



## Voyager Academy Weekly Newsletter January 8, 2016

Dear Voyager Families,

Jennifer Lucas, our Managing Director, will return next week on an abbreviated schedule. She is doing well and is anxious to return to work. However, if you have something that needs immediate attention, you can contact me at [lpaynter@voyageracademy.net](mailto:lpaynter@voyageracademy.net).

As the weather gets 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.

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

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

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,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We have had a great week at VAES! The students and staff were excited to get back to work. Today, we had a Kindergarten tour and 99 prospective parents attended. This was our biggest turn-out EVER! I hope everyone has a terrific 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](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!!
- Happy 2016! Welcome back Voyager families! 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](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60B0A48A8A6229-vaes1)
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report Cards:** Sent home on Friday, January 8
- **Buddy Class Visits with High School and Middle School Students:** Monday, Nov. 11
- **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
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Project Celebration Dates:**  
**First Grade:** Thursday, March 3 @ 1:00  
**Kindergarten and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Friday, March 4 @ 11:30  
**Third Grade:** Friday, March 4 @ 1:00
- **From Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Jenkins ----** We invite you to share a bit of your holiday spirit and help us continue Voices Together at Voyager Academy. This amazing music therapy program has already had an impact on our students and we would love to be able to continue it for the rest of the year. But we can't do it without your help. Thank you!  
<https://www.gofundme.com/voyagervoices>
- **Umbrellas:** Please donate umbrellas for staff to use for AM and PM carline



### **Middle School Update:**

Hello Voyager Middle School Families,

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a great holiday and 2016 is off to a great start! I can assure you that our teachers were ready for our students Tuesday morning and the learning process began as soon as the bell rang!

The end of the second nine weeks was Dec. 18 so it is time for report cards. Report cards will be sent home today so make sure you ask for them. Tuesday was the first day of the third nine weeks. It's important that the students arrive on time. It's always difficult for students to enter the class after the teacher has begun the lesson. It's also important that our students are prepared once they get to school. Please make sure homework has been completed, students have necessary supplies, and they gather all items before climbing out of the car. Thanks for your support!

Next week is a very busy week! On Monday our students will spend time with their buddy class. We began our buddy class meetings during our Boosterthon fundraiser and found it to be an enjoyable activity. Grades 6-8 visit their buddies at the elementary school and our high school friends visit the fourth and fifth graders. It's great to see the interaction among buddies as they complete an assigned task.

### **Calendar of Events**

- Monday, Jan. 11 Buddy Class visits
- Tuesday, Jan. 12 PTA Staff Luncheon
- Tuesday, Jan. 12 Boys sign-up for spring sports, 12:30, gym
- Tuesday, Jan. 12 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading benchmark
- Tuesday, Jan. 12 Basketball teams play at Fall Lake Academy, girls at 4:30 and boys immediately after the girls.
- Wednesday, Jan. 13 Human Growth and Development for 5<sup>th</sup> graders
- Thursday, Jan. 14 Human Growth and Development for 5<sup>th</sup> graders
- Thursday, Jan. 14 Basketball teams play East Wake at home, girls at 4:30 and boys immediately after the girls.
- Friday, Jan. 15 Snakes Alive visits 4<sup>th</sup> graders

Thanks,

Gwen Johnson

[gjohnson@voyageracademy.net](mailto:gjohnson@voyageracademy.net)



Interim Principal  
Voyager Middle School

### **High School Update:**

Next week is Spirit Week at the high school; each day students may participate in a special dress theme to promote school spirit. The week culminates with a pep rally and home basketball game with homecoming court presentations. Then Saturday January 16th students can attend the Winter Homecoming Formal dance, tickets are on sale during lunch each day.

Spirit Weeks Days are as follows:

Holiday Monday

Tourist Tuesday

Decade Wednesday

Character Day Thursday

Voyager/America Day Friday

Don't forget we are beginning to use a learning management system this year called CANVAS. All staff will be required to enter the assignment name, due date and points into CANVAS at the time the assignment is given to students (this is a minimum requirement; some teachers may choose to use additional functionality through CANVAS). Due to this transition to CANVAS parents should set up parental accounts in order to access student assignments in each class. I've created a video explaining how to set up your account at this link, <https://youtu.be/o4STIy6w9bM> (copy and paste into your browser).

Congratulations to Mr. Puhala our instrumental music teacher. He successfully applied for and received the Vans Custom Culture Grant. Voyager Instrumental Music students are going to pair up with students from East Chapel Hill High with developmental disabilities to play music and learn songs together after school on Fridays. It will result with a culminating public performance in May at the East Chapel Hill High student's graduation ceremony.

