



Vol. 4, Issue 3

FAMILY Newsletter

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026



UPCOMING DATES

February 9th - 13th
Respect for All Week

February 12th
SUNY Rep Visit (11th Grade) 4th Period
NECTJ Bunkasai Field Trip To Hunter College
VIA Goes to Broadway! 🎭 - Romeo & Juliet ❤️

February 13th
Early Release Day
(Students will be released for asynchronous learning after 4th period at 12PM)

February 16th to 20th
Mid-Winter Recess (**Schools Closed**)

February 24th
Parent Association (PA) Meeting at 6

February 25th
VIA Goes to Broadway! 🎭 - Hamilton ⭐

February 26th
School Leadership Team (SLT) Meeting at 6 PM.

February 27th
Ice Skating Trip 🏒

March 9th
Parent Association (PA) Meeting at 6pm

March 11th
PSAT Exam 9:30am - 12:30p

March 12th
SAT Exam 9:30am - 12:30p

March 18th
Evening Student-Led Conferences

March 19th
Afternoon Student-Led Conferences

March 20th
Eid al-Fitr (**Schools Closed**)

March 25th
PSAT Exam 9:30am - 12:30p

March 26th
SAT Exam 9:30am - 12:30p
SLT Meeting 6pm

March 30th
Early Release Day
(Students will be released for asynchronous learning at 9:45am)

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE: FLIPPING THE SCRIPT FOR FEBRUARY ❄️



Dear Virtual Innovators Academy Families and Students,

We have officially crossed the finish line of the January Regents exams! I want to thank every student for their focus and every family for supporting them during that busy week.

During testing, the state rules require our staff to be "neutral" and "disinterested" to ensure a fair testing environment. We spent a week being quiet, formal, and strictly following the script. But now, we are flipping the script. As we move into February, we are shifting from "neutral" to deeply connected.

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I have always believed—from my early days building educational partnerships to my work here at VIA—that a school is like a construction site of ideas. You cannot build a strong structure without strong foundations and bridges. We don't want to be neutral observers of your education; we want to be active partners in it.

🌍 Celebrating Our Identities

Part of being "deeply connected" means seeing and honoring the whole student. This month, we embrace two major cultural moments:

👤 Student Leadership: The 2026 Student Government

Speaking of connection, I am thrilled to announce our newly elected 2026 Student Government Officers! These students have stepped up to be the bridge between the student body and the administration. Please join me in congratulating them:

12th Grade - Class of 2026

- **President:** Angello Manzanares
- **Vice President:** Diane Hughes
- **Secretary:** Gladianna Felisme
- **Treasurer:** Nathan Angello

11th Grade - Class of 2027

- **President:** Ilyas Awadh
- **Vice President:** Kacper Tolpa
- **Secretary:** Dana Hughes
- **Treasurer:** Medrano Jaden Ethan

10th Grade - Class of 2028

- **President:** Aalenah Mendez
- **Vice President:** Angeliane Davidson
- **Secretary:** Carol-Lynn Ali
- **Treasurer:** Krystin Rubano

9th Grade - Class of 2029

- **President:** Malak Alhudaib
- **Vice President:** Kazal Mubarez
- **Secretary:** Mikayla Bolden
- **Treasurer:** Lennix Rybushkina

📹 The "Ask": Why We Need Cameras On

Because we want to move from "testing mode" back to "community mode," you will hear us emphasize our Cameras On & Unmute culture.

This isn't about compliance; it's about connection. When your camera is on, you aren't just a name on a screen—you are a presence in the room. We want to see you, we want to hear you, and we want to know what you are thinking. We are interested in you.

❄️ Mid-Winter Recess

Finally, as we approach the break, I hope you take this time to unplug and recharge. Whether you are celebrating, resting, or catching up, please stay safe. We look forward to seeing everyone back—cameras on and ready to learn—after the break!

Warmly,

Terri Grey
Principal, Virtual Innovators Academy

DID YOU?



Login into your Canvas Account
(via.instructure.com)



Set up your NYCSA and Parent Observer Accounts so you can see your child's schedule, grades and fill out our needed forms.

QUICK LINKS

- [NYC Schools Account \(NYCSA\)](#)
- [DEAR Template](#)
- [Dear Expectations](#)
- [Tech Support](#)
- [Attendance Policy](#)
- [Student & Family Policy](#)

3898 Dyre Avenue
Bronx, NY 10466



(929)692-6614

274 Atlantic Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11201

www.virtualacademynyc.org - @virtualinnovatorsacademy - info@virtualacademynyc.org

A LOOK AHEAD....



FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 *Early Dismissal* Students will be dismissed at 12:00pm	14  Valentine's Day
Spirit Week (Respect For All)						
15	16 President's Day	17	18 Mid-Winter Recess (Schools Closed) Feb 16th - Feb 20th	19	20	21
22	23	24  Parent Association Meeting 6:00 pm	25 VIA Goes To Broadway! Hamilton 	26  SLT Meeting 6:00 pm	27 Flushing Meadows Ice Skating Trip  Summer Youth Application Deadline 	28

Respect For All Week February 9th - 13th



February 9

Celebrating Kindness/Be an Ally

February 10

Anti-Bullying/Cyberbullying

February 11

Respect for Diversity, Disability, Religious Acceptance

February 12

Gender Identity, Sexual Orientation and LGBTQ Pride and Acceptance

February 13

National No One Eats Alone Day
NoOneEatsAlone.org



School-Issued Devices:

To request or swap a device please contact:

Ms. Bernard - Parent Coordinator
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am - 4:00pm
Email: cbernard10@schools.nyc.gov
Contact #: (347)841-6145

Supplies are limited. Devices will be issued through a thorough needs-based assessment.



VIA's February PA Meeting Tuesday, February 24th @ 6:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/96360154374?pwd=cEz52JkckbTgoavpNzHrw0ADus3KSC.1>

Meeting ID: 963 6015 4374
Passcode: 580921



A Look ahead.... ➡

2026 MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9  Parent Association Meeting 6:00 pm	10	11 PSAT Exam 9:30am - 12:30pm (Brooklyn & Bronx Locations)	12 SAT Exam 9:30am - 12:30pm (Brooklyn & Bronx Locations)	13	14
15	16	17	18  Student-Led Conferences (Afternoon)	19  Student-Led Conferences (Evening)	20 Eid al-Fitr  SCHOOL CLOSED	21
22	23	24	25 PSAT Exam 9:30am - 12:30pm (Brooklyn & Bronx Locations)	26 SAT Exam 9:30am - 12:30pm (Brooklyn & Bronx Locations)  SLT Meeting 6:00 pm	27	28
29	30 *Early Release Day* Students will be released for Asynchronous Learning at 9:45am	31				

VIA's March PA Meeting Monday, March 9th @ 6:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/96360154374?pwd=cEz52JkckbTgoavpNzHrw0ADus3KSC.1>

Meeting ID: 963 6015 4374
Passcode: 580921



PSAT/SAT EXAMS

PSAT
March 11th & March 25th
9:30am - 12:30pm

SAT
March 12th & March 26th
9:30am - 12:30pm

*The exams will be available at both our Bronx location (3893 Dyre Avenue) and our Brooklyn location (274 Atlantic Avenue). *



Student-Led Conferences

March 18th
Evening Session

March 19th
Afternoon Session



SCHOOL — TRIPS —

February 25th: VIA Goes to Broadway! 🎭

Contact: Mr. Yun



February 27th: Ice Skating Trip 🏂

Contact: Ms. Wyre, Ms. Yamasaki, Ms. Henry



Tel: 718 - 760 9001

131-04 Meridian Rd
Flushing, NY 11368
Fax: 718 - 760 9008

🚗 Adventure Awaits — Let's Go on a Trip! ❤️

Calling all explorers! We have some AMAZING school trips coming up, and we don't want YOU to miss out! School trips are more than just a day away from the classroom — they're opportunities to learn, grow, discover new places, and make unforgettable memories with your classmates! 🌟

Why Attend?

- 📖 Hands-On Learning - Bring your lessons to life outside the classroom
- 👫 Build Friendships - Bond with classmates and create lasting memories
- 🌍 Explore New Places - Expand your horizons and try something new
- 🎉 Have FUN - Because learning should be an adventure!

Don't sit this one out — come join us and be part of the experience!

📅 Important: We Need Accurate Headcounts!

In order to properly prepare for our upcoming trips, we need accurate attendance counts as soon as possible. This helps us with transportation, meals, supervision, and ensuring every student has a safe and enjoyable experience.

If your student and/or parent/guardian is UNABLE to attend any of the trips listed above, please notify us IMMEDIATELY by contacting the specified contact for each trip listed above.

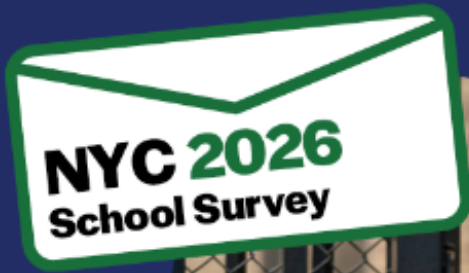
✉ Please CC Ms. Bernard on all correspondence to ensure all information is properly communicated and documented.

