



Village Tech Schools

EDUCATING
DURING A
GLOBAL
PANDEMIC

ANNUAL REPORT / 2020-2021





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OUR MISSION IS FORGED WITHIN OUR NAME



**AT VILLAGE TECH SCHOOLS, WE COLLABORATE AS
DESIGNERS AND LEADERS TO FORGE STUDENTS
WHO ARE CHARACTER DRIVEN, CHALLENGE READY,
AND COMMUNITY FOCUSED.**

Village Tech Schools is a free, public charter school in Southern Dallas serving approximately 1,200 Pre-K to 12th-grade students. Founded in 2013 by a group of passionate educators who saw a more effective way to teach by creating an active and immersive learning environment that empowers students to become creative, problem-solving leaders of character who are prepared to take on real-world challenges.

A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

At Village Tech, we believe education should happen for and with kids. In the 2020/2021 school year, we were confident in how to make school happen for kids; it was the with that seemed up in the air. We spent the first two months learning online and the phrase, "you're on mute," quickly became part of the local vernacular. As we prepared for students returning in person, we also knew we had to design for those that would remain online. Despite our best efforts, none of us figured out how to be in two places at once. Instead, our teachers and campus leaders collaborated to design a schedule where teachers could be solely focused on either in person or online students instead of being split between the two.

The village was on full display at the end of the year during Mosaic, our annual exhibition of learning. Students of all grades, both in person and online, presented their meaningful work to parents, teachers, and members of the community. Students designed and built totem poles of the *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, 3-D printed scenes from a novel they were reading, refurbished a snack trailer to serve as our Squid Stop Store, and even hosted an auto show with almost 100 classic cars and hot rods in our parking lot. Our first graders filmed their own documentary titled *Our World: A Pandemic in Time* where they shared their questions, likes, worries, games they played and advice on how to make friends online. Aleya said, "It's kinda hard to make friends online because sometimes other people's internet, it glitches . . . and sometimes I'm shy."

In a time of increased isolation, we might consider taking a page out of Ava's book, another VT first grader. When asked about making friends during a pandemic, she said, "I make friends at the playground, and guess what, there's no coronavirus over there." Despite the challenges our community displayed resilience, creativity and courage. I am proud of our teachers, parents, and students for making school happen for and with kids.

Sincerely,



David Williams
CEO/Superintendent

EDUCATING DURING A PANDEMIC



OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS CAME TOGETHER TO FORGE A WAY OF LEARNING VIRTUALLY AND IN-PERSON THAT WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE CULTURE OF VILLAGE TECH SCHOOLS...INCLUSIVE.

Like most schools across the country, here at Village Tech, we had to make changes with how we operated during the global pandemic. Due to COVID-19 we shifted to virtual instruction in the later half of the 2019-2020 and it carried over into the 2020-2021 school year.

Even with this “new normal” of learning taking shape, our Village stuck to its core values of **belong**, **lead** and **design** in order to create a safe and effective learning environment for all our students. This led to an influx of new design challenges and ways for students to show what they know. Our teachers had to design new ways to teach, and students had to adapt to new ways of learning.

Our students and teachers came together to forge a way of learning virtually and in-person that was consistent with the culture of Village Tech Schools...inclusive. Teachers and students alike took to leading through

initiatives and innovations to reach their students and peers. Both administrators and staff stepped in to create a circle of support for students as they pushed through virtually and for those who chose to return in-person.

The leadership team visited teachers that were having a tough time during COVID - delivering meals and encouragement, while other teachers hosted drive-by parties as they delivered curriculum and virtual hugs to online students. Our teachers, dedicated to leading their students through the turbulent times, made the most of the opportunities they had.

