



**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 17<sup>th</sup> 2017

Good Afternoon Viking Families,

Dear Voyager families,

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 \$16 fee that can be paid at orgs.online. <https://goo.gl/forms/bivSTx7dMdPKQeG93>

Great news! We will be offering the private drivers Ed course on campus during fall break on Oct 9-13<sup>th</sup>. The registration forms are included attached with this email. Classes are \$375 per student and offered through Jordan Driving School. Remember, DPS will NOT be providing driver's ed this year at Voyager.

The School Improvement Team will be meeting this year to review our yearly goals and update our improvement plans. We will be posting on our website our new published grade which is a very high B! Voyager has once again exceeded growth expectation and continued to shine academically. We are very proud of the work we are doing here and very thankful for the staff, the parents and students who are committed to excellence. Thank you all for being a part of something great!

If you want to learn even more about our amazing Counselors team, please click on this link and get to your know guidance counselors. <https://www.smores.com/saer6>

And finally, as many of you know I have the unique opportunity to serve as Co-Chair on the state Association for all NC Charter Schools. We have been working on a monthly newsletter to share with parents that offers different topics of interest for families with students in charter schools, and oftentimes, for parents who just want a little insight for students and kids of all different ages. Please check out this



newsletter and let me know if you would like to see more information about any other education topics that may affect NC schools.

The NC Association for Public Charter Schools is excited to unveil our new parent newsletter, *Matters of Principal: Parenting Pointers*. Directors, you are invited to share the publication with the parents in your schools each month. The September and October editions are complimentary. Beginning in November, the e-newsletter will be free to member schools of the Association. Just one more way we are working to bring value to membership.

**[Matters of Principal: Parenting Pointers \(September 2017\)](#)**

*Thank you for your support towards North Carolina's charter schools.*

Regards,

Jennifer Lucas, M. ED

Managing Director

[jlucas@voyageracademy.net](mailto: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-pto-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](mailto:voyageracademypta@gmail.com).

And as always, Go Vikings Go!

### **Science Olympiad Update:**

**Science Olympiad** is an extracurricular academic competition for students in grades K-12. The STEM-related topics encompass anatomy, biology, chemistry, physics, earth science, geology, mechanical engineering and technology. Teamwork and group learning are a major emphasis.

**THANK YOU!!!** Thank you to all the students and parents who attended the Information Sessions on Tuesday. If you were unable to attend and would like to learn more about Science Olympiad at Voyager, contact the team coaches directly or fill out the [interest form](#) so that we can connect with you.

**DIVISION A UPDATE:** Team registration and event selections will occur during the next couple of weeks. Stay tuned!

**DIVISION B UPDATE:** The Division B team is meeting in Mr. Price's room on Monday 9/18 from 1:45-2:30. We will review this year's events and work together to prioritize event preferences. The meeting is not mandatory but Science Olympiad students are encouraged to attend. Students sign up to attend the after school meeting. The registration link was sent through the Division B google group. If you are not on the google group, contact Connie Vance for the registration link.

**DIVISION C UPDATE:** Team meeting dates and times will be announced soon. Contact Ms. Honey for information on how to join the C team.

### **TEAM COACHES:**

Division A (K-6) - Erik Benson ([scienceolympiadteama@voyageracademy.net](mailto:scienceolympiadteama@voyageracademy.net))

Division B (6-9) - Connie Vance ([connie1vance@gmail.com](mailto:connie1vance@gmail.com))

Division C (9-12) - Amanda Honey ([ahoney@voyageracademy.net](mailto:ahoney@voyageracademy.net))



### **Elementary School Update:**

First, thank you PTO for the delicious luncheon this week!! We always look forward to the luncheons and we truly appreciate all your hard work!!!

You should have received a sign-up notification from your child's teacher for parent-teacher conferences. Our policy at VAES is to schedule conferences with parents/guardians whenever we need them. However, since we are on trimesters and the first trimester ends on November 9, we will conduct parent-teacher conferences from September 29 through October 23. The elementary teachers will have a variety of days and times for parents to choose from, so that parents can find a day and time that is convenient for their family schedules.

It is time to kickoff our annual yearbook cover contest and we hope that all of our Elementary School students will participate. Attached you will find a flyer detailing the contest rules and artwork requirements. All entries must be turned in by **Friday, September 29!** If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Jewell at [leslieljewell@gmail.com](mailto:leslieljewell@gmail.com). We can't wait to see all the amazing artwork and submissions that we are going to receive.