Why This Matters:

- ✅ Ensures accurate planning for transportation and chaperones
- ✅ Helps us manage costs and resources effectively
- ✅ Guarantees every attending student is accounted for and safe

Thank you for your prompt response — we can't wait to make these trips a success TOGETHER! 🙌

NYC 2026 SCHOOL SURVEY



The 2026 NYC Public Schools Survey Is Open

Take the survey by April 1

English



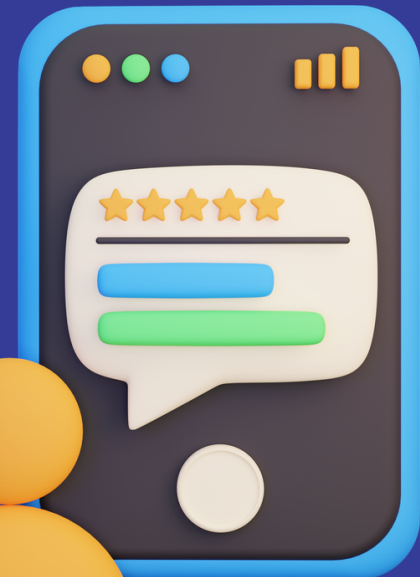
Students: Please enter your OSIS number.

Families (Schools): Please enter a lowercase f followed by your student's OSIS number-- for example, f123456789.

Families (Early Childhood Programs): Please enter the access code provided to you by your child's program.

Teachers/Staff Members: Please see your school's coordinator for a unique anonymous access code.

Submit



To complete, please visit: nycschoolssurvey.org

***Eligible Participants: Families enrolled by or before 10/31/25**

For more information, please contact Ms. Bernard at
cbernard10@schools.nyc.gov or (347)841-6145



SAT and PSAT Testing for 10th and 11th Graders – March 2026

The SAT and PSAT (Preliminary SAT) testing season is approaching for our 10th and 11th graders! Please confirm whether your child will be sitting for the exam and select **one date** for each test:

PSAT (select one): March 11th **OR** March 25th

SAT (select one): March 12th **OR** March 26th

Testing Details:

- **Estimated test time:** Approximately 3 hours
- **Testing Locations:**
 - **Bronx Hub:** 3893 Dyre Avenue
 - **Brooklyn Hub:** 274 Atlantic Avenue



Please confirm your child's participation and preferred date so we can secure their seat. Commitment is important to ensure proper planning.

SAT and PSAT Preparation Resources:

The Parents Guide to PSAT

<https://blog.collegeboard.org/parents-guide-psat-nmsqt>

What's on the PSAT?

<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-10/whats-on-the-test>

Preparing for the PSAT

<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-10/preparing>

Taking the PSAT

<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-10/taking-the-test>

PSAT 10 Testing Rules

<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-10/testing-rules>

What's on the SAT

<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/whats-on-the-test>

What to Bring on SAT Test Day

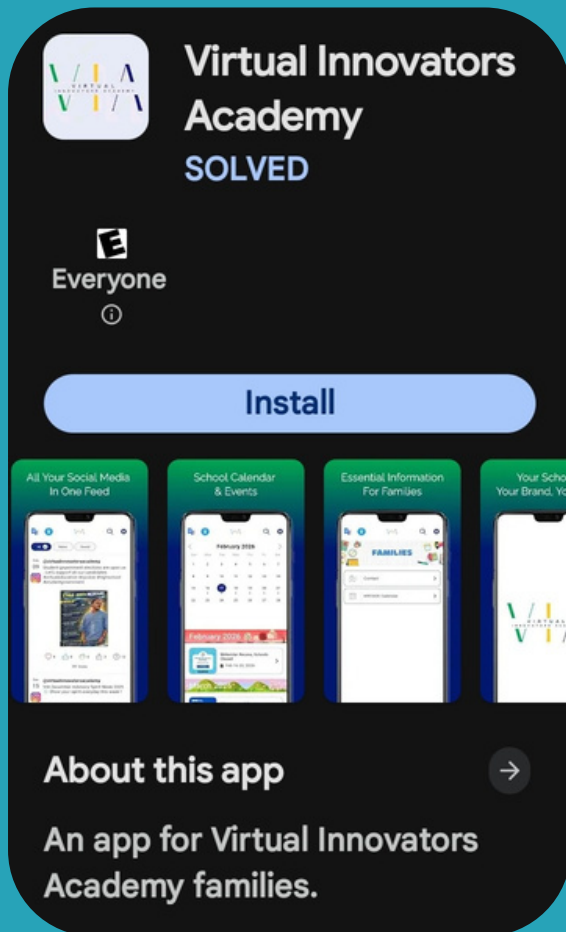
<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/what-to-bring-do/what-to-bring>

