



VOYAGEURS NEWS

Hex 3 Newsletter

January 2015

Winter Happenings:

We are wrapping up 1st semester, hard to believe we are half-way through the school year. Hopefully we will not have a winter like last year with so many late starts or cancellations. As most of you know, we follow ISD 31's (Bemidji's) school calendar. If you hear that Bemidji is delayed or cancelled, Voyageurs will also be delayed or cancelled. You can also check www.WCCO.com; www.paulbunyanbroadcasting.com or the [Voyageurs Facebook page](#). We always try to get information out as soon as we are made aware by ISD 31 representatives. As always, as a parent, you have the right on an extremely cold or snowy day to choose to keep your children at home.

While Voyageurs teachers may not assign homework as a normal part of our daily instruction, when students are absent for any reason, or don't get their work completed during the school day, they are to get their assignments and get it done at home. Missing assignments will become 0's at the end of our grading period and can result in students not earning a passing grade (NC) for the class. In grades 9-12, a no credit means that a student is not earning credit towards graduation, which can put earning their high school diploma in a four year period at risk. As always, you can check your child's grades on our JMC parent portal.

Drawing Winners:

Every grading period students who have attendance rates of greater than 92% for the six weeks or pass all of their classes for the six weeks get their names into a hat for two drawings...

Hex 1 Winners were:

Attendance: Dan Nedeau—\$25.00 Gift Certificate

Grades (passing all classes): Becca Rogolski - \$35.00 Gift Certificate

Hex 2 Winners were:

Attendance: Lenette Sumner—\$25.00 Gift Certificate

Grades (passing all classes) - Conner Frenzel—\$35.00 Gift Certificate



Voyageurs Rewards:

Starting 2nd semester, we are putting in place a rewards program that acknowledges students who are doing good things and helping build a positive learning community at Voyageurs. When a staff member sees a student doing a good thing, they will give the student a "ticket" which can be put into a drawing or saved and used to purchase items (snacks; pencils, etc.) from a school store on a weekly basis.

Spring Expeditions

The expeditions for the spring are all set and we are finalizing arrangements. Troy Johnson and Rebecca Kummet will be leading a group of 12 students to Seattle and visiting the Pacific Ocean; Becky Reinartz and Ross Millar will be taking a trip to Texas and spending some time on the Gulf of Mexico and Jean Fjelsta and Julie Johnson-Willborg will be heading to New York City and the Atlantic Ocean for a week long excursion.

The students that stay in Minnesota will have an option to travel to the Iron Range and spend a couple of days and nights at the Laurentian Environmental Center; while one other group will stay here in Bemidji and complete day trips from the school. Students who participate fully in an expedition have the opportunity to earn up to a semester credit for the adventure.

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ACT Explore & ACT Plan:

If you have a student in either grade 8 or grade 10, you will find in this newsletter a copy of their results from the ACT Explore (grade 8) or the ACT Plan (grade 10) that students enrolled at Voyageurs took in November. If you have questions about the assessments, please reach out to your child's advisor or check out the ACT website www.ACT.org for more specific information about these assessments. These assessments are timed assessments very similar to the ACT that students take for entrance into a four year university. The more times a student is exposed to "timed" assessment, the better they will understand how to approach an assessment such as the ACT, which is now a required assessment for all

MAAP STARS

MAAP STARS is an after school extra-curricular activity we have for students in the high school. MAAP STARS is part of a statewide organization that engages students who attend school choice programs (Charters and Alternative Education) in youth development and leadership skills.

Voyageurs MAAP STARS chapter is working on a lot of service projects this year related to helping homeless individuals and fundraising for organizations that help individuals who have suffered illnesses through a Relay For Life event in April.

In the picture below, MAAP STARS students deliver the January care packages they have assembled to the People's Church.



MAAP STARS is currently hosting a fund raiser with a "Duct Tape" teacher campaign. Students may purchase a 12" long piece of DUCT TAPE for \$1.00. Four staff members, Troy Johnson; Adam McCullough; Deb Risberg and Travis Malterud have agreed to be "Duct Taped" at our Presentation Night on Thursday, February 5th. Please encourage your son/daughter to purchase a piece of Duct Tape so that they can watch the staff be "Taped-Up."

