Follow VICC on Twitter and win great prizes.

twitter.com/VICC_StLouis

- Be follower $100 and win a $25 gift card to Best Buy.
- Be follower $500 and win an I-Pod Shuffle.
- Be follower $1,000 and win an I-Pod Shuffle and an I-Tunes gift card.

VICC/TriSource employees and their families are not eligible for prizes (but please do follow along to see what’s new with VICC.) Anyone found to use multiple accounts to enter will be ineligible.

\[ \text{Text continues here...} \]
Afton
Afton High School
The recipient of both academic and athletic scholarships to Central Methodist University, Halid Abdera ranked in the top third of his graduating class at Afton High School. He showed great leadership skills in both the classroom and on the basketball court, where he played for four years, serving as a varsity captain and earning All-Conference honors for two years. In addition, he volunteered with younger students, serving as a junior counselor for middle school students.

Bayless
Bayless High School
Ranking in the top five percent of her class, Luella Loseille will attend Saint Louis University this fall, with plans to major in either education or international studies. She held multiple leadership roles as a student council member of her graduating class, her classroom, and outstanding citizen, and Luella was selected to attend Missouri Girls State in 2012 and named as a 2013 Scholar Athlete. Since her first days in kindergarten, Erin Williams has always been among the brightest of her peers and a leader both in the classroom and out. She participated in track, cheerleading and volleyball and took a rigorous college-prep course load that included four college credit classes. The recipient of many scholarship offers, Erin plans to attend Jackson State University in Mississippi to study forensic chemistry.

Clayton
Clayton High School
Alayna Hutchinson epitomizes school pride, and could be found planning, setting up for or attending nearly every school-sponsored event, excelling at track and cross country and warmly welcoming families, college representatives and visitors to her school as a member of the Clayton Student Ambassadors. Last summer, as a member of the Step-Up program, Alayna spent two months collecting lab results and then presenting her findings at the National Institutes of Health conference in Maryland. This fall she will be attending Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis with plans to major in biology, with a goal of becoming a researcher or a doctor or nurse.

Hancock Place
Hancock Place High School
Graduating in the top 15 percent of his class, Quintard Peoples plans to attend Saint Louis University this fall to pursue a degree in psychology. As executive vice-president of the student government and county commissioner for the 2012 Missouri Boy’s State, Quintard has demonstrated leadership qualities that others at Hancock Place have aspired to follow. A founding member of Hancock’s VCC advisory board, he has helped increase participation in the district’s VCC parent meetings through strong communication skills and organization of these events. He also spent three years on the basketball team and four years running cross country.

Kirkwood
Kirkwood High School
Dasia Johnson will major in kinesiology at Hampton University in Hampton, VA this fall with plans to become a physical therapist. A member of the National Honor Society and a recipient of the Gold K Honor for maintaining a 3.5 or better grade point average throughout her high school career, Dasia served as president of the Black Achievement and Cultural Club and was a member of the video club.

Lindbergh
Lindbergh High School
Agricultural enthusiast Sydney Gillespie is looking forward to studying crop science at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana this fall, and hopefully playing her clarinet with The Marching Illini as well. Sydney’s interest in corn and other crops took off last summer after she participated in a summer program at Purdue University. She completed several International Baccalaureate and advanced placement courses at Lindbergh, and was a member of the National Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, Thespian Society and the LHS Environmental Club. As a member of the Lindbergh High School Spirit of St. Louis Marching Band, she had the opportunity to play in the 2011 Tournament of Roses Parade.

Mehville
Mehville High School
With plans to attend St. Louis Community College at Meramec, Sierra Gray has been involved in basketball including being named as both the defensive and offensive player of the year. She was named to the second team Suburban West All Conference team and was also honored as the freshman Suburban West Basketball Player of the Year. Sierra graduated with a cumulative 2.7 grade point average.

