

# Vance Charter School Newsletter

Volume 6

Edition 1

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## **General and Schoolwide Announcements**

Welcome to our first 2016-2017 newsletter. It is our hope that we are able to send this home regularly in an effort to keep everyone informed of events happening at Vance Charter School. This is a big year for Vance Charter School and we want to be sure we are reaching everyone! Please communicate with other parents and let them know about the newsletter. Anyone not receiving them should submit their email address to Mr. Connolly.

Please check our website ([www.vancecharter.org](http://www.vancecharter.org)) regularly for updates and announcements. Available on the website is the 2016-2017 school calendar, our testing calendar, our daily schedule, and other useful information. You can also follow us through our Facebook page, Twitter, and other social media!

## **Calendar**

Vance Charter School will be closed on Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, in observance of Labor Day.

## **Testing and Accountability**

Vance Charter School is required to administer several assessments throughout the school year. We will kick off this year with our BOG 3 (Beginning of Grade) Reading test on September 1<sup>st</sup> for third grade only. We will be administering the CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) to third grade and the ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills) to our fourth through eighth grades on September 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. These tests are required and make-ups will be administered. We do ask that you make every effort to be present for these required assessments and to arrive to school on time as no students will be admitted to a site once testing has begun. For the rest of the school year's testing calendar, please refer to our website. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Pegram at school. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **Music**

### **Band and Orchestra**

We are looking forward to an exciting Band and Orchestra program this year. Student **signup sheets** are provided outside of the music room. Band (Tuesdays and Wednesdays) and Orchestra (Thursdays and Fridays) are available to students in grades 4 through 9. We will have our meetings from 2:35 – 3:10 PM. The first meeting will be the week of August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Students should attend with their instruments if they have them. All students signed up should come to the meeting. Instruments need to be provided by the student. Information on how to acquire an instrument is available from Mrs. Neely.

### **Guitar**

Guitar Club will begin on August 30<sup>th</sup> for beginners and September 1<sup>st</sup> for advanced students. Students will meet in the music room from 3:20 – 4:15 PM. Students need their own instrument and lesson book. Signup sheets are provided outside of the music room.

## **Vance Charter School Spirit Store**

You've got spirit! Thanks to everyone for a great launch to our Spirit Store! The store will remain open for the next week for more shopping; you can shop at dismissal every day. Because of the strong sales this week, our selection of smaller sizes is fairly limited, but we will be re-stocking soon.

Coming next week to the Spirit Store: Vance Charter School pajama bottoms and water bottles! Check in on Tuesday to see these cool new items!

Parent volunteers are needed to operate the school store each afternoon (when open) for approximately one hour. Please contact Lisa Bender, Capital Campaign Coordinator, at [benderl@vancecharter.org](mailto:benderl@vancecharter.org) for more details.

All profits from the School Spirit Store go directly to Vance Charter School Foundation and its efforts to provide funding for the continued expansion of our future home at 2090 Ross Mill Rd.

## **Kindergarten**

The Kinder Team would like to welcome all of our families to Vance Charter School! Our newest members of the Vance Charter School family had a great start to Kindergarten. The students each came for their first day and all students will be coming to class on Monday. Please be sure you have all forms to your teacher by Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Supply fee and cardstock also need to be turned in by Monday.

We are looking forward to a very exciting school year with our Kindergarteners and their families!

## **Mrs. Goswick – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies**

### **Homeroom 7G**

Parents of students in Homeroom 7G (Goswick) are asked to sign up for your child's Remind 101. It will be the primary manner of sharing homeroom information throughout the year. Sign up instructions were inside the yellow folder sent home on the first day of classes. They are also posted outside the classroom door.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

All parents of 8<sup>th</sup> graders are asked to sign up for REMIND 101 (if you have not already done so). This is the primary means of communication about all things social studies including scheduled tests and upcoming assignments. Instructions were sent home with students on the first day of classes and are also posted beside my door.

Specific information will be provided at the end of this newsletter.

## **Vance Charter School/Vance Charter School Foundation and You!**

As we move towards the future, great things are happening at Vance Charter School. Our new K-9 facility is scheduled for completion on October 4, 2016. Beginning October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Vance Charter School will have a Fall Break of sorts- there will be no classes for two weeks while we relocate from Dabney Drive to Ross Mill Road. This will truly take everyone that is a part of Vance Charter School! Students will come back to school in their new home on November 7<sup>th</sup>!! Also in the works is the construction of our high school addition, which will be used to house our 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. But we need your help to make Vance Charter School everything it can be! Students will come back to school on November 7<sup>th</sup> to an unfinished gymnasium and an unfinished multipurpose room. As part of this newsletter, there are two sections of information: the first details for everyone how the various groups that make up

Vance Charter School work together cohesively to provide the students of Vance Charter School a full, well-rounded education – academically, morally, ethically, and athletically. The second document provides details on how you can help Vance Charter School be everything that it can be for our students of today as well as our students of tomorrow.

