



VAILS GATE STEAM ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

October 2026



PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

As we continue our journey through the school year, I am excited to share the many wonderful activities taking place at our school in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. This special time provides an opportunity for our students to learn about, recognize, and celebrate the rich histories, traditions, languages, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities throughout the United States and around the world.

Throughout the month, our students will participate in a variety of engaging, educational, and meaningful activities that bring these cultures to life. Classrooms will explore the stories of influential Hispanic and Latino leaders, authors, artists, musicians, athletes, and historical figures whose contributions have shaped our world. Students will have opportunities to discover traditional music, dance, art, literature, foods, and customs from countries such as Mexico, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, El Salvador, Cuba, and many others. Through classroom discussions, read-alouds, creative projects, research activities, and collaborative learning experiences, students will develop a deeper appreciation for the diversity that makes our school community so special.

A central part of this celebration is helping students understand that our differences are strengths and that learning about one another builds respect, empathy, and a sense of belonging. By sharing stories, traditions, and experiences, we encourage our students to recognize the many ways our cultures connect us while honoring what makes each of us unique.

We are especially excited to culminate our Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations with a parent activity that brings our school community together to celebrate the many cultures represented among our students and families. This special gathering will provide an opportunity

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UPCOMING EVENTS



SEPTEMBER 3RD- FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 7TH - LABOR DAY
NO SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 21ST- YOM KIPPUR
NO SCHOOL



FALL PICTURE DAY

OCTOBER 29TH.

Keep an eye out for ordering information coming home in their backpacks.



HISPANIC HERITAGE

SEPT 15TH - OCT 15TH

Students and teachers have been working on a variety of projects to celebrate Hispanic culture.



TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 23RD-5:00-6:00

We invite our families to participate in decorating their car trunks and hand-out treats. Come dressed in your best costume!!

We are also accepting candy donations now through the night of the event.



for families to share their cultural traditions and other meaningful aspects of their backgrounds. Through interactive activities and opportunities to learn from one another, we hope to create an environment where students and families feel valued, represented, and connected to our school community.

Giving Back to Our Community: Cereal Box Collection

In the spirit of kindness, generosity, and service, our school will also be collecting cereal boxes to support local food pantries. This school-wide initiative, in collaboration with ShopRite and Partners in Caring, will help provide food assistance to individuals and families in our local community. We are asking our school families to consider donating boxes of cereal to help make this effort a success. Even one box can make a difference, and when we come together as a school community, our collective contributions can have a meaningful impact on those in need. This initiative also provides a valuable opportunity for our students to learn about food insecurity, compassion, and the importance of helping others. Additional information regarding collection dates and drop-off procedures will be shared with families.

As principal, I am incredibly proud of the ways our students, staff, and families continue to demonstrate curiosity, kindness, and a commitment to making our school a welcoming place for everyone. Whether through celebrating cultural traditions, participating in family engagement opportunities, or giving back to our neighbors, these experiences help our students grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, we are building a school community where every student and family feels seen, valued, and celebrated.

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DISTRICT NEWS

TITLE I PARENT SURVEY!

[Survey Link](#)- We would love to hear from you as your feedback directly impacts some of our future decisions.

WALL CALENDARS

Wall calendars have been distributed to the youngest and only child of each family soon. You will find it in your child's backpack. Families can always add letter days and school/district events to their Google calendar for the most up to date information.



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AFTER SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

We are also very excited to announce that we now accepting applications for our 21st Century After-School Program. The 21st Century After School Academy will provide academic enrichment along with various activities, programs and services to enhance the growth and development of our elementary scholars and their families. The program runs Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:15-5:15pm. There is a start date of October 27th.

[Sign up for the 21st Century After-School Programs | Elementary Students](#)



HEALTH OFFICE NEWS

Say "Boo" to the Flu! - Get your Flu Shot!

Please keep sick kids home! If they have a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, large amounts of mucous, unknown rash, or head or ear pain they should stay home. They need to be fever free for 24 hours without medicine, and symptoms improving before they can return to school.

Please remember to send in a **copy of your child's Physical Exam** if they are in Kindergarten, grades 1,3,5 or if they are a new student this year. IT IS REQUIRED! Thank you.

