



**The mission of Voyager Academy is to provide students in kindergarten through grade twelve an academically challenging and supportive learning environment. Staff utilizes experiential and traditional learning strategies so that students become responsible, engaged, and innovative members of society. The school's expectation is that all students, working with dedicated faculty and family, will excel academically and socially.**

April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Dear Viking Families:

We hope you all had a fun spring break! It is hard to believe that we are in our last quarter and headed towards the finish line for this school year. In the next month or so, we will be looking for new members to join our decision making bodies and hope you will consider applying. Below you will find information on openings in our Governing Board, School Improvement Team and PTA. Attached with this email is the Board application which you can email directly to me and I will forward to a subcommittee interview team. Parents, we have a large amount of jackets, sweaters, clothes, etc. in the lost and found in all 3 buildings. Please come and see if your student is missing an item. Items that are not retrieved will be donated to charity.

Below you will also find a reminder of next year operating hours. Finally, we are conducting a family survey for a potential partnership in our lunch services. It is a local firm that will offer local vendor lunches on a more flexible ordering schedule with some chance for more options each day. Please take a minute to complete that survey so we can make informed decisions about maintaining our current lunch program or adding some additional choices. [click here for survey!](#)

*We wanted to take a minute to share some exciting news about one of our alumni. Former Voyager baseball player, Chad Sykes who now plays for UNC-Greensboro was named Southern Conference Pitcher of the Month!*

#### **OPERATING HOURS FOR NEXT YEAR:**

Elementary School 7:45-2:45

Middle School 8:15-3:15



### High School 8:45-3:45

With these changes, we will be working on a new design for drop off/pick up for siblings and will post that route when we are ready. The HS teachers will offer morning tutoring for students in need so that all students can be dismissed in the afternoon immediately following the bell. We are already working with other Athletic Directors to plan our athletic schedule appropriately. We will continue to have early release on Mondays for our staff development, so aftercare, enrichments and Athletic Tutoring will remain options for all students.

### **GOVERNING BOARD VACANCIES:**

We will have 2 vacancies on our Board next year as our staggered terms expire. If you are interested, please make sure you apply directly to me through the application I will be sending out when we return. All interested applicants will be reviewed, and top candidates will have in depth interviews by a sub-committee of the Board. Experience in Finance or Budget Management is a plus, but not required. Parents are encouraged to apply, but we will interview community members as well, so feel free to reach out to other friends/family who may be a good fit for our school. Applications are due by April 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAM VACANCIES:**

The school improvement team will have vacancies in June as parents of graduating students will be rolling off the team. If you are interested in serving on the school improvement team, please email your interest and bio/resume to [jlucas@voyageracademy.net](mailto:jlucas@voyageracademy.net). I will forward to the team who will conduct interest meetings and interviews. Please include the grades your child(ren) are in, and why you wish to serve. Please also note if they have a special interest (education plan, athletics, arts, etc)

Voyager is happy to announce that Rick Hendricks Chevrolet has partnered with us to be the title sponsor of our Golf Classic Tournament scheduled for May 7th. Wendy Henderson has been very helpful with creating flyers and informational sheets about the tournament and sponsors. The athletic department needs our help. This event will be an excellent fundraiser for our programs, but it cannot be done without volunteers.



One flyer attached has a signup link for volunteering the day of the event. There are also volunteer opportunities in advance of the big day (t-shirts, goody bags, etc). We are greatly encouraged to sponsor a hole as a team or find a sponsor willing to donate. Please let me know if you have a business or know of a family or business willing to sponsor a hole for our event. We can discuss donating as a team as well. Athletes are encouraged to volunteer and be visible.

This is our big athletic fundraiser for the year and a great day for friends and fellowship!

You can sign up for golf on [orgsonline.com](http://orgsonline.com) under sports tab.

## **BOOK FAIR**

We are extremely excited about our **Book Fair at Barnes & Noble Southpoint**. Remember to save the date: Monday, April 11th you won't want to miss it!

See the attached flyer to share with your family and friends.

Remember if you can't make it you can still support through online purchases or at any Barnes & Noble location just use our **Book Fair ID Number 11673639** starting this Saturday, April 4th-17th at check-out.

