



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.

September 10th 2017

Good Afternoon Viking Families,

Dear Voyager families,

Hope you all had a good weekend! Time to stay dry and stay safe in case Hurricane Irma continues on a path towards the Carolinas. If the storm tracks this way, we will keep you posted on any alerts or school changes.

The PSAT will be offered to all interested 11th graders on Wednesday, October 25th beginning at 8:00am in the High School Commons. Any interested students should sign up using the link below. There is a \$15 fee that can be paid at orgs.online.

<https://goo.gl/forms/bivSTx7dMdpKQeG93>

You are invited to join us for refreshments at our first EXPO meeting of 2017-2018. The meeting will be next Thursday, September 14th at 6 pm in the Elementary School Art room. Melinda Chambers and Carly Morton will present information about the EC and AIG programs at Voyager. Please see the attached flyer for more detailed information. Come learn more about these programs at our school and connect with other families and teachers. We'd love to see you there!

Regards,

Jennifer Lucas, M. ED

Managing Director

jlucas@voyageracademy.net



PTO Update:

It's that time again to join PTO and help us support several things for our Viking community. This year we are spearheading several school traditions such as grade level parties, Spring Fling and our newest addition, our Fall Festival! We will also be supporting our teaching staff with Education Grants again! In order to support these events and grants, your membership dues are needed! As most of you may recall, we are not a primary fundraising source for our school anymore. The activities and events we sponsor are funded by our community and smaller fundraisers, like apparel sales. We will be bringing various things to our membership meetings too, such as a Technology, Your Child and You course (which was a hit last year)!

We will continue our multi level membership options: teacher/staff \$8.00, individual \$10.00 and family \$15.00.

WHAT DO YOU GET FOR BECOMING A MEMBER?!? A 10% discount on ALL apparel sales both in the Fall (coming very soon) and the Spring! This is our thank you for joining us! *MUST join by September 10 to get this discount as apparel sales start September 11!

Click on the link below to complete your form and follow the directions in the follow up email to make your subsequent payment.

<http://pto.voyageracademy.net/join-pt-online>

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to any Board member (Ashleigh Eisch, Tonja Farrow-Nickerson, Shelley Alim, Kelli Anderson or me). My email is voyageracademypta@gmail.com.

PS. Can't wait to see EVERYONE at the PTO Back to School Bash on September 12! We have one food truck and Pelican's Snoballs coming! Be there!

And as always, Go Vikings Go!

Science Olympiad Update:

[Science Olympiad](#) is an academic competition in which students grades K-12 compete in STEM-related events. The topics encompass anatomy, biology, chemistry, physics, earth science, geology, mechanical engineering and technology. Teamwork and group learning are a major emphasis.

Events for the 2018 competition have been announced!

[Division A](#)

[Division B](#)

[Division C](#)



If your child is interested in participating in Science Olympiad, fill out the [interest form](#) so that we can connect with you.

Science Olympiad Information Sessions:

Elementary School

For: Grades K-5 (Division A)
Date: Tuesday, September 12
Time: 3:15 - 3:45
Location: Music/Art Room – upstairs @ VAES

Middle School

For: Grades K-5 (Division A) & Grades 6-8 (Division B)
Date: Tuesday, September 12
Time: 3:45- 4:15
Location: Middle School Art Room

High School

For: Grades 9-12 (Division C)
Date: Tuesday, September 12
Time: 4:00 - 4:30
Location: C113 (Ms. Honey's Room)

If you cannot attend the interest meetings, don't be deterred! You are welcome to contact the team coaches directly for more information about the program.

Team coaches:

Division A (K-6) - Erik Benson (scienceolympiadteama@voyageracademy.net)
Division B (6-9) - Connie Vance (connie1vance@gmail.com)
Division C (9-12) - Amanda Honey (ahoney@voyageracademy.net)

Care Program Update:

The students are having an awesome time in the care program! To get students in the habit of completing homework in the afternoons, our staff provides students with grade-level appropriate work during the homework hour. Additionally, we provide chromebooks to the students with online assignments!

This is a friendly reminder that September payments for the care program are due Thursday, August 31, 2017. Payments not submitted by September 5, 2017 may be subject to late fees. Additionally, students who do not submit payment by September 5, are not permitted to return to the care program on September 6, 2017 until payment has been submitted, or an arrangement has been made with the program Director,



Latia Boney. 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 September, 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!

Enrichments!

It's almost time for Fall 2017 Enrichment Courses! Enrichment courses are extra-curricular classes offered for students grades K-8 during after school hours at Voyager Academy.

Although enrichment courses are a component of the care program, students do NOT have to be enrolled in the care program to take a course after school. Students who are not officially enrolled in the care program, will be dismissed with after school students on the day(s) of their courses.