Last week, we told you about our partnership with Smith Academy, a public elementary school in Houston, Texas impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Smith Academy is a Responsive Classroom school, just like VAES. 98% of their students receive free/reduced lunch and about 30% of their students often move in and out of their school throughout the year. Many of their students and families had great needs even before the hurricane.

Therefore, Voyager Academy, K - 12, has committed to help Smith Academy during this terrible time. Given the variety of needs, from September 15 - 29, we will collect Walmart, Target, and Amazon gift cards for the Smith Academy families. Please deliver the gift cards to the front office at each school by September 29. Let's show the Smith Academy community how much the Voyager Academy community cares about them!!

Listed below, you can read a summary of their needs provided by their principal, Raymond Stubblefield.

We have had a busy week at VAES! I've enjoyed seeing all of the creative and fabulous learning that has taken place throughout the building. We are truly blessed with amazing teachers and staff!



### VAES Yearbook Ordering:

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](http://www.strawbridge.net). Yearbooks are \$23.00 each and must be ordered by **January 31, 2018**. After this date, there will be a price increase for additional book orders.

Visit [www.strawbridge.net](http://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](mailto:leslieljewell@gmail.com)) if you have any questions. Order today!!

We still 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.



Best,



**Leslie Paynter**  
**VAES Principal**

**Smith Academy, Houston, Texas**

Smith Academy as a whole had forty-six families affected by Hurricane Harvey. Most of the families live in neighborhood homes. Some of these homes are rented from other owners who may live in the Houston area as well. The homes of our families were flooded by water due to the amount of rain received by Harvey. Some families were able to save items and some were not due to taking shelter at other locations and/or leaving to get to higher ground. One of our students will not be able to return to their home for 6 months due to the process of clean up, insurance to take effect, and to rebuild. We have various needs for our families such as toiletry items, clothes (mainly uniform clothes), sheets, blankets, beds, furniture, backpacks, shoes, and cleaning supplies. Looking ahead, Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner, so some families will need assistance in order to help their family feel some normalcy during the holiday season. We also have many students who were not able to purchase school supplies before the storm.

#### **Smith Academy Family Profiles**

1. Grandmother and grandson live in a home not too far from Smith Academy. She was displaced from her home and is now living with relatives. She was impacted by Hurricane Harvey with floodwater that was up to her knees. They were able to save some items upstairs, but are in need of cleaning supplies, sheets, blankets, towels and other items that can be replaced, but may be too expensive to gather all at one time. Her application is on file for FEMA, but FEMA has not assessed her house at this point.
2. Family of six displaced and currently living at a temporary home. They are waiting on FEMA to speak with them about their current home. Because their home was flooded, they lost most of the items in the home. The family needs to replace all household items.
3. A family had water damage to their home due to flood waters, and they are waiting on FEMA. They pretty much lost everything in the home. The family needs to replace all household items.
4. A single mother with three kids had flood water in their home. Everything had to be thrown out and the sheetrock has been removed. They are currently waiting on FEMA. They have lost beds for the children. The children are currently living with their father due to the damage in their mother's home.
5. A single mother of two also had water damage to her home and stated they lost everything and need help with everything. She is unsure of her status with FEMA and could use help with items such as clothes, shoes, and backpacks for her children.

#### **Middle School Update:**

Dear VAMS Families,

MTSS time has become very structured this year. We want to make sure our students are focused and working. Students work on a computer program called iLearn twice a week. The students had to take a math placement in order to know their math strengths and areas of need. Each student works on math skills determined by the placement test. Two days a week our students use myON, a computer program focused on reading. The students took an assessment as well as completed an interest survey. The



assessment provided a lexile level for each child. The interest survey provides books the students might want to read. The reading is completed online.

Our cross-country team continues to lead the group of runners from surrounding schools. On September 11, the girls won the meet. Top runners in order from Voyager were--- Rhian Lawrence (who came in first place), Riley Fernandez, Amelia Leonard, Rachel Bennett, and Liz Lalor.

The boys also won their meet. Top runners from Voyager were--- Jacob O'Keefe (who came in first place), Aaron Faircloth, Landen Lawrence, Parker Hinshaw, and Luke Kujawa.

