Plan:** 73% of students created a post-high school career plan in Xello. These can include college, apprenticeships, work, military, gap year, technical or vocational training or entrepreneurship. This data is being directly used for student personal curriculums, career conversations, transition support and more.
- **Xello Saved Careers:** 146 students have saved potential careers in Xello. This is a great starting point for career conversations, exploration and post-high school transition planning
- **TEC Enrollment:** We are continuing to promote St. Clair County TEC for our VLA students. We had 18 students enrolled in TEC this year. All 18 students passed both semesters. 5 students completed TEC and earned their certification.
- **Guest Speakers/Why Not Series:** Our career advisor, program coordinator and several other staff worked to bring in guest speakers and "Why Not" series presenters to increase student exposure to a variety of potential career paths. These included...
 - Army
 - Navy
 - National Guard
 - Marines
 - Air Force
 - BWMC
 - Jason Stier, VLA Art Instructor/Admin
 - Deputy April Seavolt, Sheriff's Office
 - Zachary Floyd, Former VLA Student/DMT Graduate/Goelean Manufacturing USA

- Missy Schlager,
Cosmetologist/Business
Owner
- Jeff Wierer, Brick Mason
- Melissa, Friends of the St.
Clair River
- Jill Tucker, Chef
- **Blue Water Trades Fair:** We took a group of 19 students on a career-related field trip to the Blue Water Construction Trades fair at Goodells County Park on April 24, 2024. It was a major success again, offering students great information, exposure and hands-on learning to a number of potential careers.
- **Challenger Center Experience/SC4 Tour:** We took a group of 23 students on a career-related field trip to the Challenger Center Experience, on SC4 campus on March 21, 2024. This was such a great experience for students. While on campus, students received a tour of the campus highlighting several of the college's popular programs of study. It was another major success, offering great information, exposure and hands-on learning to students.
- **MAPAL Tour:** We took a group of 7 students to tour MAPAL, directly across the street from VLA. They are the number one technology leader in the machining of cubic parts. One VLA student was fortunate to be offered a paid internship which began in 6-17-24.
- **Detroit Institute of Arts Field Trip:** We took a group of 23 students to visit the Detroit Institute of Arts on May 29, 2024. Students were able to explore some incredible pieces of art and enjoy some socialization.

*We continue looking for more and more ways and opportunities that we can provide to VLA students to ensure all students have career education, experience and exposure during their time with us so that they are graduating from VLA prepared, passionate and with a plan.