



Sept. 16, 2021

Dear students and families,

You may have seen the VOA High School has been in the news because of our decision to move classes to some virtual learning and some in-person sessions at different sites. As you know, we did this because we are concerned about safety after witnessing violent and dangerous behavior at the homeless encampment, which has expanded onto our property. We will continue with this remote learning model until we are assured of the physical and emotional safety of both students and staff.

The most important thing to us through all this is supporting our students and teachers. We are committed to doing everything we can to help VOA HS students learn in a positive environment and achieve their educational goals. Our students and staff have done a great job of working with changing situations thus far. Thank you!

There is no easy solution to meeting the needs of the people who are encamped on the grounds of the school and nearby neighborhood. We appreciate all those seeking better solutions for everyone in the neighborhood. At the same time, we cannot accept that this dangerous situation is tolerable for anyone involved – least of all our students and teachers.

For many months, we have been reaching out to law enforcement, city, county and state officials and others, sharing information and making them aware of the needs of our students and staff. While we are frustrated by the increasing violence and lawlessness around our school building, we remain hopeful for a shared solution.

To help keep you in the loop, here is a sampling of the some of the news stories related to the encampment. Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

*Minnesota Reformer* - [Minneapolis school goes remote over encampment concerns - Minnesota Reformer.](#)

Minnesota Reformer- <http://minnesotareformer.com/2021/09/08/indigenous-leaders-alarmed-at-drugs-lawlessness-at-franklin-street-encampment/>.

Bring Me the News - [Minneapolis school moves to virtual learning due to homeless encampment on its grounds - Bring Me The News](#)

Best wishes,

Wendy Smith  
VOA High School Director