**IF YOU CAN MAKE IT HERE IS WHAT TO EXPECT...**

Welcome Table:

Sign-in and see which class will have the best attendance and earn a Sweet Treat Party.

Enter to win prizes during the night.



Get an extra raffle ticket for showing school pride and wearing VA apparel or purchasing VA's Signature Drink!

**Schedule of Evening Events:**

3:00: Story-time with Mrs. Schuett

*Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon* by: Patty Lovell & *Chester the Brave* by: Audrey Penn

4:00: Story-time with Mrs. Horton

*More Bones* by: Arielle North Olsen

5:00: VA Bingo with the McKennas

Win prizes when you shout BINGO!

6:00: Story-time with Mrs. Amanda Jenkins

*We Are in a Book* by: Mo Willems & *How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight* by: Jane Yolen

7:00 Robot and Drone Demonstration

We will also have an additional robot demonstration earlier in the evening as well time TBA.

Teacher and Student Wish List Tables on Display through out the evening.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday night to support our Media Center!

Regards,  
Jennifer Lucas, M. ED  
Managing Director  
[jlucas@voyageracademy.net](mailto:jlucas@voyageracademy.net)

**Governing Board Update:**

On March 24<sup>th</sup> the Board met for it's regularly scheduled monthly meeting. In addition to board members, staff, and administration, several parents & students attended. The EXPO group introduced itself and it's mission, and a student presented his ideas on how to improve carline safety for students



walking nearby. As part of their updates, Jennifer Lucas and the school principals reviewed academic achievement assessments. These assessments provide an understanding of student proficiency and growth; they identify areas where the school and students are excelling as well as areas needing additional focus or improvement. We also learned that members of Voyager's administration have recently received training on how to use reports produced by SAS as an additional resource. The Board was excited to hear that Voyager will be receiving federal and state funding to build a campus network that will allow high-speed wireless technology to be brought to all classrooms.

We are also pleased to share that Jennifer Lucas has been asked to co-chair a new NC charter school advocacy organization. This organization will be the resulting combination of the two existing charter school advocacy groups. Congratulations Jennifer!

The next Board meeting is scheduled for 5:15pm, April 28<sup>th</sup> at the high school. All are welcome to attend.

**PTA Update:**

Attention Families!

The PTA Board has all positions open for elections taking place in late April-early May. The following are specifically open due to current board members stepping down at the end of their terms: Middle School Vice President, High School Vice President and Treasurer. However, please note that all positions are open for election.

For descriptions of each position, please go to the PTA web site: [pta.voyageracademy.net](http://pta.voyageracademy.net).

Additionally, we are looking to add a Bookkeeper position that would run in connection with the Treasurer's position to assist in all treasurer duties. This is a new position that the Board believes would be helpful.

If you are interested, please send your name, short bio and position you are wishing to run for to Leslie Jewell at [lesliej@mindspring.com](mailto:lesliej@mindspring.com).

The second meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at the Hock House as well. If you have questions about a position or want to participate in a committee for next year this is the perfect time to come out!



**Academic Update:**

School wide science night and spring fling is right around the corner on April 19th. Come out and enjoy all the festivities that evening and interact with the Voyager community like you have never done before. Food trucks, basket raffles, vendor fair and corn hole tournament will be taking place along with tours of the Hock House supported by EXPO and performances and artwork on display supported by Friends of the Arts. This is the perfect time to enjoy hands on science activities, eat great food, get your hands on some awesome items and support our Viking community. We will have a few slots left for vendors too! Contact Shelley Brown at [voyageracademypta@gmail.com](mailto:voyageracademypta@gmail.com) to reserve your vendor spot!

**Athletics Update:**

RICK HENDRICKS CHEVROLET  
VOYAGER ACADEMY GOLF CLASSIC  
MAY 7, 2016  
HILLANDALE GOLF COURSE  
DURHAM, NC  
SHOTGUN START 8:00 AM

Voyager Academy Athletics is pleased to announce our annual golf classic at Hillandale Golf Course!! Breakfast and Lunch will be provided and is included in the cost of play!!