THIS

JUST IN

NEW

Student Grades



🎉 Big News! The VIA App Is Here! 🎉

Virtual Innovators Academy App

Get ready to stay connected like never before! We're SO excited to introduce our brand-new school app — and trust us, you're going to LOVE it! 🙌

Everything You Need, All in One Place:

- 📱 One Feed, All Social Media – No more jumping between apps! See all school updates in a single scroll
- 📅 School Calendar & Events – Stay in the loop on everything happening at our school
- 📢 Important Family Info – Get instant updates delivered right to your phone

Your School. Your Brand. Your Community. Your Way!

The VIA app makes staying connected easy, fast, and FUN! Whether you're at home, at work, or on the go — your school community is always just a tap away! ❤️

➡️ What Are You Waiting For? Download TODAY!

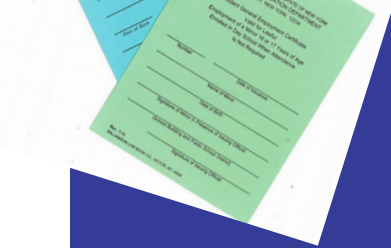
Available NOW for Android on the [Google Play Store](#)!

👉 Don't miss out — join the VIA family and let's stay connected TOGETHER! 🙌

Working papers are also known as Employment Certification.



Working Papers



Who needs working papers?

All students between 14 - 17 years of age must get an employment certificate in order to work

- Out of state students who are working in New York City must have New York State working papers. The ones from their own state are not sufficient.
- Minors who are 14 years of age or over are not required to have employment certificates to work as:
 - Caddies
 - Babysitters
 - Engage in casual employment such as yard work and household chores in and about a residence or on the premises of a non-profit, non-commercial organization—as long as these tasks do not involve the use of power-driven machinery.

How do I get working papers?

Students must:

1. Fill out the New York State application available on the [NY State Education Website](#), which also provides related resources (e.g., Work Hours).
2. Submit it to the designated person in their high school or middle school. Ask about a virtual process if needed.



What do I need to complete/bring?

Make sure you have with you:

- An application with Section 1 completed and signed by a parent
- A birth certificate as proof of your age
- An original version of a:
 - New York State doctor's note (stating the student is "fit for employment")
 - Certificate of physical fitness completed by a NY State physician
- Schooling record:
 - Registered NYC public school students need their school ID
 - Private school and non-NYC public school students--and out of state students working in NYC--need:
 - To complete the Schooling Record section of the application and:
 - A letter from school or
 - A recent report card

Complete the NY State Application for Employment Certificate:

<https://www.p12.nysed.gov/ssd/documents/AT17-FillableMarch22.pdf>

Complete the NY Physical Fitness Certification:

[Certificate:https://www.p12.nysed.gov/ssd/documents/AT-16fillable.pdf](https://www.p12.nysed.gov/ssd/documents/AT-16fillable.pdf)



For questions or to receive your working papers, please contact:

