



October 30, 2015

Dear Viking Families:

Hope you all enjoy this 3 day weekend with the family and wish you a very safe Halloween! Our students stayed busy this week in their classes and enjoyed some community building time through our Boosterthon program. It was a real treat to watch all our students working together and especially watching our older students mentor and cheer for their younger counterparts. Thank you so much to the PTA and to all our parent volunteers who helped make the Fun Run, FUN! As we continue counting the money collected we will share with you how much money was raised for Voyager Academy and the PTA will keep you informed of the totals and the ways in which the monies will be distributed.

A huge THANKYOU to Jeff Wilcox and family for donating and spreading mulch on the MS playground to help our MS students play safe!

If you were lucky enough to enroll your child into the one day camp yesterday, we know they had a blast and learned a LOT about music. Thanks to Ms. Boney for coordinating a wonderful event for kids!

**Chick-fil-a Spirit Day – Tuesday Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10:30 – 8pm you can still purchase your ticket from the athletic department or current athlete.**



**Academic Update:**

Many students completed their testing this week in the middle school and high school related to fall benchmarks and pre-college testing. When we receive these results we will report them back to you. Many parents spent some time on Friday with parent conferences. If you did not get to meet with your child's teacher but have concerns, please email the directly to set up an appointment to meet.

If you are in the High School and you aren't sure what The Dugout is, please read through the HS update and check your email regarding this program set up set up by Mr. Schmoyer. Our mission is to help all students achieve success.

Guilford County PAGE is sponsoring a FREE fall webinar on the college application essay hosted by our partner, Susan Goodkin, a Harvard Law and Oxford graduate, who runs her own California-based



consultancy focused on selective college admissions. She is considered one of the foremost experts on the college admissions process for gifted applicants. Through our partnership with Susan, we are able to offer this webinar for FREE to anyone who registers in advance. Normally, she charges \$79/person to participate in this webinar, so this is a wonderful opportunity to share with your members and prospects, including parents, educators and guidance counselors. The webinar will be held one time only, November 5 from noon to 1 p.m., and it will not be archived. A live Q&A will follow the presentation.

### **Athletics Update:**

Voyager Students, Athletes family and friends this past week has given us all reasons to celebrate. Below you will see highlights from this week

- Middle School boys and girls cross-country team finished their season in style winning and placing second in their conference races respectfully.
- Middle School boys' soccer team completed an undefeated season, winning both the regular season and conference tournament.
- High School Women's tennis team advanced to the second round of the state playoffs, while Sophomore Morgan Blount wins the Mid-East Regionals to advance to the individual state championships as a number 1 seed.
- High School Varsity Volleyball team defeated the number 2 seed and then conference rivals Franklin Academy to advance to the East Region Semifinals played this Saturday at Princeton High School
- Women's Golfer Peyton Henderson finished her career by finishing in the top half of the field at the Girl's Golf State Championship.
- Luke Bennett won the Men's Conference cross country meet with a personal best and school best 5k time of 16:16

Overall an amazing week for the Voyager Athletic program, thank you all for your support of our teams here are a list of things to come.

### Men's and Women's Cross Country

Both the men and women's team will complete this Saturday in Mid-Eastern Regional Champion at Wake Med Park.

### Varsity Volleyball

Team will play Princeton High School in the elite 8 of the state playoffs on Saturday. The time is yet to be determined, however more information will follow as we would like to have fans caravan to support the girls as they look to move into the final four.

### Winter Sports



Mandatory Parent, Student-Athlete, Coach and AD meeting for all fall high school sports will be held on Tuesday at 6:15 in the high school gym. All must be present or see Coach Harris before they are allowed to compete this winter.

The high school basketball begins its competition on Tuesday with inner squad scrimmages beginning at 7:00 pm with a slam-dunk and three point contest. The girl's team taking on a group of faculty and wrestlers and the boy's team scrimmage to close the night will follow these contests. Please come out should be a very fun night.

#### Middle School Basketball Tryouts

Boys' team selection will be in the middle school gym at 9am on Saturday, while the girls will hold their team selection process beginning next Wednesday after school. **Any athlete that wishes to try out must have a current physical and paperwork turned in by their tryout date.**

#### PTA Update:

Don't forget to bring in those Boosterthon pledges and donations!!! Each school has great incentives to support our school. If everyone raises \$60.00 then we will hit our goal of \$45,000.00! We are at 35% of our goal and still have time.

