Board of Education Update
Benjamin A. Winans
High School Director
October 1, 2026

Staff Recognition

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Development recently released its annual district report cards, and I am thrilled to share that Vantage Career Center has once again earned a 5-Star Rating—the highest level achievable, significantly exceeding state standards. While I will provide a more comprehensive breakdown during our upcoming meeting, I wanted to take a moment to bring this to your attention as this is a direct result of the dedication, passion, and tireless effort of our entire staff. Their commitment to empowering our students and driving technical excellence makes success like this possible. To our faculty, support teams, and students: thank you for setting the bar high and continually pushing past it. We have so much to be proud of!

Upcoming Events

October 13 - Professional Development Day - AI Training - NTHS Induction
October 23 - End of 1st Quarter
October 28-29 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
October 30 - No School
November 5 - Board of Education Meeting
November 2 - 6 - 8th Grade Tours
November 13 - Sophomore Visits

Report of Supervisory Area Progress, Current Initiatives

<u>Benjamin A. Winans - Director</u>

Vantage once again assisted the Van Wert and Paulding County Economic Development in the annual Build Your Future Forward event on September 15. On this day roughly 500 freshmen or sophomores from all Van Wert and Paulding County schools along with Parkway came to the Van Wert Fairgrounds to get hands-on experience in varying career fields. While this event took place on September 15, I want to give many thanks to our instructors, students and support staff who assisted in setting up the day before and then tearing down the day after the event. This event could not run without the assistance of our Vantage crew, so many thanks to all involved for another successful event.

On Tuesday October 13, we will induct new members into the National Technical Honor Society here at Vantage. These students have earned at least a 3.75 GPA, attended school at least 95% of the time, and been positive examples for themselves and our school. We will welcome their parents and associate school personnel to celebrate with us as they are inducted.

Cyndi Brill – Trade and Industry Supervisor

On September 3, Vantage hosted its CDL Parent/Student Orientation Meeting. Mr. Miller provided students and families with a clear overview of the program's rigor, participation requirements, and the commitment necessary for success. His thoughtful reorganization of the orientation materials helped ensure that families received consistent information and understood the expectations before training begins. The meeting established a strong foundation for the upcoming CDL cohort.

Ag & Industrial Power instructor Mike Miller and Construction Equipment Technology instructor Chris Miles and classroom aide Deb Richardson will be accompanying ~31 juniors and seniors to the 64th Annual Farm Science Review in London, Ohio. Students will have the opportunity to explore the connections between agriculture, science, engineering, technology, business, and the environment through demonstrations, hands-on activities, and career exploration. Exposure to robotics, drones, autonomous equipment, and engineering design helped students connect their classroom instruction with emerging careers and postsecondary pathways.

Six T&I programs supported the Build Your Future Forward event held September 15 at the Van Wert County Fairgrounds. Students and instructors from Industrial Mechanics, Welding, Machining & Engineering Technology, Electricity, Carpentry, and Construction Equipment Technology worked alongside industry partners to provide a hands-on career exploration experience for students from area school districts. In addition to demonstrating technical skills, Vantage students served as leaders and represented their programs with professionalism.

Auto Collision instructor Dan Edwards and Auto Technology instructor Larry Davis welcomed representatives from WyoTech and Reineke Family Dealerships. WyoTech introduced students to postsecondary training opportunities in automotive, diesel, collision and refinishing, welding, and related specialty areas. Because former Vantage students have continued their education at WyoTech, current students were able to see an established pathway from their Vantage programs to advanced technical training.

