



# The Van Ness Voice

April 2026

## CSA EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

- **Math:** The instructional learning targets of the CSA middle school math curriculum focus on developing students' proficiency in key mathematical areas such as ratios, geometry, algebraic expressions, and statistics, while fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, and real-world application skills. The curriculum is designed to prepare students for high school math and beyond by encouraging a deep understanding of mathematical concepts. This month, students will be exploring concepts of geometry (Foundations Math), probability and statistics (Applied Math); data analysis and displays and functions (Intro to Integrated Math), exponential functions and data analysis and displays and Integrated I Math); and probability and relationships with triangles (Integrated II Math).
- **Literature:** Students are beginning their next read-aloud unit with *Red Scarf Girl*, diving into the memoir of Ji-li Jiang to explore the personal and societal impacts of communism in China. Students will analyze how political systems shape individual lives and communities, and will use these insights to create their own memoirs, reflecting on experiences that have shaped them. In addition to this unit, students will select a novel from a curated list of classic literature for their Independent Novel Project, which they will read and engage with for the remainder of the year, further developing their reading, analytical, and writing skills.
- **Social Studies:** This month, students will begin an engaging unit on the origins and development of major world religions, including Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, exploring their beginnings in the ancient world and their lasting influence on societies today. Throughout the unit, students will examine these religions through multiple social studies lenses such as geography, culture, politics, and belief systems to better understand how they developed, spread, and shaped civilizations over time. They will take a closer look at the Ancient Hebrews and the origins of Judaism, the origins and growth of Christianity, and the foundations of Islam alongside the rise of early Islamic empires, analyzing key figures, events, and ideas while making connections to the modern world. To conclude the month, students will shift their focus to early American civilizations, studying the Aztec and Inca and exploring their achievements, societal structures, and cultural contributions through engaging activities that encourage critical thinking and meaningful discussion.
- **Science:** In the next unit, Chemical Reactions, students act as chemists to solve real-world mysteries using key chemical concepts. They investigate a reddish-brown substance in well water, using their understanding of properties and atomic structure to identify it as rust formed through a chemical reaction between iron pipes and fertilizer. As they learn about chemical reactions and conservation of matter, they explain how new substances are created and persist in the system. The unit culminates in a forensic investigation where students apply their knowledge to identify an unknown substance and determine the most likely suspect.



## Advisory

This month in advisory, our third-year students delivered their speeches with confidence and creativity, showcasing the effort they put into their presentations. Second-year students played an important role by giving thoughtful and constructive feedback, helping their peers reflect and improve. The collaboration between grades highlighted our community's commitment to growth, learning, and supporting one another.

## Comprehensive Student Reviews

Comprehensive Student Reviews (CSRs): Comprehensive Student Reviews provide an important opportunity for families and teachers to partner in supporting each child's growth and success. During these scheduled meetings, parents will sign up to meet with their child's teachers to discuss academic progress, as well as physical and sensory needs, social and emotional development, and character growth. Teachers will share and review assessment data to give a clear picture of each student's strengths and areas for improvement. Together, families and educators will collaborate to set meaningful goals for the remainder of the school year, ensuring that each child is supported holistically and set up for continued success.

To sign up for your CSR meeting please visit:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0944A9A92AA4F49-63105065-spring#/>

or see the link in your email!

## Contact Information

[Lvanness@csaschool.org](mailto:Lvanness@csaschool.org)



## Career Day

We are excited to announce our school's third annual Career Day, aimed at providing valuable insights into various professions and helping guide our middle school students toward their future careers. We believe that exposing our students to various career paths early on can positively impact their academic choices and future endeavors.

Your participation at this event is crucial in making it a success!

We are seeking Presenters to share their career journeys, educational experiences, and valuable advice with our students. Our goal is to inspire and inform students about the myriad of career possibilities that await them!

If you, a family member, friend, or community contact are interested in presenting during our Career Day, we extend a warm invitation to join us:

Date: Friday, May 8th, 2026

Time: 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Location: Charyl Stockwell Academy Middle School

Kindly RSVP by April 24th, 2026 by completing this [FORM](#). If you have any questions, please reach out to Amanda Woodruff at [awoodruff@csaschool.org](mailto:awoodruff@csaschool.org). Please inquire if you require any assistance or accommodations.

Note: All presenters must have a valid background check on file with the front office before May 1st. Expect a follow-up email with this documentation.

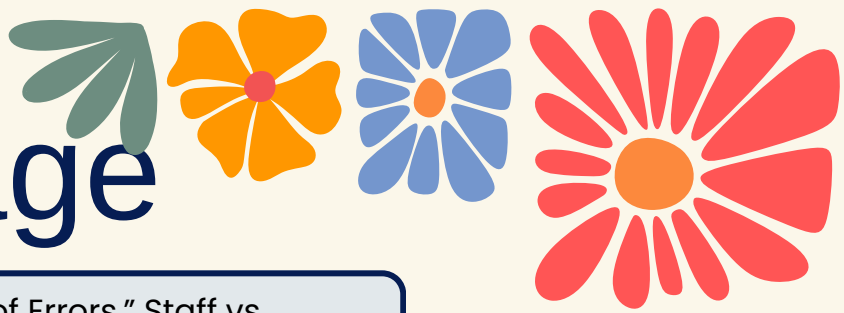
We look forward to seeing you at our school's Career Day and appreciate your support in shaping the future aspirations of our middle school students.

## Classroom Donations

The Van Ness Advisory is kindly requesting donations of:

- Granola or Protein bars, Goldfish Crackers, or other "brain fuel" snacks
- Lifesavers mints or Jolly Ranchers (individually wrapped) for testing
- Any gently used sporting equipment that you no longer use. Declutter your space, and give active kids something new to do at recreation!

# Picture Page



Shown here: Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors," Staff vs. Student Basketball Game and Pep Rally, Reading by Flashlight for March is Reading Month, and Advisory Card Games

