

# Voyager Academy Middle School



## 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 Middle 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

- Opened in August 2007 as NC Public Charter school
- **530 students in grades 4-8**
- Approximately 102 students per grade level
- **Average core class size:** 20 students
- School Hours 8:15 AM – 3:15 PM
- Every Monday Early Dismissal at 1:15 PM
- 2015/2016 NC School Performance Grade: B (Met Expected Growth)
- 2016/2017 NC School Performance Grade: B (Exceeded Growth)
- 2017/2018 NC School Performance Grade: B (Exceeded Growth)
- 2018/2019 NC School Performance Grade: B (Exceeded Growth)
- Spanish offered starting in 4th grade

## Features

**Project Based Learning:** At VAMS students participate in a variety of projects. Within these projects, students engage in inquiry to answer and solve complex questions, problems, or challenges. Students practice collaboration, communication and critical thinking skills while creating high-quality, authentic products and presentations.

**Core Connections:** In grades 6-8, students are required to take Core Connections. In this class, elements of each of the core courses (Math, Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science) are considered while executing the various tasks of project work. The teacher of this course is able to supplement and enhance the curriculum of the core area teachers through Project Based Learning.

**Elective Course offerings:** Each student in grades 4 through 8 has the opportunity to experience a variety of elective courses throughout their tenure at VAMS. We offer Music, Drama, Art, Physical Education, Spanish, and Technology as our elective courses.

**Learning Environment:** Each grade level admits 105 students. Currently, Voyager Academy Middle School services 530 students. Our small learning community allows us to better meet the needs of each learner while providing a safe and welcoming environment.

**Technology:** Voyager Academy offers a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environment in which every student has access to a Google Chromebook computer within most of their classrooms. Students use these laptop computers for research, communication, practice, and presentations. Each classroom also has an interactive whiteboard to enhance the learning experience.

**Athletics:** The purpose of athletics at Voyager Academy Middle School is to offer students the opportunity to learn to be a part of a team with a common purpose and high standards of performance. Participation in Voyager athletics is open to only our 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. We have a variety of Athletic teams including:

Fall

Boys' Soccer  
Girls' Volleyball  
Cross Country  
Girls' Tennis

Winter

Boys' Basketball  
Girls' Basketball  
Cheerleading  
Ultimate Frisbee

Spring

Girls' Soccer  
Boys' Baseball  
Girls' Softball  
Boys' Tennis

**Extracurricular Activities/Clubs:** Extracurricular activities are an important part of the middle school experience. We offer a variety of experiences for our students to enjoy. **Current extracurricular activities include Art Club, Science Olympiad, National Junior Honor Society, Student Council, Viking Singers, Geography Bee, Spelling Bee, Fall Play, and Spring Musical.**

**Parent-Teacher Association (PTA):** Voyager Academy is fortunate to have an active and involved Parent-Teacher Association. Their responsibilities include coordinating fundraisers; host hospitality luncheons for Voyager faculty and elicit parent volunteer opportunities that enhance the educational experience for Viking students.

## Celebrations

VFW Patriot's Pen Award Winner

2019 Undefeated CCMSC Conference Girls' Soccer Champions

2017 CCMSC Conference Girls' and Boys' Cross-Country Conference Champions

2019 CCMSC Conference Boys' Basketball Champions

Three Students received First Place at the 2015 NC State Fair in the category Graphic Design

2019 Geography Bee 2nd place at the State Competition

Active Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society

Science Olympiad Team finished 2nd in Regional Competition and participated in the State Competition

2021 CCMSC Conference Boys' and Girls' Basketball Champions

20 Acer Google Chromebooks funded through Donor's Choose