



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.

August 18, 2017

Dear Viking Families!

I hope you had a relaxing weekend with your families and are looking forward to another great week. I plan to send this newsletter out on Sunday evenings in effort to meet some feedback from families that are less apt to read it on a Friday evening and feel it is less relevant over the weekend.

We are excited to share this historical event of the Eclipse with your students tomorrow and hope you enjoy using the eclipse sunglasses at home as well. We will be teaching our students about safety viewing as well as many other activities. Please remember that we have moved up dismissal by 30 minutes in order to complete dismissal in all 3 buildings as early as possible. We still have aftercare as normal, but will conduct indoor activities during the peak of the eclipse windows.

Attached to this email you will find a lot of information for our amazing Science Olympiad teams. Now is the time to get excited about SO and join our winning teams and great groups of students and volunteers.

This Thursday is the Board meeting in the HS at 5:15. Feel free to join us, or to look for monthly board minutes on our website.

We are still hosting our first fundraiser on Monday! **Lularoe Voyager Fundraiser Update!!!**

Due to the announcement that school will be releasing earlier on Monday the 21st the fundraiser time has been adjusted slightly. **We will be open at the Hock House starting at 10am until at least 1pm.**

Come shop Lularoe **and** support Voyager Academy!

Want to support Voyager and pick out a new outfit for you children or yourself? Heard about Lularoe but wondering what it is all about? Come to the Lularoe Pop up at the Hock House on Monday, August 21st **from 10am -1pm!** This is also school picture week so here is your perfect chance to grab that new outfit! A donation from the sales will be given to Voyager with a portion matched by Lularoe! Come see what



Lularoe is all about! Buttery soft leggings, comfortable, versatile dresses, tops that look great with leggings and your favorite jeans....! Every purchase is an entry to win a pair of leggings or LulaCash! What could be better-shopping AND supporting Voyager at the same time!

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

PTO Update:

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

-> Our PTO Back to School Bash has been re-scheduled for September 12, 2017 at 6:00 **p.m. until 8:00 p.m.** This is also the night of our first General Membership Meeting of the year so we will kick things off and then do quick PTO announcements for the year. Pelican Snoball's will be coming and we are working on grabbing a food truck to provide dinner as well. Stay tuned!

-> Our first ever Fall Festival will be on Friday, October 27, 2017 **from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.** We are so excited! If you want to help plan and/or execute this event please contact Kelli Anderson at kelli.anderson@duke.edu. She's got great ideas so far and we need you to help plan a fun community wide event!

-> Membership information will be rolling out in a separate e-mail soon. **Join the PTO by September 10 and receive 10% off apparel ALL YEAR LONG!** And your membership fees will be going to help us sponsor Education Grants for our awesome teachers!

-> Fall Apparel Sale will be kicking off on September 11, 2017 ONLINE. Stay tuned for the information on that sale and all the details on delivery, etc.

If you have any PTO related questions, please feel free to grab a Board member or e-mail Shelley Brown, PTO President, at voyageracademypta@gmail.com.

Athletics Update:

Important Announcements



WEATHER

Thank you for your understanding of practice or game cancelations due to heat index or inclement weather. Please understand that the heat index can only be determined around the time of practice. We will communicate any changes to schedules due to weather to parents as quick as possible.

GO PLAY SAVE

The athletic departments largest fundraising effort has officially kicked off. Students should have order forms and books. If you need more books please let your teacher or myself dharris@voyageracademy.net know and we will fill those orders as quick as possible. There are prizes for the top selling class in each school, as well as the top selling individuals. The books pay for themselves if used a couple of times, so please help us help our student-athletes. Checks should be made payable to Voyager Academy with memo of Go Play Save.

How to save Harris Teeter will make any coupons from other grocers and Kroger has lots of coupons in the book, so if you grocery shop at Harris Teeter or Kroger you could save money on this you already purchase. Thanks for your support.

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

We would like to thank The Law Office of Shelley Campen Brown for renewing their sponsorship for the 2017-2018 school year.

NORTH DURHAM ORTHODONTICS

We would like to thank North Durham Orthodontics for renewing their sponsorship for the 2017-2018 school year.



ATHLETIC FEES

Parents please remember that once a student-athlete is selected for a team that athletic fees are due before they may participate in any games or matches. Fees are below

MS - first sport - \$105 any additional sports \$75

HS- first sport -\$135 any additional sport \$95

They are not available

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC CONTACTS

Parents, below is the contact information for spring sport coaches. If you any questions or concerns, please contact these coaches.

Middle School Fall Sports

Boy's Soccer: michellefox1@gmail.com

Girl's Tennis: leerus@icloud.com

XC: dmangano@voyageracademy.net

Volleyball: mjackson@voyageracademy.net

High School Fall Sports

Men's Soccer: crobinson@voyageracademy.net

Women's Tennis: leerus@icloud.com

XC: guy@catlinfamily.org

JV&Varsity Volleyball: sdelucasam@gmail.com



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

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

West and Woodall- Providing for your real estate needs from Hyco and Mayo Lakes to Raleigh, Durham. Please contact them at (919)382-2000

Andy Jones State Farm- Providing solutions to all of your insurance needs



Elementary School Update:

Dear VAES Families,

We have had a wonderful week at VAES!! Staff and students have been working very hard!



