

VIERA CHARTER SCHOOL



PANTHERS

Aug.-Sept. 2019

TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

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Contact Information

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Mr. Armstrong
Dr. Spadaccini**

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Principal's Message

Welcome Back!

Hello Panther Families!

As we enter our seventh year of learning, we have much to celebrate: the phenomenal academic success of our students; the outstanding partnership we maintain between our parents, school, and community; and, our future expansion. Whether you are returning or this is your first year at Viera Charter School, we are excited to connect with you and your students so that we can support the needs and goals of all of our scholars. It is my hope that you will use our monthly newsletter to keep abreast of the many wonderful things that are happening at Viera Charter School.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Julie Cady



Mr. Armstrong, left, Dr. Spadaccini, Dr. Cady, and VCS Board Chairman Mr. Robert Jordan outline the facilities expansion at the annual staff breakfast Aug 2. See page 5 for more details.

VCS Families Meet Students' Teachers Aug. 7, 8



Formerly an early elementary teacher, Mrs. Sreenagesh, center, is the new elementary Art teacher.



Before care, after care staff.



Bus crew, right.

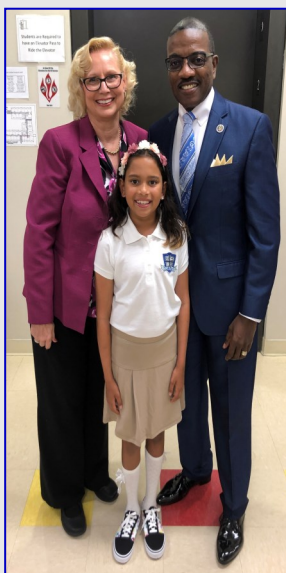


First Day of School

Crisp uniforms and new shoes were the order of the day when Dr. Cady and Mr. Jordan greeted students.



Mr. Cardillo is new to the third-grade faculty at VCS.



First Dress Down Day Matches School's Annual Theme

Our 2019-20 school theme is "Soaring Among the Stars" and all things space. "We always look for a theme that is positive, that encourage our students to shine, both academically, and with good character," Dr. Cady said.



Our first dress down day, August 15 was a space motif to match the annual theme. Other Dress Down Days include Bright Colors and Tacky Tourist, below.

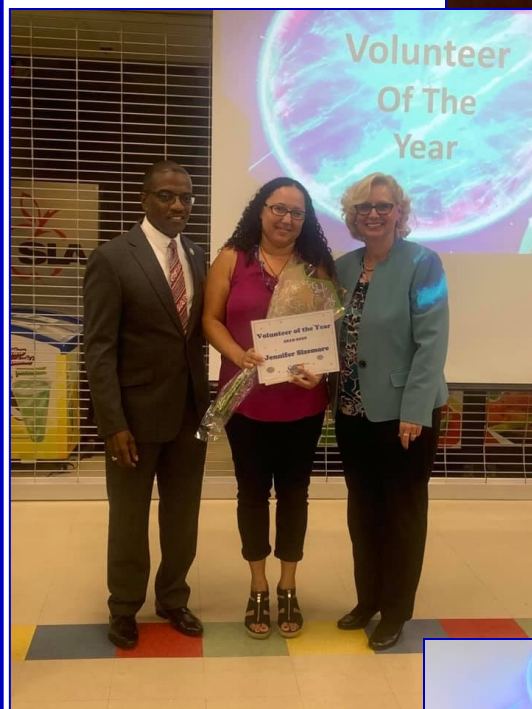


Mrs. Downie, Dr. Spero, and Mrs. Lynch get in the spirit.



Teacher of the Year, Employee of the Year Volunteer of the Year 2019-20 Honored

Dr. Cady presented the Teacher of the Year award to middle school Language Arts teacher Mrs. Hoffman. She has taught sixth grade Language Arts, and also headed the AVID program to help students prepare for higher education. She now works to strengthen Language Arts teaching skills and incorporate the AVID program schoolwide.



VCS School Board Chairman Robert Jordan and Dr. Cady presented Jen Sizemore with the Volunteer of the Year award at the Sept. 11 Board Meeting. Mrs. Sizemore has served as the PTSO Board President for many years and has served in many other capacities, launching many fundraising events.

Dr. Cady presented the Employee of the Year award to Mr. Boucher, who serves many functions at VCS. He has served as the IT manager since late last year, and now also teaches Computer Programming in middle school. He has spent many long hours serving the school's audio visual needs for afternoon and evening staff meetings, board meetings and club special events, and much more.



Student of the Month for September: Respect

Cayden Belton was named Student of the Month from all of kindergarten for the Character Quality, Respect. "Cayden is the ideal student,"



said his teacher, Mrs. Wyatt. "He is so respectful, so responsible. He is the model student." His name and photo



will be posted on the bulletin board, above, at the entrance to the cafeteria.

Second grade teacher Mrs. Cundiff takes photos of all the top students in each classroom for the character quality of the month. She posts it at the entrance of that classroom, like below.

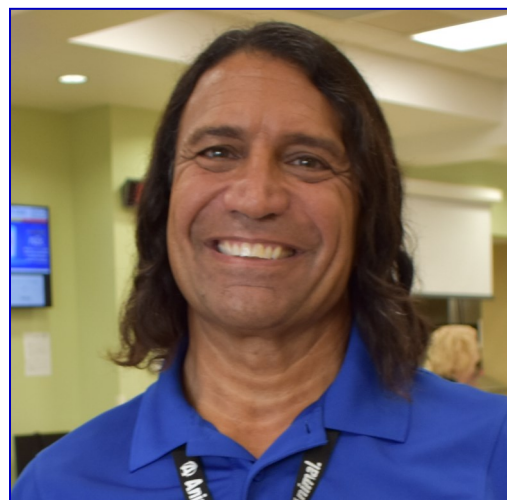
"I thought it would be great for more students to earn Student of the Month by choosing one for each classroom each month," she said.



