



# VOYAGEURS NEWS

Hex 5 Newsletter

April 9, 2015

## Spring Happenings:

Don't know about you, but we sure are looking forward to some warm weather that will allow us and the students to get outside. We are all tired of being cooped up...

Next week the juniors are heading down to the Audubon Center of the North Woods for three days of active participation in Environmental Learning. We try to make sure that every student who attends Voyageurs has this opportunity at some point in their junior or senior year.

The week after our MAAP STARS Youth team will be heading to Minneapolis to participate in the annual MAAP STARS Spring Competition. We have 12 students competing in a variety of programs and demonstrating what they have learned over the year. In particular, our MAAP STARS group has been very involved in Service Learning in our community. They have all year been collecting products and making CARE packages for less fortunate individuals in our community who use the homeless shelters. Our Middle School students also made over 200 CARE packages in March through a grant we obtained from Delta Dental of MN.



MAAP STARS is also sponsoring a Relay For Life on Friday, April 17th. Students; parents; community members are welcome to participate in our RELAY FOR LIFE. The event will be held in the afternoon and MEMORIAL STARS are available for purchase for .50 cents each. If you wish to purchase a MEMORIAL STAR, have

your student talk to Troy Johnson to purchase one for an individual you wish to honor who you have lost to cancer. The STARS will be placed on a MEMORIAL WALL at school. If you want to join us for the Relay for Life next Friday, April 17th, please let us know, parents and family members are welcome to participate.

On Saturday, April 18th a group of students will be traveling down to the cities to participate in the [Global Youth Service Day 2015 Statewide Celebration at Southdale Center in Edina](#). This event will bring together more than a thousand youth from MN to celebrate Service Learning in Minnesota.

We are very proud of the service work our student body has completed this year to help individuals and organizations in our community.

## State Assessments

*We started the State Assessments this week and will be having all students in the Middle School and students in grade 10 and 11 complete several state assessments by the middle of May.*

*Grade 11—MCA Math - April 9th*

*Grade 11 ACT—April 28th*

*Grade 10—MCA Reading—April 16*

*Grade 10—Science—April 30*

*Grade 6-8 Reading—April 29*

*Grade 6 Math—April 22*

*Grade 7 Math—April 23*

*Grade 8 Math—April 28*

*Grade 8 Science—May 5*

*Make up sessions will be scheduled as necessary for each assessment. Please encourage your student to do their best on these very important assessments.*

*The data obtained from the assessments helps us identify specific needs our students have so that we can plan instruction to meet those needs.*

## Voyageurs 2015 Graduation

Friday, June 5— 6:00 PM at Hagg-Sauer  
100 on the BSU Campus.

All are welcome

## 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](http://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.

# Spring Presentation and Parent Meeting Night

## Annual School Board Meeting

Thursday, April 30th

### Plan on joining us for our Spring Presentation/Parent Night

Thursday, April 30th

4:45-6:15

4:45-5:00—Student Presentations - MAAP STARS plus Art/Music Performances

5:00-5:15—Title I and Title VII Indian Education Parent Meeting's

Supper Served—5:15-6:15

5:45-6:00—Annual Meeting of the Voyageurs Expeditionary School Board—Introduction of new board members

6:00-6:15—Wrap-up for the night

### Summer School 2015

**Summer School dates have been set.**

We will be having three different summer school programs

**Middle School Reading & Math Skill Development:**

Tuesday/Wednesday—June 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, July 1, 7, 8, 14, 15

9:00-3:30 (1/2 hour lunch) - breakfast and lunch provided

**Credit Recovery—High School students who have credits to make up towards graduation**

Wednesday's—June 10; 17; 24; July 1; 8; 15

9:00-3:30 (1/2 hour lunch)—breakfast and lunch provided

**Extended School Year for students with IEP's who would benefit from summer programming**

Tuesday/Wednesday—June 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, July 1, 7, 8, 14, 15

9:30-3:00 (1/2 hour lunch) - breakfast and lunch provided

Limited transportation available.

If interested in having your student attend summer school, please contact the office and let us know of your

## 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](mailto: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