Ms. Bernard - Parent Coordinator

Office Hours: Mon-Fri
8:00am -400pm



cbernard10@schools.nyc.gov



Contact #: (929)692-6614



2025-2026 TABLE OF ORGANIZATION

Name	Position	Hours	Google Voice	Email
Terri Grey	Principal	Monday-Friday 7:45 – 4:00	(929) 617-5168	tgrey@schools.nyc.gov
Theresa Wyre	Assistant Principal	Monday - Friday 8:30 - 4:30 pm	(917) 903-8667	Twyre@schools.nyc.gov
Jasmine Carrion-Rodriguez	Secretary	Monday – Friday 7:55 – 3:15	(347) 563-4471	jcarrionrodrigu@schools.nyc.gov
Christal Bernard	Parent Coordinator	Monday – Friday 8:30 - 4:15	(347)841-6145	cbernard10@schools.nyc.gov
Jenel Bethea	9th & 10th Grade Counselor	Monday – Friday 8:30 – 3:45	(347)781-5170	jbethea@schools.nyc.gov
Magdelyn Gomez	College & Career Counselor	Monday – Friday 8:15 – 3:30	(646) 694-1126	mgomez88@schools.nyc.gov
Mery Lawrence	11th Grade Counselor	Monday – Friday 8:15 – 3:30	(929) 257-1384	mlawrence5@schools.nyc.gov
Pamela Williams Jones	12th Grade Counselor	Monday – Friday 8:15 – 3:30		Pwilliams10@schools.nyc.gov
Sheana Veitch-Harris	Social Worker	Monday - Friday 8:00 - 3:35	(347)-403-9033	sveitchharris3@schools.nyc.gov
Rabia Ahsin	Sped Teacher	Monday 8:55 – 4:15 Tuesday 8:55 – 3:55 Wed – Fri 8:55 – 3:15	(347) 719-7323	rahsin@schools.nyc.gov
Jonathan Baez	ENL Teacher		(917)-795-1639	jbaez25@schools.nyc.gov
Anderson Bridgemohan	Social Studies		(929) 500-2616	abridgemohan@schools.nyc.gov
Ari Decherd	Music Teacher		(347) 916-9808	adecherd@schools.nyc.qov
Cheryl Denton Bell	Science Teacher		(929) 480-6522	cdentonbell@schools.nyc.gov
Carly Friedman	ELA Teacher		(914) 732-7375	Cfriedman15@schools.nyc.gov
Marlene Godoy	Sped Teacher		(646) 820-3589	mgodoy3@schools.nyc.qov
Tamara Gonzalez Shields	Sped Teacher		(347) 466-9259	tgos.nyc.govnzalez7@school
Kelli-Ann Henry	Phys Ed Teacher		(917) 780-2944	Khenry3@schools.nyc.gov
Joy Hsiao	Math Teacher		(848) 777-5388	jhsiao@schools.nyc.gov
Danielle Mathews	Social Studies Teacher		(845) 232-0342	djackson34@schools.nyc.gov
Jude Julien	Science Teacher		(917) 720-6202	jjulien@schools.nyc.gov
Ethel Khanis	Science Teacher		(862) 414-4603	ekhanis@schools.nyc.gov
Benash Khanum	Sped Teacher		(443) 819-0205	bkhanum@schools.nyc.qov
Simone Lowry	ELA Teacher		(347) 512-1090	slowrv@schools.nyc.qov
Sheron Mitchell	SpEd Teacher		(914) 510-5228	smitchell13@schools.nyc.gov
Andres Ortega	Art Teacher		(347) 206-3251	Aortega10@schools.nyc.gov
Sparkle Peters	Sped Teacher		(347) 267-4169	Speters9@schools.nyc.gov
Karen Schatz	Sped Teacher		(646) 481-4102	kschatz@schools.nyc.gov
Paula Smith	Sped Teacher		914-246-0055	psmith41@schools.nyc.gov
Anna Torres	Social Studies Teacher		(347) 815-9691	atorres72@schools.nyc.gov
Sarah Van	Math Teacher		(732) 737-7211	svan4@schools.nyc.gov
Giselle Vitaliti	Sped Teacher		(862) 305-0367	gvitaliti@schools.nyc.qov
Hadiya Williams	Math Teacher		(646) 820 - 3173	hwilliams20@schools.nyc.gov
Emi Yamasaki	FL Japanese Teacher		929-525-4521	eyamasaki@schools.nyc.gov
John Paul Yun	Social Studies Teacher		(347) 467-0113	jyun@schools.nyc.gov
Jeffrey Rodriguez	WBL Coordinator (M,W, F ONLY)		(845) 859-0575	jrodriguez40@schools.nyc.gov
Natalie Manzella	Speech Teacher		(929) 333-5882	NManzella@schools.nyc.gov
Najee Brown	Paraprofessional		347-496-9166	nbrown50@schools.nyc.qov
Deborah Echols	Paraprofessional		516-304-1553	DEchols2@schools.nyc.qov
Lashawn Jackson	Paraprofessional		929-244-0324	ljackson5@schools.nyc.qov
Nadia Khan	Paraprofessional		973-692-7235	NKhan17@schools.nyc.qov
Jillian Rodriguez	Paraprofessional		845-275-3834	jrodriguez440@schools.nyc.gov
Ayesha Saleem	Paraprofessional		929-515-4872	asaleem4@schools.nyc.qov
Gregory Sanchez	Paraprofessional		(551) 242-0495	gsanchez6@schools.nyc.gov
Adrianne Washington	Paraprofessional		(914) 417-9557	awashington14@schools.nyc.qov
Nikyle Dinnall	Paraprofessional		(914) 821-5841	NDinnall@schools.nyc.gov