



Third Quarter Program Highlights

Construction Pathway Updates

Students in the Construction Pathway had some exciting hands-on experiences this quarter!

- On February 26, a group of students visited Roofers Local 96, where they received a tour and participated in hands-on roofing work with apprentices. GAP School is proud to have over 10 graduates in their union!
- During the week of March 3, we acknowledged Women in Construction Week, recognizing the many women across the YouthBuild Movement and in our own Construction Pathway who are earning their education, gaining job skills and credentials, and becoming leaders in their communities.
- On March 21, construction students visited Carpenters Local 322 to learn more about job opportunities and career paths in the field.



Healthcare Pathway Updates

On March 11, GAP School was thrilled to welcome back an alumnus who is now working as a surgery tech! Students were excited to hear her story and learn about her career journey. We always love having alumni return to inspire our current students!



Advocacy at the Capitol

- On February 26, our Student Leadership Board had the opportunity to participate in Youth Day at the Capitol. It was an incredible experience, and we were lucky to have such beautiful weather!
- On March 27, GAP School student Hieu Lo and Change Inc.'s Executive Director, Jill Johnson, testified in front of the Minnesota Senate in support of adding contract alternative schools like GAP School as eligible recipients of the Minnesota Housing Challenge Program. This program provides funding to develop affordable housing to support economic development and job creation. Thank you to Joe and Khalique from Catalyst for Systems Change for making this happen. Great job, Hieu!



Jill Johnson and Hieu Lo

Help Raise Money for Our YouthBuild Program!

From April 7 through May 12, you can donate to YouthBuild Global when you shop at Burlington Stores! Thank you, Burlington, for supporting young people across the #YouthBuildMovement as they gain hands-on job skills and credentials and become leaders in their communities. Find your nearest Burlington to champion young people at GAP School and beyond:

<https://www.burlington.com/store-locator>



Youth Voice Week: March 24-30



Bekalu

Sam

Paw ta eh wah

In celebration of Afterschool Alliance's Youth Voice Week, we highlighted student experiences at GAP School.

"At GAP School, I like that we learn and we also have fun. I am able to better my English thanks to my teachers. I am working on my CNA license too!" – Bekalu, Healthcare Pathway

"My experience at GAP School has been really good. The people here are really sweet and I love the teachers and the students — I've been joining a lot of clubs because I want to get to know them more. I'm part of Student Leadership Board, Students Against Destructive Decisions, and our Peer Mentoring group. I am looking forward to training in peer mentoring more and actually going to different schools and mentoring other students." - Sam, 9th Grade

"My favorite part of the day is English class. I also like volunteering at the nursing home and to spend time with the elderly." -Paw ta eh wah, Healthcare Pathway

Student Performance

A group of ELL students wrote and developed a performance throughout third quarter and performed at Hastings High School and Neighborhood House during the last week of March. The performance told stories of the students' lives before they came to America and what they endured. Thank you to our Theatre Instructor Janelle Ranek, and teachers Laura Ott and Ethan Knuti, for bringing this program to life! Congratulations to all of the students involved in this moving performance! Read a poem that was performed by one student on the next page.



Xenophobia

By Dorika A.

What is Xenophobia, do anybody know or care
Growing up during those times, I wasn't really doing okay
Experiencing xenophobia wasn't a game.

What is xenophobia, do anybody know or care
Xenophobia was my neighbor, xenophobia was somebody I knew
Xenophobia was the hater and the killer
Blood was shared like a glass of wine
Fear covered my soul like vines.

Growing up in South Africa, was like putting your life at risk
Every moment you feared of being foreigner.
I was the foreigner, we were the foreigner
Running away from your mother land due to war, to a land
You thought life will be better, that was a scam.

Xenophobia was the reason, xenophobia was the main character
Being disliked for who you are and came from was a chase
During that time, we had no choice
In 2015 xenophobia exploded people fought, many were killed
Kids were left orphaned, families were separated.
What is xenophobia, do anybody know or care

Xenophobia is the dislike or hatred towards someone because of
Their race, religion, nationality etc.

Seeing someone being burned down to ashes because they spoke their language
That was the worse day of my life,
Having fear will be next,
Having to fear going out alone
I remember my mom praying for the unity of countries
Where love was buried and forgotten
Where unity was denied.

“This is my story. I love sharing my emotions through poems. Xenophobia happened in South Africa in most years and that was the main reason people left that country. Many feared for their lives and opportunities were limited. I believe loving one another regardless of race, background, religion, you name them, we can still love one another as we claim to love ourselves.”



Dorika performing her poem

-Written by Dorika A

Important Dates:

- March 27: Half-Day (End of Quarter 3)
- March 28 - April 4: No School (Spring Break)
- May 1: Half-Day (Professional Development)
- May 2: Half-Day (Mid-Quarter Negotiations)
- May 3: Cinco de Mayo Celebration
- May 16: Half-Day, Prom!
- May 26: No School (Memorial Day)
- June 4: Half-Day (Graduation)
- June 5: Half-Day (Last Day of School)
- June 10: Summer School Orientation
- June 11-July 18th: Summer School
 - No Class June 19-20 and July 3-4

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.

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