



VILLAGE HOME

WHERE KIDS OWN THEIR LEARNING

AUGUST 2020 UPDATE



VH TEAMS

Stock Market Game

Congratulations to Village Home SMG team for placing **SECOND** in the state in the competiion. The Stock Market Game is an online simulation of the global capital markets. It was a challenging time to manage a portfolio!

Mock Trial & Model UN

Sadly both organizations had to cancel spring events due to COVID. But the Village Home Mock Trial program (VHMT) turned their new virtual reality into some virtual legality! Zoom allowed teams time to work together to prep the case of Lopez v. Buddie's Burgers for trial. Weeks of online practice culminated in two rousing trials on the last day of term, and included guest alumni judges and court staff. VHMT's successful online spring term showed their adaptability and was a testament to their incredible teamwork. It also put the enthusiasm they have for the program on display.

VILLAGE HOME & COVID

On the evening of March 11, amid back to back reporting of athletes and celebrities testing positive for COVID-19, Village Home's Board had an emergency meeting and made the difficult decision to close all campuses for the safety of our families and staff. All Village Home programming ceased on March 12; the abrupt closure everything didn't allow for proper goodbyes.

A mere three weeks later, VH faculty and staff were able to get 60 classes online, have families register, and train instructors on new software and protocols. Even with the sudden course correction families were able to continue in some of their favorite classes.

Summer programming for Fall 2020 was tricky business: No one could predict what the situation would be like several months from now, but Village Home was dedicated to providing safe learning environments for our families. With community surveys, current CDC guidance, and a unanimous Board vote, Village Home is offering Fall schedule of 140 synchronous online classes online and outdoor programming to insure the safety of our families and faculty. We are happy to report that 30% of our classes are already FULL, so the response to our offerings has been tremendous.

We welcome back our current families, and also those who are thinking about homeschooling for the first time. We are committed to making the learning journey fun and personal, even online.



A VH Staff Meeting

The past few months have presented many challenges and many silver linings. Because of our community of dedicated Board members, talented staff, and committed families, we are responding to the new normal with classes in our schedule that reflect the issues that learners care about and new programs to address the needs of our families.



VH Director and Founder, Lori Walker, is featured in the latest episode of [Honey! I'm Homeschooling the Kids!](#) hosted by [Robyn Robertson](#).

VILLAGE HOME WAS FOUNDED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF INCLUSION, ACCEPTANCE, DIVERSITY, AND EQUALITY.

WE ARE OUTRAGED AT THE INJUSTICES IN OUR SOCIETY, AND WE ARE COMMITTED TO WORKING TOWARD A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR LEARNERS AND OUR WORLD.

WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT BLACK LIVES MATTER AND STAND WITH THE BLACK COMMUNITY AGAINST RACISM AND INEQUALITY.

Village Home

NEW 2020/21 PROGRAMS

Voyagers Outside is an opportunity for learners to gather in small groups outdoors for this learning year. The program offers an engaging, robust curriculum using the environment as a foundation of our learning.

Social+Learning_Pods are designed to empower learners to own their education and practice key skills for academic success. Through weekly check-ins and engaging activities, learners will meet online in small pods to share their learning journeys together, and encourage each other. During this time when we are unable to be together physically, we are here to support each other on our self-directed learning paths.

VILLAGE HOME WAS CREATED IN 2002:

- to make the homeschooling journey easier, fun, and full of learning
- to empower learners to own their education, and to inspire them to learn beyond the classroom "walls"
- to provide a diverse community of belonging -- so homeschoolers can learn and grow with and from each other

In these times of COVID, we are doing our best to navigate these uncharted waters, providing the fundamental reasons we exist in an unfamiliar and restricted fashion. Despite the difference, we are grateful to have technology and the internet which allows for modified connection to our community.

We - like many businesses - have experienced severe financial impacts of COVID. We lost 75% of our Spring Term revenue. The Village Home Board has approved a preliminary budget for this coming year that has a deficit of up to \$100K and voted not to hold in-person classes this fall. Going online actually increased operating costs but we're committed to keeping classes at, or close to, \$11 per hour of instruction. Unfortunately Village Home will no longer be able to provide financial aid this fall, nor will we be operating our Volunteer Program where families can earn "clams" to redeem for tuition and merchandise.

Despite these big changes for Village Home, it is heartening to know that so many of our learners enjoyed connection in our online classes, the "Teens Off the Couch" summer program, and the free Virtual Lounges. We are especially grateful for the community support of kind words and generous gifts we have received during this difficult time.

VILLAGE ALUMS MAKING MUSIC

By Jillian Bauer, Co-Editor of Village Voice

Music is a great outlet for expression, and three Village Home alums, Rio Leyva, Timothy Jordan, and Sarah DiMuzio, are forging careers in the music industry and doing what they love.



RIO LEYVA

Being homeschooled gave Rio Leyva freedom to become a producer making the beats you hear behind rap songs. A few days ago, he produced a song with The Kid Laroi called "Tell Me Why." Rio lives in LA, assigned to the record label Internet Money Records. Rio's advice is to "just have fun with it and put in the amount of time that feels good to you." He's loving his job, and says, "doing music

stuff out here, and meeting famous people, and working on songs that get popular--it feels like that thing that you miss about being a little kid; like I don't have to really grow up." He says, "[Village Home] helped me along my path to all the cool things I'm doing and I'll always remember that."

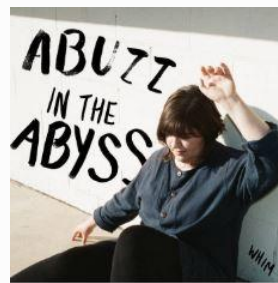
TIMOTHY JORDAN

Timothy Jordan is a singer and songwriter in the band One11Twenty, currently living in Culver City. Recently, the band released their album, "Better Days." He says, "it's amazing to have someone respond to something you make in any kind of positive way." Timothy's band is releasing music and working on creating a visual album compiling old and new music. His advice with music (and other pursuits) is to "just do it," and be gentle on yourself.



SARAH DIMUZIO

Sarah Isabella Dimuzio's latest album, *Abuzz in the Abyss*, was featured on NPR's New Music Friday this spring as the "discovery new artist". Sarah started playing while she was a learner at Village Home and performed for VH families and friends at the neighborhood coffee shop. Described as "crisp, timeless, and economical. There's no waste in her songwriting." and "These are songs about observing the world with a kind of wonder and awe, even when everything is awful."



These three musicians are doing what they love, and busy working on projects and practicing during quarantine. Click below to listen to their music.

[Produced by Rio Leyva on Spotify](#)

[Timothy Jordan, One11Twenty on Spotify](#)

[Sarah DiMuzio, Whim on Spotify](#)

During these unprecedented times, please support Village Home. Make a tax-deductible contribution by clicking www.villagehome.org/givenow. Thank you for your support!