

# NDVS/SB Outreach Newsletter

## August 2026

*Our mission is to provide specialized and individualized services for people of all ages who are blind or low vision by partnering with families, educators, and agencies to empower them in achieving their goals.*

## Welcome Back!

While we can't quite believe that it's already the start of another school year, we are excited for everything a new year brings, from new pencils and crayons to new teachers and, of course, new goals and new STPs at NDVS/SB! Check out the schedule for the year on [our website](#).

Our two summer programs were very different experiences but were both so much fun, and offered fantastic learning opportunities! Our Middle School and Teen program was combined this year,



*The Middle School and Teen program at the Missile Site they toured near Cavalier.*

and they traveled to the northeast corner of the state, camping at Icelandic State Park and touring the RSL-3 Missile Site near Cavalier, ND. The Elementary Program followed the State's Summer Library Program theme, *Unearth a Story*, which focused on history, storytelling, fossils, and, of course, dinosaurs. Both programs offered rich opportunities for working on skills in the Expanded Core Curriculum, especially O&M, social skills, rec & leisure, independent living, sensory efficiency, and self-determination.



*Staff and students from the Elementary program sporting their new Golden Guide t-shirts.*

## Meet Dr. Menuka Rai

This past spring, Menuka "Jyoti" Rai graduated with her doctorate in physical therapy through the University of Jamestown. Jyoti, who has been blind since the age of 6, shared her journey and what she's learned about herself over the last 3 years, in an article on our website: [Turning Persistence into Success](#)



## VRC Back-to-School Checklist

As students and teachers head back to school this fall, it's important to be prepared. NDVS/SB and the Vision Resource Center (VRC) can help! The VRC includes the library, American Printing House for the Blind (APH) products, and the Braille Access Center.

### **Books—**

Stock up on books that are needed for class as well as for pleasure reading. We have a selection of braille and large print books for all ages including *The Hunger Games* and *Harry Potter*. We have a selection of resource books for teachers including books on braille, Orientation and Mobility, and conditions and challenges related to vision loss.

### **Tactile graphics and 3D models—**

Do you have a geography class and need a tactile map? Will you be teaching or learning about the moon and the stars? Do you need to know the parts of a frog or a human heart? We have tactile graphics and 3D models that can supplement classroom lessons, and we can send them directly to your school.

### **APH Products and Assistive Technology—**

NDVS/SB can meet your needs with both low- and high-tech items. APH has tactile drawing boards for students learning to write or draw, emergent literacy books with tactile graphics and textured materials, slant boards to make classroom work easier, and so much more. We have added to our collection of technology for the classroom this year including additional hand-held and stationary magnifiers to assist with viewing print and visual materials in the classroom. We have plenty of Perkins

brailers that remain a standard for typed braille whether it is a journal entry or labels for the classroom.

### **Braille Access Center—**

Do you need information or resources transcribed into braille for students or teachers? We can transcribe programs, handouts, children's and juvenile books, schedules, menus, etc. There is a minimal charge for the creation of new materials, but many tactile graphics and 3D models are available for checkout from the VRC library for no additional cost.

### **Staff—**

Don't forget that our NDVS/SB staff is on hand to help with all of these items.

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