**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,

We have a variety of wonderful events coming up in Arts, Sports and Academics, so as always, please make sure you read the sections below in its entirety and mark your calendars! As we slowly count down towards the last couple of weeks of school before the holidays, please remember how important these last 2 weeks are and make sure you are here on time and ready to learn!

Our first thank you of the day goes to our amazing PTO for organizing and running our Fall book fair. We couldn't have done it without all your hard work and we thank you so much for all you do for our school. Thank you parents who allowed your children to support this fundraiser and most importantly, for encouraging your children to READ, READ, READ!

As many of you know, one of our family members has suffered a terrible loss last weekend. We are thankful for your thought and prayers and offers to help throughout the week. If you would like to support the Wright family, please send cash donations to the middle school so we can collect and distribute them to Mrs. Wright. Our prayers are with the entire Wright family this weekend and will continue to do anything we can to help through this difficult time. It is these moments that remind us how important our families are, at home and at work and I am proud to be a small part of a community that has come together to provide whatever we can for those in need.

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:**

**Arts Update:**

**VA Visual, Culinary, and Performing Arts Update**
*VAFOA, Voyager Academy Friends of the Arts*

**Elementary Art on Display at the State Employee's Credit Union!**
The artwork of our Voyager Academy Elementary students is now on display at the State Employee's Credit Union (SECU) located at 3872 Guess Rd., Durham for all to see. A collection of student works from Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Graders are on display currently, with some 3rd grade works joining the collection in a couple of weeks. Our Kinders have some cave paintings on display, while our 1st graders have their Scherenschnitte (German scissor cuts) and Wild Things on display. Our 2nd Graders have their dancing giraffes put up, based on the story Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae, to show movement through a still picture. Please refer to the list sent to your child's teacher for the students with work on display. Thank you for your continued support of the elementary visual arts program.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL CULINARY ARTS GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION AND SILENT AUCTION!

The silent auction will go live Friday, December 9th and run through Wednesday, December 14th

Gingerbread houses will be on display in the Elementary School lobby beginning Friday, December 9th

All proceeds from the auction will be used to fund the Culinary Arts Program!
PLEASE SUPPORT THE CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM AT VAHS!

**2**

**Plays for the Price of One! High School and Middle School Fall Play Productions**

Fall play night is a collaborative event between the HS and MS where 2 plays are performed, back to back, over 2 days.

When: December 6th & 7th
Where: Durham Arts Council
Time: 7:00pm
Cost: $6.00 (pre-sale online)
$8.00 (at the door)
Children under 3 are free!

**Middle School Production, Law & Order: C-rhyme and Pun-ishment**

In the nursery rhyme justice system, the people are represented by two separate yet equally important groups — the detectives, who investigate the crime, and the magistrates, who prosecute the defenders. These are their rhymes. The Inspector and the Punnish Sir (Yes, she's always scrambling for egg puns!) have been called in to investigate a crime scene where a Mister Humpty Dumpty has been found shattered and fowl play is suspected. Can they solve the c-rhyme? With hilarious musical numbers like "Eggicide" and "What the HONK Is Going On?," the yolk's on you if you miss this egg-cellent production!

**High School Fall Play, "And Then There Was One", by Michael Druce**

This take-off of Agatha Christie's famous stage mystery is all comedy, filled with hilarious sight gags and dialogue. Ten people are brought together by mysterious invitation to the Reef Mansion on a tiny, isolated island. Not one of them knows the host, who is nowhere to be found. Still, he has left an ominous recording that bodes evil for the guests. Like the chocolate soldiers that inexplicably disappear from the mantel one by one, the guests begin to die one by one. Luckily, Inspector Miles is among the guests, but even he is stymied as to who the murderer could be. As the guests begin to reappear in the final scene, we discover the farcical twist!

