



February 19, 2016

Dear Viking Families:

Thanks for another great week on campus! Our teachers and students are working hard as we move through the end of the third quarter. We wanted to provide you with some updates from our school wide and parent leadership team:

Our school is working hard to meet the goals in our school improvement plan to increase student achievement. We have been providing students with additional small group and tutoring opportunities as needed, providing professional development and support for teachers in specific subject areas and curriculum, and providing additional tutoring and homework help for student athletes and students in need. As we make internal schedule changes and provide ongoing support for staff, we look forward to seeing our students continue to improve in all areas.

We have also examined additional information related to HS start times, and worked with an extensive team to revise our start times for next year in the best interest of all students. We have created an online survey for you to complete and share your voice. All of the options we have provided meet the statutory requirements for instructional hours, allow us to keep our Fall Break, allow us to work in session for 180 days, allow the school to maintain its commitment to professional development on Mondays, and allows for the inclement weather buffer that we have enjoyed this year. The general calendar that we published last year will not change, just the start and end times for each building. We have met with the High School team who have committed that the HS teachers will provide morning tutoring for students in need so that athletes and students who work can leave immediately following dismissal. The athletic calendar will work to accommodate the travel as we finalize conference members and events. We will revise our traffic pattern in such a way to provide parents the “single drop off/pick up” as soon as we finalize the new operational hours. A final notice will be published after the March Board meeting, prior to spring break. Please click here. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9V65F7P>

Middle School Parents- please join us! We will be hosting a parent/student registration meeting on Wednesday, March 2nd @ 5:30pm in the high school gym. We have worked to improve our HS program and made some additional changes to the educational plans. We are confident that the revamped schedule will allow for additional student electives, and a more focused achievement to meet student needs in enrichment, honors and advanced placement courses. Please plan to attend this event so we can answer all your questions and share the news with you directly!

Below are some of the topics to be covered:

- 2016-2017 Schedule



- Credits needed for graduation
- Course Description Guides handed out
- 2016-2017 Registration Guides handed out
- PowerSchool registration instructions given to parents
- Introduction and Explanation of College and Career Promise Program (Patricia Gould- Durham Tech)

Regards,
Jennifer Lucas, M. ED
Managing Director
jlucas@voyageracademy.net

PTA UPDATE:

PTA ANNOUNCEMENT:

We need your help to make Teacher Appreciation Week, [Feb 22-26](#), a success! Please send in money and gift cards asap!!

[MONDAY, February 22nd](#)—Catered Lunch for all staff

Parents: The PTA is collecting money to pay for the staff lunch on this day. ANY amount is acceptable. Any extra money will be used throughout the week to provide for the other events. Send in money labeled "Staff Appreciation" starting now. Money is needed by Friday, February 19th.

[TUESDAY, February 23rd](#)—Supply Day

MS and ES-Look at your teachers web site or newsletters to see what their supply needs are at this time.

Parents- All high school teachers' wish lists are compiled here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1V7WC-gooXbDLyH18kOai_SLv51T5Oe6uJRmrZFM1208/edit?invite=COevv8oF&ts=56afbb9d#gid=0

[WEDNESDAY, February 24th](#)—Gourmet Snacks

Provided by the PTA.

[THURSDAY, February 25th](#)—Meal provided by PTA Hospitality Committees at each school (ES, MS, and HS)

Parents- Sign up here to help:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c45abae23a75-teachers>

[FRIDAY, February 26th](#)—Gift Card Giveaway Day!



Parents: Send in gift cards in ANY amount from ANY vendor, i.e. grocery stores, retail stores, restaurants, iTunes, ANYWHERE! The deadline for this contribution is [Tuesday, February 23rd](#). Send in gift cards labeled "Staff Appreciation" starting NOW. Please make sure the amount of the card is clearly noted on each card. The staff LOVE this event and we need your help to make it successful.

Voyager is fortunate to have talented teachers, administrators, and support staff. Likewise, we are fortunate to have thankful and appreciative families. We look forward to showing our great staff that their hard work does not go unnoticed!

REMINDER: Membership meeting is Wednesday, February 23 at 6:30 at the MS. We will be discussing the spring fundraiser, the fundraising poll results for next year and new board elections for the May meeting.

Athletics Update:

Boys Varsity basketball will take on Roxboro Community Friday Feb. 19th at River Mill at 7pm for the Conference Tournament Championship. We will also be hosting the first round of the 1A State Playoff at Voyager on Tuesday evening; the time will be determined based on travel distance of opposing school. PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL SPORTS ATHELETIC PASSES CANNOT BE HONORED FOR ANY PLAYOFF GAMES IN ANY SPORT.

This weekend the following student athletes at the 1A State Wrestling Championships held at the Greensboro Coliseum: RJ Whitt, Kyle Coward and Irving Montgomery.