Please come out and join Voyager Athletics in a fun day of family and golf! This is the biggest fundraiser our athletic department hosts and the money raised supports all Voyager Academy student athletes. We need your help in continuing the success of all of our athletic teams!!

If you would like to volunteer, play in the tournament, or make a donation please contact us at the information below.

Deuce Harris [dharris@voyageracademy.net](mailto:dharris@voyageracademy.net) 919-491-5114



Wendy Henderson [wendyhenderson520@yahoo.com](mailto:wendyhenderson520@yahoo.com) 919-308-4209

You may also sign-up to volunteer at the link below.

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090945A4AF2FA57-annual](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090945A4AF2FA57-annual)

**Please come out and support the Vikings!!**

### **Important Announcement**

**May 18<sup>th</sup>** – Physical Night at Triangle Orthopaedics. 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 years 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.

### **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 Orthopaedics-** 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.

**Rick Hendricks Chevrolet** – Partnering with our Athletic Programs as our title sponsor for our Golf Tournament

### **Athletic Calendar Week of April 11-15<sup>th</sup>**

#### **11<sup>th</sup> Monday**

MS Tennis - Practice as normal

MS Baseball – Practice as normal

MS Soccer – Practice as normal

MS Softball- Practice as normal

MS Golf – NO Practice

HS Soccer – at Woods Charter 4:30pm

HS Tennis – at Raleigh Charter 4pm

HS Baseball – practice as normal

HS Softball – practice as normal

HS Golf – at Southwick Golf Course 3pm

#### **12<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

MS Baseball – Falls Lake Game 4:30 – Granville Athletic Park release 2:50pm





MS Soccer – Falls Lake Game 4:30 – Granville Athletic Park release 2:50pm

MS Softball- Falls Lake Game 4:30 – Granville Athletic Park release 2:50pm

MS Golf – Practice

MS Tennis – Practice

HS Tennis – Practice

HS Baseball – Practice

HS Golf – Practice

HS Softball – Practice

HS Soccer – Practice

HS Lax - 5:00 Home against St. David's at Old Farm Park behind Kroger on Foxboro Road

### **13<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

MS Softball – Practice

MS Baseball – Practice

MS Tennis – Trinity – Rock Quarry 4pm regular release

MS Soccer – Rivermill 4:30pm at Granville Athletic Park release 2:50 pm

MS Golf – no practice

HS Golf – See Coach

HS Tennis – at Research Triangle at 4pm

HS Baseball – Franklin Academy at Southern High School 7pm

HS Softball – Franklin Academy at Granville Athletic Park 4:30pm

HS Soccer – at Rivermill 4:30pm



### **14<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

MS Baseball – at East Wake 4pm TBA

MS Softball – at East Wake 4pm TBA

MS Soccer – at East Wake 4pm TBA

MS Golf – Practice 3:30 – Umstead Pines

MS Tennis – Practice 3:30-4:30

HS Tennis – @ Cedar Ridge 4pm

HS Golf – See Coach

HS Baseball – @ Rivermill at 4pm

HS Softball - @ Rivermill at 4pm

HS Soccer – Practice

### **15<sup>th</sup> Friday**

MS Baseball – practice

MS Softball – practice

MS Soccer – practice

MS Golf – no practice

MS Tennis – Practice 3:30-4:30

HS Tennis – practice

HS Golf – See Coach

HS Baseball – practice

HS Softball - practice

HS Soccer – practice



### **16<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

HS Lax - @ Clayton Civitan at 11:00am

### **Upcoming Lacrosse Schedule**

4/22 - 5:00 at Northwood High Pittsboro

4/25 - 5:00 Home against Northern Vance at Old Farm Park behind Kroger on Foxboro Road

**May 18<sup>th</sup>** – 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.

### **Care Program Updates:**

#### **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/>

- Please note the new camps that are listed!
- 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 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.

□ **DEADLINE IS EXTENDED for the \$150/week rate!!!This camp is offered to outside students.** This applies even to families who registered after February 1. Register your student by completing the form on our website TODAY! Please email Latia Boney with any questions.

