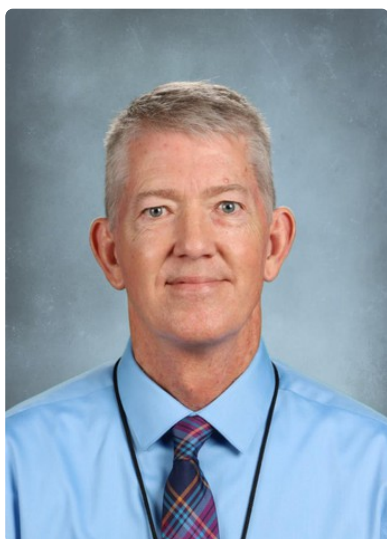


Voyager News

February 2024



Principal's Message

Greetings, Parents,

In September's newsletter, I shared that one of our main goals for the year is to grow as reading teachers by implementing our new Benchmark Advance 2022 reading curriculum. Here is a "mid-season" update.

Benchmark Advance is centered on the science of structured reading. Early reviews from teachers have been overwhelmingly positive, with reports that the new curriculum has a wealth of wonderful resources and is much more user-friendly than past literacy approaches. Also, Benchmark Advance is more rigorous in terms of what students are asked to do, but they have answered the call by producing amazing work. There is typically a dip in scores with the first-year implementation of curriculum, but I am happy to report that our winter STAR scores are robust and do not show a decline.

While most are pleased with Benchmark and the learning we are seeing from students, I want to acknowledge the extra effort that teachers and literacy coaches have put in to learn and teach something new. This is no small task, and our teachers deserve recognition for logging extra time daily to polish each lesson. Parents, if you get a chance, thank your child's teacher for their dedication to this special project.

I am curious to hear about the parent experience with Benchmark. Do you have feedback on the Home-School Connection letters that are sent home at the beginning of each unit? Does your child talk about literacy work in the classroom? If you have any input, feel free to share it with me or with your child's teacher. The upcoming conferences in March would be a good opportunity to do so.

Regards,
Dana Christenson

Mark Your Calendar

Registration Opens for Fall 2024 Kindergarten.....	2/5
PAC Spring Fling Planning Meeting, 6:30 PM in Media Center.....	2/6
Two Hour Late Start	2/7
No School.....	2/16
No School - Presidents' Day.....	2/19
Evening Conferences.....	3/7
No School - Conferences.....	3/8
Evening Conferences.....	3/11
No School.....	3/15
No School - Easter.....	3/28-4/1
Two-Hour Late Start.....	4/10
VES "Spring Fling", 5:30-8:00 PM.....	4/12

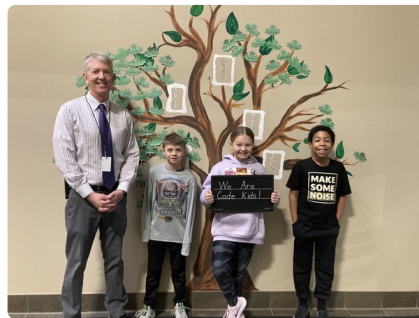
VES Exemplary Students Earn Code Kid Recognition

Let's celebrate these Voyager students who have earned January Code of Conduct Awards! They were seen demonstrating our Code of Conduct traits of responsibility, honesty, respect, fairness, and kindness. Thank you, students!



Code Kids

Eve Meier and Izadora Thomas



Code Kids

Jarrett Kittelson, Rori Schmitz and Jabari Solomon



Code Cash Kids

Kennedy Firme, Tommy Rochefort, Riley Sutherland, Beckett Strickler, Greyson Korn, Loucinda Griffith, Hope Holte, Avery Swedberg and Evelyn Montbriand. Not picture: Owen Behm

Kindergarten enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year begins February 5th.
Enrollment will be virtual - get the process started to hold your spot for the 2024-2025 School Year

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN

TUITION FREE, FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN

District-wide online enrollment opens February 5!

Watch our Kindergarten video for a glimpse at what a school day looks like for kindergarten students! Scan the QR code here.

To register your child, visit www.alexschools.org/Kindergarten

Carlos Elementary (320) 852-7181 • Garfield Elementary (320) 762-3359 • Lincoln Elementary (320) 762-3320
Mithras Science Magnet (877) 736-1419 • Voyager Elementary (320) 762-3325 • Woodland Elementary (320) 762-3300

Kindergarten Registration Open

It's time for kindergarten registration for the upcoming Class of 2037! Online registration opens Monday, February 5. See details on the attached document. Please share this information with other parents who have students eligible for kindergarten. Children must

be five years old by September 1 to be eligible. If any parents are "undecided," I would be more than happy to meet to answer questions and/or give a tour of the building. Just contact Dana at 320-762-3325.

Help Wanted

There are several opportunities for employment within Alexandria Public Schools. See adjoining flyer for details.



Winter Gear Donations Appreciated

Do you have new or gently used winter gear items you would be willing to donate? We need the following:

- Thick winter gloves/mittens
- Snowpants/coats/boots: sizes 10/12, 14/16, and 16/18 or women's/men's small



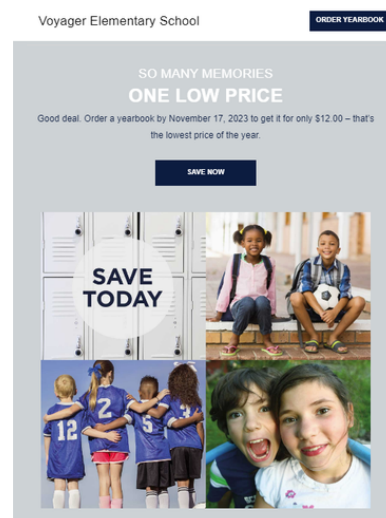
Early Childhood Screenings Available

Do you have a preschooler in your home? Early Childhood screenings are required for every Minnesota student just after turning age 3 and before entering kindergarten. The screening is a free and simple check of how your child is growing, developing and learning. Please register at www.alexandria.ce.eleyo.com. See

adjoining flyer.

Order your child's yearbook today!

It's time to order your child's yearbook. See adjoining flyer.



Voyager Elementary School

Email: mronning@alexschools.org

Website: www.alexschools.org

Location: [203 Voyager Drive, Alexandria, MN, USA](http://203VoyagerDrive,Alexandria,MN,USA)

Phone: [320-762-3325](tel:320-762-3325)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/alexmnschools/>

Voyager Elementary does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, or disability.



Mary Ronning

Mary is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

