IVSA Newsletter

October 2026 Edition

Mindset Matters: A Strong Start to the Year



October is here, and we have so much to celebrate at IVSA! We kicked off the school year with our **Mindset Matters** theme, a reminder that how we approach challenges, opportunities, and growth can make all the difference. It has been exciting to see our students, teachers, and partners embrace that mindset as we begin another year of learning together.

We are also excited to welcome a **new cohort of students beginning October 13**. Whether students are joining IVSA for a single course, joining The Academy, or learning with us in another way, we are grateful for the opportunity to expand access and create new possibilities for Illinois students.

This fall has also reminded me just how important partnerships are to the work we do. We are incredibly thankful for our school and district partners across Illinois who trust IVSA to serve their students and work alongside us to find creative solutions. We are equally grateful for our growing partnership with **The University of Illinois System** and the opportunities it is creating to connect K–12 and higher education in meaningful new ways.

As we move into October, I am excited about what is ahead. Thank you to our students, families, educators, and partners for being part of the IVSA community. Together, we are continuing to **expand access, create opportunities, and empower every learner.**

Melissa Lundgaard
IVSA Executive Director



IVSA Teacher Highlight

Meet Ms. McGregor



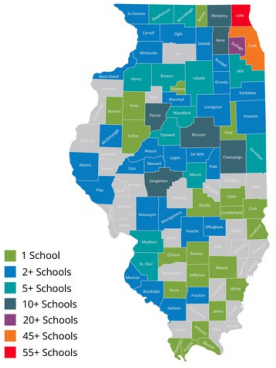
Margaret has been part of the IVSA family for 22 years. Ask her what she loves most about the job, and she'll tell you it's getting to know her students through their interest-driven projects. In her words: "**Students are so clever and interesting!**"

That's Margaret in the photo doing what she loves outside the classroom too, working the spotlight at one of her volunteer gigs in Hollywood, California.

Looking ahead, Margaret is excited to teach a Dual Credit Film & Media class starting this January!

Welcome NEW PARTNER SCHOOLS!

Did you know that IVSA added ***3 NEW PARTNER SCHOOLS*** just this month! We are GLAD you chose to join the ***IVSA FAMILY***!
Brownstown Jr HS - Brownstown
Emerson Elementary School - Berwyn
Montini Catholic School - Lombard



IVSA on The University of Illinois State Tour

IVSA Partnership with The University of Illinois System and North Mac High School



IVSA was one of the stops on The University of Illinois President's 6th Annual Tour. The University of Illinois system stated, "In today's technological age, a student's access to courses should not be determined by ZIP code, staffing shortages, or the size of their school. Through our partnership with Illinois Virtual Schools & Academy, we're providing equitable access to high-quality public learning to every corner of Illinois."

The tour included an interactive physics lesson taught by Mrs. Ferguson, a student interview panel and time for group discussion among the President's team.

Thank you to Superintendent Kyle Hacke and Principal Nick Troutwine at North Mac High School for hosting the tour and for using IVSA to help solve staffing and access challenges.



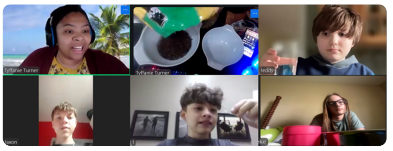






October 13 REGISTRATION is OPEN!

IVSA Course Catalog



IVSA offers over 400 courses in our Fall Program. Do you need **Consumer Economics**, **Health, PE, World Languages** or an **Elective**? What about taking **Photography**, **Geometry, Digital Media, Forensics**, or get credit for working this fall with our **Workplace Experience** course.
IVSA COURSE CATALOG

Monthly Math Challenge

Do you like to solve math problems? Join other students across the country in a Monthly Math Riddle Challenge! Sign up link is also on the flyer! Prizes are awarded.



IVSA Teacher Training

The IVSA teachers meet at the beginning of each school year for training, collaboration, and connection.











School Partner Corner

Have you lost a teacher and need help with a Teacher Shortage Solution? Intake Form is below!

If you anticipate a need for IVSA to support your school in SY2627 with TSS, please fill out this TSS intake form to let us IVSA know what needs you are anticipating. Filling this out does not bind you to using IVSA, but we can begin to explore this partnership.

Synchronous or Asynchronous options are available!



Full-Time Academy CORNER

REGISTRATION

Registration for our September 2026 COHORT is OPEN! Do you have a student who would thrive with a flexible learning solution? Enroll your student today.



IVSA Programs



- ***Full-Time Academy*** - We offer a highly supportive full-time virtual learning option for students.
- ***Next Chapter*** - Our Brand New Credit Recovery Program
- ***Single Course Offerings*** - Choose original credit or credit recovery courses in Core Subjects, Electives, World Languages, Business and CTE courses and more.
- ***Teacher Shortage Solutions*** - Are you experiencing a teacher shortage that may eliminate programs and courses. IVSA offers synchronous and asynchronous instruction options for full classes.

DID YOU KNOW?

Help Guides for School Partners and Parents to assist with Applications, Registration, Passwords, Payments and more can be found on the IVSA website.