Oakville
Oakville High School
Morris LaGrand will attend the University of Notre Dame this fall, with plans to major in chemical engineering. The recipient of a 95 percent scholarship from the University, Morris was president of the Spanish honor society and served as president of the sophomore executive committee.

Parkway
Parkway Central High School
Amber Lloyd plans to attend Barry University in Miami this fall to major in chemistry with an ultimate goal of becoming a pharmacist. She served as co-host for the Parkway School District’s Spirit of Excellence program this year and participated for three years in track and field, peer teaching and high school theater.

Parkway North
Parkway North High School
With aspirations of becoming a physician, Rico Beuford will attend Howard University this fall to major in either biology or chemistry. At North, he was a member of the medical club, the catering club and played on both the football and wrestling teams. Academically, he took advantage of advanced placement courses.

Parkway South
Parkway South High School
Since being accepted to several colleges and universities, Chauncia Boyd is trying to decide between Xavier University and Hampton University. She plans to pursue a degree in chemistry and hopes to become a pharmacist. At South she was a member of the Superintendent’s Social Justice Leadership Advisory Council, DECA and the Parkway South Step Team.

Parkway West
Parkway West High School
His interaction with students from various backgrounds has influenced Quentin Key to pursue a bachelor’s degree in international business at Millikin University. At West he was involved with the Student Leadership Advisory Council, the Drug Free Council, STARS, track, football and Peer Teaching.
This issue of the Parent Link is dedicated to those transfer students who are members of the Class of 2013 - hardworking students who have left behind an enviable record of accomplishments. For each student who is mentioned, there are stories of others also deserving of recognition. Our congratulations go not only to the students, but their parents, and teachers as well. You are at the heart of this program and an important part of the success it has achieved.

Sydney Gillespie
Linfield High School

Sierra Gray
Mehlville High School

Morris LoGrande
Oakville High School

Amber Lloyd
Parkway Central High School

Jon Walter
Gateway STEM High School

Andrew Riggs
Metro Academic & Classical High School

Asjha Johnson
Valley Park High School

Nubari Kanee
Webster Groves High School

Rockwood
Eureka High School

Marsha’ Landers plans to attend Southern Illinois University to pursue studies in journalism and psychology. Her career aspirations include becoming a psychologist for young people. She joined the Eurekaan yearbook staff while in high school. Club and extracurricular activities include the National Leadership Academy, where she received the Gold Standard Award and Leadership Award.

Lafayette High School

Jacquelyn Ingram plans to attend Stephens College in Columbia where she will major in fashion design. She also plans to take classes in gender studies and African American studies at the University of Missouri-Columbia. While a student at Lafayette, Jacquelyn excelled in fashion courses at South County Tech, and also participated in Young Leader of St. Louis and held an internship with the YMCA of St. Louis. Among her many school and community activities were track, basketball, Cultural Student Union, Diversity Alliance, peer mediator, freshman mentor and the National Conference for Community and Justice of Metropolitan St. Louis.

Marquette High School

Joel K. McCombs will attend St. Louis Community College in Wildwood for the next two years, and then plans to transfer to Southern Illinois University to complete his degree. His goals include a career in the music or entertainment industry. During high school, he enjoyed playing in the school band and his grades were recognized on the honor roll. On the field, Joel was a member of the football team, and ran track and field, wrestled and played water polo.

Rockwood Summit High School

Jon Walker plans to attend St. Louis Community College at Forest Park to study paramedics. He earned a 3.94 cumulative grade point average at Gateway and completed over 50 hours of volunteer tutoring for the A+ Program. A nationally certified EMT, Jon passed the national registry test. He was the cyber officer for the Gateway Air Force Junior ROTC unit, and was active in drama, cross country, robotics and wrestling. He is the head men’s gymnastics coach at the Mid-City YMCA.

Metro Academic and Classical High School

Andrew Riggs plans to study political science/ pre-law at Vanderbilt University, ultimately pursuing law school. He enjoys films, playing tuba and is both All-District and All-State in his musicianship, playing numerous times with the prestigious St. Louis Low Brass Collective and earning top tuba recognition in the Midwest Honor Band and Orchestra Festival at the University of Missouri Kansas City. A member of the Metro varsity baseball team since his freshman year, Andrew has also committed 300 hours to various service projects.