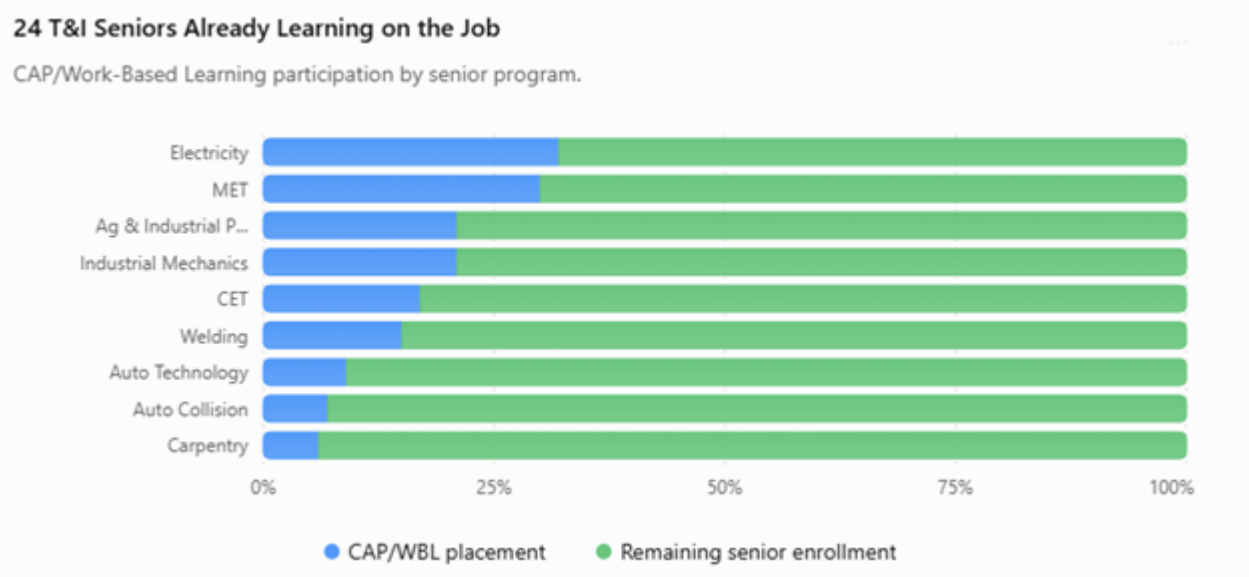
Reineke Family Dealerships presented its 10-week Work-Study Program, which allows participants to rotate through positions within their area of interest, receive hands-on training, and learn about future employment opportunities. The presentation helped students understand how technical ability, professionalism, and knowledge of dealership operations contribute to success in the automotive industry.

Welding instructor Gary Cearns welcomed Hobart Brothers to speak with juniors and seniors about the development, manufacturing, testing, and industrial use of welding products and filler metals. Students learned how manufacturers apply technical knowledge, quality standards, safety practices, problem-solving, and teamwork within the welding and manufacturing industries.

The senior cohort of Carpentry students are excited to help complete the Latty House project. To date, the roof has been completed, siding installation is scheduled, and students are framing the basement walls. Electricity instructor Brent Hoersten and his students have also wired the house, demonstrating valuable collaboration between the two T&I programs.

Additional industry engagement occurred throughout the department. Braun Ambulances visited the Auto Collision program, while Unverferth representatives met with T&I students to share current industry practices and career opportunities. Students from Electricity, Machining & Engineering Technology, and Industrial Mechanics toured GROB, where they connected their classroom and laboratory instruction with advanced manufacturing operations. Kimball Midwest also provided drilling and tapping safety training, at no cost, to 20 Ag & Industrial Power juniors. Students who complete the training will receive a certificate of completion.

During the first weeks of the school year, 24 of the department's ~135 seniors were placed in CAP/Work-Based Learning experiences—approximately 18% of the total T&I senior enrollment. Every T&I program currently has at least one student participating. These placements reflect a department-wide commitment to connecting classroom and laboratory instruction with authentic workplace experience.