One of our PreK teachers, Mrs. Carla Butler, dedicated a whole room in her house to her virtual learning set up. She hung her word wall, number corner, calendar and weather station to make school away from school for her students. 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Clarke designed learning

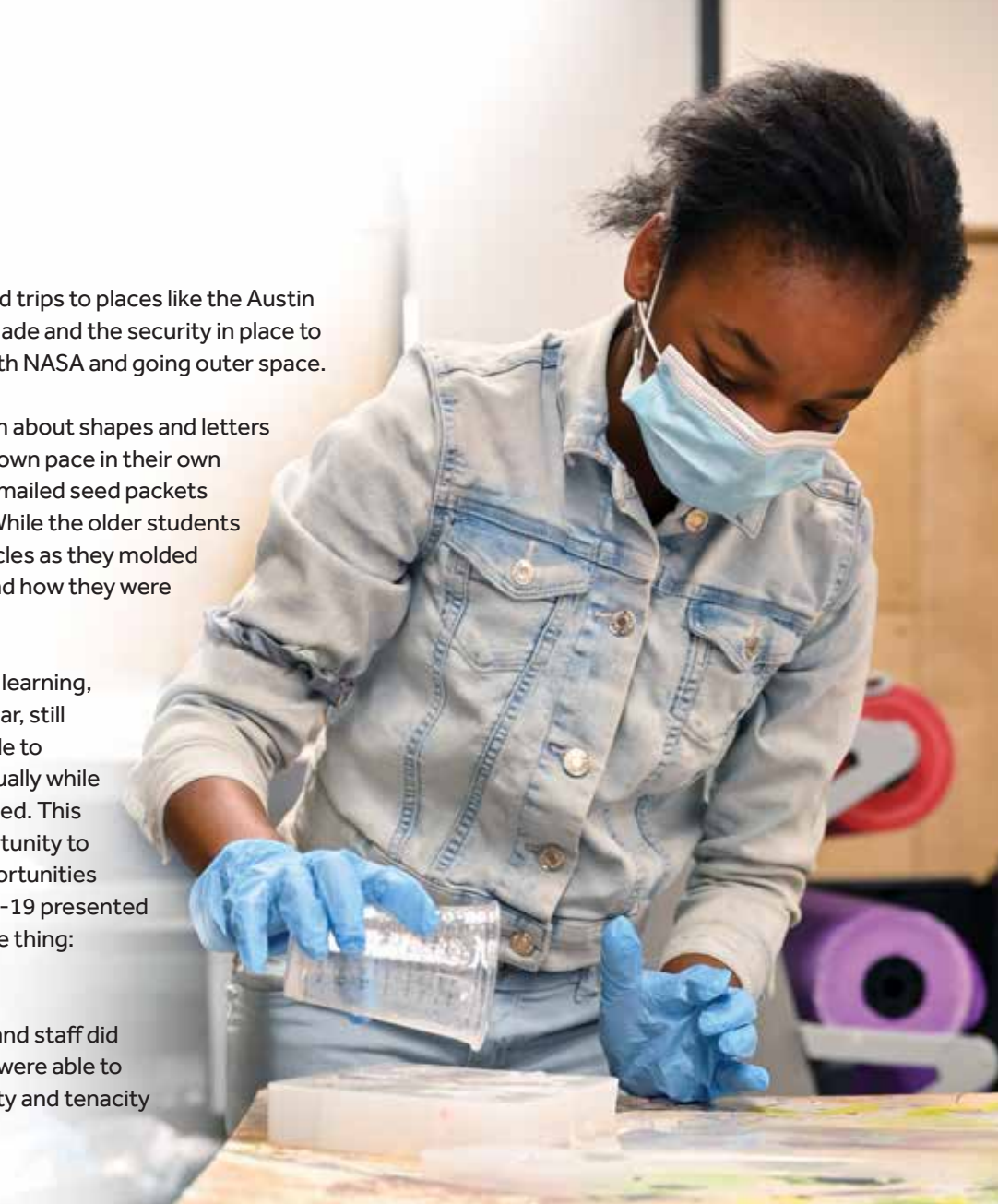
EDUCATING DURING A PANDEMIC

opportunities through weekly virtual field trips to places like the Austin Treasury learning about how money is made and the security in place to keep our currency safe, to partnering with NASA and going outer space.