Valley Park

Asjha Johnson is headed to Southeast Missouri State University where she plans to pursue a degree in accounting. As a cheerleader for four years, she played a key role in building good school spirit. Respected by her peers and her teachers, Asjha excelled academically, maintaining a 3.328 grade point average, while combining work and a very rigorous academic schedule.

Webster Groves

Nubari Kanee plans to attend nursing school there. She is also interested in environmental science and petroleum engineering and would like someday to return to Nigeria to work. Her family immigrated from there when she was a toddler. At Webster she participated in the National Honor Society, Students for Awareness and Action, student council, the choir and Hi Step. A sprinter, Nubari was captain of the girls track and field team which qualified for state last year. She received Renaissance awards the last four years for her high grade point average and has been a Scholar Athlete each year as well.

Message from the CEO

I trust that many of you are relaxing now and enjoying what seems to me to be an increasingly short summer break. However, it will not be long before school begins. As highlighted by the article describing Lawanda Hall’s involvement in the Clayton school district, parental involvement in your child’s school is extremely important.

Your involvement helps to foster an inclusive environment where parents from the city as well as parents from the county can learn a great deal from one another. The expression that “all of us know better than any one of us” is certainly true and directly applicable to the integrated learning environment that VICC seeks to foster.

Furthermore, studies show that the students with the greatest academic achievement as well as long-term success in life come from families in which parents and other family members are involved in their learning in a significant way. I believe this is because when kids see their family involved in their education they respond in a positive manner, recognizing in a tangible fashion how truly important their education is. I’m sure you have been involved over the summer with your children in a variety of ways – perhaps taking them to the library, going on a family vacation, visiting a museum or amusement park, or attending a sporting event. Now that school is about to begin, how will you continue to be involved with your children and contribute to their lifelong success?

David S. Glaser
CEO
dglasner@choicecorp.org
314.721.8422, ext. 3013
**STARTING DATES for County Schools**

Classes will begin soon in your county school. Make plans now to be at school every day, beginning on the very first day. Watch your mailbox for your bus card about one week prior to the beginning of classes. Their first day of school for each district county is listed below:

- **Affton**: August 15, 2013
- **Bayless**: August 15, 2013
- **Brentwood**: August 14, 2013
- **Cohesion**: August 15, 2013
- **Hancock Place**: August 15, 2013
- **Kirkwood**: August 20, 2013
- **Linbergh**: August 15, 2013
- **Mehlville**: August 15, 2013
- **Pattonville**: August 12, 2013
- **Rockwood**: August 13, 2013
- **Special/Tech**: August 12, 2013
- **Valleymap**: August 13, 2013
- **Webster Groves**: August 12, 2013

**Transportation Information**

Transportation to and from school is provided by the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation so long as your child goes to a school in the correct attendance area. The phone number for VICC is 314.721.8657.

- Transportation cards in the bus stop location and time are mailed to transfer families about two weeks before school begins in the fall. If you do not receive your card by one week before the start of school, contact the principal at the school your child will be attending. Please do not call the transportation staff; the transportation staff will notify you of the correct transportation card that will be mailed to you if it is necessary to make a change to the bus/cab route. Please review each new card carefully, including the effective date, stop location, times and phone numbers should you need to make changes.