Don't forget that on Monday, August 21, we will release 30 minutes earlier at 12:15 due to the solar eclipse. Carline will run from 12:15 – 12:40 on Monday.

As most of you know, we follow the Responsive Classroom approach. The teachers and staff are spending time with our students learning the rules and routines and creating a respectful and kind classroom/school climate and culture to ensure that everyone can learn and that the classroom operates safely and efficiently. If you would like to read an interview with Roxann Kriete, co-author of [The First](#)



Six Weeks of School, explaining why we practice this approach, please click on the link.
http://www.educationworld.com/a_books/books158.shtml

Another important aspect of the Responsive Classroom approach is language. What we say to students and each other and how we say it is one of the most powerful tools we can use. If we are careful in how we use language, we can support students, staff, and parents. This is especially important for our students as they develop self-control, build their sense of community, and gain academic skills and knowledge. This is why we believe and expect that all staff, students, and parents are respectful when they speak to each other, even when they are frustrated. If you would like to learn more about the importance of positive language, this interview with Ruth Sidney Charney, the author of Teaching Children to Care, is terrific. http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/columnists/charney/charney004.shtml

This week we have had a grace period for morning tardies. However, beginning on Monday, August 21, we will begin taking tardies. The good news is that we have only had about 4 or 5 cars each day that arrived after 7:45. If you have been one of the families that arrived after we had turned the sign at 7:45, please leave your house 5 minutes earlier. Our AM and PM carline are running well, but there are a few things parents can do to make it run even smoother and faster.

- Students need to be ready to pop right out of the car in morning carline with backpacks already on their shoulders and lunchboxes, etc. in their hands.
- As you are pulling into your unloading zone in the AM, teach your child to unbuckle quickly so they are ready to get out of the car once it stops.
- Parents are not to get out of their car to unload their child. Staff will assist the child, if needed.
- When there are other children in the car who are not unloading at the elementary, the student's car seat needs to be behind the passenger seat so that the child can unload quickly and doesn't have to climb over the other children in the car.
- Do not block the crosswalks in AM and PM carline. We need to keep them open so students and staff can cross safely.
- For afternoon carline, remind your child to listen for their name. The gym is monitored by staff so that the gym stays quiet for everyone to hear their name.
- **Last, but not least, DO NOT** use your cell phones during carline. This means no talking, texting, or checking emails/Facebook. We have approximately 150+ children walking in between buildings for carline and the after school program. It is very dangerous to use your cell phone while in carline. If one of our staff see you on your cell phone, they will ask you to put up your phone, or to pull around to the front office to drop off or pick up your student.

Don't forget to fill out the online release form to either give permission or not to allow photos, video or media for your K - 3 student. Check the applicable statement, complete the needed information, and electronically sign and date the form. Thus far, about half of our parents have completed the form.

Please follow this link to complete the form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSej1yixetqZx7cPW9UhEIFlyfwHuijN3huGtQBNUa2q_sxUrw/viewform

On Thursday, September 7, we will have a Curriculum Night for Kindergarten at 5:30 PM, First, Grade at 5:30 PM, and Third Grade at 6:00 PM (Second Grade had their Curriculum Night on August 8).



Best,
Leslie Paynter
VAES Principal

**Important Dates:
August/September**

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Aug. 28 - Sept. 15 | mClass BOY Reading Assessments |
| Mon., Sept. 4 | Labor Day Holiday |
| Thurs., Sept. 7 | CURRICULUM NIGHT K, & 1st Grade: 5:30 3rd Grade: 6:00 |
| 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 & then carline dismissal |

Middle School Update:

Dear VAMS Families,

It's been a great week! We had Curriculum Night this week for 4th, 5th, and 6th grade parents. We appreciate you attending your child's session. I know you left with much information regarding each of the subject areas as well as expectations for the school year. We feel we have strong teams of teachers that will support our students as they move forward in their learning. Thanks for all of the support you provide!

Our morning carline continues to run smoothly. I do need to remind you that students MUST be in their homeroom at 8:15 (when the bell rings). If they are not in their homeroom they are counted tardy. I will review all of the attendance sheets today to see where we are after day 7 with our attendance. I continue to talk about tardies because instruction starts immediately after announcements. When students arrive last they have missed instruction. We are still working to make afternoon carline smoother and quicker.



We seem to have more cars this year as our line is not off Ben Franklin until 3:50 or later. We appreciate your patience in the afternoons. Staff and students are doing their part----it's just taking longer!

Beginning next week I will spotlight a grade level or subject area in the newsletter so stay tuned!

Just a reminder----we discuss at 12:45 on Monday!

Important Dates:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| August 21 | 12:45 Dismissal due to Solar Eclipse and safety of all! |
| August 22 | 6:00-7:00 7th Grade Curriculum Night |
| August 23 | 6:00-7:00 8th Grade Curriculum Night |
| August 23 | Fall Pictures Information has been sent home with students. |

Enjoy the weekend,

Gwen

Gwen Johnson gjohnson@voyageracademy.net

Principal

Voyager Middle School