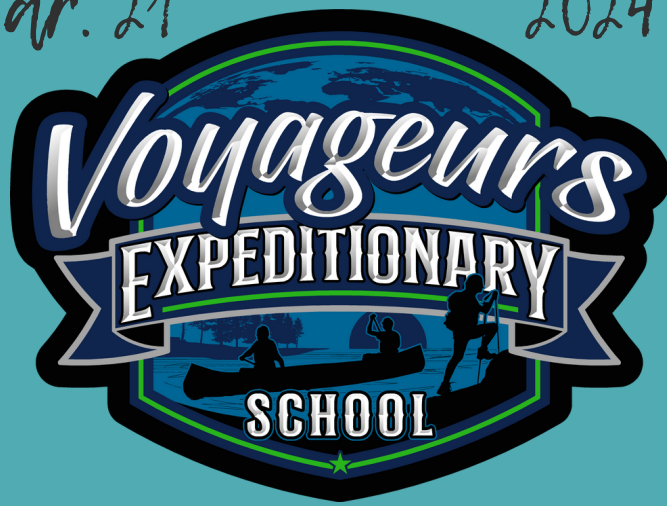


Mar. 21

2024



# VES Spotlight

Reminder - we DO have school this Friday, March 22!



Students can access their headrush login from our website! Have them show you what they are working on!



Check out the resources page on our website!  
<https://www.voyageursschool.org/student-family-resources/>



We continue to emphasize that we have fewer days in school so STUDENTS need to make them count. Attendance, showing up as best they can, and being productive, are important. Being present in school will promote success in school. Thanks for your active participation in your students' success in school.



Please call (218)444-3130 or email [attendance@voyageursschool.org](mailto:attendance@voyageursschool.org) if your student will be gone from school for any reason. Lunch count needs to be submitted by 8:40 am if your student plans to eat hot lunch. Thanks!

## Upcoming Events

- Mar. 22 ~ Friday School
- Mar. 29 ~ NO SCHOOL ~ Staff Day
- Apr. 4 ~ End of Block 4
- Apr. 5 ~ No school
- Apr. 10-12 ~ Osprey Wilds Junior Trip
- Apr. 10 ~ MCA Reading
- Apr. 12 ~ Friday School
- Apr. 18 ~ MCA Math
- Apr. 18 ~ Celebration of Learning
- Apr. 19 ~ No school
- Apr. 22 ~ Community Service Day
- Apr. 24 ~ MCA Science ~ 8th & Select HS students

Follow VES:



### End of Block 4 approaching!

The end of the current grading block is Thursday, April 4. Let's finish strong with great attendance and completing unfinished work!

### New Cell Phone Policy

Voyageurs will be "Cell Phone Free" during the school hours of 8:30-3:05, starting in Block 5, April 8. See the attached poster and letter at the end of this newsletter, or visit our website on the news, calendar & lunch menu page. We have hopes that this will increase student concentration throughout the day, and allow for higher levels of success. Thank you for your support of this important policy.



### Bus Registration for next year - Important



Looking ahead to next fall, the Bemidji district needs to know if you plan to utilize their transportation to get your student(s) to VES next year. Please fill out the required information by going to our website and clicking on "bus registration" at the top of the page to avoid delays in busing next fall. The district deadline is May 1 to ensure busing for the first day of school.



HS Update  
Brad's and  
Cynthia's  
Advisory

Thanks so much for helping spring conferences go smoothly. With only a couple weeks left, it's important to finish strong. Our last block features two service days, an e-week, prom, graduation, and two planned excursions. It promises to be a busy and fun spring.



MS Update  
Sam's  
Advisory

Things are humming along for all of us in the middle school despite the winter-like weather! We have been working hard in all of our classes this year and we are getting the chance to display it this week with MAP testing. So far the students are showing us what they know and showing some awesome growth! After testing concludes this week, we have the end of the grading block in sight. Please remind your students that they still have time to check in with their teachers and attempt to make up any missing work so we can end the grading block strong!

[www.voyageursschool.org](http://www.voyageursschool.org)



Starting April 8, 2024...