PARENT/GUARDIAN CORNER

Observer Access to Canvas

We have a new way that you can follow your student's IVSA course(s) by creating an observer account in our learning management system, Canvas. Please use the HELP GUIDE to walk you through this.

Coming Up!

IMPORTANT DATES 📅

September 7: Labor Day, No School
September 15: Cohort 2 Begins
October 13: Cohort 3 Begins

Follow IVSA on INSTAGRAM

Like our FACEBOOK Page

You can find us on LINKEDin

IVSA Illinois Virtual Schools & Academy

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FTA 2026-27 ACADEMIC CALENDER

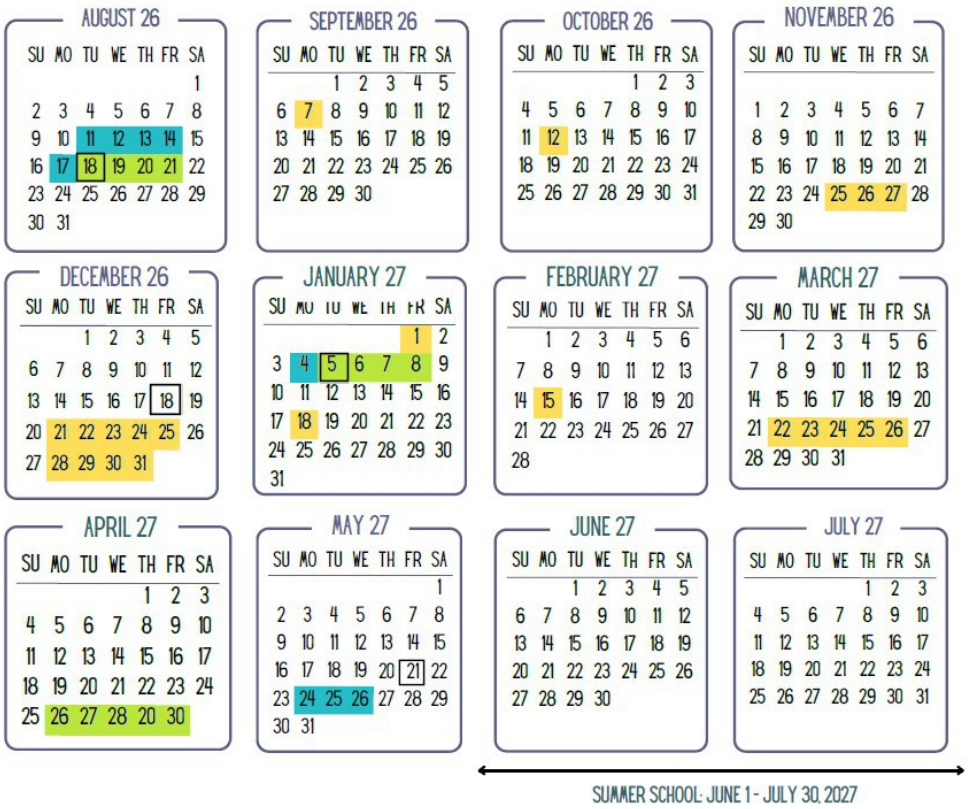
Total instructional days: 176

EVENTS

AUG 5-7 - NEW TEACHER TRAINING
AUG 6 - ADJUNCT FACULTY TRAINING
AUG 10 - NEW TEACHER FTF TRAINING DAY
AUG 11 - FTA STAFF FTF TRAINING DAY
AUG 12-14 AND 17 - FTA STAFF WORK DAYS
AUG 18 - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
AUG 18-21 - DIAGNOSTIC TESTING
SEP 7 - LABOR DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED
OCT 12 - INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED
NOV 25-27 - THANKSGIVING - SCHOOL CLOSED
DEC 18 - END OF 1ST SEMESTER
DEC 21- JAN 1 - WINTER BREAK - SCHOOL CLOSED
JAN 4 - TEACHER WORK DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED
JAN 5 - FIRST DAY OF 2ND SEMESTER
JAN 5-8 - MID-YEAR DIAGNOSTIC TESTING
JAN 18 - MLK DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED
FEB 15 - PRESIDENTS DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED
MAR 22-26 - SPRING BREAK - SCHOOL CLOSED
APRIL 26-30 - END OF YEAR DIAGNOSTIC TESTING
MAY 21 - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
MAY 24-26 - TEACHER WORK DAYS
JUN 1 - SUMMER SCHOOL BEGINS
JULY 30 - SUMMER SCHOOL ENDS

KEY

No student attendance
Teacher work day
Semester start/end
Diagnostic testing



IVSA Illinois Virtual Schools & Academy

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Illinois Virtual Schools & Academy

The mission of IVSA is to partner with local Illinois schools to provide engaging and supportive online educational experiences to meet the needs of all learners.

Any Questions? Reach out to info@ivsaschool.org
Website: https://ivsaschool.org/
IVSA Phone Number: 866-890-IVSA (4872)



Melissa Lundgaard
Melissa is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters