

**Issue 4 - Week of:
Monday, October 23, 2017**

Principal's Message

Hello VMS Family,

A huge thanks to those who supported the "Walk in Her Shoes" event, the past Saturday. Domestic violence and sexual abuse/assault is, unfortunately, a pressing issue. Not only in Detroit, but everywhere. I left this event motivated and empowered to bring about change. I must also say that I have a new appreciation for women who walk in heels. Although Dr. Atkins, Brandon, and I, were pretty pitiful as we walked in red heels, we had a blast fellowshiping with our community. I plan on attending the event again, next year.

What a powerful professional development on data meetings! It's refreshing to have a dynamic team of professionals who are dedicated to the craft of teaching and learning. Our data team meetings will unveil what new learning needs to occur, in order to move our school forward. I truly, unequivocally believe that this is the year of change, and that our scholars will do what we know they can do, which is achieve at high levels.

With love,
Will Pickens, Principal
Voyageur Middle School

TIPS FOR PARENTS: PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES!

Parent teacher conferences let you take an active and informed part in your child's education. Knowing what is being taught at school lets you help your child to make connections with real-life situations to the topics being studied in school. Such reinforcement of school work at home makes a big difference in your child's understanding, motivation, and school performance.

Follow these Tips for Parents to make your conference more effective:

- **Start with a positive attitude.** Don't waste valuable conference time by focusing on the negative. You and the teacher are a team. Positive comments such as "How can we solve this problem working together?" will be the first step in coming up with good solutions.
- **Prepare questions in advance.** What groups has my child been assigned to? Is my child finishing the work assigned in class? The most important question of all is "How can I help my child at home?"

Upcoming Events

Monday, October 23

ANet Testing in ELA & Math continues

Wednesday, October 25

VMS Student Town Hall Assemblies

12:00-1:00 p.m. 6A, 6B, 6C, 7A, 7B

2:30-3:30 p.m. 7C, 8A, 8B, 8C

Monday, October 30

Student Progress Reports distributed

Tuesday, October 31

Halloween - Scholars may bring their school appropriate costume to school - **no masks**

allowed

November 16th & 17th

Noon Dismissal

Report Card Pick-Up

TELLING THE TRUTH

QUESTION: Recently, I've caught my son in some lies. He broke some strings on my tennis racquet but said he didn't, and he told me he had finished his homework when he hadn't. How can I teach him to be honest?

ANSWER: Students may lie because they're afraid of getting in trouble or to keep from having to do something they don't want to do. Let your son know that fibs—no matter how small—are never okay. When people aren't truthful, they can lose others' trust. Also, point out that telling small lies makes it easier to tell bigger ones. When you catch your child in a lie, give him a chance to explain (the strings popped when he hit the ball; he was in the middle of his homework when a friend invited him to play basketball). Then, ask him what he thinks he could do to make up for lying to you. He might use his allowance to get the racquet restrung or do his homework right after school from now on.

- **Let the teacher know if there is a particular topic you want to discuss.** If you want to talk about your child's progress in reading, let the teacher know. He'll be able to have test scores, textbooks, and other material on hand to aid your discussion.
- **Be specific.** Bring with you any work that is of concern. Describe clearly any situations in the classroom that make your child uneasy. Ask the teacher to describe your child's strengths and weaknesses. Ask to see your child's work.
- **Exchange information.** Let the teacher know about any situation at home that may affect your child's school work, such as a death in the family, a new baby, or a change in daycare arrangements.
- **Take notes.** Your conference may result in several actions for both you and the teacher. Taking notes will help you remember what was discussed and what was agreed upon.
- **Discuss the whole child.** Your child's social and emotional development is as important as academic success. Include questions about her interaction with other children and willingness to participate in class discussions.
- **Leave with a plan.** The conference should end with a clear statement of what you will do and what the teacher will do. Schedule follow-up meetings or telephone calls to be sure the plan is working.

Resource: <http://www.thelearningcommunity.us/resources-by-format/tips-for-parents/parent-teacher-conferences.aspx>

Quote of the Week:



*Newsletter Created by:
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