# VES is Cell Phone Free

The VES School Board passed an “Away for the Day” cell phone policy for grades 6-12. This goes into effect on **April 8, 2024.**

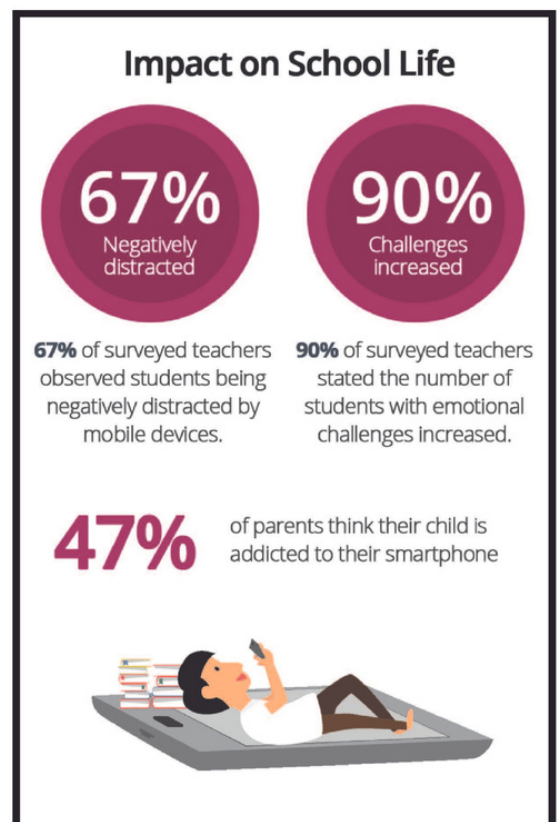
- Students may not use a cell phone or have a phone out from 8:30 - 3:05 except during lunch.
- Cellular phones and other personal electronic devices shall be either:
  - Left at home, turned off and placed in a secure location, turned in to the office/admin before 8:30 am, or turned in to the student’s advisor before 8:30 am

## The Why:

- Help students stay more present and engaged in their learning
- Increase academic success
- Promote healthy, face-to-face social interaction
- Decrease distractions

## Additional Info:

- More specifics will be communicated in the next few weeks leading up to April 8.
- This is an adjustment for all of us and will take effort, support, and commitment from families, students, and staff.
- Please reach out to Ryan with any questions or concerns.



Please visit [Awayfortheday.org](http://Awayfortheday.org) for more information about the impact of cell phone use in schools



March 13, 2024

Voyageurs Students and Families,

We want you to know about an important school policy change taking place at the start of Block 5 (April 8, 2024). **Voyageurs will be a cellphone-free school.** As a result, cell phones (and any cellular devices like smart watches) should remain at home.

If it is necessary to send a phone to school with your child, it will need to be turned off and kept in a place off of their body or they can turn it in to their advisor who will keep it in a locked box until the end of the day. No access to personal devices will be allowed during the day, except during lunch.

This is a change from previous years when teachers set individual classroom policies. We will now have a uniform, school-wide policy supported by a progressive discipline policy to reinforce it. Specifics will be communicated in the next few weeks as we get closer to April 8.

As a pro-technology school, VES wants to help teach and promote appropriate digital citizenship. Our school staff has overwhelmingly agreed that a consistent, school-wide policy to bar cell phones from the school environment will help students stay more present and engaged in their learning. The intent is to support them in their academic success and promote healthy, face-to-face social interaction by removing a major temptation and avoidable distractions. When a cellphone dings or buzzes, the minds of even the best students wander from the task at hand. Studies have shown that it can take up to ten minutes for the brain to refocus and reengage after being interrupted by a cell phone. The constant dings and buzzes affect classmates and teachers, as well as their brains, which have been trained to respond to the stimuli. We want our students' brains to respond and engage in learning and interacting with others in our school community.

Please help us promote this policy by speaking to your student/s about it and making a plan to deal with their phones for the day. We would prefer they stay home to avoid the temptation altogether, but we will gladly lock them up (assuming no risk for damage or loss) for the day if the device must come to school.

Thank you for your support as we make decisions with the academic and emotional health of our students in mind. We believe our new **"Away for the Day"** phone policy will have an impact through increased academic performance and reduced discipline issues.

Sincerely,

Ryan Haasch, Executive Director