Electricity instructor Brent Hoersten was selected by Paulding Putnam Electric & Internet to participate in a tour of the Cardinal Generating Station in Brilliant, Ohio. The plant provides power to Ohio's 24 electric cooperatives and has invested more than $1 billion in environmental upgrades. This professional learning opportunity will strengthen Mr. Hoersten's understanding of large-scale power generation, safety, grid operations, and environmental systems—knowledge he can bring back to the classroom to enhance instruction and broaden students' awareness of careers within the electrical industry.

Thank you to the Construction Equipment Technology students for supporting the upcoming Day of Caring by delivering collection barrels to participating area businesses. This community service project allowed students to demonstrate teamwork, responsibility, and professionalism beyond the classroom.

Three T&I students are among eight Vantage students selected to serve on the Ohio Attorney General's Teen Ambassador Board for 2026–2027: Kaitlyn Antus, senior Auto Technology; Natalie Hempker, senior Machining & Engineering Technology; and Noah Becker, junior Electricity. During their one-year terms, they will gain an inside look at Ohio law and government, collaborate with students from across the state, and help develop solutions to issues affecting teens. Their selection reflects strong individual initiative and provides another meaningful opportunity for student leadership.

Congratulations are extended to Kenadi Short, a senior in Jerry Robinson's Carpentry program, for earning the 2026 Van Wert County Junior Fair Best Woodworking Project award and second place in the FFA Shop Project competition. These honors reflect Kenadi's creativity, craftsmanship, attention to detail, and commitment to producing high-quality work.

Julie Schroeder – Business and Service Supervisor

Our service programs are off to a strong start. Mrs. Smith and her senior Cosmetology students will open the Avantage Salon to the public on October 14th. Appointments will be available starting at 8:30 a.m. most Tuesdays through Thursdays.

The Vantage Preschool successfully launched its school year on September 14th. Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Moreno, and their Early Childhood Education students were excited to welcome 13 new preschool students to campus.

Chef Trinosky, Ms. Hannekratt, and the Culinary Arts students prepared meatballs and desserts for the Delphos Canal Days Toast of the Town. A special thank you goes to student volunteers Marisol Davis (Delphos Jefferson), Carter England (Parkway), Robert Harmon (Delphos Jefferson), and Gabriel Vandyke (Delphos Jefferson) for serving at the event.

Thank you to all the Vantage programs that contributed to the "Build Your Future Forward" event. The Business and Service Department provided key support: Mrs. Markward, Mrs. Laing, and the Health Technology and Medical Assisting students operated a Health Care station, while Mrs. Owens and the Marketing and Design students provided photo and video coverage throughout the day.

Mr. Meyer is collaborating with the Van Wert County Council on Aging on a new community initiative. Starting October 8th, Network Systems students will host hands-on tech support sessions for local senior citizens at the Council on Aging center. Kudos to Mr. Meyer for recognizing this community need and creating a practical learning opportunity for our students.

Mrs. Farr has secured several valuable new placements for our Transition to Work students, including a new partnership with Paulding County Hospital where students complete a variety of support tasks. On campus, Mrs. Farr, Ms. Wurst, and their students continue to manage essential daily operations, including the Tuesday Drinks program and first-aid kit replenishment.

Tonya Temple – Student Services Supervisor

Student Services staff members have been working with students to ensure they are in the programs and academic courses that they prefer.

We are working with our associate school counselors to schedule 8th Grade Tours. These are taking place November 3 and 4. Sophomore homeschool visits are currently being scheduled and will begin in October. Sophomore day is November 13.

We are working with students who will need to be retested in any of the End of Course Tests. These tests will be administered the week of December 7. Student Services are also working with the home school counselors to identify pathways for senior students and determine what career-focused activities and readiness seals would best show the competency to graduate.

The English department tested students with the STAR Reading Inventories, which identifies the reading level of each student. Each student will then be assigned goals to reach by the end of the year. The English department also uses CommonLit to assess students.

Members of the Mathematics department continue to participate in Advanced Quantitative Reasoning (AQR) training this year. They will continue their professional development by attending monthly collaborative meet-ups- held both virtually and in person- with educators from other districts who are also implementing this curriculum throughout the academic year.

