



"We Teach Students; not classes"

VOYAGEURS NEWS

Hex 1 Newsletter

September 2014

Welcome to the first installment of the Voyageurs news for the 2014-2015 school year. The school year has started well with a record enrollment in grades 6-12. We are happy to have each of your children with us this year.

Thus far this year, we have had students on expeditions to Itasca State Park; Bemidji State Park; Crow Wing State Park, the Renaissance Festival in Shakopee and as I write this, our seniors are on a week long expedition in North Dakota learning about how we in northern Minnesota get our electricity as part of their senior science seminar.

The staff and school board of Voyageurs very much believe in the value of learning by doing and learning by experiencing. We know that when students are actively engaged in a learning experience, it becomes more meaningful and real to them. We will continue to offer expedition opportunities to students in all grade levels throughout the year.

Spring Expeditions

Voyageurs has set aside the week of May 25th for our big expedition week. Staff are just starting the planning process, but it looks like we will have the following out of state expeditions available to our high school students:

Texas—Becky

New York City—Julie

Winnipeg—Cindy

Seattle—Troy

Look for more specific information at the Parent Night on October 9th. Non-refundable deposit will be \$80.00; total family contribution will be \$275.00

In This Issue

- Ramp Up to Readiness & College Knowledge Month
- Counseling Services & After School Credit Recovery and Academic Support Sessions
- New Space
- Attendance Expectations



North Dakota Power Trip—September 2014

Ramp Up to Readiness

Every Wednesday morning the entire student body spends time learning about themselves, their interests, and trying to figure out what they hope to accomplish after graduation from high school. Below you will find a great description of the Ramp Up To Readiness Program.

WHAT IS RAMP-UP to READINESS™?

Ramp-Up to Readiness™ is a school-wide advisory program that helps students in grades 6 through 12 master the knowledge, skills and habits for success in a high-quality college program, whether it be at a technical college, a community college or a four-year college or university. Readiness means reaching the following goals by the end of high school.

1. Academic Readiness: The ability to succeed in first-year, credit bearing courses at a technical college, a community college or a four-year college or university
2. Admissions Readiness: The ability to meet admissions requirements at a range of postsecondary institutions
3. Career Readiness: The ability to identify careers that match personal, financial, and other goals and an understanding of the skills, credentials, and experiences required to succeed in those careers
4. Financial Readiness: The ability to cover the cost of study at a post-secondary institution through savings, loans and financial aid.
5. Personal and Social Readiness: The ability to set educational goals, make and monitor progress toward them, and create relationships with peers and adults that support academic success

The Ramp-Up to Readiness™ curriculum includes 30 engaging and interactive Advisory Activities designed for 30 minute sessions and 5 class-period long Workshops aligned for each grade level (6th through 12th) in an easy to use format. Sample topics include:

- Seeking Help in High School
- Requirements for Graduation vs. Postsecondary Admittance Identifying Sparks
- Understanding Decision Making Setting SMART Goals
- Power of Personality

At least twice a year students update two tools: the Postsecondary Plan and the Readiness Rubric. The Postsecondary Plan helps students ask and answer the question: What do I want to do with my life after high school? Similarly, the Readiness Rubric helps students ask and answer: What do I need to do to reach that goal? Students articulate, communicate, and update their plans for life after high school in their Postsecondary Plans, while they continuously monitor their progress toward being college ready by the end of high school using the Readiness Rubric.

Ramp up to Readiness was developed by the University of Minnesota and is currently being used in over 100 schools representing over 55,000 students.

COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE MONTH

As part of our World's Best Workforce plan Voyageurs is putting special emphasis on raising post-secondary awareness for all of our students. During the month of October, which in Minnesota is called "COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE MONTH", students will go to BSU for a college fair, visit with college recruiters who come to our campus. We will also be working with the Boys and Girls Club of Bemidji accessing their staff and their Career Launch program on our campus.



Camp Site at Crow Wing State Park—September 2014

COUNSELING SUPPORT AT VOYAGEURS

Voyageurs has established partnerships with North Homes, Inc. and Evergreen Services to provide counseling support to our student body. Susan Kramer from North Homes is at Voyageurs on Thursdays and Megan Bushian from Evergreen will be on campus on Tuesday's.

Megan will provide basic social work/counseling support while Susan provides more in-depth therapeutic, treatment. If you would like to have your son or daughter access support, please contact your child's advisor and it will be arranged.

AFTER SCHOOL CREDIT RECOVERY AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Starting the week of October 21, Voyageurs will start an after school program for HS students needing credit recovery and MS students needing extra assistance in their academics. Limited transportation home will be available. Advisors will visit with the HS students who should do credit recovery and MS students will be identified after the completion of NWEA MAP Assessments within the next two weeks. Parents will be notified via letter about the programming options.

NEW ADDITION

Very soon our new addition will be ready for us to occupy. The walls are up and the painting is done, we are just waiting for the finishing touches to be completed. Once the new space is completed, the Middle school program will move in. The classroom spaces the middle school is currently occupying will then be repurposed as CTE classroom space for Ross Millar, our Industrial Technology teacher. We anticipate the space will include a small woods shop and other Technology and Engineering equipment and learning opportunities for our student body.

Tours of the new space will be given on Thursday, October 9th at the Parent Night.

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 grade, contact Jean Fjelsta in the office.

Her e-mail is:

jean@voyageursschool.org

218-444-3130

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 education.

Valid reasons (excused absences) for missing school include illness (verified by Dr's note after more then 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 they will feel better and 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 then 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. Students under the age of 17 with excessive unexcused absences will have truancy filed on them.