



Voyager Academy Weekly Newsletter January 15, 2016

Dear Voyager Families,

Jennifer Lucas, our Managing Director, returned this week on an abbreviated schedule. We were all happy to see her and that she is recovering well from her surgery. If you have something that needs immediate attention, you can contact me at lpaynter@voyageracademy.net.

With the weather getting colder, please remember to send your child with a coat for recess. We continue to hear that we may have a very cold and snowy winter, so please begin to plan ahead and register for the Voyager app so you can get instant updates and alerts. We will follow the DPS winter weather plans, so if DPS closes or changes their operating hours related to weather alerts, we will too. We will post these alerts on our website, send an email and place a phone call, but if you see it on the news for DPS, you can plan accordingly.

At our last Board meeting, the Code of Student Conduct was discussed and the Board has asked that we clarify that charter schools have various discipline options that are not available to traditional public schools. To guarantee that all families are aware of these discipline options, a parent from each family must read and sign that they have read the Code of Student Conduct. Please follow this link to read the Code of Student Conduct and to sign the google form acknowledging that you have read the various discipline procedures and consequences. The due date for all families to acknowledge they have read the Code of Conduct is Tuesday, January 19.

Code of Conduct policy link: <https://goo.gl/ddz8w3>

Acknowledgement form link: <http://goo.gl/forms/1aqem6NJV1>

The next Voyager Academy Board meeting is Thursday, January 21 at 5:15 in the High School Commons/Art Room.

The Moms Rising Martin Luther King Birthday Celebration will be held on Monday, January 18 (school holiday) at Northgate Mall. Students and families have the chance to not only learn about Dr. King's dream, but see ways it is lived out in Durham today through learning and service activities with local community organizations, great entertainers, and listening to Senator Floyd McKissick talk about growing up during Durham's civil rights movement.



Come and join the Voyager High School cheerleaders for an evening of cheerleading on Tuesday, February 2, 2016! All camp participants will attend camp from 4:15-5:45 then cheer during the first half and half-time of the Voyager Academy High School Varsity girl's game against Research Triangle High School. Please see attached flier for more information!

The Voyager Athletic Department is raffling off two pairs of tickets up for the UNC vs. Duke Basketball game on February 17th at 9pm at the Dean Dome. They are lower level seats. The drawing will be held between Girls and Guys Basketball game against Roxboro Community School on either February 12 or 13 (more information regarding the game to come). You do not need to be present to win. The raffle ticket prices are: \$10 = 1 ticket, \$50 = 8 tickets, and \$100 = 20 tickets. For more information, please email Deuce Harris at dharris@voyageracademy.net.

Best,
Leslie

Culinary Arts Update:

We raised a total of \$857.17 at our Gingerbread House Silent Auction! A Grandparent of an elementary school student bid on a total of eleven houses and won them all. She presented us with a check for \$500, which exceeded her combined bids of \$350! I had the opportunity to meet with her when she came to pick up the houses. She said that her granddaughter was really interested in Culinary Arts and she wanted to support our program, in hopes that she would be a part of it when she reached High School. She only wanted three of the eleven houses, so I took the remaining ones to the Durham City Mission. I placed them on the dining tables there and the kids were thrilled. It was wonderful! Thank you for supporting our HS Culinary Arts program!

Kylie Koerner

Elementary Update:

Dear VAES Families,

We will kickoff this year's Jump Rope For Heart program on Wednesday January 27, 2016. Your student will bring home a parent letter attached to a collection envelope that day. We will hold our school's Jump Rope of Heart event during Physical Education classes February 3-17. This is a fun and exciting event for our entire school as we work together to raise money for the American Heart Association and save lives!



Your students will be telling you about the Lifesaver puppies, so we wanted to fill you in! Each puppy teaches the kids a way to protect their heart and avoid risk factors for heart disease and stroke. Your student can earn all 6! Three of the puppies are given as instant rewards and three will come with the other fundraising prizes. The instant rewards are Super Pup, Ninja Star, and Martia N. Mutley. If you raise \$5 your student will get Super Pup at school the day they turn in their money. If that donation is made online, they will also get a second puppy, Ninja Star. Any student who reaches \$85 online will also get Martia N. Mutley. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Derrick or Mrs. Flowedawson at bderrick@voyageracademy.net or mflowedawson@voyageracademy.net.

I hope everyone enjoys the long weekend.

