



NORTHERN EXPOSURE

The Newsletter of Village Academy North, Inc.

The first four weeks of school are behind us, and so far - so good. We are well into our curriculum, the children are settled into their classes and routines, and the fingerprint scanner is behaving! We have some kinks to start working out - the parking lot, on time arrivals, and clocking in and out. We also have some worries - mostly about H1N1. All in all, we think it is a great start to what we hope is an outstanding year!

VILLAGE
ACADEMY NORTH

H1N1 UPDATE

TARDINESS

SHOE SAFETY

VOLUME III, ISSUE 8
DATE: SEP 22, 2009

Village Academy North, Inc.
5970 US-1 N
St Augustine, FL 32095

(O) 904.824.7997
(F) 904.824.2344

info@village-academynorth.com
www.village-academynorth.com

H1N1

Hopefully you have all read the H1N1 update memo we provided two weeks ago. Some things have changed since then; for instance, it looks like only one shot will be needed for those aged 10 and over.

The health department has emphasized that there is no way to avoid contact with this virus short of locking yourself in a room for the next 6 months. However, there are still things we can all do to minimize the spread. You can help us by doing the following:

- + If a sibling contracts H1N1, please let us know. The cases we've seen so far were all contracted from school-age siblings.
- + If we call you to pick up your child for a medical evaluation, please do so promptly. We are now required to call you with a 100 degree fever and no other symptoms. The

quicker the child leaves the less contact with others

- + Use the hand sanitizer whenever you come into the building.

H1N1 SHOTS

We have informed the county that we are willing to be a Point of Delivery for H1N1 shots. As a reminder, the county will come here and give the vaccination to all children 6 months and older, siblings, and parents of children who are less than 6 months old. Please make sure the front desk knows if you are interested. These shots are supposed to be free. Our best information at this time is that they will be available in late October.

BE ON TIME...

The academic period for all classes except VPK 3 & 4 starts at 9:00 am. We need your child here by that time. When you arrive late, it disrupts the class, so please try harder to be here on time.

...BUT NOT EARLY!

We know the parking lot can be crazy, but we can make it better. VPK parents, unless you are on wraparound do not bring your child prior to 8:50 (VPK 1 & 2) or 9:05 (VPK 3 & 4). For noontime pickup, VPK 3 & 4 parents should not get in line prior to 12:05, because you prevent us from getting the 12:00 pickups out of the parking lot in an efficient manner.

SHOE SAFETY

We are having problems with children falling, tripping, etc. because of their shoe choices. Please have your child wear tennis shoes or other closed toe shoes. We have never allowed wheelies, but we must add a few other types to the list. Please don't send your child to school wearing crocs, flip flops, sandals, clogs, cowboy boots, rain boots or shoes with heels. Help us keep them safe!

CLOCKING IN AND OUT

Our operations software helps us track how many children are in the building, as well as their arrival and departure times. The inspector from Florida Department of Children and Families also uses this data. It is essential that it be accurate at all times, especially if there is an emergency such as a tornado or fire. That's why it is so important for you to clock your child in and out each day. In the first four weeks of school, at any given time we were off by 25-30 children because parents either didn't clock in or out. This is not acceptable. Please make certain you clock in and out each day.

DATES TO REMEMBER	OCT 9 First VPK Field Trip (Village <i>T-shirt</i> required)	OCT 16 St Johns County Schools Closed (Village <i>North</i> Open)	OCT 26-28 School Pictures	OCT 30 St Johns County Schools Closed (Village <i>North</i> Open)
--------------------------	---	--	-------------------------------------	--

CHILDREN AND TELEVISION

Ever watch a young child - even an infant - become fascinated by the movement and color on a TV or movie screen? As a parent, we shouldn't let that turn into an unhealthy amount of exposure to TV at a young age. The web site kidshealth.org published the results of an interesting study, that included the rather startling fact that infants and toddlers watch an average of 2 hours per TV per day. In the article, they state that "The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that kids under 2 years not watch any TV and that those older than 2 watch no more than 1 to 2 hours a day of quality programming." Other studies have shown that excessive TV/video watching contributes to obesity, a disposition towards violence, and an attraction to risky behaviors. It also causes over-stimulation which generates a host of problems we see here at the school. When we were raising our children, TV was known as the electronic baby sitter. We urge you - don't let it be yours. Other sites for you to look at for more information:

- www.kidshealth.org
- <http://www.aap.org/family/smarttv.htm> The Smart Guide to Kids TV
- <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/upload/Key-Facts-TV-Violence.pdf> Key Facts About TV Violence

ENRICHMENT CLASSES

Our Enrichment classes are off to a great start. Talk to your fellow parents and get their recommendation. We still have openings in a couple of the classes. They are available for JPK and VPK children.

MEDICINE

Parents, remember we cannot administer any medication to your child without a signed form. Also, we cannot administer any prescription medication unless it is in its original packaging. In addition, if the dosage on the box of an over-the-counter medicine says "Doctor recommendation" required for under age 6, we cannot administer the drug without a Doctor's note.

ADMIN NOTES

Please make sure you have 2-3 sets of clothes for your child in the classroom cubby. That includes VPK students..... Parents need to slow down in the parking lot; we have a lot of children crossing to the cars, and sometimes they break away from their parents in spite of best efforts...We are a non-smoking campus, *including* the parking lot...