



Vision: "Inspiring life-long learning in every Viking."

Mission: "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."

Values:

Confidence: Trusting in your own ability and being willing to take academic risks.

Curiosity: Eager to investigate and learn about the world around us.

Empathy: Being aware of and respecting another person's feelings, experiences, and differences.

Reflection: Using past experiences to guide future learning and decision making.

Integrity: Doing the right thing and standing strong in what you believe

Dear Parents,

It was a beautiful week on campus this week and we are all looking forward to the holiday next week! Thanks to all of you who sponsored the hospitality lunches for us; they are always so great! A BIG shout out to Ms. Hobgood and the students who performed last night. It was wonderful show of talented students and we are all so proud of you.

I am excited to finally share the public Report Cards from the 2015-2016 school year. It will be posted on our website and you can click on the link here to review our performance and compare with all NC schools. I am most proud of the gains we have made in many of our grade levels and groups of children. Thanks for all your support as we tweak our schedules and courses and program to make sure your children have the best education they can!

Below you will find a number of reminders and updates regarding the lunch program, upcoming ARTS and Sporting events, the FALL BOOKFAIR and much more. We will not send out a newsletter on Tuesday next week, so we wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy your family and friends and remember that we are thankful for you!

Jennifer Lucas, M.ED.

Managing Director

Voyager Academy, A K-12 Charter School

"Integrity is the consistency between what we say and what we do"

Lunch Program Update:

This year the hot lunch program has been moved to a new vendor, My Hot Lunchbox, to provide more variety and healthier lunch options. Lunches can now be added, edited or cancelled up to 24 hours prior to delivery day (you no longer have to order a month in advance!). **The lunch program is a fundraiser so please help support our school!**

In case you have not had an opportunity to check it out yet here is a peek at the new program!

Monday – NEW! Positalia Italian Eatery

Customize a pasta bowl, salad or piadina (a thin Italian flatbread sandwich) with your choice from a selection of fresh ingredients. It is easy to create a meal that is healthy, vegetarian or even gluten free!

Tuesday – Pizza Inn

Many of your pizza favorites plus several new options like hot dogs, chicken nuggets, sandwiches, wings, pizza twists and even desserts.

Wednesday – Chick-fil-a

Traditional chicken sandwiches, nuggets and salads, with the addition of a healthier wrap and grilled sandwich.

Thursday – Moe’s Southwest Grill

Fresh Mexican served with Moe’s famous chips and salsa, just like at the restaurant. Several items allow the choice of chicken or beef to customize your selection. Vegetarian options available as well.

Friday – NEW! Panera Bread

“Food as it should be” including soups, pasta, salads and sandwiches, all with your choice of an apple, baguette, chips or squeeze yogurt. There are many healthy and vegetarian selections, as well as different sizes.

Arts Update:

VA Visual, Culinary, and Performing Arts Update

VAFOA, Voyager Academy Friends of the Arts



From Mr. Rieman, VAMS Art Teacher

We are proud to announce the winners of the VAMS yearbook cover competition.

The four runners up are Alaina Bustillo 4th Grade, Savanna Thomas 5th Grade, Holly Wilcox 6th Grade, and Ede Kosik 7th Grade.

The grand prize winner whose entry will grace the cover of the 2016-2017 Voyager Academy Middle School yearbook is Zach Hanspal.



High School Spring Musical: Cinderella

Calling all Dance, Music, Theatre, and Fairy Tale fanatics.... Auditions for the high school's spring musical, Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* will be Monday, November 28 **from 2:00-5:00**. Registration will take place in D124. Please wear something you can move comfortably in as there



will be a movement portion of the audition in addition to singing and acting. Please come to auditions with an open mind and creative spirit! (A second day of auditions/callbacks will take place Tuesday and Wednesday.)

Middle School Spring Musical: The Little Mermaid, Jr.

Auditions for The Little Mermaid, Jr. will be **Monday, Nov. 28th from 1:30-5:15** and **Tuesday, Nov. 29th from 3:30-5:15**. Auditions are open for 5th -8th graders.



2nd – 4th graders will have the opportunity to participate in this year's spring musical through the theatre club: Viking Troupers. Students do not have to audition for Viking Troupers but will have to be registered by a parent to participate.

For questions, please email Mrs. Thompson at hthompson@voyageracademy.net or Ms. Wicker at lwicker@voyageracademy.net

PTO Update:

Ahoy Matey!