Important Announcement

The coming weeks mark the end of our winter season and the beginning of our spring sports season. Please make sure that you have completed all paperwork in physical packet if you have not done so for another sport and have a current physical or your student athlete will not be able to tryout or practice with any teams.

High School and Middle School Tennis – Please contact Douglas Quick for more information on tryouts or if you should have questions or concerns. His email address is douglas@pinnaclefundinginc.com

High School Golf – Tryouts will begin on Tuesday Feb. 23rd weather permitting at Umstead Pines please contact coach Scott Scarce should you have any questions or concerns at scotts7467@aol.com

Middle school Golf – We have found a coach, and tryouts will also begin on Tuesday Feb. 23rd at Umstead Pines at 3:30pm.

Save the Date



May 18th – Physical Night at Triangle Orthopedics. All Voyager student-athletes can get sports physicals for 10 dollars. More information will follow, however, Triangle will be using the proceeds from this night as a fundraiser for our school. Please make plans to have next year's physical taken care of that night, again please support those that support our student-athletes. Also a coupon is attached at the end of this message.

Anyone not returning to play lacrosse needs to turn in gear to Kevin Lilley (kplilley@ncsu.edu) as soon as possible. Please contact Kevin if you are interest in joining the team. Regular Season practices begin February 15.

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- Who reminds us that 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 Shoppe – 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.

Care Program Updates:

Before/After care

Payments are due on the 1st day of each month, and considered late after the 10th day of each month. Please log-in your orgsonline accounts and submit payments for this month. Monthly rates are the same regardless of the number of days attended (snow-days, teacher work days, etc.) Please email Latia Boney with any questions.

Summer Camps

Registration for summer camps is now underway! Visit our website to shop around for the perfect camp for your student! Most of the camps offered this summer ARE open to students who do not attend Voyager. The only camps NOT offered to outside students are the "Kindergarten camp" and "Ms. Spiro's 1st/2nd grade camp." So, spread the word about summer camps at Voyager! <http://voyageracademy.net/resources/summer-camps/>



- Additionally, please be reminded that registration is in 2 parts: 1. completing the registration form on our website; and 2. submitting payment via orgs online. In order to receive the "early bird" specials offered with the STEM, Movie Maker, Art, and Ballet summer camps, steps 1 and 2 of the registration process must be completed simultaneously.
- As for the main "Voyager summer camp," the first payment is not due until Wednesday, June 1, 2016, however, in order for us to plan properly, we need to have step 1 of the registration process completed ASAP. We encourage you to complete the registration form on our website today to lock-in to the \$200/week rate! This rate will increase to \$250 after March 1. Please email Latia Boney with any questions.

Enrichments

Ballet/Jazz dance instructor, Ms. Katie, leading the girls in warm up exercises!



Elementary Program Update:

During the week of February 22nd through February 26th, the PTA will recognize our VAES staff with **Staff Appreciation Week**. Each day, the PTA has different events to show the staff their appreciation. Please look at the order of events below and consider how you may contribute.



Jump Rope for Heart

Jump Rope for Heart is almost over! We are finishing our activities in Physical Education class on Monday. Our fundraising is going well but we have not quite made our goal. **We have raised \$6400 and would love to make our goal of \$7000.**

We are so gracious for all the monies that have been raised to help the American Heart Association through our Jump Rope for Heart program this year. Not only does every dollar count toward research and education but it also helps support a healthy, active Physical Education program. If you still have money to donate or have not sent in your collection envelope, please do so by Friday February 26th. Again, thank you for your support of our Jump Rope for Heart program.

Mrs. Derrick and Mrs. Flowe-Dawson
VAES Physical Education



- **VAES Yearbook Ordering Information**

You can still order your VAES 2015-16 Yearbook! VAES Yearbooks are now \$27.00 each and must be ordered by March 31, 2016. We cannot guarantee that additional books can be ordered or purchased after this final ordering deadline. Don't miss out – Order today! Yearbooks can only be ordered online this year. 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. Thank you!

- **Elementary Tours:**

K - 3rd Tour: Feb. 26 @ 10:30

- Monday, February 29: Buddy Class activity with HS and MS students @8:45 AM

- **3rd Quarter Project Celebration Dates:**

First Grade: Thursday, March 3 @ 1:00 PM

Kindergarten: Friday, March 4 @ 11:00 AM

2nd Grade: Friday, March 4 @ 12:00 PM



Third Grade: Friday, March 4 @ 1:00 PM

Middle School Update:

Hi Middle School Families,

This weekend's weather is going to make us think spring is here. As you are out and about the PTA needs additional gift cards for Friday's Gift Card Giveaway. They would like to have at least one gift card for each staff member. If you are able to help, please send gift cards to Ms. Pam and she will make sure the PTA receives.

