Board of Education Update
Benjamin Winans
High School Director
November 5, 2026

Staff Recognition
I want to personally thank all staff members for working together through the first nine weeks of the school year. There are many moving parts as we begin a new school year and our goal of communication and visibility has made the start to the school year a very smooth one. We continue to expand our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) programming to better serve our student population. Recently, those students with zero points for the first nine weeks enjoyed a snack and beverage of their choice during lunch. We continue our weekly drawings for students to earn varying rewards for showing positive behavior as well. This program works to instill characteristics in our students that employers are seeking. Thanks to all staff for working together to implement PBIS.

Upcoming Events
November 2-6 - 8th Grade Tours
November 13 - Sophomore Visit
November 25-30 - No School (Thanksgiving Break)
December 7 -11 - End of Course Testing
December 21 - January 1 - No School (Winter Break))

Report of Supervisory Area Progress, Current Initiatives

Benjamin Winans -- Director

The month of November brings many career exploration and recruitment opportunities. Our annual 8th grade tours are set for the first week of the month to allow all 8th graders from our associate schools to explore each program that Vantage has to offer. We then welcome all sophomores to the building in the middle of the month to spend about an hour in two programs of their choice. Through these activities our current students and staff work to allow those students who visit to gain valuable career based experience.

Parent-student-teacher conferences were held at the end of the month of October. Our staff members met with parents and students to discuss progress through the first nine weeks of school. This communication between parents, students and staff will continue to strengthen the daily educational processes.

I conducted a meeting with all new staff members at the end of the first nine weeks to continue to strengthen our onboarding process here at Vantage. This informal meeting allowed new staff members to enjoy coffee and pastries (prepared by our Culinary Arts program) and have an open discussion about

how their year has started and how we can continue to support them in their new roles with us at Vantage.

Cyndi Brill – Trade and Industry Supervisor

Trade & Industry students continued to benefit from meaningful industry exposure and career-connected learning opportunities throughout the past month. These experiences reflect the ongoing work of T&I instructors to connect classroom instruction with current industry practices, postsecondary pathways, and future employment opportunities.

Students participated in several industry field trips. Ag & Industrial Power and Construction Equipment Technology students attended the Cygnet event, gaining hands-on exposure to heavy equipment and learning more about careers and apprenticeship opportunities in the operating-engineer field. Electricity and Industrial Mechanics students toured GROB and connected their laboratory instruction to advanced manufacturing operations. Instructor Jerry Robinson's Carpentry students visited the JATC Carpenters Local to learn more about apprenticeship training, the skills expected in the carpentry trade, and potential pathways into the construction workforce.

Junior Carpentry students traveled to Fort Wayne, Indiana, to tour MacAllister Rentals. They observed equipment management and rental operations and earned safety certifications in aerial lift, telehandler, and mobility driving. Auto Technology and Auto Collision students traveled to Norfolk for career exploration and industry exposure related to automotive service, repair, and collision technology at Summit Motorsports Park.

Welding instructor Gary Cearns highlighted junior Welding student Braydon Jacobs, who was progressing ahead of schedule in the lab. Braydon completed a project that was auctioned locally to support a hospice family. The project incorporated an Ohio State University cutout provided by Industrial Mechanics instructor Kevin Van Oss and one of his students. Braydon welded the piece together and prepared it for auction, demonstrating technical skill, initiative, and a willingness to use his talents to support others.

Kokosing representatives met with Construction Equipment Technology students to discuss careers in the construction and skilled-trades industries. The presentation gave juniors and seniors an opportunity to learn more about the company, available career pathways, and employer expectations.

The T&I team also hosted representatives from the University of Northwestern Ohio (UNOH), Lincoln Tech, and Ohio Technical College. These visits provided information about postsecondary programs, admissions requirements, career options, and pathways connected to students' technical training at Vantage. Exposure to multiple institutions helps students compare opportunities, ask meaningful questions, and make informed decisions about their education and career futures.

Special thanks go to the instructors who organize these opportunities. Field trips and industry visits require significant planning and coordination, and our instructors continue to ensure that student experiences are connected to program outcomes and meaningful career exploration.