Ashley Cline - Supervisor of Student Operations

Career Advanced Placement (part of Work-based Learning)

- The CAP Program is for seniors who are in good standing with grades, attendance, and behavior, and are on track to graduate and have obtained employment or an internship with a business.
- Currently, there are 26 students engaged in the Career Advanced Placement Work-Based Learning (Early Work Release program)
    - Last year at this time, we had 22
- At present, we have established work-based learning agreements with 24 businesses
- 23 students have completed Step 1 of the WBL process and have moved on to Step 2.
- Larry
    - Made 4 New Business Connections that have never worked with Vantage

- Set up 2 Tours with New Businesses
- Set up 3 Tours with Local Businesses
- Worked on WBL Email, Flyers for Programs to present to Businesses Regarding WBL
- Working with Students in CAP Program to visit them at place of employment

PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention Support)

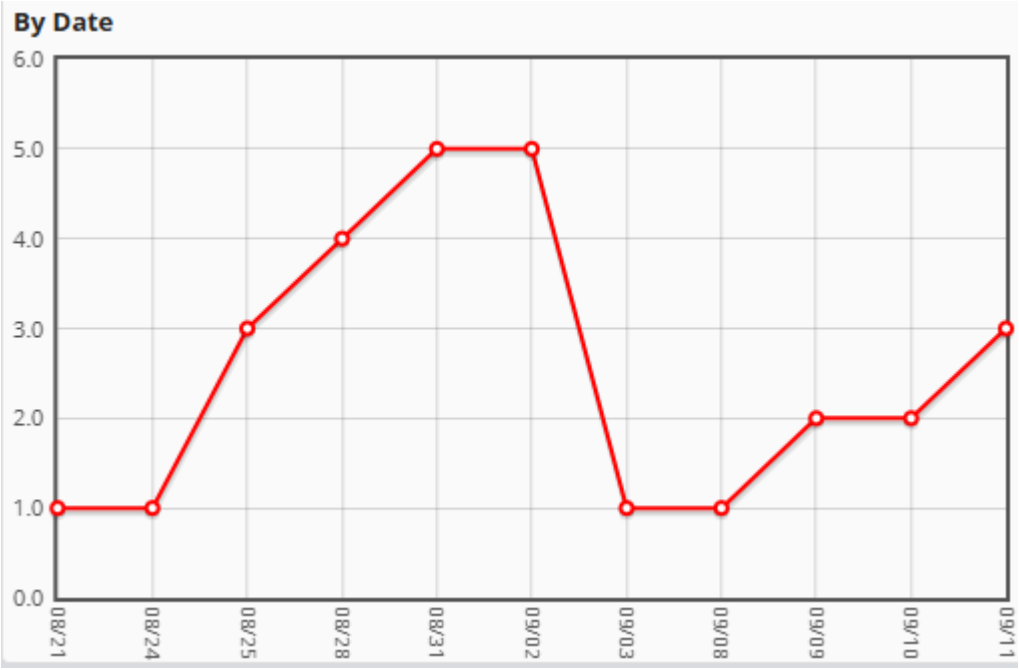
- Is up and running; our first "drawing" was on 9/11/2026
- We are continuing to work on Tier 2 as a school.