We still need your help to ensure we include as many candid pictures in this year's yearbook! Please email any photos you have taken for 2015/2016 to msyearbook@voyageracademy.net When sending them, please identify what class and grade the photos are from."

Our 8th graders toured our high school today during their Core Connections class. I could tell they were excited and a little anxious as they are getting closer to the next chapter in their educational journey. Dan Schmoyer, the high school counselor, will talk with our 8th graders Monday. This is a follow-up to our high school visits and preparation for 8th Grade Registration Information Night on March 2. The meeting will be at the high school at 5:30.

Thanks for all you do to support Voyager Middle School! We appreciate each of you!

Gwen

Gwen Johnson

Interim Principal gjohnson@voyageracademy.net

High School Update:

Next week is teacher appreciation week. I can't tell you how much our teachers appreciate the contributions made each year during this week. Having so much support from our parents makes a big difference in our school climate. Please remember to check this site for supply requests:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1V7WC-gooXbDLYh18kOai_SLv51T5Oe6uJRmrZFMl208/edit?invite=COevv8oF&ts=56afbb9d#gid=0.

Teachers are pushing grades from Canvas to PowerSchool weekly. You can check your student's PowerSchool account for updated information at minimum weekly. However, by using Canvas you gain access to their assignments, feedback and grades.



Finally, as a faculty we've discussed the fact that March is overloaded with events during the evenings, as well as Immersion and Spring Break. Therefore, we are pushing Exhibition night back to the 4th Quarter. As soon as a new date is set we will share this information.

Have a great weekend.

Cory Draughon

Principal, VAHS

"Persist for Meaning"

--ASVAB Test Information: (Copy and Paste link into browser)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1y5MPJhDWbEPG8bI6Sp6XfkbvxOMWfWwf2C3zn2b-EhU/edit?usp=sharing>

--Please access this link for free ACT Prep (copy and paste into your browser)

ACT Test Information:

https://docs.google.com/a/voyageracademy.net/document/d/1iuwFJ32q7c_KVtHFZw5SrkKKZdwOWEA MnsYAN6jjfu4/edit?usp=sharing

--Please sign up to support our Teacher breakfast on the 25th of February with this link:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C45ABAE23A75-teachers>

-We need your help in nominating outstanding scholars for the 2016 Heels for Success program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill!

HEELS FOR SUCCESS

Heels for Success is a one-day summer program to help academically-talented, rising sophomores and juniors prepare for college. Over the course of the day, students will:

- Learn techniques for approaching the ACT
- Explore the Carolina campus and its wide-ranging academic opportunities
- Learn how to manage the college application process
- Connect with other outstanding students from across the country

This program is free to students excluding travel costs.

How do I nominate a student?



To nominate your outstanding students, simply go to the resource page: <http://admissions.unc.edu/heels-for-success/>

The deadline for students to submit their applications is March 15, 2016.

Who is eligible for nomination?

Heels for Success is designed for high achieving rising sophomores and juniors from diverse backgrounds, including underrepresented students, first-generation college students, and those from rural areas or disadvantaged backgrounds.

Students should be:

- Academically motivated
- Rank in the top 10% of their class
- Be enrolled in a curriculum that includes (or will include) AP/IB/dual enrollment courses, foreign language, and advanced mathematics
- Show active involvement in extracurricular activities
- Have demonstrated leadership

--The ACT College Admissions Assessment will be given free of charge to all North Carolina 11th graders on March 1, 2016; the makeup date is March 15, 2016. The ACT is part of North Carolina's school accountability program.

The ACT results may be used at the high school level to identify students who need assistance with certain subject areas or academic skills, to evaluate effectiveness of instruction, and to make adjustments to curriculum to improve instruction. In addition, colleges use ACT scores for admissions decisions, course placement, academic advising, and loans and scholarships. Students participating in the statewide ACT administration can select for free up to four colleges (or other reporting agencies) to receive their ACT scores.

If you have questions or concerns about the ACT administration, please contact me at lhowell@voyageracademy.net or visit <http://www.act.org/stateservices/northcarolina/>, a dedicated website for North Carolina that is specifically related to our administration of the ACT.

--VAHS will host the classroom portion of Driver's Ed April 4-April 15, 2016.

Classes will meet at the high school in classroom C115 from 2:45-5:45 each weekday.

Sign up for this class will start at 12:01am on March 5, 2016



Directions for sign up (must sign up and pay online):

- Go to the DPS webpage..www.dpsnc.net
-
- Click on "parent resources"
-
- Look for "driver education" on right side of screen
-
- Next screen - click on "register for driver education on-line here"
-

Students must be 14 1/2 in order to take the class.

Students must sign up and pay on the DPSNC.Net website.

Please contact David Roberson david.roberson@dpsnc.net with questions.