### Elementary Update:

Dear VAES Families,

I hope everyone had a lovely spring break! It was great to see everyone back at school this week. The teachers, staff, and students are all working very hard! Believe or not, we only have 7 more weeks of school this year!

I want to wish Austin Wright, our Kindergarten teacher and Voyager Academy's Outstanding Young Educator of the Year for K – 12 a BIG congratulations!! On April 12, Austin will be given a Durham Jaycees 2016 Distinguished Service Award. Out of all the nominations from the public and private schools throughout Durham County, Austin was chosen as the 2016 Outstanding Young Educator!!!

On a more serious note, with the arrival of spring, we have had a few cases of head lice. Please check your student's head and if you by chance see lice, please treat. Also, notify Karen Hofmann and your child's teacher. Here is a link that you can read regarding head lice and treatment.

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/schools.html>

Best,

Leslie

VAES Principal

- **Science Night on Tuesday, April 19 from 5:30 - 7:30**  
Voyager's 2nd annual Science Night is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19 at the elementary school. Bring the family out to do fun hands-on activities, meet a scientist, and much more!

Are you a Voyager high school student or parent interested in helping out with the second annual Voyager Family Science Night on April 19? Then sign up here!

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B094DA4AE2AAB9-science1>

Volunteers will help greet families, run supplies, and help lead activities. No experience with science required! We'll have two shifts this year, so that everyone gets a chance to explore Science Night and the Spring Fling. Sign up for one or both. Your participation will count for



community service hours, so please make sure to check the box if you would like a letter for your records!

If you are not volunteering, but plan to attend with your child, please RSVP here so that we can anticipate how many plan to attend this year.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b094da4ae2aab9-science2>

**Are you a scientist?** We are seeking volunteers to show off their work or simply talk about why their science or engineering-related career. Interested? Contact Marissa Hartzler ([marissa.hartzler@gmail.com](mailto:marissa.hartzler@gmail.com)) with any questions or to brainstorm potential activities!

- **HMC Library's Spring Book Fair on Monday, April 11 from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Barnes & Noble at Southpoint Mall:**

There will be guest authors, student work on display, performances, specialty VA drinks at the Starbucks, raffles, and more!

- **PTA Spring Fling on Tuesday, April 19 from 4:30 – 8:30**

The PTA is gearing up for the 1st Annual Spring Fling to be held the evening of Science Night on Tuesday, April 19th from 4:30-8:00 pm. (Science Night is from 5:30-7:30) Come enjoy a night of hands on science projects at the school wide Science Night AND enjoy multiple festivities hosted by PTA, EXPO and Friends of the Arts! They will also host a vendor fair and a Corn Hole Tournament. The tournament is open to all families, friends, staff, etc. so find a team mate and sign up to be the 1st Annual Vikings Corn Hole Champs!

- **Field Day on Friday, May 6:**

Kindergarten and 1st grade: 9:30-11:30 & 2nd and 3rd grade: 12:30-2:30

Please sign up to volunteer to help with Field Day! This event is a lot of fun for students, teachers, and parents. However, we need many parent volunteers to make this day a success!!

Follow this link to volunteer: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0949a4ae28a5f49-field>

- Kindergarten/Elementary Registration @ the Elementary: April 11, 14, & 15 from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- Elementary Spring Pictures: Thursday, April 21
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Progress Reports Sent Home: Friday, April 22
- Special Olympics Spring Games @ Durham Academy: Friday, April 22
- Buddy Class Day: Monday, April 25 @ 8:45 AM
- Elementary Class Pictures: Wednesday, April 27
- Spring Musical/The Wiz: April 28 – 30 @ 7:00 Pm in the HS Gym



- Kindergarten and Third Grade Project Celebration: Monday, May 2 @ 5:30 PM
- First and Second Grade Project Celebration: Thursday, May 5 @ 5:30 PM
- Elementary Field Day: Friday, May 6
- Voyager Golf Tournament: Saturday, May 7

### **Middle School Update:**

Hi Middle School Families,

Next week will be an extremely busy and important week at Voyager Academy. We will have a team of educators on campus conducting interviews, touring our buildings, and reviewing documentation that has been collected based on AdvancEd standards. The goal is to provide feedback to us on the standards--- what we are doing well and areas that need extra attention. We look forward to having the educators in our building and welcome their suggestions!