**High School Chorus Update**

Voyager is proud to share the following 2 videos with you featuring three of our HS music students: Lexia Langley, Reyna Alston & Isaiah Bryant. Each summer, Community Chorus Project runs the Summer Recording Workshop for high-school singers from the Chapel Hill, NC area. Summer 2016, they recorded this version of "Never Forget You" at the University of North Carolina. Marianne Cheng, a NYC based singer and voice teacher directs the program. The culminating project of the week-long workshop is a professionally recorded song...and we are proud to share that our very own, Lexia Langley was this year's featured soloist!

"Never Forget You" featuring Lexia Langley:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cr52tl56bqI&feature=youtu.be

The summer project also performed a concert at Cat's Cradle at the end of the week...see the following link of "If I Ain't Got You" featuring Reyna & Lexia from that concert:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Us4hXdhCvjU&feature=youtu.be

**The Fall Chorus Show was a Hit!  Thanks to everyone who help make it a success!**

**PTO Update:**

**Care Program Update:**
December payments for the care program were due on Wednesday, November 30, 2016. Payments not submitted by December 5, 2016 may be subject to late fees. Additionally, students who do not submit payment by December 5, are not permitted to return to the care program on December 6, 2016 until payment has been submitted, or an arrangement has been made with the program Director.  Parents will be notified of their delinquent payment status. Instructions for making payment are attached to this message.

Program fees do not apply to Voyager staff.  If you have already submitted payment for the month of December, please disregard this message.

Note:  The full tuition amount is due regardless of the number of days the student attends each month. Tuition rates are not prorated for any reason.

Thank you for your cooperation!

**Enrichment  Performances**

Hello Voyager Parents!

I hope this message finds all of you well. The students who signed up for fall enrichment classes have been working very hard to learn each of their crafts. For many students, this is their first time being introduced to disciplines such as playing musical instruments, ballet and jazz dance, learning a new language, and even playing sports!

That being said, the instructors would like to invite parents and guardians to attend the enrichment classes

with your student during the last week of instruction for the semester, which is next week. Parents are welcome to sit-in for the last 10 to 20 minutes of each class to view a special performance presentation that has been prepared by the students. Sports enrichment and IMACS students will show what they've learned as well. Please view the schedule below to determine your student's performance time.

Terence, Stephany, (lead care staff members), and I will be available to assist parents on the days of your student's scheduled performance. Many of the vendors are planning to return in the spring, so feel free to ask them for more information. Dates for the spring 2017 enrichment fair and course information will be shared with parents after the holiday break.
Thank you for participating in our enrichment programs this year, and we look forward to having you back in the Spring 2017 semester!

Latia Boney

**Performances/Showcases** Monday, December 5, 2016

Ballet
Location: Elementary School Music Rm 215
Time: 1:35pm-1:45pm

Harp
Location: Elementary School classroom Rm 205
Time: 2:10pm

Mandarin
Location: Elementary School Rm 203
Time: 1:25pm

Hand sewing
Location: Elementary School Rm 203
Time: 2:30pm

Soccer Shots
*already sent information out to soccer parents

Ukulele Club
Location: Elementary School Rm 208
Time: 1:35pm-2pm

IMACS
Location: Middle School classroom
Time: 2:20pm-2:45pm
*no performance, but parents are invited to attend this class with the students.

Rugby
Location: Middle School soccer field
Time: 2:25pm-2:45pm
*no performance, but parents are invited to attend this class with the students.

Wednesday, December 7

Guitar
location: Elementary School music room 215
Time: 3:45pm-4:05pm

Basketball
Location: Elementary School Gym
Time: 4:15pm-4:45pm

Thursday, December 8

Karate
Location: Elementary School Gym
Time: 4:05pm-4:30pm

Drums
Location: Hock house picnic tables
Time: 3:55pm

**Athletics Update:**

**Important Announcement**

Signing Day Celebration
Voyager has two seniors that are signing scholarship offers to continue their education and athletic careers at the college level. On Thursday Nov. 10th at 12pm we will be holding a celebration for these two student athletes, please join us on Thursday as we recognition Amanita Johnson and Jackson Kimbrough.