Work-Based Learning and employer connections continue to grow across the department. Twenty-seven of the department's 131 seniors are currently participating in CAP/Work-Based Learning experiences, with every T&I program represented. These placements allow students to apply technical skills, develop workplace habits, and learn directly from employers.

Planning is also continuing with Cool Machines for a student learning experience at the Vantage Project House. The company has offered to provide equipment and staff training, while a cellulose manufacturer has offered to donate the insulation fiber. The initial project is expected to focus on attic insulation after Thanksgiving, providing students with hands-on experience with emerging construction technologies and industry practices.

Vantage students continue to demonstrate leadership through SkillsUSA. Six students attended the SkillsUSA Ohio Regional Chapter Development Conference, where they earned the first portion of the Project Management Statesman Award and received training related to chapter development, the Program of Work, leadership, and community engagement.

Preparations are underway for the SkillsUSA Ohio Fall Leadership Conference on November 12-13. Five Vantage students have successfully completed the first two rounds of the Regional Officer Candidate process and will advance to the next level. Four students will serve as State Delegates, three students will work toward earning their Statesman Award, and three seniors will pursue the Project Management Statesman Award—an accomplishment that would be a first in Vantage history. These students are continuing to prepare for the conference and the opportunities ahead.

The T&I team continues to support community-based projects that provide authentic learning experiences. Construction Equipment Technology students delivered barrels to area businesses for use during the Day of Caring event. In addition, they also have been actively supporting the Thomas Edison group in replacing their Shelter House and with plans of supporting the Bocci Court project.

The Commercial Driver's License program continues to provide students with an opportunity to earn an industry-recognized credential while still in high school. Vantage will host Mercer Health on Friday, October 23, for required CDL physicals and drug screenings. Providing these services on-site is a meaningful convenience for students because it reduces travel and limits time away from school and other responsibilities while allowing students to complete this mandatory requirement as part of their CDL training.

The T&I team is also preparing for upcoming recruitment and outreach activities, including sophomore presentations, the November 2-6 eighth-grade tours, and Sophomore Day on November 13. These events require coordinated planning among instructors and staff and provide prospective students with opportunities to see the technical programs, meet instructors, and better understand the career pathways available through Vantage.

WebXam data analysis, combined with input from the T&I Advisory Boards, is helping instructors make informed curriculum decisions. Last year, Industrial Mechanics instructor Kevin Van Oss began questioning whether FANUC robotics certification should/ and could be incorporated into his program.

That question led to a collaboration with Adult Education instructor Terri Schmenk, who worked with Mr. Van Oss to offer a FANUC certification opportunity near the end of last school year. Although students received approximately 12 hours of instruction in the condensed 20-hour FANUC course, the results were promising. Ms. Schmenk noted, “I was impressed with their programs and what they retained. They are good kids!”

Although time limited the experience last year, the results were strong enough to justify incorporating FANUC robotics into this year’s programming. Beginning October 12, Ms. Schmenk and Mr. Van Oss established a temporary learning lab in the related-labs area. They brought FANUC training equipment together from Adult Education, Van Wert High School, and existing Vantage labs so that students could work in groups of three at each machine. The class is currently at capacity, with standing room only, and is progressing on schedule.

This work reflects the everyday collaboration, creativity, and dedication of the T&I team. Special recognition goes to Ag & Industrial Power instructor Mike Miller, whose training as a Snap-on Train-the-Trainer has expanded the department’s ability to support students and staff. Last year, Mr. Miller worked with Mr. Van Oss’s students and helped train Mr. Van Oss as he pursued industry certifications. Building on this same data-informed and industry-responsive approach, Carpentry instructor Jerry Robinson is researching a promising CPR/AED/First Aid training opportunity that could potentially be implemented across all T&I programs. Mr. Robinson has also collaborated with Construction Equipment Technology instructor Chris Miles and the CET program to explore NIS Operator training as an additional certification opportunity for students. In addition, Mr. Miller is offering OSHA 30 training, which may create further opportunities across the department. Together, these efforts demonstrate how T&I instructors use student data, advisory input, shared expertise, and industry knowledge to strengthen curriculum, expand credential opportunities, and better prepare students for the needs of employers.