It is almost time for our Scholastic Book Fair. This year we have an exciting new opportunity for Grandparents! They have the opportunity to purchase GIFT CERTIFICATES for the student(s) of your choice and give them the gift of reading! Our Book Fair will be open from November 28th-December 2nd. Please call, email, text those grandparents and let them know about this program. We know grandparents love to shower their "babies" with gifts. What is better than giving a child the tools to develop stronger reading skills and a love of reading. Please read the letter included for more details. All orders must be in by November 28th. We appreciate your support of the Voyager Academy Book Fair.

Thank you in advance.
Book Fair Committee

Care Program Update:

Early morning drop-off change: Monday and Tuesday (November 21st and 22nd) of next week, students will not be able to enter through the gym doors. Please drop your students off at the glass double doors located on the front of the High School closest to the gym entrance. We will have signage posted to help remind parents.

Enrichments

There will be no enrichment classes held next week due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

After School Fun, Mannequin Challenge!

Click here to see the after school students take on the Mannequin Challenge!
<https://youtu.be/LuIJOH0EWo>

Athletics Update:

LAW OFFICE OF SHELLEY CAMPEN BROWN

The Law Office of Shelley Campen Brown is now offering Voyager students and staff a discount on traffic tickets. From now until the end of the year, attorney fees are \$100.00 from an original \$200.00. In

addition, Voyager families and staff will receive a discount if they do a Will and General Power of Attorney for only \$175.00.

HS BASKETBALL

The basketball season is off and running for the Voyager Vikings. The boys' varsity and JV teams are both undefeated after four games. The girls varsity team is still looking for their first victory, but the girls have been working hard and showing improvement.

The girls are the only team with a game this week as they look forward to a 1:30 matchup at Neuse Charter School coming up on Saturday. All three teams return to action on Tuesday, November 22 when they will travel across town to face Durham Academy. These should be exciting games, and we appreciate all Voyager students, staff, and families who come out to support our teams.

Weekly High School Sports Schedules

Wrestling

11-23 - Wednesday: 9:30am Voyager academy at Riverside High School - Riverside Invitational

Basketball/Cheer

11-22 – Tuesday: JV at Durham Academy - 4pm
Women at Durham Academy - 5:30pm
Varsity at Durham Academy – 7pm

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

EmergeOrthopaedics- 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 and offering specials to Voyager Families

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 2016 Golf Tournament

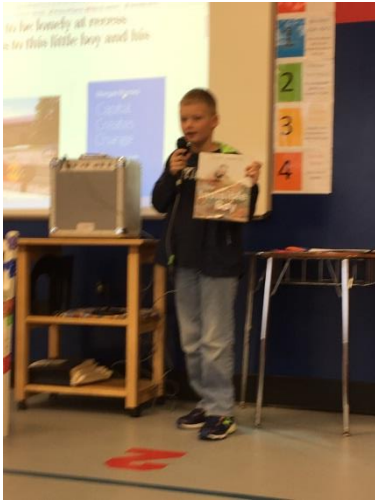
Raspberry Maintenance – Providing quality service for of your commercial or residential cleaning and landscaping needs

Elementary Update:

Dear VAES Families,

Please be sure to sign up to receive the Remind texts. We will use mass texting to families in case of an emergency. If you have lost the link to join a grade level group, please contact your child's teacher. They will be able to send it to you.

On Monday, we had a very special day at Voyager Academy Elementary. We dedicated our first empathy project, the Second Grade Buddy Bench. As our world is changing, empathy is one of the most important skills that we as educators and parents can teach our children. We want our children to be changemakers within our school and the community. Everyone needs the skill of empathy to succeed. It is the cornerstone for being able to resolve conflicts, collaborating with peers, solving problems, and driving change. This is why our work at VAES in building empathy and service is so important! We believe that teaching empathy and our children's social/emotional development is just as important as their academic development. Our Buddy Bench will be secured and placed on our playground. Be sure to come and see our beautiful bench! Here are a few pictures from Monday's dedication.



Don't forget that we will be out of school on Nov. 23, 24, and 25 for the Thanksgiving Break. Also, please know that I am very thankful for our wonderful staff, students, and parents!! Thank you for all your help and support! Here is a darling picture of some Thanksgiving turkeys that a few of our third graders designed in their Lego class. Happy Thanksgiving!!



