

Voyager Academy Elementary School

4210 Ben Franklin Boulevard, Durham, NC 27704

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www.voyageracademy.net



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. The school's expectation is that all students, working with dedicated faculty and family, will excel academically and socially.

Overview

Voyager Academy Elementary School is a Project Based Learning (PBL) school in Durham, NC. We offer a unique academic program that exemplifies the best in collaborative, real world learning, while preparing our students for the 21st Century.

- Voyager Academy opened in August 2007 as a NC Public Charter school serving students in 4th – 8th Grade
- Voyager Academy High School opened in 2010
- Voyager Academy Elementary opened in 2011 with 3rd Grade and in 2012, K - 3
- 420 students in grades K - 3
- 105 students per grade level
- Class size: 21 students
- School Hours: 7:45 AM – 2:45 PM Every Monday Early Dismissal at 12:45 PM
- NC School Performance Grade: B (Exceeded Growth)

- VAES is on a quarter schedule to coordinate with report card assessments for the middle school and high school – report cards are completed 4 times per year.
- Title I Targeted Assistance Program

Features

Project Based Learning: At VAES Project based learning is an integral part of Voyager Academy's philosophy and mission. Students are presented with interesting, relevant, and meaningful problems to solve. Students complete 3 projects per year/1 per quarter, K – 3. We follow the NC Essential Standards in Science and Social Studies to determine each project.

Core Knowledge Language Arts: Core Knowledge Language Arts is a comprehensive language arts curriculum program used for students in grades K-3. While we are working to master skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking, we also use CKLA sequencing to build students' knowledge and vocabulary in literature, history, geography, and science.

Bridges In Mathematics: Bridges is a comprehensive K-3 math curriculum that equips teachers to fully address state standards in a rigorous, engaging, and accessible manner. Students gain a deep understanding of concepts, proficiency with key skills, and the ability to solve complex problems. The curriculum is composed of three distinct but integrated components: Problems & Investigations, Work Places and Number Corner.

Responsive Classroom/Morning Meeting: We use a system of classroom management called Responsive Classroom. The main goal of Responsive Classroom is to promote optimal student learning and create a caring community of students and staff. It is a research-based program that shows students learn best when they feel safe, challenged, and happy. The main components of Responsive Classroom are Morning Meeting, Hopes and Dreams, Rule Creation, Guided Discovery, and Logical Consequences. During the first six weeks of school, we spend time learning the rules, routine, procedures, etc. that will foster our students as independent learners and will make our classroom run smoothly. Every day, K – 3 children gather in morning meetings to greet each other, start the day, and learn social skills like respect, responsibility, and empathy.

Technology: VAES offers a 21st century learning environment in which every student has access to computers, Chromebooks, or iPads within their classrooms. Students use these devices in math and literacy workstations and for project research. Each classroom also has an interactive board to enhance the learning experience.

Specials: VAES offers 5 specials. They are PE, Art, Music, Science, & Lego/Engineering.

Extracurricular Activities: Extracurricular activities enhance the school experience. We offer a variety of experiences for our elementary students to enjoy, such as Science Olympiad, Science Week, Art Extravaganza, Family Walking Challenges, Viking Troupers (chorus), and after school Enrichments. Some Science Olympiad events are reinforced during the school day with the extra Science special and a K -3 VAES Science Olympiad competitions.

Before/After School Care Enrichments: Before/After School Care and Enrichments are offered for students in Kindergarten through Eighth Grade. For more information regarding cost, times, etc. please refer to the Before/After School Care Tab.

Parent-Teacher-Student Organization (PTSO): Voyager Academy is fortunate to have an active and involved Parent-Teacher Organization. Their responsibilities include hosting hospitality luncheons for Voyager faculty, fall and spring carnivals, and eliciting parent volunteer opportunities that enhance the educational experience for our students.

VAES Zones of Regulation

The Zones of Regulation concept is a framework and curriculum that seeks to establish awareness of feelings, energy and alertness levels while exploring a variety of tools and strategies for regulation, prosocial skills, self-care, and overall wellness. This curriculum provides Voyager with an easy way to think and talk about how we feel on the inside and then begin to help students sort those feelings into four colored Zones, all of which are expected in life. When we better understand our feelings and zones, we can learn to use tools/strategies to manage our feelings in order to meet goals like doing schoolwork or other tasks, managing big feelings, and healthy relationships with others. The common language and visual structure of The Zones of Regulation helps make the task of regulation more concrete for learners and those who support them.