During a recent T&I departmental meeting, Ag & Industrial Power instructor Mike Miller provided an overview of the CDL program’s revised structure for the current school year. He clarified expectations for participating students and emphasized how each instructor’s support will contribute to the program’s success.

Michelle Reinhart, serving in her new role as Special Education Coordinator, also participated as a guest speaker. Her presentation, “Accommodations Refresher,” gave staff an opportunity to review expectations and engage in meaningful discussion. The open dialogue allowed team members to discuss their special education caseloads, share perspectives, and consider how they are implementing accommodations this school year. The conversation was well structured, collaborative, and focused on supporting student success. *Thank you, Michelle!*

Julie Schroeder – Business and Service Supervisor

Marketing & Design and Network Systems students are getting involved with BPA (Business Professionals of America). On September 25th, both groups participated in a Regional Fall Leadership Conference held at Vandermark Farm in Sidney, Ohio. Students have now finalized their project

selections and have started work on their BPA contest for the upcoming regional competition scheduled for mid-January.

On October 12th, Mrs. Smith and the Senior Cosmetology students attended the Premiere Hair Show in Columbus. It was a great learning experience for students, and a look into the Cosmetology industry. The Avantage Salon is officially open and appointments are starting to fill up! Our cosmetology students are demonstrating exceptional skill while managing the salon, which generally operates on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30–11:00 a.m. To schedule an appointment, please call (419) 238-5411 ext. 2003.

The Vantage Preschool is up and running. Under the guidance of Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Moreno the junior and senior students are planning and implementing lessons for our preschool students. Additionally, the ECE program hosted the activity tent at the Van Wert Apple Festival. Thanks to Mrs. Baker for her coordination and efforts in providing this community service opportunity to our students.

Mr. Pyles has been actively building local community connections. This past month, the Criminal Justice Lab welcomed two guest speakers: Jamie Evans, Director of Survivor Services at the Van Wert YWCA, spoke about domestic violence and human trafficking, and Christine Ulrich from the Coroner's Office also addressed the class.

The Culinary Arts Program welcomed a group of Van Wert Middle School students for lunch on October 20th. The Cup and Saucer restaurant is preparing to open to the public in November, and our culinary students look forward to serving you! The restaurant is typically open Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Call (419) 238-5411, ext. 2069 to make a reservation. Additionally, the annual Holiday Buffet will take place on Thursday, December 10th, with reservations opening on November 1st.

Transition to Work students are already gearing up for Christmas by crafting handmade holiday decorations, which will be available for purchase at Limitless in Paulding starting the first week of November. Meanwhile, junior students are gaining valuable experience working throughout the school and at The Well Nutrition, while seniors are completing weekly placements at Paulding County Hospital.

Mrs. Laing, Mrs. Markward, and Mr. Metcalfe are busy preparing for the move to the new Vantage Academy of Medical Careers. Instructors and students are already getting familiar with their new spaces, and all three high school Health Science programs will transition over winter break.

Tonya Temple – Student Services Supervisor
Preparations are underway for the upcoming End of Course (EOC) testing and retakes which are scheduled for the week of December 7.

Student Services staff are monitoring student progress toward graduation requirements. Mrs. Hanneman is collaborating with the associate school counselors to ensure that the seniors are meeting the requirements for graduation, while Mrs. Stechschulte is tracking progress for the junior class.

8th grade tours for our home schools will happen November 3 and 4. Approximately 786 8th graders from our associate schools will tour Vantage, exploring 18 different career-technical pathways.

Sophomore Visit Day- is scheduled for November 13, 2026. We will host over 600 sophomores representing 13 associate schools. Visiting sophomores have the opportunity to visit two of our programs for about 45 minutes each. They will be participating in hands-on training to determine if they would like to pursue these labs for their junior and senior year.

The first nine weeks grading period ended on October 2. Parent-Teacher conferences were held on October 28 and 29 with the Student Services team coordinating all scheduling and inquiries.