Attendance

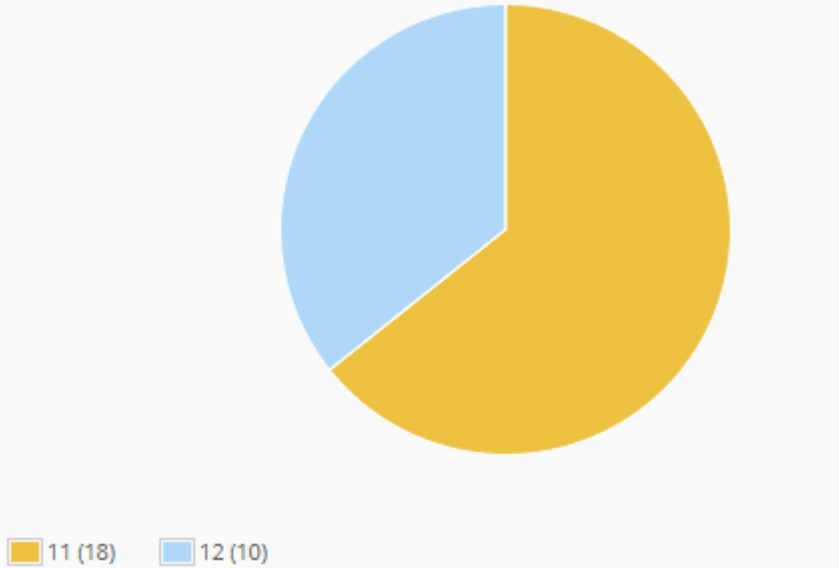
- As of 9/9/2026 - Seniors' attendance rate = 96.7%
  - Senior attendance rate at this time last year = 97.7%
- Juniors' attendance rate = 96.6%
- Attendance Rate for all students = 96.6%
  - Last year attendance rate for all students = 97.7%

Discipline

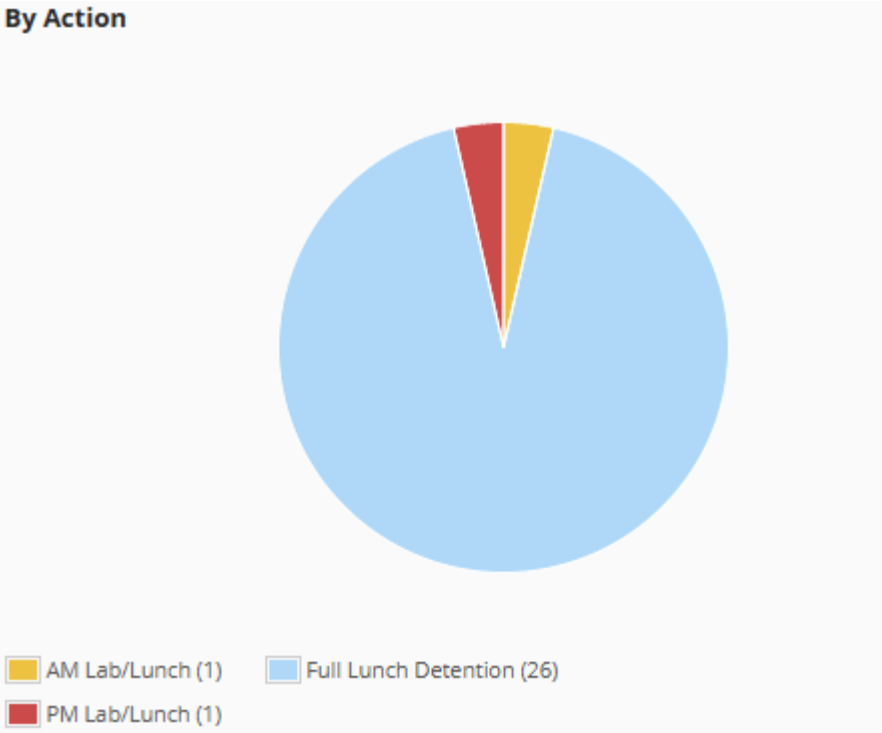
Please see the charts below regarding discipline since the beginning of the school year.