The younger students continued to learn about shapes and letters with activities designed to work at their own pace in their own homes. Our kindergarten teacher even mailed seed packets for an at-home gardening experience. While the older students learned to overcome unexpected obstacles as they molded and shaped their plans for senior year and how they were going to finish their capstone projects.

Oh, and Mosaic, our annual exhibition of learning, which is the biggest school day of the year, still happened as planned. Students were able to present projects both in person and virtually while simultaneously feeling included and valued. This gave our community members an opportunity to be involved in student learning with opportunities to attend exhibits virtually. While COVID-19 presented challenges, it reminded our Village of one thing: ***Viper Squids are resilient!***

During a time when teachers, students and staff did not quite know what to expect next, we were able to continue educating through the creativity and tenacity of our Village.





EXHIBITION OF LEARNING 2021

MOSAIC IS THE CELEBRATION OF OUR STUDENTS' LEARNING, GROWTH, AND BEAUTIFUL WORK FROM THIS SCHOOL YEAR FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY!



MOSIAC: EXHIBITION OF LEARNING 2021

PreK - (PreK Is GROWing)

Have you ever wanted to grow your own flowers or vegetables but didn't know where to start? Let Pre-K lead the way! Spring is not just another season. For the littles, it's a time of GROWTH and hands-on EXPLORATION! Learning isn't just limited to the classroom. It has expanded to the outside. The Pre-K is GROWing Exhibition of Learning Project is giving the littles an opportunity to create memories that will last for a lifetime. They are learning to appreciate nature, show responsibility, understand life processes, work together in teams, give back to the community and so much more while having FUN in the process!



2nd Grade - (Honey We Shrank the Squids)

Come and visit our world's seven continents and explore animals that call these lands their home. You will learn about native animals, explore their habitats, and discover why each of us plays an important role in protecting their habitats. Our friendly guides will show you the way and even offer you the chance to test your knowledge in fun, interactive ways. Don't have a passport? Don't worry. We will provide you with one and offer you the chance to get it stamped at each stop along the way.



5th Grade - (Forensic Five)