Leslie

- **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. 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, 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) if you have any questions. Order today!!
- Our next Hospitality Luncheon is January 21, 2016 from 11:30 to 12:45 in the Elementary Conference Room. We will be having a "Rice Bowl" theme luncheon to show our teachers and staff how much we appreciate them. Please review the sign up and volunteer if you can. Please remember we need all items by 11:00 am on the 21st. Thanks in advance.
Dana and Lynn
www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60B0A48A8A6229-vaes1
- **mClass Mid-Year Reading Assessment Window:** Jan. 19 - Feb. 12
- **Elementary Tours:**
1st - 3rd: Jan. 22 @ 10:30
K Tour: Feb. 12 @ 10:30
K - 3rd Tour: Feb. 26 @ 10:30
- **3rd Quarter Project Celebration Dates:**
First Grade: Thursday, March 3 @ 1:00
Kindergarten and 2nd Grade: Friday, March 4 @ 11:30



Third Grade: Friday, March 4 @ 1:00

- **Umbrellas:** Please donate umbrellas for staff to use for AM and PM carline

Middle School Update:

Hello Voyager Middle School Families,

On behalf of the middle school staff, I would like to thank our PTA for providing a delicious soup and salad lunch on Tuesday. The food was delicious! We also appreciate the lunch coverage many of you provided so our staff could enjoy lunch with other team members. Parents, we appreciate you!

Eighth grade parents, before you send your child to high school, show them how proud you are of all of their hard work and incredible accomplishments with an ad in VAMS yearbook. You can add personal photos, special memories, and a unique message to honor and congratulate your child in a way they'll be able to cherish for years to come. Ads are \$35 for a 2.25" x 3.5 ". To purchase a memory ad, follow these two simple steps by Tuesday, January 19. 1) Send payment to Gwen Johnson. Please make checks payable to VAMS, with memo line: Memory Ad. Complete this form ----

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1YR8hT42mALfZWsR5HXIOVeEmhcWzSW42Cg0yL66WCgY/edit?usp=forms_home

Calendar of Events

Monday, Jan. 18	Martin Luther King Jr Holiday - No school
Tuesday, Jan. 19	Girls Sign-Up for Spring Sports, 12:30, gym
Tuesday, Jan. 19	Basketball teams play at Vance, girls start at 4:00
Wednesday, Jan. 20	5 th grade math benchmark
Wednesday, Jan. 20	Basketball teams play at Roxboro, girls start at 4:30
Thursday, Jan. 21	National Junior Honor Society meetings, 7:30 am, Ms. Green's room
Thursday, Jan. 21	Basketball teams play at home against Woods, start at 4:30
Thursday, Jan. 21	Board Meeting, 5:15, HS
Friday, Jan. 22	Voyager Middle School Tour, 9:30

Enjoy the weekend!

Gwen Johnson gjohnson@voyageracademy.net

Interim Principal

Voyager Middle School



High School Update:

As I shared in a previous newsletter the high school faculty is working hard on moving our school from good to great. This week our faculty worked on project design as we implement 2nd semester projects leading up to our exhibition night. For students we expect them forth their best effort for each project including daily tasks leading up to the culminating event. We've moved our Exhibition Night to March 8th, so please mark your calendar.

Students did a great job during Spirit Week this week. The week culminates tonight with our Homecoming basketball games, Homecoming Court and then the Homecoming Semi-Formal Saturday evening.

I've received feedback regarding the transition to Canvas from teachers, parents and administration. We are working to take into account a variety of factors and provide the most succinct class grade/assignment information to parents. Please remember to sign up for your Canvas account; we are completing training with teachers so that consistency between Canvas and Powerschool will be reached soon.

Have a great 3-day weekend!

Cory Draughon

Principal, VAHS

"Persist for Meaning"

--Barnes and Noble My Favorite Teacher Contest: To participate, simply write an essay, poem, or thank-you letter explaining how a teacher has influenced your life. Be sure to explain why you admire and appreciate your teacher. Entries must be 500 words or less, in English, and typed on 8.5'' x 11'' white paper. Turn it in to your school office before March 1, 2016. Entries may also be delivered in person to your local Barnes & Noble store by March 1, 2016. You may also mail them to your local Barnes & Noble store postmarked by the deadline. The address of your nearest Barnes & Noble retailer can be found at <http://store-locator.barnesandnoble.com>

--Save the date: Prom Saturday, April 9 at Umstead Pines

--National college admissions expert Susan Goodkin will present an informative webinar to help students and parents understand how to search for college scholarships. The webinar will address the most common questions and concerns about finding scholarships as well as



the not-so-common tips and tricks to make your search easier, faster, and more productive.