Hunter Ruedi had a time that would place him in our top 5 runners, but he started the race almost 4 minutes late. He still managed to place well!

Mrs. Thompson spent the first weeks of school at home with her newborn. We are so happy she was able to take the time with her little one but are thrilled that she is returning on Monday. We know the students are looking forward to her return. We want to say thank you to Mrs. Schoenfeld. Mrs. Schoenfeld has been terrific as she subbed for Mrs. Thompson. She made sure the students worked and completed assigned tasks.

This has been election week at Voyager Middle School! Students who ran for office had to complete an information form that needed signatures from teachers. The students wrote their campaign speeches with their goals and promises. Campaigning took place during the morning carline hours as the candidates encouraged students to vote. Each candidate was video-taped. Each class viewed the speeches prior to voting. Voting took place on Sept. 15. Results are not available at this time.





What great support for the Go Play Save fundraiser. We need 9 Go Play Save books to be paid for or to be returned. Help us hit 100%!

Next week we will spotlight 8<sup>th</sup> grade! Stay tuned to hear what 8<sup>th</sup> graders are learning!

**Important Dates:**

Sept. 18 Cross Country at East Wake, 4:00  
Sept. 19 Volleyball vs Duke School, home, 4:30  
Sept. 19 School Improvement Team meeting, 5:30 HS  
Sept. 19 PTO Luncheon  
Sept. 20 Volleyball at East Wake, 4:15  
Sept. 21 Team pictures for fall sports, 3:45 at Voyager  
This includes volleyball, tennis, soccer, and cross-country.

Enjoy the weekend,  
Gwen

Gwen Johnson gjohnson@voyageracademy.net  
Principal  
Voyager Middle School

**High School Update:**

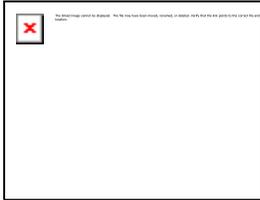
**THE VOYAGER HS ART CLUB HAS ITS FIRST MEETING**

The Voyager High School Art Club will hold its first meeting next Tuesday, September 19th at 3:45 in the Art Room (E124). Anyone interested in joining the art club may attend. During the first meeting we will discuss and decide on the goals of the Art Club. The meeting will last until 5:00pm.

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**A FUNDRAISER FOR THE JOURNALISM CLASS**

The journalism class is holding a fundraiser for old, used cameras for a project they are doing. These can be hand held, an old phone, anything that you can find. There will be donation boxes outside of the Journalism classroom(A149) in the high school and outside of the middle and elementary school's front desks. The fundraiser starts next week (September 18th) and will end on October 18th.



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### PENNY WARS!

Service Club is raising money to help the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of North Carolina for Light the Night on October 7, 2017. Bring in your change and help support. Pennies and Dollars will be worth points toward your grade level. Nickles, Dimes and Quarters count against other grade levels. The grade that comes up with the most positive change for the change will win a pizza party. Remember add Pennies and Dollars (Dollars worth 100 pennies) to up your total and drop silver into other grade levels to lower theirs! The war begins Monday and lasts until Friday when a truce will be called to decide a winner!

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### COLLEGE REPS TO VISIT 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

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### 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](http://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.*

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#### 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!

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#### 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](mailto:cmannes@voyageracademy.net))

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#### 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.

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#### AP BIOLOGY & APES FIELD TRIP: OFF TO MARINE QUEST AT CMS IN WILMINGTON!

The AP Biology and APES class are going to be taking an exciting 2 day field trip on Oct 30th and 31st to Wilmington, NC. While there we will be spending the day with the folks at the Center for Marine



Sciences at UNCW and taking part in their Marine Quest program. The students will be able to wade in the marsh to collect macroinvertebrate samples, look at the health of the local sea life, go kayaking, tour the facility, and have lunch with the students that run the program. Then on the second day there the students will be touring Fort Fisher Aquarium and UNCW main campus.

The students are VERY excited about this opportunity as are Mr. Ingram and myself. I am currently working to have the orgs.online payment system setup to begin taking payments so please watch for the link by early next week. We will need 3 parent chaperones and will take them on a first come first serve basis.

Please feel free to email me with any questions at [chuntington@voyageracademy.net](mailto:chuntington@voyageracademy.net)

Thanks!!

Mrs. Huntington and Mr. Ingram