<u>Ashley Cline - Supervisor of Student Operations</u>

Work-Based Learning & Career Advanced Placement (CAP)

The CAP program allows qualifying seniors in good standing (academics, attendance, and behavior) to participate in early work release for employment or internships.

- **Key Performance Metrics**
  - **Student Participation: 43 seniors** actively enrolled in early work release (up **26%** from 34 students at this time last year).
  - **Employer Partnerships: 38 active business partners** hosting students (up **22.5%** from 31 partners at this time last year).
  - **Pipeline Progression: 13 students** successfully completed Step 1 onboarding and advanced to Step 2 placement.
- **Business Outreach & Placement Activities**
  - **Larry (Employer Relations Specialist):**
    - Facilitated student job placement by matching candidates with relevant employment opportunities and career pathways.
    - Collaborated with student employers to restructure internal department roles, ensuring alignment with CAP qualification standards.
    - Conducted 11 strategic employer site visits—with additional visits scheduled—to strengthen industry partnerships.
    - Initiated and coordinated facility tours with prospective corporate partners to expand student recruitment networks.
  - **Jessica:**

- Updated 18 program flyers (fixing spelling, typos, spacing, and formatting for print and web), including feedback from lab instructors. Uploaded everything to the shared drive and will keep updating them as new changes come in.
- Created a detailed Work-Based Learning Brochure for employers (pending review).
- Created a "highlights" Work-Based Learning Flyer for employers (pending review).
- Reached out to 9 employers to coordinate visits while students are on-site. Connected with 7 and have 5 visits scheduled so far as of 10/21
- Scheduling visits with each student before the site visit…this is important to me as I want to build a solid rapport with students.
- Went on 2 site visits with Larry.
- Working on a shadowing experience for a student. Reached out to Western Buckeye ESC to start conversations….this is ongoing.
- Scanned and uploaded files for 18 programs into the shared drive, organizing individual items across 5 subfolders per program.

Positive Behavioral Intervention Support (PBIS)

- **Tier 1 (Universal Recognition): 44 students** recognized to date for demonstrating Vantage's core matrix expectations (*Being Safe, Being Engaged, Being Employable*).
- **Tier 2 (Targeted Support):** Tier 2 intervention framework is fully operational; **0 students** currently require active Tier 2 behavioral intervention plans.