All enrichment instructors must pass a background check. Check out our website for a complete listing of classes! <http://voyageracademy.net/resources/beforeafter-care/enrichments/>

Please see the flyer attached, and plan to attend the enrichment fair on Wednesday, August 30, 2017 from 5pm-6pm in the elementary school gym! So far, we will be offering the following enrichment classes:

DRUM LINE (yes, we are building a drum line :)

Ballet

Soccer Shots

French

Spanish

Mandarin Chinese

Rugby

Fencing

Harp Lessons

Guitar/Ukulele

IMACS (computer programming)



Basketball

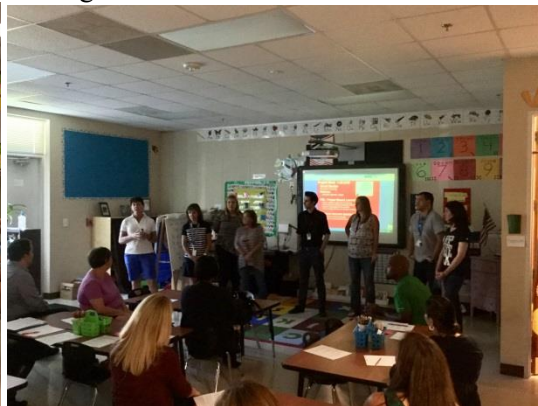
Uptown Glamour (character building and sewing)

More classes are being added as I type, so I certainly hope to see you at the enrichment fair! More information is forthcoming!

Elementary School Update:

Dear VAES Families,

We have had a terrific week at VAES! Thank you for attending our K, 1st, and 3rd grade Curriculum Night on Thursday. It was so nice to see so many of you!! I know that everyone received important information regarding our curriculum, projects, processes, assessments, and the 3rd Grade Read to Achieve guidelines from your child's teacher and/or grade level team.



We have quite a few items in our Lost and Found. Before it gets out of hand, please come and see if your child is missing a jacket, an article of clothing, or water bottle.



I hope everyone has a terrific weekend!

Best,

Leslie Paynter

VAES Principal

A Message from our PTO about the VAES Hospitality Luncheons:

It is that time of year again and we are looking forward to our first Hospitality Luncheon which is scheduled for NEXT WEEK on Tuesday, September 12th at 11:30 am. This month we will be hosting a POT LUCK themed luncheon for the teachers and staff of VAES. This will take place in the conference room from 11:30am to 1:00pm. This is the perfect opportunity for you to showcase one of your favorite recipes. Please click on the link and sign up for what you can contribute.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a48adac2aa02-september>

We also need help with set-up and clean-up. Please also consider whether you could provide lunch coverage. Our teachers LOVE being able to have lunch coverage so they can enjoy the food while taking a much needed break.

A few important things to remember:

1. We have 50-60 teachers and staff.
2. Food should be delivered by 11:00 am on the day of the luncheon.
3. Please bring hot dishes in a crock-pot or an insulated container (we do not have the means to heat food).
4. Cold foods can be stored in the refrigerator in the VAES. Please label clearly "FOR LUNCHEON" with your name on the dish.
5. Please label dishes clearly with your name if you want it returned. You can pick up dishes from the kitchen area after 2:00 pm.
6. Please specify what type of food you are bringing and the quantity in the comment field to avoid duplicates and to ensure we have enough food for all the teachers/staff.

Thank you in advance for your contributions each month. We could not provide these luncheons without your help.

Susan Barkley

Future VAES Hospitality Luncheon Dates:

Thursday, October 19th

Tuesday, November 14th

Thursday, December 14th

Remind Text Messages:



Please be sure to sign up to receive the **VAES Remind texts**. We are setting up group text messages by grade level, K – 3, to ensure that if there was an emergency, inclement weather, etc., we could very quickly and easily send a text message to all families. First, you must download the Remind app. You must join the group to receive the Voyager texts. Please click on the link/s for your student’s grade level. If you are having difficulty, scroll to the bottom of the VAES portion of the newsletter and I have also included pictures with directions for each grade level and there is also an attachment.

Kindergarten:

VAES K 2017-18

<https://www.remind.com/join/vaesk2>

First Grade:

VAES 1st Grade 2017-18

<https://www.remind.com/join/vaes1st>

Second Grade:

VAES 2nd Grade 2017-18

<https://www.remind.com/join/vaes2n>

Third Grade:

VAES 3rd Grade 2017-18

<https://www.remind.com/join/vaes3r>

Background Checks:

If you are planning to chaperone field trips this year then please read the following information regarding the new process for background checks. Currently, we are still in need of parents completing the driving record background check so that we will have enough parent drivers for local field trips.

