



November 13, 2015

Dear Viking Families:

It has been a busy albeit shorter week here on campus with great student work and a fabulous athletic singing day! In case you missed it, please join me in congratulating 2 of our high school student athletes in signing their letters of intent to play college level sports:

Jay Huff who will be attending University of Virginia to play basketball

Megan Harris who will be attending Radford College to play Volleyball.

We are very proud of these 2 student athletes and wish them much success in their futures! Don't forget that next Thursday is our Fall Chorus show in the HS gym at 7pm. Please come see how great our Viking Singers are!

**Academic Update:**

Our 10<sup>th</sup> graders' PLAN results have come in. This test is a similar to a "pre ACT" test that helps identify students' strengths and weaknesses so we can help provide additional supports prior to the ACT. Mr. Schmoyer will be sharing the results with students next week during their English II classes and a copy of the score report will be sent home for you with your student. The data will be used to provide content area and test taking strategies as appropriate during the student Flex Time.

**Science Olympiad** is gearing up. The first Saturday practices will begin on December 5<sup>th</sup> from 9-12. If you are interested in helping update the SO website, please contact either Erik Benson or Dino Mangano.

**Booster Club**

December 9<sup>th</sup> next Chick-Fil-A spirit night and Information on next booster club meeting to come soon.

**Community News:**

Historic Stagville's annual Christmas event, *Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the Quarters* is around the corner. See attached photo for the December 5<sup>th</sup> event.

**Care Program Updates:**

The Before/After Care program had another great week! The students continue to look forward to the daily activities planned for them in before and after school care. As a friendly reminder to parents, registration for both programs is open all school-year. Students may begin attending either program at any time. Information about the programs can be found on our Voyager School website.

**Enrichments**

The fall semester of Enrichments are going well! The semester is coming to a close and students and instructors are eagerly excited for the spring semester to begin! Registration for spring semester enrichment courses will be available December 1, 2015 on the Voyager website! Important dates to remember regarding the Care program and Enrichments are below. Please add these dates to your



personal calendars. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns! All enrichments are for students grades K-8 only.

- ✿ **"Enrichment Fair" Night** Tuesday, January 5, from 5pm-6:30pm in the Elementary School Gym-This is an opportunity to meet the enrichment instructors and gather more information about spring semester classes. New courses offered!!!
- ✿ **Spring Enrichment Courses begin** Monday, January 11, 2016 and end Friday, April 15, 2016 with **NO CLASSES** offered the week of **Jan 18 (MLK day) or March 28 (spring break).**
- ✿ **End-of-year Enrichment Showcase** Thursday, April 21, 2016- Students will showcase to parents what they have learned from their instructors! Fall students are encouraged to enroll in Spring semester courses. Fall and Spring semester students are expected to perform. More information regarding this event is forthcoming.

#### **PTA Update:**

Please be reminded that we will be having a Membership meeting on Tuesday, November 17th at 6:30 p.m. in the Middle School Gym. Please arrive a few minutes early to check in and receive your membership cards. Only those that are active members for the 2015-2016 school year may attend and vote. If you are not a member, we can get you signed up that night and you will be able to vote that evening. Please join us: we are 368 members strong! Those with family memberships must have both members in attendance for both votes to count. Any questions, please e-mail Shelley Brown at [voyageracademypta@gmail.com](mailto:voyageracademypta@gmail.com).

Apparel will also be on sale that night. We still have Voyager magnets and T-shirts and a limited supply of FALL apparel for immediate purchase. The Fall apparel showcases our new logo as well as the Voyager name. We will be accepting cash, check and credit cards that night.

#### **Elementary Update:**

Be sure to come out and support our Voyager High School and Middle School students at the Fall Choral Show on Thursday, November 19 at 7:00 PM in the High School Gym. Tickets are \$5.00 and will be sold at the door. All children third grade and younger can get in FREE! Also, please be sure that you are still collecting your Boosterthon pledges. As of right now we have collected 77% of what was pledged. This is a great start! But there is still over \$15,000 in outstanding pledges. If we collect 100%, Voyager will profit over \$30,000 and we will be able to hit many of our school goals. Please help us reach our goal of collecting 100%! All pledges must be turned in by Monday, November 16. Checks can be written to the Voyager PTA. Pledges can be turned into your student's teacher or in the front office. Also, sponsors are able to pay ONLINE if an email address was entered at the time of the pledge.

I hope everyone has a terrific weekend!!!

Leslie

#### **Important VAES Information:**



- **VAES Yearbook Ordering Information**

2015-16 Elementary School Yearbooks are now on sale and can only be ordered online this year. You can order your copy online at [www.strawbridge.net](http://www.strawbridge.net). Yearbooks are \$22.00 each and must be ordered by January 31, 2016. After this date, there will be a price increase for additional book orders. Visit [www.strawbridge.net](http://www.strawbridge.net), click on Order/Pay, and complete the requested school information for Voyager Elementary and ensure that you choose Yearbook to proceed to your order. Please contact Leslie Jewell ([lesliej@mindspring.com](mailto:lesliej@mindspring.com)) if you have any questions. Order today!!