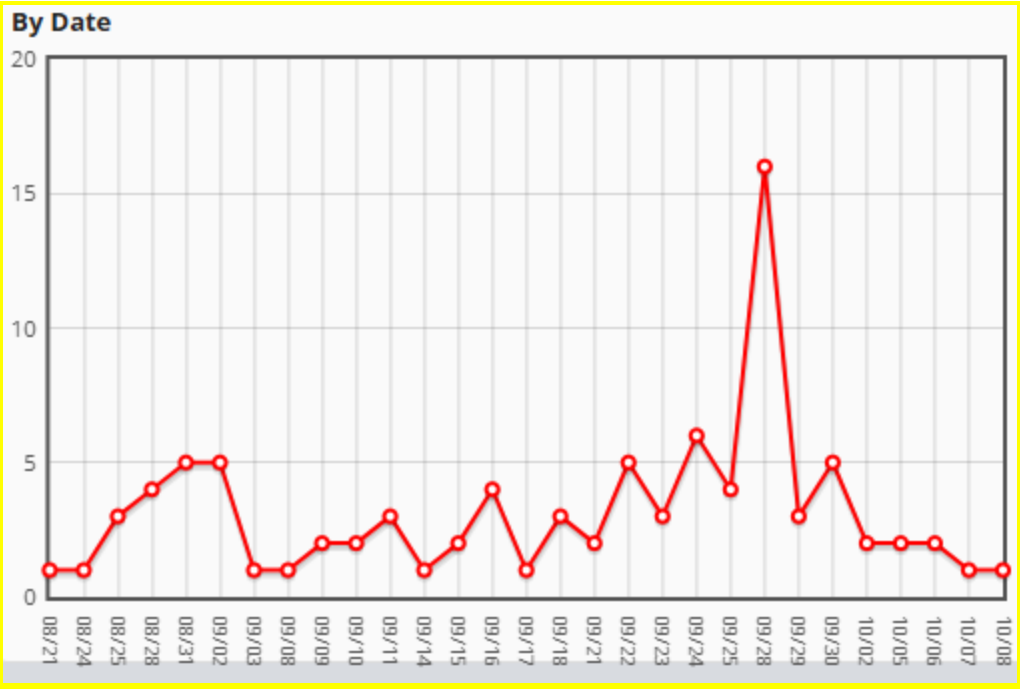
Student Attendance

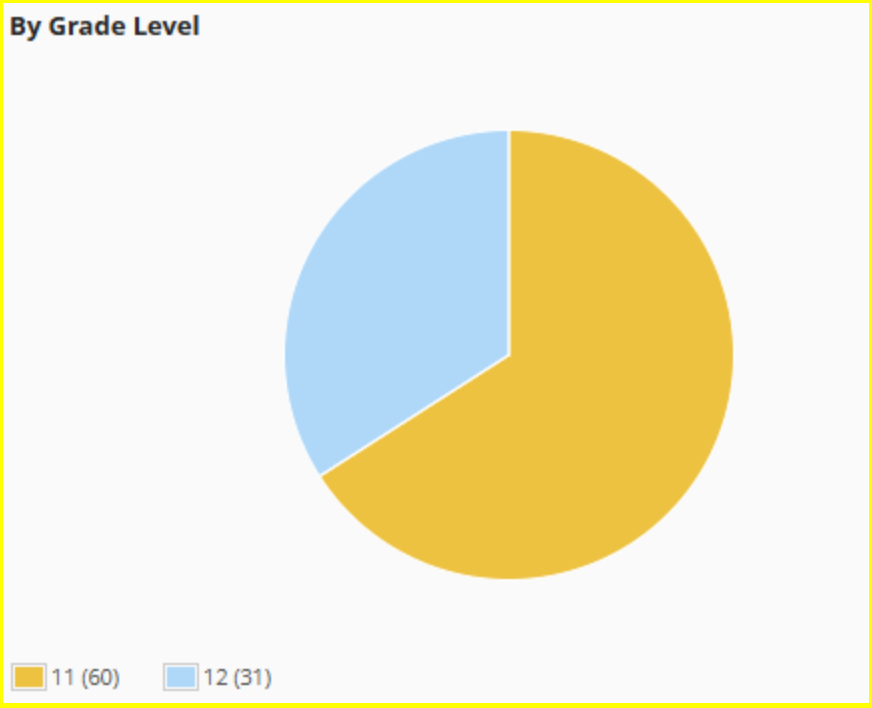
Attendance remains strong and stable across all grade levels, holding near year-over-year targets.

Student Group	**Current Attendance Rate**	**Last Year (Same Period)**	**Variance**
Seniors	96.1%	96.9%	-0.8%
Juniors	96.1%	N/A	--
Overall Campus Average	**96.1%**	**96.4%**	**-0.3%**

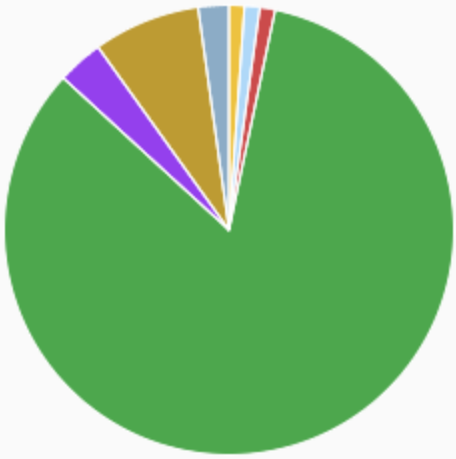
Student Discipline

(Please see attached charts detailing disciplinary actions and trends since the start of the school year.)