Best,
Leslie
Leslie Paynter
VAES Principal

Lost and Found Items:

We have a large amount of lost and found items in our Lost and Found section on the 1st grade hallway. There are many coats, jackets, lunch boxes, water bottles, etc. ALL lost and found items must be picked up by Wednesday, December 14. Items that have not been claimed by Wednesday, December 14 will be donated to a local charity.

First in Families & Voyager Families in Need:

With the holiday season approaching, we're calling on Voyager families to 'Fill the Bucket'! For the 6th year, Voyager Academy is partnering with Durham First in Families to help support our Durham neighbors in need. In addition to helping First in Families, we also want to help some of our Voyager families that are in need.

Between Monday, November 28th and Friday, December 9th, please stop by the lobby of either the elementary or the middle school to choose a gift tag. The gift tags for **Voyager families will be in the shape of the letter V**. After purchasing the item, tape the tag on the top of the item, and place your unwrapped gift in the bucket.

First in Families (FIF) mission is to help people with disabilities and their families to believe in their dreams, achieve their goals, and give back to others. FIF assists children and adults to be more involved and contributing members of their communities by helping them meet current goals and plan for the future, acquire needed goods and services, and find opportunities to give back to others. To learn more about FIF, visit their website at www.fifnc.org

Scholastic Book Fair:

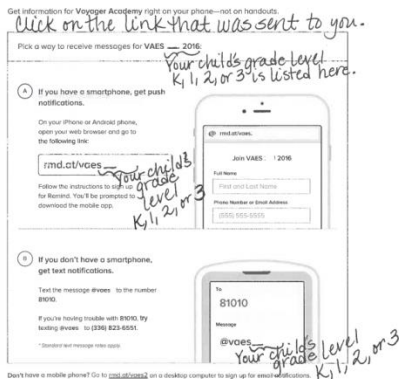
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Remind Text Directions:

We are setting up group text messages by grade level, K – 12, to ensure that if there was an emergency,

inclement weather, etc., we could very quickly and easily send a text message to all families. You must join the group to receive the Voyager texts. Please click on the link that was sent to you this morning via email.



VAES Yearbook Ordering Information:

2016-17 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, 2017. After this date, there will be a price increase for additional book orders. Visit www.strawbridge.net, click on Pay or Order Online, enter our school code 110322 for Voyager Elementary, then click View Gallery. Choose Yearbook to proceed to your order. Please contact Leslie Jewell (leslieljewell@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Order today!!

IMPORTANT DATES:

Wednesday, November 23- Friday, November 25:

Thanksgiving Break/NO School for Staff and Students

Monday, November 28 – Friday, December 2:

Scholastic Book Fair at Voyager Academy in the Hock House (more info. to come from the PTO)

Friday, December 2:

4 week progress reports for students with concerns

Tuesday, December 13:

PTO Hospitality Luncheon

Tuesday, December 13 @ 1:45:

HS Holiday Chorus Assembly & Show for VAES

Wednesday, December 14:

Second Grade Kindness and Empathy Activities (In the morning, second grade students will be able to rank and choose select kindness and empathy activities-one of the choices will be for approx.. 15 students to join Bull City Lights, our HS Show Choir, at a nursing home within walking distance, Brookdale, at 9:00 AM and will sing to the residents-more information to come)

Friday, December 16:

Last day before the winter break - this is a regular school day from 7:45 – 2:45

Middle School Update:

Dear VAMS Families,

I cannot believe that Thanksgiving is next week. The season reminds us of why and what we are thankful for. I feel fortunate to be the leader of Voyager Middle School. It's a pleasure to work with an outstanding staff who truly cares about students. I continue to be amazed with our students and their willingness to help others, as well as, the manners they exhibit each day. I am grateful to work with each of you, as you are the most important part of your child's team. Your continued support of your child, your teachers, and your school does not go unnoticed. I truly appreciate all the support you provide me. Working together, VAMS will continue to be a terrific learning environment for all students.

NEWSFLASH 1!!! With the holiday season approaching, we're calling all Voyager families to 'Fill The Bucket'! For the 6th year, Voyager Academy is partnering with Durham First in Families to help support our Durham neighbors in need. Between Monday, November 28th and Friday, December 9th, please stop by the lobby of either the elementary or the middle school to choose a gift tag. After purchasing the item on the tag, place your unwrapped gift in the bucket.

