

NEXT PTO MEETING: Tuesday, 10/13 at 6:30 pm via Zoom



## Principal Seidl's Spotlight

### Stronger Together in 2020-21

Think of the last time you tried something new and different:

- Maybe you hosted an event for the first time in a different way because of COVID **OR**
- Perhaps you learned a new game because you were quarantined **OR**
- Possibly you challenged yourself by trying a new hobby or sport...

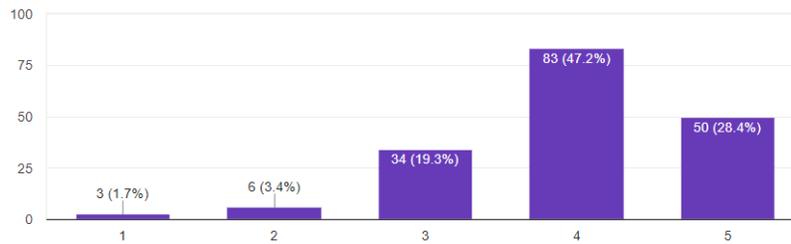
As you reflect on that new experience, you likely (1) planned for the new learning - getting the materials together you needed to take on the new challenge, (2) actually tried the new learning, and then (3) reflected afterward on how that went, noting what to improve as you take that on again in the future. In a nutshell, this is the methodology that we use when teaching. The Madison Metropolitan School District introduced the “great teaching cycle” in 2014, and it is still held as a standard in how we implement curriculum across the district (the graphic above illustrates the model, plan/teach/reflect, and adjust).

As families partner with us in virtual learning 2.0, it is helpful to share this methodology. Good teaching involves time in planning engaging lessons, executing that lesson well, and then reflecting upon the results achieved and adjusting the learning opportunity to ensure that we improve as needed.

This October, we will begin the process of reflecting on the planning and teaching of virtual learning 2.0. We have had three weeks of this model, and we are at a point where we are reflecting on that experience for our students and families. Thank you for your feedback in our recent survey and know that as a school and district, we will also be gathering feedback throughout our teaching experience this school year - whatever that may be. No news on the status of November 1 yet, but stay tuned...

In our recent survey we received responses from 176 families, reflecting upon the experience of 198 students. We currently have 428 students so this is a little less than half of our families sharing their insights - from a statistics point of view, this is a very good response rate! Overall, the majority of families, 75.6%, report being satisfied with their experience of virtual learning 2.0 at Van Hise so far in 2020-21 (giving the school a 4 or 5 on the recent survey). Here are the results for overall satisfaction:

On a scale of 1 to 5, how satisfied have you been with virtual learning 2.0 at Van Hise Elementary  
176 responses



To summarize the results, families expressed support for live teaching and feedback to students in virtual learning 2.0. They reported increased engagement for students that is thereby lifting the learning! Aligned with this, about half of those responding asked for us to keep science and social studies lessons as live teaching experiences. Less than 1 in 5 families supported our keeping asynchronous lessons for reading and math.

In addition to this survey, we are also seeking student voice in their experience of virtual learning 2.0, with selected teachers seeking direct feedback this week. Lastly, I am meeting with teaching teams regularly to hear their experiences of the new instructional design.

Parent, student and teacher data sources will be used by our School Based Leadership Team that includes teachers from across the school this week. We will discuss if there are any adjustments needed to support the accelerated growth for our students. Any changes will be shared with families in advance. We will continue to collect data, reflect, and adjust as needed to improve our practice moving forward this school year.

Thank you for your continued partnership with us. I started this article asking you to think about an experience when you learned something new. Please reflect back and consider how working with others may have helped support you during that new learning. Learning a new game is just more fun and easier with others! At Van Hise, we recognize that virtual learning 2.0 is new learning for everyone. We value your help as we reflect and adjust to make this a great year of learning. We are truly stronger together!

**With gratitude, Mary**

## Events at a Glance | OCTOBER

### ALL YEAR

Reach out if your family needs assistance.

Rachael Nachtwey, Social Worker  
[rlnachtwey@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:rlnachtwey@madison.k12.wi.us)

### THURS, OCTOBER 8

Empowerment Group for Parents of Black and Brown Students

Via Zoom (see below for details)

6:30 PM

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

PTO MEETING via Zoom

All are welcome! [Zoom Link](#)

6:30 - 7:30 pm

## Classroom Reps Needed

Are you looking for a way to help out our amazing, hard-working

teachers and your child's class? **We need 2 Reps for EACH**

class to:

- Help coordinate families to support teachers
- Help with parent communication (send occasional emails)
- Attend PTO meetings and share important info with classroom families (as able)

In previous years, Classroom Reps attended and reported back from PTO meetings and coordinated a group gift for teachers.