Voyageurs School Board News:

BOARD ELECTIONS:

In April, Voyageurs will be holding elections for three school board positions. Open positions require a two year commitment. Open positions are for a Parent Member; a Community Member and a Teacher Member. If you have an interest in serving on the VES school board, please make sure to complete the nomination form which will be sent home in March and return it by the deadline.

AMERICORPS PROMISE FELLOWS:

At the January board meeting, the VES board approved a plan to hire two AmeriCorps Promise fellows for the 2015-2016 school year. A promise fellow is an individual who is employed by the MN Alliance with Youth who spends a year providing volunteer services to organizations in a variety of communities. Voyageurs has had a Promise Fellow for the past two years (Sarah Lawrence in 2013/14) and (Emma Schaper 2014/15). Requirements for the position include: 18 years of age or older; High School Diploma or GED; (college degree preferred); experience working with youth; a background in social work or experiential education. Applications for the position will be available in early March. If you are interested or know of individuals who may be a good fit at Voyageurs, please encourage them to consider applying.

CRISIS PLANNING:

Thank you to those of you who responded to the boards request for concerns about ways to increase safety and security at Voyageurs. We have a committee in place that is reviewing a variety of options and they will report to the school board next month.



Plan on joining us for our Winter Presentation/Parent Night

Thursday, February 5th from 4:45-6:30 p.m.

4:45-5:15—Ramp Up Grade Level Meetings—meet with the teachers leading each grade level Ramp Up class; learn about what students are doing; visit about upcoming grade level assessments and other activities coming up at Voyageurs this spring.

5:15-5:30—come watch some of the staff get “Duct-Taped” for our Relay for Life Fundraiser and other MAAP STARS activities

5:30-6:30—Supper served (3 types of Chili (Beef; Vegetarian and Gluten Free) + the fixings

Calendar of Events—Hex 4 (January 26—March 6th)

Start of 2nd semester—Monday, January 26th

Early Release—Wednesday, January 28th—buses will leave at 1:05

Presentation/Parent Night—Thursday, February 5th

February Board Meeting—Monday, February 9th

Early Release—Wednesday, February 11—buses will leave at 1:05

No School—Thursday, February 12th, Friday, February 13th or Monday, February 16th (Presidents Day)

School resumes—Tuesday, February 17th

Winter Formal—Friday, February 20th—6:30-10:30—tickets available for purchase from Becky Reinartz—all students welcome to attend (grades 6-12); non VES guests will need to have pre-approval from Julie JW (Director)

Friday, February 27th—Expeditionary Day

No School—Thursday, March 5 or Friday, March 6th—Parent Teacher Conferences

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

Research has proven over and over again the connection between school attendance and school success. Showing up for school each and every day is very important in order to make adequate progress in your child's education. While we attempt to contact parents every day their child is not in school, parents have a responsibility and obligation to report their child's non-attendance no later than 10 a.m. of the day after their child is gone. A written note or a phone call would be very much appreciated.

Valid reasons (excused absences) for missing school include illness (verified by Dr's note after more than 3 days); family emergency; planned family trip; verified appointments, family death, etc.. Illness, if your child is ill (running a fever, throwing up, coughing excessively, etc.) please keep them home for the day so they can rest and get better and hopefully not spread their illness to other community members.

If students are not feeling well at school, they are to check in with Jean in the office. We have a place for students to lie down for a while. We also have Tylenol and Ibuprofen, which we can administer to help them feel better and hopefully be able to stay in school for the day.

Per state law, **Voyageurs must comply with attendance reporting and truancy filing for students who have more than 7 unexcused absences. An unexcused absence is an absence where we are not able to confirm a valid reason why a child is missing school.** All students under the age of 17 are required to be enrolled and attending school daily. Students under the age of 17 with excessive unexcused absences will have truancy filed on them as required by MN law.

JMC Parent Access

All parents have the ability to access their students progress reports online through our JMC Parental Access Portal.

If you have questions about accessing your child's grades, contact Jean Fjelsta in the office. Her e-mail is: jean@voyageursschool.org

PROM 2015

A Night in Paris

Saturday, May 9, 2015

Sanford Center Ballroom

Tickets will be on sale in April

Grades 9-12