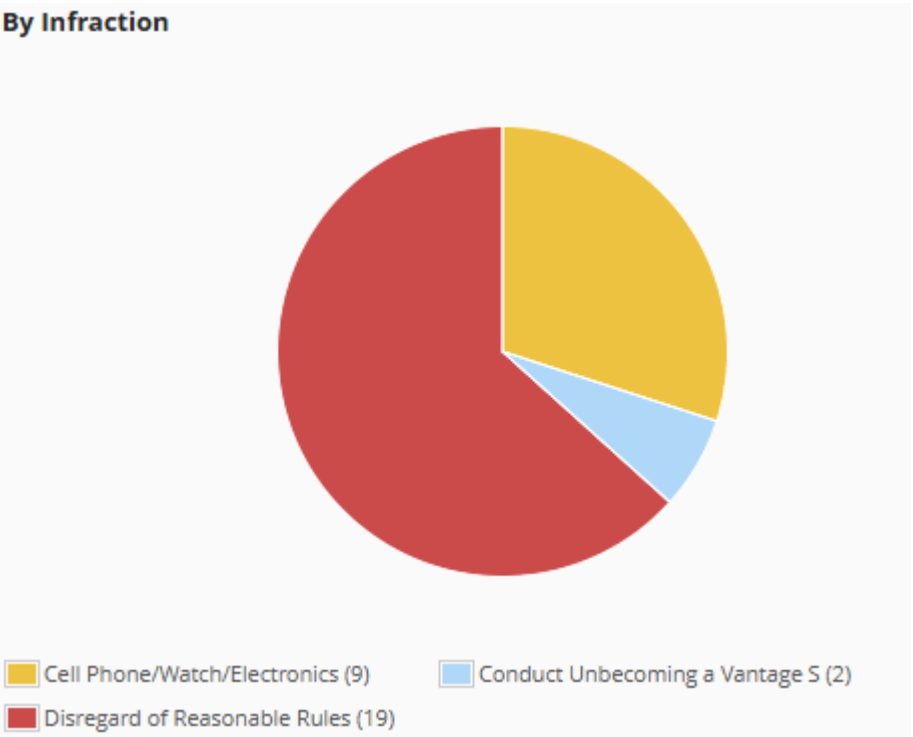
By Grade Level



By Action



By Infraction



ADULT EDUCATION DIRECTORS REPORT
BOE MEETING10/26

Practical Nursing

- 100% pass rate on the NCLEX - all students passed on their first attempt.

CDL

- Application for the 26/27 CDL Loan grant has been submitted.
    - Awards have not been announced at this time.

CTX

- Awarded $44,063.73 for FY27.

COE

- Staff is working hard on the Self Study for COE, which is due the beginning of February.
- Vantage has been assigned their Fellow, who is here to assist us with questions we may have along during the process. She will be contacting us in October.

Ohio West Safety Council

- Two of our Customized Training Instructors will be presenting 3 sessions at the Ohio West Safety Council meetings in November, February, and April. They will be presenting on:
    - Kip Gochenour - November - Chemical Safety
    - Kip Gochenour - February - Ergonomics
    - Terri Schmenk - April - Electrical Safety

Maintenance Report

- **All of the display cases had the carpet replaced to match the building.**
- **Maintenance had assisted most labs getting equipment and students back and forth to the fairgrounds for Build Your Future.**
- **A storage area was converted to a mother's room.**
- **A new board was installed in a heat pump by ATR for the culinary area.**
- **Wallace Plumbing installed a drain pipe on one of the water check valves.**

Technology (9-18-26)

- The network wiring at VAMC is now complete, and we have begun prepping new workstations for deployment at the facility. Once the district has been granted occupancy, we will start moving over workstations.

- We have also finished installing our network switches at the VAMC, and have now activated the dark fiber connection between the Main Campus and the new facility. A thank you to Brian Wannemacher (TSC) and Kevin Hellman (NOACSC) for their help on this project.

- Stacie upgraded our Papercut printing service to the latest version. This version addresses a security issue and some bugs we've been having.

- Stacie also worked on resolving issues affecting our McGraw Hill and Canvas LMS systems as well as troubleshooting an issue with our Lightspeed internet filter that had developed in our Network Systems program.