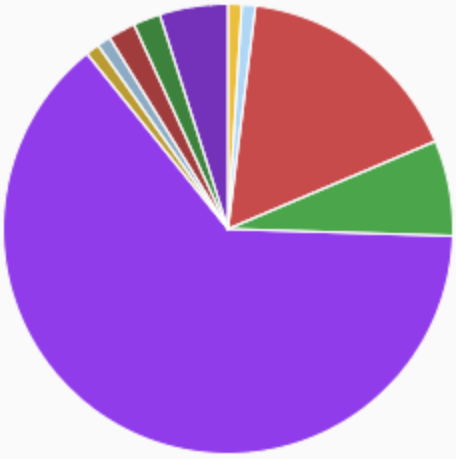


By Action



AM Lab/Lunch (1)
Expulsion Recommended (1)
Full Lunch Detention (76)
ISDA (3)
Out of School Suspension (7)
PM Lab/Lunch (2)

By Infraction



Alcohol - Possession (1)
Cell Phone/Watch/Electronics (17)
Conduct Unbecoming a Vantage S (7)
Disregard of Reasonable Rules (65)
Drugs - Possession (1)
Drugs - Use (1)
Language/Gestures/In. Material (2)
Threatening a Person (2)
Tobacco/Nicotine - Use/Poss. (5)

ADULT EDUCATION DIRECTORS REPORT
BOE MEETING 11/26

Vantage Academy of Medical Careers

- Our offices have moved in and are getting settled
- My main focus since the move has been to oversee the completion of the building.
    - Paint
    - Flooring
    - Classroom needs
    - Bells/Announcements
    - Cleaning
    - Keys
    - Appliances

COE

- First call with Fellow is scheduled for Oct. 29th with Kendra Sentelik and I.

Clock Hour Conference

- Kendra Sentelik was awarded $1,000 to assist with payment towards this conference, which will cover the majority of the costs.

Makerfest

- Adult Education was represented at Makerfest as follows:
    - Terri Schmenk - Robotics and Electrical Training
    - Maria Diltz - Postsecondary Education Tent advertising all of our programs to students.

FANUC Robot Training

- Terri Schmenk worked with Kevin Van oss to complete FANUC certification training with his students.

Maintenance Report

- **We've been moving Adult Ed. Into the new medical building next door. There's been a lot of work trying to get everyone all the things they need for a smooth transition.**
- **It's that time of year again and the leaves are starting to fall pretty consist. This turns into a daily chore until they're done falling.**
- **All man lifts have been inspected and repaired by MHE. These will be added to a annual inspection.**
- **Off Stage has completed their performances in the commons for the fall season.**
- **Moody Landscaping has started the new project on the west side of the building and will start the student entrance soon.**

Technology (10-23-26)

- Ten Workstations have now been deployed in support of Adult Education's move to the VAMC. Two printers have been moved as well. Getting everything wired correctly has been the main challenge thus far. I'm very thankful for our student help during this process.

- Building access work at the VAMC is ongoing. A number of FOBs have been issued, and efforts are being made to accommodate the various access schedules that will be needed during the transition. Once we receive training on the new security system we should be able to finalize these efforts.

- Last week we suffered a server outage due to a hardware failure. Working with NOACSC we were able to stabilize the server and then transfer everything to another server. Our intention is to now have those systems hosted at NOACSC to improve resiliency. A big thank you to our staff for their patience during this disruption.

- Stacie has been working on our K12 Network Grant, and E-Rate form 486. These programs help the department offset costs.

- I would also like to commend Stacie on her months-long effort to renew our Microsoft licensing. We were stuck between vendor layoffs, representatives leaving companies, and changes in the way Microsoft packages licensing. Ultimately, she was able to find a vendor who could help and we are now fully licensed. Thank you Stacie!

- Jill has been working with Tonya and FinalForms to move the New Student Application form from Google Forms to FinalForms. This will be used starting November 13 for new students to apply. This will:
    - Capture parent email addresses directly through FinalForms significantly reduces typos and invalid contact information, ensuring critical communication channels remain open.
    - Eliminate fragmented data entries by storing application information directly within the school's primary administrative and data system alongside existing records.
    - Reduce the need to manually export, clean, and transfer application entries from Google Spreadsheets into student management systems.

- Additionally, Jill has been working with Lisa Yearling to improve and launch the form and spreadsheets for Sophomore Visitation Day. The form enables students to register for two labs of their choice to visit. The spreadsheets allow Student Services staff and lab teachers to see which students and how many are visiting.