VIC CARD
Voyager Academy Athletics now has a new way to raise money. With the Harris teeter VIC Card, type in the account number 3284 and the Voyager Academy Athletic program will receive a percentage of the purchases.

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 Voyager Academy basketball teams would like to invite the Voyager community out to our first home games of the 2016-17 season. On Thursday night the high school teams host Durham School of the Arts in a rematch of last week's season openers at DSA Game times are 5:00 (JV), 6:30 (Girls Varsity), and 8:00(Boys Varsity). With no school the next day it's a great night to come out and support the Vikings.

MS Basketball
The Saturday basketball fans can watch five games at Voyager as our middle and high school teams all face the Durham Flight. Game times are 12:00 (Girls MS) 1:15 (Boys MS)

## Middle School

**Wrestling**
**Basketball**
Thursday 12-8-16 East Wake Academy at Voyager Academy--Girls 4:45pm, Boys 6:15pm

## High School

**Swimming**

**Wrestling**
Wednesday 12-7-16 6:00pm Louisburg HS at Voyager Academy

**Basketball**
Tuesday 12-6-16 Voyager Academy at River Mill Academy--Men's JV 4:30pm, Women's Varsity 6:00pm, Men's Varsity 7:30pm
Thursday 12-8-16 East Wake Academy at Voyager Academy--Men's JV 5:00pm, Women's 6:30pm, Men's Varsity 8:00pm
Friday 12-9-16 Voyager Academy at Millbrook HS--Men's JV 4:00pm

**All Schedules, venues, directions and release times for contest are available on the athletic website. Please see website for this information**

## 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
**Emerge**- 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
**Rasberry Maintenance** – Providing quality service for of your commercial or residential cleaning and landscaping needs

## Elementary Update:

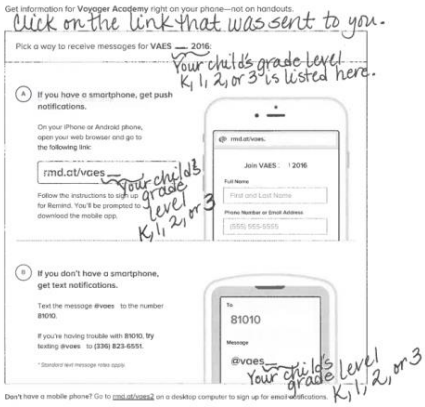
Dear VAES Families,

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

I hope everyone has a terrific weekend!
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.

**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:**
**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,
First I want to thank you for the support you have given to Mrs. Rexanna Wright. Just in case you are unaware, Mrs. Wright's daughter passed last weekend. Mrs. Wright and her family appreciate the cards, emails, and prayers. The funeral is tomorrow so keep the family in your thoughts! Many of you asked if you could make a monetary donation to the Wright family – yes, you may. If you would like to make a donation, please bring to the Ms. Pam at the middle school. We'll collect and get to her.

**NEWSFLASH 1!!!** 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 the middle school to choose a gift tag so we can fill the bucket. After purchasing the item on the tag, place your unwrapped gift in the bucket. Thanks so much! Please make sure the gifts are here no later than December 9th.

We will also rake leaves to raise money to purchase any items not received. Leaves will be raked from 12:00-3:00 on Saturday, Dec. 10. Any students, siblings, friends, and parents are welcome to attend. The more folks we have raking, the more money we raise. Drop-off and pick-up will be at 1424 Acadia Street in Durham, 27701. Mrs. Mangano will be there to greet you! Please let her know if you plan to attend. dmangano@voyageracademy.net. Bring a rake and a leaf blower if you have one!