As has always been the case at Vance Charter School, we cannot do things without the support of our families – past, present, and future. That has never been more true than it is right now. If you or someone you know is interested in making a donation towards the completion of our new home, he or she should contact Mr. Connolly, a board member, or a Foundation board member to more fully investigate this opportunity. How far the Foundation and the School is able to take these goals and aspirations is truly dependent on the level of support that is received.

We are looking forward to a very exciting future and providing your child the best possible education.

### **Volunteer Logs**

Parents/students must submit volunteer logs. Vance Charter School's expectation is that all families will provide at least 15 hours of volunteer service per semester. As per our charter, we must have these on file. Volunteerism Guidelines were distributed at Open House and are attached to this newsletter.

Last year, **19,359.40** total hours of volunteer time were documented. This number far exceeded our goal. Congratulations and thank you to everyone that put forth efforts to help Vance Charter School. Our goal this year will be **20,327.37** hours of documented volunteer time. Considering that our student population has grown by 20%, this number should be easily obtainable.

### **Adopt a Teacher**

If you or your family would be interested in helping a teacher or teachers make the move up the road, please let Mr. Connolly know. We've all had those teachers that made an incredible impact on our lives or the lives of our children. This would be a great way to say "thank you" to that special someone. If you are interested in being a part of this, please email Mr. Connolly. Please do not go directly to the teacher. Email a list of those teachers you would be willing to adopt to Mr. Connolly. If the answer is "just assign me a teacher," that would be great, too!

## **Personal Electronic Devices and Vance Charter School Technology Acceptable Use Policy**

### **STUDENT VALUABLES**

Students should not bring large amounts of currency, electronic devices (other than calculators and watches), radios, CD's, MP3 players, IPODS, headphones, cameras, Ipads, tablets, or other valuables to school. Students may bring cell phones to school. However, they must be kept turned off, secured, and out of sight. Cell phones that are in an active mode and disrupt instructional time will, upon first offense, be confiscated for the day and returned to the student's parent. A second or subsequent violation of the cell phone policy will result in confiscation of the cell phone for the remainder of the school year. If the teacher or administrator finds a student in possession of one of the other cited unauthorized items, it will be confiscated and held in the administrative office for parent pick up (first offense). The student's parent may pick up the item from the teacher or administrator who confiscates the item. Subsequent offenses will result in the item(s) remaining in school possession until the end of the school year, at which time the parent may pick up the item(s) to take home. The same is true for any personal electronic device, including headphones. See Discipline Policy on page 20 for additional consequences.

### **VANCE CHARTER SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY**

The internet is provided for school-related purposes only. No right of privacy exists in any communication sent or received via the internet which may or may not be saved to a hard drive or other media device. VCS reserves the right to log, monitor, examine, and evaluate all usage of its network including, but not limited to, its email system and users mailboxes as a part of ensuring compliance with board policy and applicable laws and regulations. All users waive any right to privacy with respect to their files and communications and consent to access and disclosure of them to authorized school personnel. In the event of any violations of Board policy or law, VCS and school based disciplinary guidelines will be followed. This may include revocation of access to the network and appropriate disciplinary or legal action.

No personal electronic devices or equipment (cell phone, smart phone, Ipad, tablet, Ipod, MP3 Player, headphones, etc.) of any kind may be used by a student unless specified through an IEP or 504 Plan. If a student needs internet access, a device will be provided by the school for use during the school day only.

Individual users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette, the School's rules as stipulated in its technology policy, and all relevant state and federal laws in the use of Vance Charter School networks. The following activities, for example, will not be permitted:

- Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures or sound files
- Using obscene language
- Harassing, insulting, bullying, or attacking others
- Damaging computers, computer systems, software, or computer networks
- Violating copyright laws
- Copying software to or from School computers
- Using anyone else's identify, user ID, or password or otherwise gaining unauthorized access to computer or network sources
- Intentionally wasting limited resources
- Using the School's computer or networks for commercial purposes
- Taking pictures or videos of any kind

Violations may result in the loss of access privileges as well as other disciplinary or legal action.