It's benchmark time! All of our students are having reading and math benchmarks. Science is being administered to grades 5-8 and social studies is being administered to grades 6 and 7. The reports we receive from TE21 will give us a projected level of proficiency. We will also be able to determine which standards need additional teaching prior to the EOGs.

### **Calendar of Events**

April 8	6 <sup>th</sup> grade visits the Air and Space Museum
April 8	Distinguished Honor Roll Celebration for grades 7 and 8
April 11	Distinguished Honor Roll Celebration for grade 6
April 11	Book Fair at Barnes and Noble, Southpoint Mall, 3:00-8:00
April 12	7 <sup>th</sup> grade science benchmark
April 12	AdvancEd team visits
April 13	AdvancEd team visits
April 13	7 <sup>th</sup> grade social studies benchmark
April 13	6 <sup>th</sup> grade reading benchmark
April 14	6 <sup>th</sup> grade social studies benchmark
April 14	8 <sup>th</sup> grade science benchmark ½ of the students
April 14	4 <sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Fort Fisher
April 14	5 <sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Bennett Place
April 15	8 <sup>th</sup> grade science benchmark ½ of the students
April 19	8 <sup>th</sup> grade math benchmark
April 19	Science Night, Arts Night, Food Truck, and Vendors Fair
April 20	8 <sup>th</sup> grade math benchmark
April 20	6 <sup>th</sup> grade math benchmark
April 21	6 <sup>th</sup> grade science benchmark
April 22	Progress Reports/Mid-quarter reports



April 22      Spring Pictures  
April 22      Special Olympics, 9-2, Durham Academy

As you can see, the next two weeks are extremely busy! Please add the dates to your calendar!

Gwen

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

**High School Update:**

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable spring break. It was good to see students back at school this week getting back to the final quarter of instruction. Students and teachers will continue to prepare for AP Exams and Final Exams in May. Some of your students will take their final benchmarks, the benchmarks provide valuable data to teachers for planning the final weeks of instruction.

Congratulations to our show choir Bull City Lights for representing VAHS at the National Show Choir competition in Orlando FL. Although we did not win the national title our students performed well and learned a lot from the experience. I was proud of the way they represented our school in the competition and throughout the other activities.

Don't forget that Monday is our school wide Bookfair at the Barnes and Noble Southpoint. Please come out to support building our wonderful Hock Media Center collection!

Cory Draughon  
Principal, VAHS  
"Persist for Meaning"

--Senior Parents: Pictures for the graduation slideshow can still be sent to Ms. Deans at [mdeans@voyageracademy.net](mailto:mdeans@voyageracademy.net). The deadline to submit pictures is April 22nd. Please only submit 1-2 as Ms. Dean's already has the formal senior picture from the yearbook. Please label the picture (name of the file) with the student's name so she can ID them quickly.

--The YMCA is about to start hiring for the summer. We are looking for different positions. Those positions include: Summer Camp staff, Swim Coaches, Swim Instructors and Lifeguards. The Downtown YMCA will be hosting a lifeguard class March 28-31 (Mon-Thurs) from 9-5. The required age to apply is



16 yrs. If anyone is interested they can contact [Stanley.Bass@ymcatriangle.org](mailto:Stanley.Bass@ymcatriangle.org) for Aquatics and [Sarah.Frey@ymcatriangle.org](mailto:Sarah.Frey@ymcatriangle.org) for Summer Day Camp.

--In case you haven't heard, **JUST TRYAN IT**, a non-profit supporting families battling childhood cancer, is coming to the Triangle area. Founded in 2010, **JUST TRYAN IT** seeks to positively impact the lives of families whose children have been diagnosed with cancer by providing them with financial assistance. We strive to instill the importance of philanthropy and service, promote wellness, and inspire tomorrow's leaders to make a difference in their communities. **JUST TRYAN IT** is named for a boy, Ryan, who was diagnosed with leukemia at age 6 and now is in full remission.

Today, registration is open for both racers and volunteers. Please consider learning more and joining us at [www.justtryanit.com](http://www.justtryanit.com).