Middle school students urged to make use of school resources for anti-bullying and coping

Vice Principal, Mr. Armstrong, is ever present in the halls and classrooms of middle school. He's quick with a smile and a joke, but one thing he doesn't put up with is students bullying others.

"You've been here at VCS for many years. When you see a new person, be a friend to them," he told assemblies of sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students shortly after the start of the school year. The effort attempts to transform the typical middle school experience, which has a general reputation as a tough time in a student's life, into a time of helping rather than harming others with reliance on resources.



Guidance Counselor Dr. Spero

New guidance counselor, Dr. Spero Tshontikidis, is one such resource. A retired U.S. Army Special Services Green Beret, he returned to service in Afghanistan after 9/11 to help root out terrorism. Dr. Spero was a guidance counselor at Westshore Junior/Senior High for many years.



Dr. Spero, as he is known to students, was hand-picked by Mr. Armstrong and recruited to join the Panther family.

"I'm delighted to be here," Dr. Spero said. "I feel like I can make a difference in students' lives, whether they are having a problem, or whether they need guidance on an academic matter."

New First-Grade Teachers Inspire, are Mentored By, Experienced Team Members

Veteran kindergarten teachers Mrs. Wyatt, left, Mrs. Zaroogian, Mrs. Devito, and Mrs. Downie are mentors to their starting teaching team members, Ms. Breeden and Mrs. Lott, formerly a staff member of Champions after care.

"Our mentoring teachers are so sweet and so helpful," Ms. Breeden said. "It's a very exciting time. We definitely are a very strong team."



VCS Set to Build New Middle School, Add Facilities *Gymnasium One of Many Highlights*

School Expansion

VCS will break ground on a new middle school building this fall. It will expand the capacity of the school from 1,050 to nearly 1,600 students. After the close of the 2019-20 year, the existing building will be newly redesigned as an elementary school, with classrooms added and a much larger reception area.

The new addition and the renovations



Dr. Cady shows students and parents where the new track will be, right, at the corner of Breslay Drive and Judge Fran Jamieson Way. A rendering, top, shows where the new middle school will be built, southeast of the existing building.



Check Out These Stars!



Students in Mrs. Wyatt's room show off the new rugs in K-1 classes. In line with this year's space theme, the design features stars, for "Soaring Among the Stars." The carpets are a focal point of early-grade students, because students spend much of their time sitting on the carpet for group activities, such as story time, and learning days of the week and month. Children enjoy sitting on their own star in the same spot each day.

of existing facilities are due to be complete in time for the start of the 2020-21 school year.

A new gym will also serve as an auditorium, with 650 seats on pull-out bleachers and an additional 300 seats on the court floor. Graduation ceremonies will take place on site, as well as performing arts events.

"We're very excited to be able to serve additional families who want their children to attend what we feel is the best school in the county, and even the region," said VCS Board Chairman Mr. Jordan, who is coordinating the project. "We also are proud to offer our students even more amenities right here on campus."

A running track will be added, as well as space for soccer and baseball fields, and a new cafeteria to serve grades K-8. A breezeway between the schools will allow students to mingle, to study or just socialize.

In keeping with the school's high-tech STEAM theme, there will be more dedicated IT space. Classrooms will continue to feature the newest high-tech devices for each student's use.

Meet Our Wonderful VCS PTSO for 2019-20

President –

Jen Sizemore

Jen is mom to Jasmine, an eighth-grader at Viera Charter School. Jen has been an active volunteer at VCS since we opened our doors six years ago.

Vice President –

Michael Garvey

Michael and his wife, Heather Stanley-Garvey, have two daughters, Adeline (fifth grade) and Peyton (first grade), who attend VCS.

Treasurer – Jennifer LeBrun

Jennifer is mom to fourth-grade son, Gavin, at VCS. She has been part of the Panther Family for four years.



VCS Parent Teacher Student Organization board members are Michael Garvey, left, Norma Negron, Jennifer LeBrun, Jen Sizemore, Stefanie Groves, and Samantha Smith.

Secretary –

Stefanie Groves

Stefanie Groves is mom to VCS second-grader Rydan. This is the family's third year here.

Fundraising Coordinator –

Norma Negron

Norma is mom to three girls – Sophia (sophomore at Viera High), Alyssa (seventh grade), and Olivia (fourth grade).

Volunteer Coordinator – Samantha Smith

Samantha Smith is mom to Holden, a first-grader at VCS. This is Samantha's second year volunteering. To keep up with the PTSO, like them on [Facebook.com/vcsptso](https://www.facebook.com/vcsptso). Website: [vcsptso.com](https://www.vcsptso.com).

Coming Events

September

- Friday, Sept. 20, Fun Town Spirit Night, 4-10 p.m.
- Monday-Friday, Sept. 23-27- Book Fair.
- Wednesday, Sept. 25, Dads Bring Your Child to School.
- Thursday, Sept. 26, Dress Down Day: Wild About Learning; Wear Animal Prints.

October

- Wednesday, Oct. 2, Fall Picture Day
- Thursday, Oct. 3, Walk to School Day
- Monday, Oct. 7, Dress Down Day, Theme: Favorite College Gear



Panther Fun Run, the PTSO's largest fundraiser for the school, is coming Friday, Oct. 18. It starts with an Oct. 8 kickoff of two weeks of team-building character education, fun, and prizes for students who raise the most through family participation.