**NEWSFLASH 2!!! The 4th, 5th, and 6th grade will host a dance on Dec. 14 from 4:00-6:00. We will use the elementary gym. The money collected will be used to benefit needy families in our Voyager Community. Students will be able to purchase soda, candy, and chips. Sounds like lots of fun!**

**NEWSFLASH 4!!! PowerSchool----Several of you shared that the grades you see when using your phone are not accurate. We aren't sure why this is happening. Our suggestion is to go to PowerSchool via the internet rather than via an app. I think the laptop/desktop is working better than the phone.**

**NEWSFLASH 5!!!** The next **Middle School Hospitality luncheon** will actually be a breakfast on Tuesday, Dec 6. Can you help out by bringing food or helping with set up or clean up? Please sign up where you can. http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0949a8ae2a1-vams17

**NEWSLASH 6!!! 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.**

Have a great weekend!
Gwen
Gwen Johnson gjohnson@voyageracademy.net
Voyager Middle School Principal

**High School Update:**

THANK YOU! From the Fall Chorus Concert Performers
Thanks to all who attended the Fall Chorus Concert at the NC School of Science & Math on November 17th! Our chorus & instrumental students did a fantastic job! And we were thrilled to have Dr. Nolan share his percussion talents with us on one song as well!

Now they are focusing their attention on the Spring competition schedule when they will travel to Virginia & Nashville to compete in show choir competitions. Pizza Inn Value Cards can be pre-ordered through Monday, December 5th for only $10 each! Cash or Checks made payable to "Voyager Academy." Each card has various coupons & offers..even if you only redeem the FREE Large pizza..the card pays for itself (click here to view)!

See any music student OR email Choral Director, Jenny Hobgood, to place an order by Mon.12/5! jhobgood@voyageracademy.net Cards will be delivered by Wed 12/7 and can be used at PI's in Durham, Goldsboro, Henderson, High Point & Shelby.
All proceeds to benefit Voyager Music students & their trip to compete in March & April. Thanks for your support!

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!

High School Final Exam Schedule

***Please note EARLY DISMISSAL on Thurs. 12/15.***

| | |
|---|---|
| Monday December 12<br>- Period 1 Exam-8:45-12:15<br>- Lunch-12:15-12:45<br>- Period 2 Review-12:45-1:45 | **Tuesday December 13**<br>- Period 2 Exam-8:45-12:15<br>- Lunch-12:15-12:45<br>- Period 3 Review-12:45-3:45 |
| **Wednesday December 14**<br>- Period 3 Exam-8:45-12:15<br>- Lunch-12:15-12:45<br>- Period 4 Review-12:45-3:45 | **Thursday December 15**<br>- Period 4 Exam-8:45-12:15<br>- Early Dismissal-12:15 |

**Friday December 16**
Make-up exams only – 8:45-12:15

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

Voyager Basketball Teams Open Conference Season
The Viking basketball teams played their first North Central Athletic Conference games of the season this week as they hosted Franklin Academy on Tuesday night. The JV boys team came from behind to pull out a narrow 3 point victory. The ladies battled hard, but Franklin Academy went on a second half run and defeated Voyager 58-43. The varsity boys held Franklin Academy to just 4 points in each of the first two quarters and dominated the game 72-35.

On Friday night (12/2) the varsity teams will visit Woods Charter School. Game times are 6:00 for the girls and 7:30 for the boys.

The schedule for the coming week includes two more conference games. On Tuesday (12/6) all three teams travel to Mebane to face a River Mill team that is currently 7-1. Game times are 4:30, 6:00, and 7:30. On Thursday (12/8) East Wake Academy comes to Voyager. Game times for home games are 5:00 (JV), 6:30(girls varsity), and 8:00 (boys varsity).

Project Exhibition Night a Success
VAHS faculty and staff send a heartfelt thank you to parents and the community for attending Exhibition Night (12/1), as we saw Project Based Learning in action. Students made us all proud as they demonstrated their projects, which ranged from the readings of student authored children's books in Spanish, to building a home using essentials of Geometry, to how a river shapes a community and more. Thank you, and we'll see you in the Spring!