#### Elementary Update:

This has been such a fun week at Voyager Academy! Our Boosterthon K – 12 Fun Run and Buddy Run was a great success!! It was so exciting to see ALL of our students collaborating and working together! We have posted some great pictures on our website. Don't forget that pledging will stay open one more week. If you get new pledges, they can register at funrun.com (code: **456-644**). Also, be sure that you are collecting the pledges. Collections are due on Friday, November 6. I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend!!!  
Leslie

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

- **Tuesday, November 10:** PTA Hospitality Luncheon
- **Tuesday, November 10:** Strawbridge Make-up Pictures
- **Wednesday, November 11:** Veteran's Day Holiday/No School for Staff and Students
- **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,

We've had an amazing week at Voyager Middle School. If you attended the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Project Celebration, you had the opportunity to learn how climate change affects animal life in a temperate region, how health and diseases are affected by climate change, weather in North Carolina, and ways to recycle. The many presentations shared by the 7<sup>th</sup> graders were amazing. There were certainly many facts that I learned!

Week 2 of Boosterthon was this week! Our 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders visited their elementary buddies. What I saw was a great group of middle school students working with the kindergarten, first and second grade students on several projects. Our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students had the opportunity to help the 1<sup>st</sup> grade teachers create tie-dye t-shirts. All grade levels participated in the Fun Run today. Our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders ran and our 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders cheered for their Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade buddies.

The Fall Sports' Banquet was Wednesday evening. The teams recognized were tennis, boys and girls cross country, girls' volleyball, and boys' soccer. All teams had a very successful season! We have a couple of conference champions – our boys' soccer team and our boys' cross country team! I am extremely proud of our student athletes!

I want to thank Mr. Jeff Wilcox and family!!!! In last week's newsletter I asked for help with the piece of playground equipment on the middle school playground. I am very happy to share that the Wilcox family will weed and mulch the playground during our Thanksgiving holidays. When the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders return, the piece of playground equipment will be ready for play!

### **Upcoming Events:**

Oct. 30	Conference Day
Nov. 2	Keep Durham Beautiful Field Trip for 5 <sup>th</sup> graders
Nov. 9	Boosterthon pledges due
Nov. 10	Make-up pictures

Have a great weekend,  
Gwen

Gwen Johnson [gjohnson@voyageracademy.net](mailto:gjohnson@voyageracademy.net)  
Interim Principal, Voyager Middle School

### **High School Update:**

Dear VAHS Parents and Students,



There are a number of announcements this week, so I will keep my comments brief. Immersion assignments went out at the beginning of this week. I'm excited for the great experiences planned for students and the strengthened service tie-ins for each activity. A big thank you to everyone for your generosity and flexibility during the Boosterthon this week. Our high school students did a great job cheering on their lower school buddies during the run yesterday!

Cory Draughon  
Principal, VAHS  
"Persist for Meaning"

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Sign up link for

webinar: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ebm31246af8c24c6&oseq=&c=&ch=>

Program information link: <http://guilfordcountypage.org/programs-2/>

--What: Culminating Event - Art exhibition: "Molecular Art" by Voyager Academy High School Biology Students

When: Halloween - Saturday 10/31 from 10am-12pm

Where: Durham Farmer's Market @ 501 Foster St, Durham, NC 27701

Art has always been inspired by our wonder of nature and the life birthed from it. The foundation of this precious life emerges from the structures and functions of just four types of amazing molecules: Nucleic Acids, Proteins, Carbohydrates, and Lipids. The biology students of Voyager Academy High School were asked to create a piece of art inspired by one of the four biomolecules. Their art aims to deconstruct the relationships between molecular form, function, and life itself to make their own unique statements. Please come to see some amazing art, learn about biology, and support our students!

--Voyager Academy Lacrosse Club Interest Meeting

On Tuesday, November 10th at 7:00pm there will be an interest meeting for the 2016 Voyager Academy High School Lacrosse club in the Middle School gymnasium. This meeting is open to all Voyager High School students and their parents/guardians. If you plan on participating this season, or simply have



questions about the team, please try to attend this meeting. If you cannot make it, please email [kplilley@ncsu.edu](mailto:kplilley@ncsu.edu) with your intent to play or any questions you may have.

--Abbie Estes (9th grade) earned her Girl Scout Silver Award on October 13, 2015. Abbie volunteered for over a year at Orange County Animal Shelter, conducted fundraising and awareness drives, and raised money for the shelter to sponsor adoptions and purchase furniture for their recently constructed dog play yard. We are very proud of Abbie!