- **First Grade Field Trip:** Tuesday, November 17 to the NC Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh
- **Second Grade Field Trip:** To One World Market on Ninth St. in Durham  
Monday, 11/16: Ms. Hancock  
Tuesday, 11/17: Mrs. Sawyer  
Wednesday, 11/18: Mrs. K  
Thursday, 11/19: Mrs. Lane  
Friday, 11/20: Mrs. Owens
- **Progress Reports:** To be sent home on Monday, November 23
- **Wednesday, November 25 – Friday, November 27:** No School/Thanksgiving Holiday
- **Thursday, December 3:** PTA Hospitality Luncheon
- **Friday, December 11 @ 1:00 PM:** First Grade Project Celebration
- **Thursday, December 17 @ 11:00 AM:** Third Grade Project Celebration
- **Thursday, December 17 @ 1:00 PM:** Kindergarten Project Celebration
- **Friday, December 18 @ 12:00 PM:** Second Grade Project Celebration
- **December 21 – January 1:** Winter Break/No School for Staff and Students
- **Monday, January 4:** Required Teacher Workday/No School for Students
- **Umbrellas:** Please donate umbrellas for staff to use for AM and PM carline

### **Middle School Update:**

Hello Voyager Middle School Families,

Even though this has been a four-day week, it has been extremely busy. Our middle school cheerleaders have been learning new routines. We have a great squad to cheer for our teams! It's been fun watching our girls and boys during basketball practice. Ms. Jackson has been working with the girls to increase their stamina. They are completing lots of drills before working on their offense and defense! The boys have been attending study hall prior to practice. I hope they have been productive in completing their homework as I know they have been productive at practice. Once the season begins, I hope to see many of you cheering on the players!

Today was a better day for our 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders! They were in their classes prior to the 8:00 bell and could hear the announcements and participate in the pledge. The afternoon was also better. Dismissal



began promptly at 3:00. It really helps car line run smoothly when we are ready to begin at 3:00. If you talked with your child about being on time to class, I really appreciate it. I think it is making a difference!

Many of you sent your Boosterthon pledges/donations or you've paid online. We do have some outstanding money. We would like to close out the Boosterthon fundraiser next week so please make sure all pledge money/donations are sent to Voyager by Monday. If you prefer, you may pay online. Prizes will be distributed once we complete the collection of money.

We still need you! If you are available to help distribute lunches, please let me know. We need an extra hand on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Mrs. Sullivan is taking care of Mondays and Ms. Salazar has Fridays under control. If you can help on Tuesdays or Thursdays, you will be working with the Pizza Inn rep. On Wednesdays, you will work with Mrs. Stone. Please let me know your availability! Thanks!

Please mark November 19<sup>th</sup> on your calendar! Our middle and high school choirs will perform and I understand it will be worth your time! The show begins at 7:00 and will take place in the high school gym! Join me for the show!

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Nov. 16        Boosterthon money due if you have not already sent to Voyager.
- Nov. 17        Hospitality Luncheon for our staff
- Nov. 17        PTA Meeting, 6:30, middle school gym
- Nov. 19        Board Meeting, 5:00, high school
- Nov. 19        Fall Chorus Performance, 7:00, HS gym

Have a great weekend!

Gwen

Gwen Johnson    gjohnson@voyageracademy.net  
Interim Principal, Voyager Middle School

#### **High School Update:**

After five years and two graduating classes at Voyager Academy High School we've accomplished a lot: 100% of students who applied to a four year institution accepted to one of their choices, 82% of students accepted to their first choice college, 97% graduation rate, 95% math rigor rate, growth every year in our AP pass rate while increasing enrollment every year, incredibly successful athletics boasting 3 State Championship Finalists, a State Championship Choral Group, and a safe and caring learning environment.

However, we are not satisfied to rest on these laurels. There are still areas in which we can improve and we are working as a faculty to identify and find ways to address those needs. It is our goal to become a great PBL High School. In the coming weeks we'll be sharing some areas we are focusing on as a school and how we need student and parent support to target those areas. Thank you for entrusting your students



with us everyday, we would not be where we are without our community! I look forward to continuing to work with you to make this the best place for students.

Cory Draughon  
Principal, VAHS  
“Persist for Meaning”

--VAHS Fall Chorus Show For Music’s Sake, will be Thursday November 19, 2015 7:00pm in the High School Gym. Featuring Voyager Academy’s Middle & High School Choirs, Jenny Hobgood HS Choral Director and Leslie Wicker MS Choral Director.

--Voyager is proud to host students from the UK this coming spring in our 3rd annual Ambassador exchange program. This year we are looking for 10 families to volunteer to host a student from the dates of April 2nd to April 10th. Please have your student see Mr. Gatlin for an application and more details.

--On Thursday, November 12 at 11:15 AM, two Voyager Academy athletes signed letters of intent to play Division 1 sports.  
Jay Huff is a 6’11” forward who has committed to play basketball at the University of Virginia.  
Megan Harris is a 6’2” outside hitter who will be playing volleyball at Radford University.