### **USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES, THE INTERNET, AND EMAIL PERMISSION FORM**

Vance Charter School is pleased to offer students access to a computer or similar device for electronic mail and the Internet. To gain access to e-mail and the Internet, all students must obtain parental permission as verified by the signatures on the form. Should a parent prefer that a student not have email and internet access, use of the computer is still possible for more traditional purposes, such as word processing.

#### **What is Possible?**

Access to email and the internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, museums, and other repositories of information and to exchange personal communication with other internet users around the world. Although Vance Charter School uses a number of content filters, families should be aware that some material accessible via the internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive. While the purposes of the school are to use internet resources for constructive education goals, students may find ways to access other materials. We believe that the benefits to students from access to the internet in the form of information resources and opportunities for

collaboration exceed the disadvantages. But, ultimately, parents and guardians of a minor are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. Therefore, we support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

### **What is expected?**

Students are responsible for appropriate behavior on the school's computer, just as they are in a classroom or on a school playground. Communications on the computers are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. It is expected that users will comply with school standards and the specific rules set forth below. **The use of the computer or other electronic device is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused.** The user is personally responsible for his/her actions in accessing and utilizing the school's computer resources. The students are advised never to access, keep, or send anything that they would not want their parents or teachers to see.

### **What are the rules?**

Privacy – Computer storage may be treated like school lockers. Administrators may review communications to maintain system integrity and insure that students are using the system responsibly.

Illegal copying – Students should never download or install any commercial software, shareware, or freeware onto a computer hard drive or disks, unless they have written permission from an Administrator nor should students copy other people's work or intrude into other people's files.

Inappropriate material or language – No profane, abusive, or impolite language shall be used to communicate nor should materials be accessed which are not in line with the rules of school behavior. A good rule to follow is never view, send, or access materials that you would not want your teachers and parents to see. Should students encounter such materials by accident, they should report it to their teacher immediately.

## Guidelines

These are guidelines to follow to prevent the loss of electronic device privileges and avoid disciplinary action at school.

1. Do not use an electronic device unless under the supervision of an adult (parent or staff member).
2. Do not use an electronic device to harm other people or their work.
3. Do not damage the electronic device or the network in any way.
4. Do not interfere with the operation of the network by installing illegal software, shareware, or freeware.
5. Do not violate copyright laws.
6. Do not view, send, or display offensive messages or pictures.
7. Do not take pictures or videos unless specifically directed to do so by a Vance Charter School staff member.
8. Do not share your password with another person.
9. Do not waste limited resources such as disk space or printing capacity.
10. Do not trespass in someone else's folder, work, or files.
11. Do notify an adult immediately if, by accident, you encounter materials which violate the rules of appropriate use.
12. Be prepared to be held accountable for your actions and for the loss of privileges if the Rules of Appropriate Use are violated.

No personal electronic devices should be used at any time unless the direction of an IEP or 504 Plan dictates otherwise.

## **Girl Scout Troop 1119**

Girl Scout Troop 1119 is gearing up for another exciting year in scouting! We meet one Saturday a month from 9:00 – 11:00 AM at the school. We also participate in many different activities in the community.

If you would like to become a part of our troop, we will need for you to go online to [www.nccoastalpines.org](http://www.nccoastalpines.org) to register your daughter. Go to “Sign up today.” As you register your daughter, be sure to sign up for **Troop #1119**. You will receive confirmation of your registration and we usually receive an email informing our troop leaders that we have a new member. If you have questions or difficulty, please don’t hesitate to ask for help by emailing Mrs. Munn ([munnfamily08@gmail.com](mailto:munnfamily08@gmail.com)) or Mrs. Williford ([willifordm@vancecharter.org](mailto:willifordm@vancecharter.org)). Please register before September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Our first troop meeting is on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Once you are registered, you can come to the meeting from 9:00 – 11:00 AM in the Upper Café at school. We will have our Investiture/Rededication ceremony from 10:30 – 11:00 AM on that Saturday. Parents are welcome to join us for the ceremony. We will also give you troop information at this time and have paperwork to be filled out. Troop dues are \$30.00 for the year, and are due at that meeting.

We are looking forward to a wonderful scouting year with lots of fun activities and adventures!