Register by clicking on your date of choice:

Thursday, Feb. 4, 12-1 p.m. (EST) Sunday, Feb. 7, 2-3 p.m. (EST)

Topics to be covered:

Why You Should Start Thinking About Scholarships When Your Child is in Middle School

The Scholarship Search

- What to do before you start looking to search most efficiently
- Why your child's GPA is less important for many scholarships than you think
- What students can start doing when they're young to improve their odds of winning scholarships
- The best order in which to search for scholarships
- How to search beyond the usual suspects
- Tricky ways to find local scholarships
- How to find scholarships for students with quirky interests

Merit Scholarships Awarded by Colleges (scholarships not based on financial need)

- Who gets merit scholarships?
- Some great colleges that offer big scholarships (full tuition or more!)
- Tips for figuring out how much merit aid your child might be offered

National Merit Scholarship Competition

- How it works
- How you can improve your child's odds of winning one, and why you should be thinking about this the summer after sophomore year!
- How merit scholarship recognition can help your child get merit aid at many colleges

The Scholarship Application

- How to write a great scholarship application
- Tips from students who have won scholarships, including National Merit Scholars, Coca-Cola Scholars, and more.

Athletic Update:

The Voyager Athletic Department is raffling off two pairs of tickets up for the UNC vs. Duke Basketball game on February 17th at 9pm at the Dean Dome. They are lower level seats. The drawing will be held between Girls and Guys Basketball game against Roxboro Community School on either February 12 or 13 (more information regarding the game to come). You do not need to be present to win. The raffle ticket prices are: \$10 = 1 ticket,



\$50 = 8 tickets, and \$100 = 20 tickets. For more information, please email Deuce Harris at dharris@voyageracademy.net or 919-433-3301 x 229.

MS Spring Sports

Next week we will hold an interest meeting for all boys spring sports to judge numbers for our spring sport offerings. The interest meeting will be Tuesday at 12:3, during 7th and 8th grade lunch, in the middle school gym.

Supporters

Voyager Families we ask that you continue to support those that support our athletic programs. The companies below have made huge contributions to allow our student-athletes the opportunity to participate in educational driven athletics;

North Durham Orthodontics- Where a smile is always in style

Triangle Orthopedics- who work hard to keep our athletes on the court and fields

The Law Offices of Shelley Campen Brown - there to assist you with any of your legal needs

Roxboro Road Chick-Fil-A who helps us feed the fire and can provide catering for any of your gatherings

Upchurch Drugs and Gift Shop - there to help with all your medication, or optical needs while providing a place to find a perfect gift to just show someone you care.

Fundraiser

Voyager Athletics is now offering a way to comfortably enjoy your son or daughters sporting event. Buy a one of a kind stadium seat now available for purchase on orgsonline.com (School Code: 375VASNC). Select "Stadium Seat" and for \$35 one of these seats can be yours!



After School/Enrichment Update:

Dear Voyager Families!

The first week of enrichment courses went VERY well. Students and teachers are excited for the remainder of the semester. There is still room for students to join enrichment courses. The registration and payment deadline for enrichment courses has been extended



to Friday, January 22. Please be reminded that there are 2 parts to the registration process: completing the form via the link below, and payment via your orgsonline account. <http://voyageracademy.net/resources/beforeafter-care/enrichments/>

Please also be reminded that there will be NO ENRICHMENT courses offered next week due to the Dr. Martin Luther King holiday.

Guitar Students enjoying their time!



Summer Camps 2016!

Voyager will host summer camps this year! We have included a sample calendar of events and field trips to help give you an idea what our camps will consist of. Voyager's camp is only open for rising 1st-rising 8th grade students. The camp will take place June 1-July 1. Register your students before February 1 to receive the lowest weekly rates!

Additionally, other vendors will be offering 1-week camps this summer. Currently, they are:

- Ballet to Broadway Dance Camp (rising K-3 grades)
- Voyager Vikings Chef Camp (ages 7-12)
- Voyager Vikings Chef Camp (ages 13-18)

Please visit our summer camp webpage for more information regarding all of our camps. For questions, please email Latia Boney at lboney@voyageracademy.net