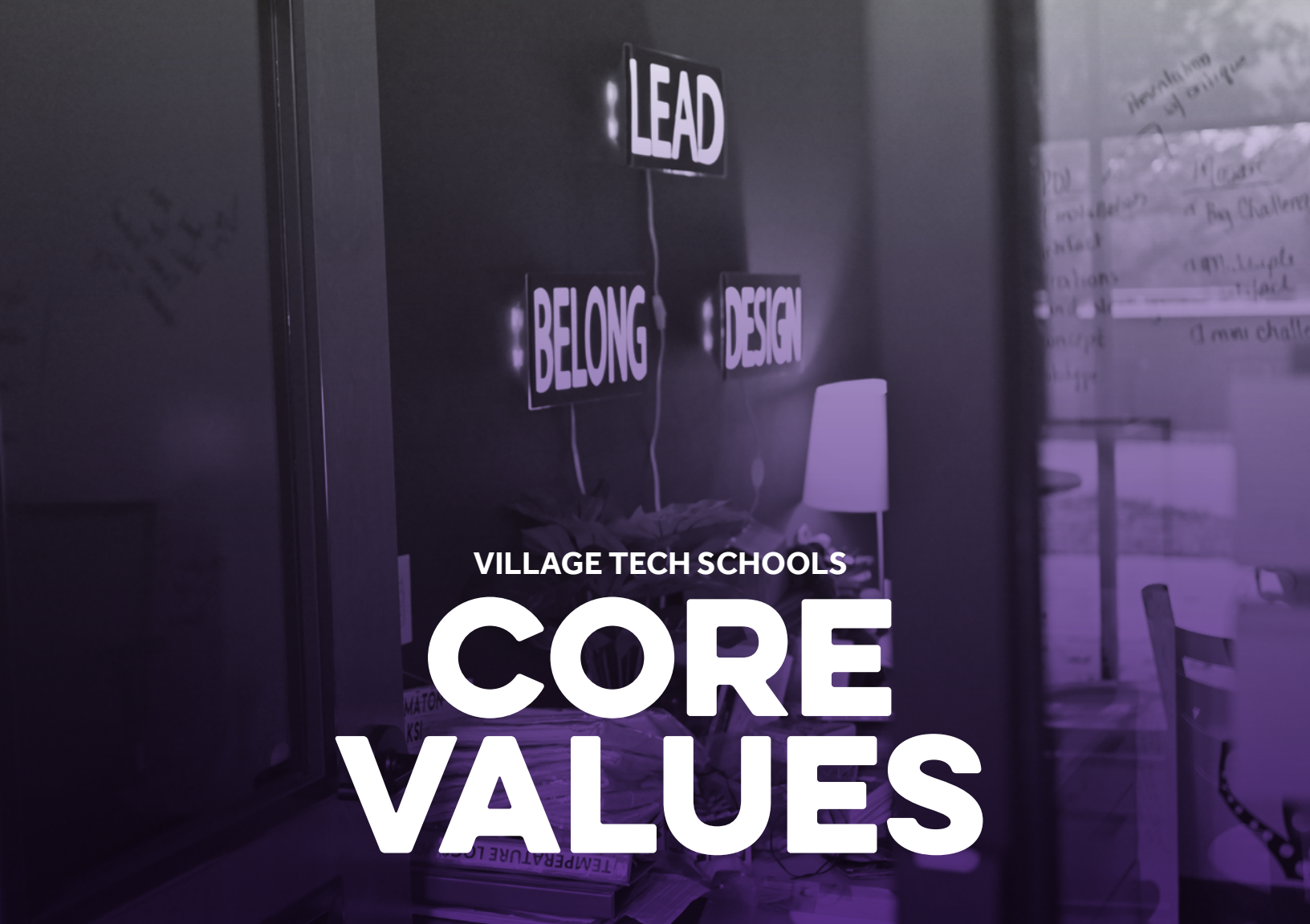
EOL attendees will solve the mystery of the bones at Spark Park. They will learn about life cycles and about what types of plants and animals live at Spark Park. During an exploration in Spark Park the Forensic 5 came across some discoveries. They found some onions and bluebonnets but the thing that stood out the most...BONES! Yes, our investigators of Forensic 5 found the remains of a once living creature. What is the creature you may ask? What was the purpose of this creature in Spark Park? What would the food chain look like? Are there other living and nonliving things hidden there?



10th Grade - (Spark Park, Chia, and a tale of)

Tenth grade at Village Tech is all about discovery. Students discover not only who they are as individuals, but also begin to think about the path their lives might take. An additional part of that discovery is how students can change their part of the world and what a great tool collaboration is. Our students have built benches, seesaws, a Newton's cradle and a variety of other implements so that Spark Park can begin its transformation into a place of learning and fun. Students are working together to leave their mark on this campus long after their departure.





VILLAGE TECH SCHOOLS CORE VALUES



BELONG

We believe when we belong we thrive. We know that belonging is fundamental for learning, for leadership, and for building authentic community.



LEAD

We believe we must lead to learn, and learn to lead. We know that leadership matters for our students and for our school, and we prioritize work that cultivates, inspires, and activates the leader within.



DESIGN

We believe we are at our best when we design. We know that design, as a philosophy and as a process, is fundamental for creative, empathetic, and relevant learning, teaching, and connecting with community needs.

For the Texas Academic Performance Report scan here.



REASONS TO CELEBRATE



96%

NUMBER OF STUDENT DESIGN CHALLENGES:

96% of grade levels of Village Tech students participated in integrated design challenges, vocabulary, methods, and making which will be curated, scored, displayed, documented, and presented in POLS and EOLS.

86

86 different student challenges were presented to 3400 guests during the annual Exhibition of Learning.