## **Vance Charter School Volunteerism Guidelines 2016 – 2017**

- When Vance Charter School's charter was first approved 18 years ago, one of the things that made Vance Charter School different was the understanding that parents would volunteer at their child's school. Parent volunteerism is also one of the important items that AdvancED investigates during their five year visits for our re-accreditation. We MUST provide documentation with regard to the volunteer hours provided by the families of students at Vance Charter School. The loss of accreditation could have serious negative implications for Vance Charter School.
- All families are expected to contribute a minimum of 15 hours of volunteer time to Vance Charter School per semester. This equals a total of a minimum of 30 hours of volunteer time per year but the time should be spread across both semesters. However, hours can be carried over from one semester to the next, if deemed appropriate. Those selected to serve as chaperones on "overnight" field trips will earn enough hours to count for the entire year.
- There are numerous opportunities to provide volunteer service to Vance Charter School. If you are unsure of how you can provide service to Vance Charter School, ask your child's teacher or Mr. Connolly or Dr. Read. They are all willing to help you.
- Volunteer logs are available on the Vance Charter School website ([www.vancecharter.org](http://www.vancecharter.org)), from your child's teacher, or at the front desk.
- Volunteer logs must be initialed or signed off on by a Vance Charter School employee.
- Volunteer logs must be turned in to your youngest child's homeroom teacher. For example, if you have students in 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade, your volunteer form would include all hours you provided, regardless of which student the hours were provided for but the form, itself, would be turned in to your 1<sup>st</sup> grader's teacher.
- For students whose family has not met their volunteer expectation, report cards will be held at the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter marking period.
- A schedule of Saturday workdays will be made available, during which family members can provide volunteer service to Vance Charter School.
- Bringing siblings or children that are not yet school age on a field trip will disqualify a person from claiming volunteer hours. It does not, however, prevent the person from attending said field trip.
- Please note that how one completes the chaperone form determines if one can gain volunteer hours. If you state that your vehicle can carry a total of "1" or "0" students, then you are unable to claim volunteer hours.
- Failure to meet one's expected volunteer hours may result in a conference with Administration and/or the Board of Directors

## **Easy—and Rewarding!—Ways to Donate to Vance Charter Foundation**

**Amazon Smile** – Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase to Vance Charter School Foundation.

1. Go to **www.smile.amazon.com**
2. Sign in or create an account with Amazon. If you already have an Amazon account, you can use your existing user ID and password.
3. You will have the option to select the charity you would like your proceeds to go to. Please select **VANCE CHARTER FOUNDATION**.
4. Buy what you want/need. Make sure you are ordering from **smile.amazon.com**; simply ordering from Amazon will not benefit the school.
5. **EARN 1 VOLUNTEER HOUR:** Bring in a screenshot of your smile.amazon.com registration page showing your name and the designation: Supporting: Vance Charter School Foundation

**Merchant Match:** This credit card processing company will give 50% of the profits from credit card processing fees back to the Vance Charter School Foundation.

1. If you or someone in your family has a business that accepts credit cards, we would like to talk with you. Please contact Lisa Bender, our Capital Campaign Coordinator, for more details at [benderl@vancecharter.org](mailto:benderl@vancecharter.org).
2. **EARN 2 VOLUNTEER HOURS:** Connect us with a local merchant who meets with and signs up with Merchant Match.

**Pledging or Donating:** Please consider making a recurring donation the VANCE CHARTER SCHOOL FOUNDATION.

1. **EARN 2 VOLUNTEER HOURS:** Return your completed pledge form with its necessary information to your (youngest) child's homeroom teacher OR set up your monthly pledge online by using the **DONATE TODAY** tab on the VCS website. You can set up your pledge either with your credit card info or your bank information. Questions? Ask Lisa Bender [[benderl@vancecharter.org](mailto:benderl@vancecharter.org)]
2. **EARN 1 VOLUNTEER HOUR:** Meet with Lisa Bender, Capital Campaign Coordinator, to discuss how you might be able to contribute with a recurring pledge. [[benderl@vancecharter.org](mailto:benderl@vancecharter.org)]

**Memorials /Legacy Gift--** A memorial donation or legacy gift can honor someone who has passed with a donation to the school he/she loved so much. Please contact our Capital Campaign Coordinator, Lisa Bender, for information on setting up memorial donations or legacy gifts. [[benderl@vancecharter.org](mailto:benderl@vancecharter.org)]

**EASIEST OF ALL: Drop your pocket change into the "Time for a Change" bucket in the front lobby every time you come into the school!! Your change will make our VCS change possible!**

***Thank you for supporting Vance Charter School Foundation!***