- Jill and Stacie both continue to work on renewing the district's digital tools. This has quickly become one of the department's core functions. With data protection now a primary concern, and the time of the textbook at an end, online learning tools are now front and center in our day-to-day operations.

- Jill worked with Ashley Cline to create an absence management tool which will allow the district to more easily comply with the State of Ohio's enhanced attendance requirements that were introduced in HB96 to help combat chronic absenteeism.

VANTAGE CAREER CENTER
818 N. FRANKLIN STREET VAN WERT, OHIO 45891

Contact: Tessa Laing
Community Relations Coordinator
419-238-5411 ext. 2169
laing.t@vantagecareercenter.com

COMMUNITY RELATIONS UPDATE OCTOBER 2026

The first quarter of the school year has been busy with opportunities to showcase our students, staff, programs and connections throughout the communities we serve.

Build Your Future Forward
Vantage was proud to once again be part of Build Your Future Forward, welcoming more than 500 freshmen and sophomores from area schools for a day focused on career exploration. Students participated in hands-on activities highlighting careers in healthcare, skilled trades and advanced manufacturing while connecting with Vantage staff, students, and local employer and community partners. The event provided a great opportunity to introduce younger students to career possibilities throughout our region and give them an early look at the skills and opportunities available through career technical education.

United Way Food Drive
Our United Way Day of Caring Food Drive is in full action! Vantage students and staff have been involved in supporting this community-wide effort, including our Construction Equipment Technology students helping deliver collection barrels to local businesses and schools.
Collection efforts are continuing, and we can't wait to share the final results and celebrate the impact we're able to make together.

Vantage in Our Communities
Our Student Ambassadors wrapped up a busy summer and fall representing Vantage at local community parades throughout our district. These events gave our students an opportunity to proudly represent Vantage while keeping our school visible and connected across the communities we serve.
Thank you to our ambassadors who volunteered their time and helped represent Vantage throughout parade season!

Partner School Sophomore Presentations
Next up, we're preparing to hit the road with our ambassadors and visit our 13 partner schools to present to current sophomore classes about the opportunities available at Vantage.
These presentations are an important part of introducing students to our programs, answering questions and helping sophomores begin thinking about the programs and career pathways they may want to explore. This outreach will lead directly into upcoming visitation and recruitment efforts.

Meet the Staff
Our Meet the Staff features have been performing especially well on social media this quarter. These posts give our community a chance to get to know the people behind our programs–from their professional experience and education to their favorite parts of teaching and a few fun facts along the way.
The strong response to these features shows the value of putting faces and personalities behind the Vantage name and will continue to be an important part of our storytelling strategy throughout the school year.

Student Appreciation Day
Our annual Student Appreciation Day gave students from all 13 partner schools an opportunity to step away from the classroom, meet new people and simply enjoy being part of Vantage.
From the student car show and rock climbing to cornhole, soccer darts, board games and more, the day was filled with activities designed to bring our students together. With students coming to Vantage from communities across the region, events like this help build connections and create a stronger sense of community within the school.

Looking Ahead – Second Quarter Priorities
The second quarter will continue building on the systems established during the opening months of the year, with priorities including completing and implementing brand guidelines and templates; continuing targeted Adult Education enrollment campaigns; high school sophomore recruitment, strengthening website, social, advertising and enrollment measurement; expanding student, alumni, instructor and employer storytelling; increasing short-form video and authentic lab content; and continuing proactive media outreach.

Major upcoming communications opportunities include 8th Grade Tours, Sophomore Visitation, the Vantage Academy of Medical Careers transition/ribbon cutting, additional Adult Education campaigns, Open House/Taste of Vantage planning and continued promotion of student and staff achievements.

Upcoming Dates
October 13 - National Technical Honor Society Ceremony
October 20 - Picture Retake Day and Program Pictures
October 23 - End of First Quarter
October 28 - Parent Teacher Conferences
October 29- Parent Teacher Conferences