JUNIOR INTERNSHIPS

73

JUNIORS

100%

PERCENTAGE OF JUNIOR INTERNSHIPS

7

OPPORTUNITIES AT VILLAGE TECH

32

BUSINESS PARTNERS

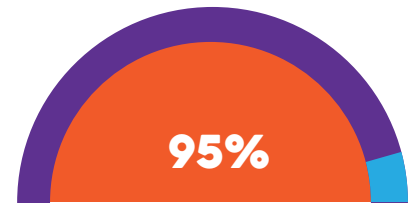
1207

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS



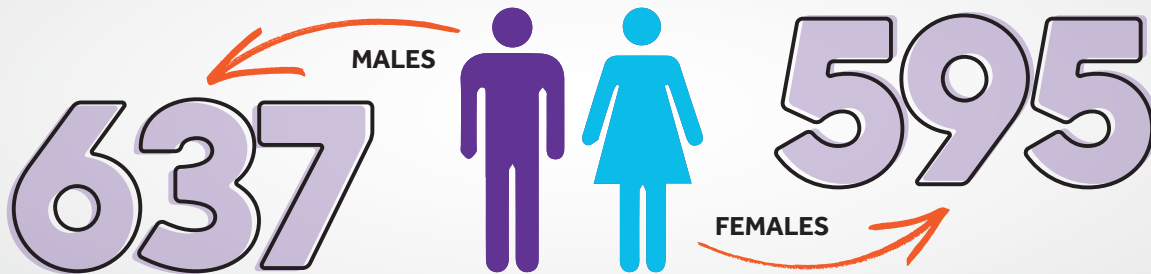
143

TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF



PERCENTAGE OF STUDENT ATTENDANCE

STUDENT GENDER PERCENTAGE



ODYSSEY HIGHLIGHTS

There were 9 teams of 58 Seniors who completed their Senior Summit challenges with design including creating the first-ever VT student magazine, building a garage for students to explore engines and car repair, geodome greenhouse, self-care, and female voice empowerment

49

AP TESTS ADMINISTERED

112

SAT/ACT TESTS

32/201

DUAL CREDIT STUDENTS

DUAL CREDIT HOURS EARNED

350K

\$ AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIPS RECEIVED

FINANCIALS

REVENUE SOURCES

\$406,545

FEDERAL

LOCAL

STATE

\$202,468

\$11,421,117



Scan here.

FINANCIAL AUDIT

CHARTER FIRST RATING
A-SUPERIOR

DEBT COVENANT
MET AND EXCEED ALL DEBT SERVICE COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS

STATE FUNDING
PER ADA WAS \$9,672 FOR 2021

ADMIN COST RATIO
12.9% FOR 2021 FISCAL YEAR



IMPROVING OUR CAMPUS



At the top of 2020 we completed our Phase II project, and opened our new buildings to the public. Included in the Phase II project was the new gymnasium and storm shelter, complete with a weight room; the black box theater, and new staff commons design bar area.

The addition of our facilities and equipment can not be understated. For the first time in VT's history, we have dedicated spaces for athletics, theater, and staff quiet time. Our theater students have a space to practice, rehearse, and perform in. This dedicated space, that our students are already making their second, gives us an opportunity to.





IMPROVING OUR CAMPUS



Our gymnasium is a game changer. Among the spaces for our students to play and train, like the weight room, one of the best parts is the bleachers. This space for VT fans to fill and watch multiple teams compete already made an impact on the 2020 basketball season. When our fans are in those seats it gets LOUD. At VT, we want our students to feel a part of a village, so we've created a place for them to support their classmates in the athletic playing field.

In addition to the physical spaces for our students, our staff received an area just for them. Lined with offices, the staff area contains a large conference room and tables for staff to work when they are outside the classroom. A kitchen lines the back of the instructional design space where you are sure to find post-it notes and sharpies. On occasion, it also serves as a "backstage" for theatre. This space allows for our staff to rest, recharge, and better develop learning opportunities for our students.



ATHLETICS With the numerous athletic program philosophies other schools have adopted, VT has set forward in creating belonging amongst each of our teams. Instead of focusing solely on creating athletes who can win, we focus on creating athletes who can grow.





BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND



- STEPHEN R. COVEY



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