First in Families (FIF) mission is to help people with disabilities and their families to believe in their dreams, achieve their goals, and give back to others. FIF assists children and adults to be more involved and contributing members of their communities by helping them meet current goals and plan for the future, acquire needed goods and services, and find opportunities to give back to others. To learn more about FIF, visit their website at www.fifnc.org

NEWSFLASH 2!!! Attendance and Tardies

Usually we print our attendance/tardy lists at the end of each nine weeks. Because we have a large amount of absences and tardies, we will print our list Monday, Nov. 21st. The chart below has been copied from the Parent/Student Handbook for you to view. The chart is for tardies and absences.

Number of Occurrence(s)	Action to be Taken
0-4	No Action
5-9	Letter home to parent/guardian and student. Late pick-up may need to have a conference with an administrator.
10-19	Required conference with the Attendance Committee that includes the Assistant Principal and the School Counselor
20+	Parent/guardian and student required to conference with the Managing Director.

NEWSFLASH 3!!! Progress Reports and Mid-Quarter Grades

It's the half way point of the second nine weeks. Our fourth and fifth graders will receive progress reports Friday, Nov. 18. Please make sure you check book bags. Students in grades 6-8 will not receive a hard copy of their grades. Please go to your PowerSchool account and review the grades for the first half of the second nine weeks. All grades for this quarter will be entered.

NEWSFLASH 4!!! Order your 2015-2016 Yearbook NOW!

If you would like to participate in Early Ordering of the yearbook and save a few dollars, go to www.strawbridge.net. You will need to click on ordering yearbook and Voyager MIDDLE School. The yearbook is \$27.00 if you order before Jan. 27. The cost will then be \$30.00.

NEWSFLASH 5!!! Lost and Found Items ---we have LOTS of lost and found items that belong to our middle school students. The items are in the main hallway and organized in a way that you can view the coats, shoes, books, water bottles, and lunch boxes. Please have your child check Lost and Found before we box it and give to a charity.

Dates:

- Nov. 18 Mid-quarter grades/Progress Reports**
- Nov. 23, 24, 25 Thanksgiving Holiday**
- Nov. 28-Dec. 2 Book Fair**
- Nov. 29 School Improvement Team Meeting**

Have a great weekend!

Gwen

Gwen Johnson gjohnson@voyageracademy.net

Voyager Middle School Principal

High School Update:

Voyager High School Exhibition Night—Celebrate Project Based Learning!

The Voyager Academy community is warmly invited to Voyager Academy High School Exhibition Night. Come see student projects in action and in full display. Exhibition Night takes place 6-8pm on December 1st. Hope to see you there!

FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes)

FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) Meets every Friday, after school, from 3:50-4:50 pm in Room D124. No need to be a Christian, nor an Athlete :) All are welcome!

VAHS Final Exam Schedule

Voyager Academy High School Final Exam Schedule Fall 2016	
<u>Monday December 12</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Period 1 Exam-8:45-12:15• Lunch-12:15-12:45• Period 2 Review-12:45-1:45	<u>Tuesday December 13</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Period 2 Exam-8:45-12:15• Lunch-12:15-12:45• Period 3 Review-12:45-3:45

<u>Wednesday December 14</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Period 3 Exam-8:45-12:15 • Lunch-12:15-12:45 • Period 4 Review-12:45-3:45 	<u>Thursday December 15</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Period 4 Exam-8:45-12:15 • Early Dismissal-12:15
<u>Friday December 16</u> Make-up exams only – 8:45-3:45	

***STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND REVIEW SESSIONS** (Regular attendance policy applies during final exam week.)

Basketball Season is Here!

The basketball season is off and running for the Voyager Vikings. The boys varsity and JV teams are both undefeated after four games. The girls varsity team is still looking for their first victory, but the girls have been working hard and showing improvement.

The girls are the only team with a game this week as they look forward to a 1:30 matchup at Neuse Charter School coming up on Saturday. All three teams return to action on Tuesday, November 22 when they will travel across town to face Durham Academy. Game times for those games will be 4:00 (boys JV), 5:30 (girls varsity), and 7:00 (boys varsity). These should be exciting games, and we appreciate all Voyager students, staff, and families who come out to support our teams.

Senior Recognition Ads

Senior Recognition Ads are due Friday, December 16!

<http://voyageracademy.net/vahsyearbook/>