****If you HAVE already completed your background check but did not add the comment that says, “Please include driving record search” you need to call CIR directly at [\(919\)-460-7799](tel:9194607799) and ask them to add a driving record to your account. This takes less than 2 minutes to do. ****If you have NOT****

completed your background check, please be sure to do the following:

1. Go to www. <http://voyager.myrecordcheck.com/>.
2. Click on “Check My Background”
3. Type in your personal information.
4. Under “Comments/Special Instructions” add the comment ” **Please include driving record search-Voyager**”. ****If you do NOT do this step, you will not be able to drive for field trips.****
5. Click “Continue.”

Important Dates:

August/September

Aug. 28 - Sept. 15	mClass BOY Reading Assessments
Tues., Sept. 19	Fall Pictures
Fri., Sept. 29	Required Teacher Workday

October



Oct. 9 - 13	Fall Break
Oct. 23 - 27	Case 21 Math 1st Benchmark Assessments for 1st - 3 rd grade
Tues., Oct. 31	Boosterthon Kick-off in Gym at 2:00

November

Oct. 30 - Nov. 3	Spirit Week (more information to come in October)
Wed., Nov. 8	Kindergarten Project Celebration at 11:30 AM & 1st Grade Project Celebration (VAES GYM) at 1:00 PM
Wed., Nov. 8	2nd & 3rd Project Celebration at 5:30 PM
Thurs., Nov. 9	End of 1st Trimester & Boosterthon Fun Run: K/1st from 12:15 - 1:15 2nd/3rd from 1:30 - 2:30
Fri., Nov. 10	Veteran's Day Holiday/NO SCHOOL
Mon., Nov. 20	1 st Trimester Report Cards Go Home
Wed., Nov. 22 – Fri., Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Holiday/NO SCHOOL

December:

Wed., Dec. 20	Early Release at 11:15 AM for the Winter Holidays
Dec. 21 - Jan. 4	Winter Holidays

Middle School Update:

Dear VAMS Families,

It's been a very busy week at the middle school. Project work is going well in our Core Connections' classes. The students are busy researching, creating an outline from the research, writing a paper and/or creating a display.

Our athletes have been extremely busy this week. Our cross-country and our tennis teams were both in action. Our soccer team had two games this week and our volleyball team had three games. Our student athletes have to keep up with their assignments as they also put in many practice hours.



We continue to discuss how to be respectful and responsible students. The challenge for all of our students is to not only show respect and be responsible but to be ready to learn in each of their classes. This week we focused on respecting our school. We challenged students to help keep the playground and halls paper free.

The upcoming week will be very busy for the students who are running for a Student Council office. The students who plan to campaign need to return their Student Council papers to Mr. Eisenson no later than September 11. The students need to have their speeches ready to be recorded on September 13. On September 14, the middle school students will watch the speeches and voting will take place on September 15. We are looking forward to the election process!

What great support for the Go Play Save fundraiser. We need 13 Go Play Save books to be paid for or to be returned. Help us have 100%!

What's happening in 7th grade?

This week seventh graders used ratios to test the strength of juice recipes and to figure out at which table they would get the most pizza, read Gary Paulsen's *Harris and Me* and went to the library for the first time. They wrote a reflection of their most recent essay project and expanded a journal entry into a longer piece. In social studies, they learned about how the Renaissance began in Italy. Students took their first test in Science this week on what makes up the atmosphere and what makes air pollution. We have begun talking about what climate change is and began tracking Hurricane Irma. The pictures below are from their Sept. 1 field trip to Triangle Rock Club! The students had a great time!



Important Dates:

- Sept. 11** **Remember 9/11!**
Sept. 11 **Cross-country at Oxford Prep, 4:00, dismissal at 2:25**
Sept. 12 **PTO Back to School Event, 6:00-8:00 pm**
Sept. 12 **Soccer vs Falls Lake, home, 3:30, dismissal at 2:25**
Sept. 12 **Volleyball vs Falls Lake, home, 4:30, dismissal 3:10**
Sept. 12 **Science Olympiad Interest meeting, K-6 and 6-8 teams, 3:45, MS Art Room**
Sept. 13 **Soccer vs. Kestrel, 3:30, dismissal 2:25**
Sept. 14 **Soccer vs. Roxboro, 4:30, dismissal 3:05**
Sept. 14 **Volleyball vs Roxboro, 4:30, dismissal 3:35**
Sept. 14 **Blog and Bite with Mr. Price, 6th grade parents, 6:00**

Enjoy the weekend,
Gwen

Gwen Johnson gjohnson@voyageracademy.net
Principal



Voyager Middle School

High School Update:

A ***FREE AND POWERFUL*** College and Career Planning Tool for Students

Beginning this month, VAHS students will have access to [Overgrad](#). It will be introduced to them in Advisory, while Advisors guide them through the many services it offers.