Glad to have everyone back at school, and look forward to making the 2nd Semester Great!

Cory Draughon

Principal, VAHS

"Persist for Meaning"



--Report cards went home with students Friday January 8th, contact your student's teacher if you have any questions.

--Parents, are you looking for the best ACT and SAT preparation for your child? Register today for Moore's Test Prep's February ACT Master Class (here at Voyager!) and Spring SAT Series at Durham School of the Arts. Our classes are taught by expert educators who know how to get results. The ACT Master Class will be held on Saturday, February 13th and will prepare students for the March ACT. The Spring SAT Series begins on March 24th. Our flexible schedule provides make-up options if a student needs to miss a Thursday class; in that case, students may attend the Saturday morning or Tuesday evening class in Chapel Hill. Register today and view testimonials from former clients at [www.moorestestprep.com](http://www.moorestestprep.com), or call [\(919\) 452-8657](tel:9194528657).

--All Service Academy Student Evening

Cardinal Gibbons High School Theater, 1401 Edwards Mill Road, Raleigh NC 27607

Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 6:00 - 9:00 PM

For High School students and their parents who are interested in paid college & career opportunities and have strong academic, sports, physical, extracurricular activity preparation, and must pass a medical exam.

- Requirements and Qualifications to be competitive
- The Challenge & Opportunity - Academics - Athletics
- Military Traditions & Environment during the Academic Year
- Summers filled with Military Training & Travel
- Most Academies are full scholarship with pay - Career Opportunities
- Congressional Staff Remarks Relative to Nominations

Cardinal Gibbons HS is across from the PNC Center complex. Come early, traffic may be heavy due to events at the PNC Arena.

--Charles Alt, a faculty member and STEM coordinator at Greenwich Academy, an all-girls school in Greenwich, CT is reaching out to make you aware of an outstanding STEM conference coming to the Raleigh Durham area this spring. Greenwich Academy, in coordination with University of North Carolina and Duke University, will be hosting an all-girls STEM conference at Duke / UNC from April 3-5th, 2016. The goal of the GAINS Conference is to create a space where **high school girls** can explore STEM careers, meet with female STEM mentors, connect with peers interested in STEM, tour the amazing STEM facilities at Duke and UNC, and hear about cutting edge research being conducted by women in STEM.



We would like to invite your student to participate in this amazing event (<http://gainsnetwork.org/GAINS-Conference-2016>), please contact Mr. Schmoyer if you are interested.

--The VAHS Service Club raised a remarkable.....drumroll.....\$3,560 for Light the Night NC. Our service club is a vibrant part of our school community and we are proud of their accomplishments.

### **Athletic Update:**

#### **Important Announcement**

Next Wednesday, basketball games at Roxboro Community will be held at a small venue, as such we are only allotted 80 total tickets. 60 tickets have been allotted to player family members leaving only 20 tickets for students, friends and staff. Only presold tickets will be taken at the game, should you want to purchase a ticket they are 5 dollars and will be on sale Monday during lunch, first come first serve.

#### **Duke at UNC Basketball Tickets Raffle**

Thanks to a generous donation the athletic department has been given two pair of tickets to the Duke v. North Carolina game in Chapel Hill on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Raffle tickets are now on sale, 1 ticket for \$10, 8 tickets for \$50 or 20 tickets for \$100 dollars. If you are willing to help sale these raffle tickets or are interested in purchasing raffle tickets please contact Deuce Harris at [919.433.3301 x 229](tel:919.433.3301) or [dharris@voyageracademy.net](mailto:dharris@voyageracademy.net). The athletic department will be holding a drawing, February 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Roxboro Community home game.

#### **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 12:30, during 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://orgsonline.com) (School Code: 375VASNC). Select "Stadium Seat" and for \$35 one of these seats can be yours!



### **After School/Enrichment Update:**

Don't forget to register for spring 2016 Enrichments! All students, even if you participated in fall classes and plan to again this spring, must register. Please do so by Sunday, January 10, 2016. Please click the link below to register! \*new courses offered\*  
<http://voyageracademy.net/resources/beforeafter-care/>

- Enrichments will begin **Monday, January 11, 2016** and end **Friday, April 15, 2016**
- **NO CLASSES** offered the week of **Jan18 (MLK day)** or **March 28(spring break)**.
- Fall Semester Students are encouraged to register for spring classes. **ALL CURRENT STUDENTS MUST RE-REGISTER!** This will ensure our counts are accurate.
- Enrichments are for Students grades K-8 only.
- **SAVE THE DATE! End of year showcase on Thursday, April 21, 2016!**
- Please see attachments about summer camps offered at Voyager!