This year, Classroom Reps may also help coordinate families to meet other classroom needs as they arise. Our Van Hise teachers continue to go above and beyond for our kids, but we are stronger together. You can support our teachers and our Hedgie community by **signing up** to be a Classroom Rep. Estimated time commitment: 1-3 hours of fun per month. Grandparents and other adult family members welcome!

Thanks,

Andrea Olson (andrea@lordolson.us)

**SIGN UP NOW!**

VHE Classroom Rep Coordinator

Get  
involved



## Box Tops for Education

The fall Box Tops Challenge is on! The Box Tops program helps us earn free money for our school. Clip Box Tops off participating products that you buy at the store or download the app and simply scan your receipts. The class that collects the most will be celebrated during Ms. Seidl's Wednesday announcements.

Go to <https://www.boxtops4education.com/> to learn more.

The contest will run through October 28th. To save paper, we are not sending home collection sheets. Just send clipped Box Tops in a Ziplock baggie labeled with your child's teacher's name (please don't forget to do this!), and either drop them off in the mail slot at 5201 South Hill Dr. or drop them off at the October materials distribution day at school (date coming soon). If you are using the app, put a note in your Ziplock baggie stating how much you collected this fall. It will be added to your child's class total.

Thank you for collecting and supporting VHE!

Molly Cooney (molbarr13@gmail.com)

## Surprise!

We included in this month's materials pick up a new mask for your hedgie. [Please note: the first 50 people who picked up materials did not receive theirs but never fear, we will send it to you!] These were a very generous donation to Van Hise from a family that asked to remain anonymous. Gratitude for Mr. Lynch and Nurse Jill as they worked with the manufacturer to make the mask perfect for keeping our students safe. Thank you!



## Raise Money While Purchasing School & Office Supplies!

Simply make a purchase of **qualifying school supplies** at Office Depot / Office Maxx, provide your school's ID (70109360) at checkout - either in store or online - and VHE will receive 5% back in credits for **FREE** supplies! It's a small act that can make a huge difference. But wait - there's more! This year, VHE is the designated school for Office Depot/Maxx in Madison. Now through October 31, round up or make a donation of any amount at the register and they will pass that amount along as a credit to our school for qualifying supplies! Please spread the word in your network. Let's make sure we have plenty of funds for sanitizer and wipes when we return!

## Madison West High Area Collaborative

<http://madisonwestcollaborative.com/>

If you're looking for an organization for which to volunteer, consider the Madison West High Area Collaborative. It is a group of school staff, PTOs and community members representing all schools within the West High attendance area (VHE included). The collaborative is working towards rent assistance, food assistance, and family support for those in our community who are in need during these unprecedented times.

### Empowerment Group Starting for Parents of Black and Brown Students

In September, we had our first families of black and brown students empowerment group! Ms. Chanel and Ms. Navin joined me (Ms. Seidl) and several families across grade levels. Together, we shared experiences and developed a shared purpose for our time together. The group will continue to meet with the shared purpose of:

- Lifting voices for historically marginalized students
- Fostering a sense of belonging and community
- Exercising a commitment to racial justice and
- Making Van Hise a better place for our kids.

We understand that in our school there are significantly less students of color and this may bring unique challenges. We also know that, historically, our black and brown children have lacked voice, and we want to support practices that will lift this voice.

Please know that families of black and brown students are always welcome to attend. Our next meeting will be October 8th at 6:30. I will send out a zoom link closer to our meeting to all who expressed interest in our September meeting - if you did not receive the September invitation and would like to attend, please contact me: Mary at [mseidl@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:mseidl@madison.k12.wi.us).



### LET US KNOW IF WE CAN HELP

We know some families in our community have urgent needs. The PTO is here with resources to help. By working through our school Social Worker, family needs are kept private and confidential. Please be in touch with Ms. Nachtwey if your family needs assistance of any kind during these difficult times.

**Rachael Nachtwey, Social Worker**  
[rlnachtwey@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:rlnachtwey@madison.k12.wi.us)

### Our Updated PTO Website

We are keeping our fresh PTO website up-to-date with information, dates, and links to PTO and Van Hise events. **Bookmark [www.VanHisePTO.org](http://www.VanHisePTO.org)!**



### 2019/20 Yearbooks for Sale

We have a limited number of 2019/20 yearbooks available for \$10. If you wish to purchase one, email [prez@vanhisepto.org](mailto:prez@vanhisepto.org) to organize payment and pick up.

Van Hise Elementary School  
Madison, Wisconsin

**VAN HISE** PTO  
ELEMENTARY