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS UPDATE NOVEMBER 2026

Student Recruitment & Enrollment Marketing
October's marketing and communications efforts focused heavily on student recruitment, Adult Education enrollment, and increasing awareness of Vantage's programs and opportunities.
Recruitment visits were successfully completed at all 13 partner school districts, where Mrs. Temple, Mrs. Laing, and Vantage Student Ambassadors met with sophomores to introduce Vantage's 19 career technical programs. Student Ambassadors shared firsthand experiences and answered questions about their programs. These visits also helped promote the upcoming Sophomore Visitation Day on November 13, when students will have the opportunity to explore two programs of interest.
Preparations are also underway for the January 25, 2027, Open House, including the development of direct-mail postcards, marketing materials, sponsorship search, and a comprehensive promotional campaign scheduled to begin in late November. The campaign will incorporate social media advertising, newspaper and radio advertisements, website updates, and additional community outreach.
Additionally, work continued on updating program-specific banners and recruitment materials to ensure consistent branding and accurate representation of Vantage's career pathways.

Adult Education Marketing & Communications
Marketing efforts continued to support Adult Education enrollment through targeted digital advertising and program promotion. A paid Meta advertising campaign was developed to promote upcoming Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) classes. The campaign utilizes geographic and interest-based targeting to reach prospective students in Van Wert County and surrounding communities, particularly individuals interested in healthcare careers, workforce training, and career advancement. This targeted approach is intended to increase awareness and generate interest among audiences most likely to benefit from the program.

Social Media, Public Relations & Community Engagement
Throughout October, social media and public relations efforts continued to highlight student accomplishments, hands-on learning, staff expertise, and community partnerships.
Content featured Work-Based Learning student spotlights, SkillsUSA leadership development, program guest speakers and training, Cosmetology and Auto Technology field experiences, and industry partnerships. The ongoing Meet the Staff series continued introducing instructors and highlighting their professional backgrounds and experiences.
Additional communications recognized Principal Benjamin Winans for receiving the OASSA Zone 4 Principal of the Year award, showcased staff professional development focused on artificial intelligence in career technical education, and promoted student services and school activities.

Marketing and Communications also coordinated schoolwide messaging through ParentSquare and social media, including program picture reminders, parent-teacher conferences, school schedule updates, and student safety information.

Upcoming Priorities
As recruitment season continues, Marketing and Communications will prioritize promoting Sophomore Visitation Day, launching the January Open House campaign, expanding targeted Adult Education advertising, and increasing awareness of the Vantage Academy of Medical Careers.
Continued emphasis will be placed on student success stories, employer partnerships, and consistent program-specific marketing to strengthen Vantage's visibility throughout its 13-district service area.

Upcoming Dates
November 3 & 4 - 8th grade tours
November 11 - Veterans Day
November 13 - Sophomore Day
November 25-30 - Thanksgiving Break
December 3 - VAMC walk through and Vantage Board of Education Meeting and Holiday dinner

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS UPDATE NOVEMBER 2026

WBL/MARKETING ASSISTANT OCTOBER ASSIGNMENTS

- Updated 18 program flyers (fixing spelling, typos, spacing, and formatting for print and web), including feedback from lab instructors. Uploaded everything to the shared drive and will keep updating them as new changes come in.
- Created a Vantage Veterans Day Flyer for Cherry Media (supervisor approved).
- Created a detailed Work-Based Learning Brochure for employers (pending review).
- Created a "highlights" Work-Based Learning Flyer for employers (pending review).
- Reached out to 9 employers to coordinate visits while students are on-site. Connected with 7 and have 5 visits scheduled so far as of 10/21
- Scheduling visits with each student before the site visit...this is important to me as I want to build a solid rapport with students.
- Went on 2 site visits with Larry.
- Working on a shadowing experience for a student. Reached out to Western Buckeye ESC to start conversations....this is ongoing.
- Stopped by various labs to check in on flyer updates and snap photos of students working.
- Took photos in the Health Tech lab during vision and hearing screenings.
- Helped Tessa with program pictures in the bus garage.
- Scanned and uploaded files for 18 programs into the shared drive, organizing individual items across 5 subfolders per program.