



NORTHERN EXPOSURE

The Newsletter of Village Academy North, Inc.

The weather is great, the stock market is up for a few days, and spring is in the air. This is definitely my favorite time of the year. Its also a great time for you to spend some quality time each evening with your child.

I encourage you to get outside and enjoy; take a walk, ride a bike, teach about a bug or a plant, read a story on the porch. There's plenty of other times for electronic games, TV, and being too busy. Make some memories.

VILLAGE
ACADEMY NORTH

SUMMER CAMP

READY FOR
SPRING?

FALL VPK

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SUMMER CAMP

It's still almost 12 weeks until school gets out, but that means it is time to start thinking about Summer Camp. We have two camps - one for elementary-age children (post-Kindergarten through 5th grade), and one for our post-VPK children.

We have tried Summer Camp two different ways, and we've learned that the best way is to transport the campers down to our main campus each morning. There they will each be part of a specific group (organized by age and gender), they have nearly 4 acres of grounds and facilities to enjoy, and we have daily swimming and offer weekly field trips.

For the first time we will offer a part-time option. Children may attend full-time for as little as two weeks, or part-time (either 2 or 3 days per week) for 5 to 10 weeks. When you sign up for less than 10 weeks, you must

commit to which weeks you will be attending so that we can manage our total attendance each week.

We are capacity limited to only 25 school-age campers, so please sign up early to secure your place. Don't miss the fun!

READY FOR SPRING?

Parents, please take home heavy jackets and other winter clothes. Perhaps leave one layer so your child can be warm on these cool mornings.

Please label everything your child brings. We have enough left-behind items to open a consignment shop!

Make sure you have brought sun screen and bug spray for your child, and signed the appropriate medical form. Remember, we can't put either of them on your child without it (DCF regulations).

FALL VPK REGISTRATION

If your child is entering VPK in the fall (age 4 by September 1), you must obtain a VPK eligibility certificate. You get these at a "Round-Up" held by the Early Learning Coalition. The next one is April 20 from 4:30 - 6:30 pm at the Ponce de Leon Mall. Make sure you take photocopies of your driver's license, proof of residency (such as a water bill); and your child's birth certificate.

BOOKMOBILE

We are very excited to have the county bookmobile making regular bi-weekly stops here at Village Academy North. Library cards are free, and books can be checked out for two weeks. In addition, the bookmobile staff conducts story telling for our JPK children and also does an art project!

CURRICULUM CHANGE

After a couple of years of providing excellent material, we believe the High Reach curriculum no longer is meeting our needs. Our SPS and JPS programs will be switching to Letter People next year, and we are very excited about the change. We were able to review all of the material that will be delivered to us and it really is first-rate. It better be, since we are going to spend about \$6,000 on this curriculum. We remain committed to providing the best learning opportunity for your children!

DATES TO REMEMBER	MAR 26 Early Kindergarten Registration	APR 6-13 County Schools Closed (North Open, No VPK)	APR 20 VPK Round-Up (Ponce Mall)	APR 28 Early Kindergarten Registration
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PEANUT ALLERGIES

The New York Times reported on a treatment for peanut allergies that could lead to general use in a couple of years. The approach uses extremely small doses of peanuts - as little as one-thousandth of a single peanut - that are increased over time. Most of the children in the studies developed a tolerance for peanuts after two years. There are approximately 150 deaths per year in the United States due to food allergies, and half of those are caused by peanuts. Stay tuned!

STREET PARKING

Some of our parents occasionally park on Island Landing Drive instead of entering our parking lot. This is especially true for VPK drop-off and pick-up. This is a very dangerous practice and we encourage you to use our parking lot even during busy times. Eagle Creek residents are complaining that they are narrowly avoiding accidents with you and that your children are being put at risk. Please be more careful. Oh, and if the mail carrier gives you any grief, come tell me and I'll deal with him.

SUMMER VPK

St Johns County Public Schools has again contracted with Village Academy *North* to provide Summer VPK for eligible students. This program is free, but it is only for children who will begin Kindergarten this fall and have not participated in School Year VPK. If you have friends or neighbors that have moved into the area and who have children that missed out on School Year VPK, please tell them about this program. Summer VPK gets them ready for Kindergarten and it lets children be at parity with their peers who attended VPK during the year.

FALL AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

VPK parents, when you start making your arrangements for you new kindergartener, don't forget the Village Academy *North* After School program. We pick the children up in our air-conditioned, seatbelt-equipped vehicles. We provide a snack, homework time, and rotations through a variety of ever-changing, fun activities. And remember, we are open on at least 16 of the days the the elementary school after-school programs are closed - days when you have to still be at work.

ADMIN NOTES

Next fall, we will require a minimum of 3 children before we can provide before-school service to an elementary school... Check with the front desk and see if the reach numbers we have for you are current. Too often, cell phone and work phone numbers change, and we can't reach parents when their child is sick or has been hurt... Remember, our staff cannot prepare breakfast for your child in the morning. If you must bring it, you are responsible for preparation - and you may not use our kitchen facilities.