Any day-to-day transportation problems or concerns you may have should be addressed by first calling the bus (or cab) contractor. These include normal operating issues, such as the following:
- • Looking for lost items left on the bus/cab
- • Checking on a child's bus location
- • Questions or cancellations when VICC Transportation office is closed

Refer to your child's bus card for the appropriate bus/cab company. If the contractor is unable to resolve a concern, or if you have one of the following issues, please call the VICC transportation staff at 314.721.8657:
- • Overall routing issue or concerns
- • Pick-up or drop-off location concerns
- • Concerns with driver or contractor
- • Requesting card or other non-transportation service in the event your regular bus does not show

**Student Responsibilities**

Students are to board their bus/cab only after their assigned stop. They must arrive at the designated pick-up location 10 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time, and remain at least 15 minutes after the pick-up time, before calling the transportation staff at 314.721.8657 for advice on alternative transportation, if your child's bus/cab has stopped, you should stop a full 10 minutes before the scheduled arrival time and do not wait the full 15 minutes after the scheduled time and they miss the bus, it will be your responsibility to get your child to school. If the transportation staff does not send alternative transportation in such instances.

For the safety of all children, students must obey general safety rules as those established by the school district they are attending.

- You should obtain a copy of your district’s bus regulations and review them with your child. Violations of bus rules can result in a student being removed from riding the bus either on a temporary or permanent basis.

If a bus suspension occurs, it becomes the parents’ responsibility to transport the child to and from school for the duration of the suspension.

**Parent Responsibilities**

Transportation may run late and/or routes may not be firmly in place during the first few weeks of school. Please make sure your child knows exactly what to do if his or her bus does not arrive. This includes knowing where to wait for the bus and when to school. Please email parentsplacement@choicecorp.org if your child does not know what is expected when he or she is dropped off at the end of the school day. If you normally meet your child at the bus stop, be sure your child understands what to do if you are not there.

If the transportation route to which your child is assigned does not operate in a timely manner, or other problems arise, please communicate with the VICC transportation staff.

It is important for parents to keep the school as well as the district contact person informed of any changes in either the home phone number, work number or email address for your child. Also, be sure to request that this information be forwarded to the transportation staff.

If you move

If you move during the summer, call the principal at the school your child has been or will be attending, or that district’s contact person immediately. All districts have central office personnel who work during the summer to handle such issues. Please remember to call the school no later than 10 working days to make a transportation change.

If you are going to move during the academic year, be sure to notify your building principal or district contact person at least two weeks before you move. If you move outside of your school’s attendance area, you will need to request a transfer to a school in your new attendance area, or else provide your own transportation to and from school in order to remain at your original school.

**General Safety Rules**

Please review the general safety rules with your student. These can be found in your transfer program handbook. Please refer to the box below if you need a copy of the handbook.

The Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation (VICC) complies fully with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

A copy of VICC’s FERPA statement is included in VICC student handbooks, which can be requested by calling 314.721.8422, ext. 1012. The handbooks are also available on the VICC website at www.choicecorp.org. Click on the link for “City Residents Currently Enrolled in County Schools” and then click on “Voluntary Transfer Program Handbooks.” The full policy will be published in the next issue of the Parent Link.

**Emergency Communication System**

For communication with parents regarding transportation and their child’s participation in the St. Louis Student Transfer Program, the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation (VICC) will use a designated contact record that is similar to ones used in many participating school districts.

This system, provided by School Reach, allows VICC to quickly send all households and parents a pre-recorded message by phone within minutes of a transportation emergency or unplanned event that could significantly delay a child’s pick-up or drop-off from school. These emergencies include traffic jams, bus breakdowns, inclement weather, accidents, etc. The information may also be shared from time to time with the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation transportation staff.

Calls will be delivered to both live (in person) responders and answering machines. Calls not answered and busy signals will be automatically retried by the system two additional times in 15 minute intervals after the initial call.

Your child’s school will also continue to separately announce school closings due to weather or snow, via the media or their own phone system. However, in the event your child’s district is open, but road conditions are such that VICC’s transportation department feels it is not safe to transport students to school, VICC will use this system to notify families attending the affected districts in addition to making the standard media announcements.

For this notification system to best operate, it is imperative that you keep your school aware of any future changes in your home and/or cell or alternate/emergency phone numbers. Your school then updates VICC’s parent contact records so a separate notification to VICC is not necessary.