Overgrad is a free college-and-career readiness tool for students, schools and parents, for grades 8-12. Overgrad guides and assists students in creating a 4-year high school academic plan to help them achieve their career and/or college goals, as well as search and plan for career and college opportunities.

Using [Overgrad](#), a student can ...

- Craft a 4-year high school academic plan
- Learn about different careers, matching these with the student's interests and aspirations
- Position him/herself academically to enter the career of choice
- Find the right college/university using the comprehensive data provided by Overgrad
- Get valuable college application assistance
- Much more!

By September 11, 2017, VAHS student will be emailed his/her account information (userid, etc). Please check it out, and explore Overgrad together.

(If your VAHS student did not receive this email message, it is because either s/he did not submit an email address to the school, or it contained an error. If that is the case, please send Dr. Nolan--cnolan@voyageracademy.net--the correct student email address.)

For more info. go to overgrad.com, or...

[Click on this link for a video tour of Overgrad.](#)

(or copy and paste, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gomuZyXacqM&t=5s>)

*All students will receive the Overgrad orientation
in the Sept. 18th Advisory.*

College Rep Visits to VAHS



VAHS is hosting the following college admission representatives in September. Seniors and juniors who are interested in learning about prospective campus life and admission requirements should plan to attend. See Ms. O'Kane or the VAHS Counseling Blog for more information .

Friday, 9/15	12:00-1:00	Queens University
Friday 9/22	1:30-2:30	Lenoir Rhyne University
Wednesday 9/27	11:00-12:00	UNC Charlotte

FCA

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) meets bright and early on Wednesday mornings before school at 7:30 am in D124. No need to be a Christian, or an Athlete :) All are welcome!

What would the founders want us to know about the framing of the Constitution?

Voyager HS Civic students have been pondering the question, "What would the founders want us to know about the framing of the Constitution?" A select group of students were invited as keynote speakers to share their answers at the chapter meeting of the Daughters of the American Revolution. At the conclusion of their address the students were presented with an American Flag that flew atop Capitol Hill on March 1st 2017. The flag will soon be on display. Our Constitution project will culminate on Constitution Day, September 17th. Voyager, again in partnership with the DAR, will work a both to raise Constitutional awareness at Durham's Centerfest Arts Festival (Sept. 16th and 17th). We invite all families to stop by.



College Essay Writing Workshop

Know a Senior that needs help with college essays? The English teachers of Voyager will host a College Essay Writing Workshop every Thursday of September for seniors who need brainstorming, detailing, or revision help with their college essays.

The Workshop will be held in room 149A and will last until 4:30. Seniors can feel free to come to as many as they need. Contact: Ms. Murray (cmannes@voyageracademy.net)



Check Out the Counseling Department Blog

Here is a great way to stay informed about resources and news you can use!

Please check out our Voyager High School Counseling Department Blog (especially critical for Seniors at this time of year!). Updated frequently, it will contain news and information about the following:

- Colleges and the application process (and application support!)
- Scholarships
- Dual enrollment (taking community college courses while in high school)
- Career exploration
- Internships and summer opportunities
- College visits to VAHS
- Financial aid assistance and resources
- Selective Service opportunities
- Testing information and test prep resources
- Volunteer opportunities
- And more...

When you visit the blog, we *encourage* you to subscribe, using your email address. You will then receive an email notification of each new post.

Here is the address:

<http://voyagerhscounseling.blogspot.com>

Free Student Checking Accounts

Would you like for your student to have a Free Student Checking Account? Many Financial Institutions will not open accounts for minors, but Vision Financial Credit Union is coming to Voyager Thursday, Sept. 14 through Mr. Baker's Personal Finance class, and will be opening Free Checking Accounts for Students after school in Room A148 between 3:45 and 4:45pm!

Anyone wanting to take advantage of this opportunity will need to come with two forms of ID and a minimum deposit of \$25 (that you would get back someday if you were to close the account) and Vision Financial will set you up with a real checking account for free! Students under 18 will also need to bring a Parent or Guardian to be on the account with them. Benefits include no sign up fees, and free checks and debit card. Being on an account like this with a parent is great way to learn about Personal Finance and Money Management. See or contact Mr. Baker (dbaker@voyageracademy.net) with any questions.

Art Supplies Needed

The Voyager Academy Visual Arts (VAVA) is looking for scrap-booking paper or old maps/atlasses Any size any shape that you would like to donate. Please drop off in the art room. Thanks for your help! Tanya Clark-Stover, high school art teacher.



Senior Parent Night September 21, Thursday 6-7:30pm

Thursday, September 21 from 6 - 7:30pm will be Senior Parent night. Parents/guardians and Seniors are invited to come to VAHS that evening to receive some very helpful information regarding graduation requirements, the college application process, how to pay for college. We look forward to seeing you at VAHS Senior Parent night.