



First Quarter Program Highlights

The 2025-26 school year is off to a great start! With over 140 students currently enrolled, there is a lot going on at GAP School.

Welcoming GAP School's New Staff Members!

Alla Boulos, Language Arts Teacher
Janessa Liljenquist, Science Teacher
Porcha Shadd, Construction Pathway Manager
Max Reynolds, AmeriCorps CTEP Member

We are also glad to have Dave Pearson, our Connecting Room Manager and Mentor, with us full-time again at GAP!

Congrats, Fall Graduates!

We've had 13 students graduate so far, this fall. Way to go, grads!



Career Connect Day

Students attended Career Connect Day at the Saint Paul RiverCentre. These students had the opportunity to connect with and learn about an array of Minnesota businesses in six industries, including:

- Business, Management & Administration
- Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- Arts, Communications & Information Systems
- Engineering, Manufacturing & Technology
- Health Science Technology
- Human Services



Learning Fun: In and Outside the Classroom



In science class, students were exploring the scale of the solar system. They created scale models of the planets and then spaced them out proportionately as they would be in space. The purpose of the activity was to develop understanding of scale models and how they can apply to STEM subjects.



Construction Pathway Updates

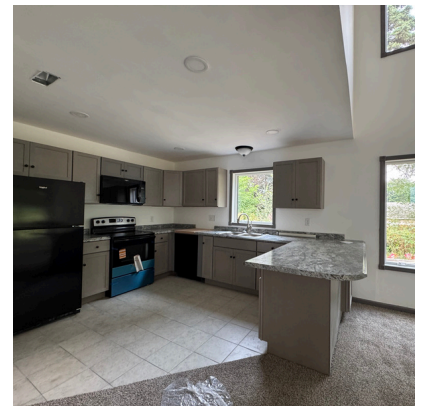
New Construction Pathway Manager, Porcha Shadd, has been getting to know our Construction Pathway students while starting on some small projects in the school's garage workshop!



452 Page Street House — Sold!

The second Page Street house was officially completed in September and an open house was held to let students, staff, partners, and community members see the house!

The house went on the market and was sold quickly for over asking price! GAP Alumnus, Boe Boe, was the realtor for the house (and the previous Page Street house listing). A West Side native will be the new owner!



Field Trip to the Museum

Our art class had the wonderful opportunity to visit the Minnesota Museum of American Art in downtown St. Paul! During the tour, the students explored a diverse art collection, including numerous works by Native American artists.



Healthcare Pathway Updates

Students have all been volunteering weekly at either Sholom or Episcopal nursing homes since September. During the second half of the quarter, some students created their own meaningful service projects to do with the nursing homes this year. The supplies have been ordered and received, and we are planning a lot of unique experiences for both nursing homes this year.



Some students volunteer on their own outside of school hours with either Regions Hospital or Living Well Disability Services group homes. At the hospital, students support guests and help them find where they need to go. Students in the group homes will be doing some of their service project activities they planned later this fall.

At Sholom Nursing Home, students built a bowling ramp and bowling pins so residents could all join in on the bowling fun on Wednesday afternoons. It was great to see many more residents join in due to the bowling ramp students built!



Dias de Los Muertos Ofrenda

Rene Lopez's 5th hour Art Class put together a beautiful altar, or ofrenda, which was set up in the cafeteria through November 2nd. Día de los Muertos is a time to remember and honor loved ones who have passed away.

A special thanks to Sage Jose Mcfarland for bringing the Mexican chocolate to make hot chocolate to eat with our pan de muertos (bread of the dead) that is part of the tradition. Thanks to Amirra Clark who also helped serve the bread and hot chocolate.



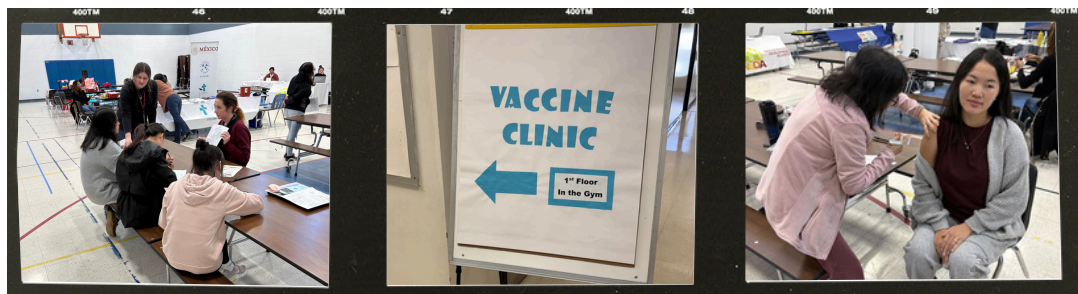
Mentee Spotlight

Daniel is a new student at GAP School this year. When he started attending, he became a part of the GAP School mentoring program and works with Mentor, Dave Pearson. Daniel has showed commitment to doing the best he can in his classes and has been a great addition to our GAP School family and mentoring program.



Annual Vaccine Clinic

Free vaccines were once again available to students, staff, and the community! The annual vaccine clinic is made possible by a partnership with the MN Department of Health and is hosted by the Alianza and GAP School Social Work teams.



Important Dates:

- November 10: No School (Planning Day)
- November 13: Remote Learning Day/ Afternoon Open House & Conferences
- November 14: Remote Learning Day/ Morning Open House & Conferences
- November 19: Half-Day (Professional Development)
- November 26-28: No School (Thanksgiving Break)

GAP SCHOOL'S MISSION STATEMENT

GAP School's mission is to empower communities challenged by transition and poverty through education and enrichment opportunities, social and emotional support, and training that leads to employment.