

# VIERA CHARTER SCHOOL



# PANTHERS

**May 2020**

**TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE**

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## Contact Information

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### *Principal:*

***Dr. Julie Cady***

### *Assistant Principals:*

***Mr. Tom Armstrong***  
***Dr. Lynn Spadaccini***

### *Deans:*

***Dr. William Booth***  
***Ms. Julie Mills***

### *Admin Assistant:*

***Mrs. Amie Lynch***

## Principal's Message

We had much to look forward to as this very eventful year came to a close. I continue to praise and thank our wonderful teachers for their passion to reach out through their screens and in through your child's laptop to make their presence known. They gave an interactive experience for children to engage with them and their peers while everyone had to learn from home.

We celebrate that Spanish and German language as well as STEAM activities will be permanently added to the K-5 Activity Wheel. In addition to the STEAM lab, the renovations of our existing building will add a brand new Media Center. Students will enjoy indoor as well as outdoor PE activities with the opening of our new Gymnasium.

See inside for a look at our end-of-year celebrations, which were done in unique ways due to the school closure.

We may not know what is coming next, but we do know that to the extent it is safe, our children will be coming back to a brand new campus in August. Our Tradition of Excellence will continue as our Mighty Panthers grow into strong and happy scholars, creators, and accomplisheers.

*Warmest regards,*

*Dr. Julie Cady*



*Dr. Cady helps with car loop pick up and drop off of school materials May 15.*

## Kindergarten Graduation Postponed

Kindergarten graduation is an event highly looked forward to, typically held off-campus to accommodate teary-eyed parents and other family members. Due to school closure and social distancing requirements,



we are looking into rescheduling this event. More information from the school will follow soon.

## Fifth Grade Moving Up Party Moved

It's more a rite of passage than a graduation, but the annual fifth-grade moving up party caps a career in elementary school and marks the start of attendance in middle school.

The day consists of an all-day party complete with a DJ, photo booth, snacks, a pizza lunch, and lots of time to spend with classmates, many of whom have been together for six years. The event takes

place the week of graduation.

This year's fifth graders have not been forgotten. VCS will send information out soon about alternate event plans.



## Learning at Home is Better With Pets



It's unheard of to bring a dog to school, but when learning takes place at home, pets have been a help in two ways.

First, pets are a comfort to students, and to the household.

"At a time when children are experiencing anxiety from not knowing what to expect during the pandemic, and no longer having their friends around them, pets are absolutely a comfort to help them make the transition to learning from home," said VCS Guidance Counselor Dr. Spero Tshontikidis.

Second, pets are a good conversation opener during live instruction. Especially with the reluctant virtual student, trading information about pets can warm up the learning interaction, and help get students online and caught up with their classmates.

"Of course you must have boundaries," fourth-grade teacher Mrs. Thomas said with a laugh.





## 2, 4, 6, 8, Who Do We Appreciate?

Teachers, that's who. PTSO members outdid themselves once again. Unable to treat teachers right in school, they took to the streets and placed yard signs on the lawns of beloved teachers that read, "VCS Panther Pride: An All Star Teacher Lives Here."

No one worked harder or drove more miles than Jen Sizemore, PTSO president.

"You're all doing an incredible job with guiding our students through this crazy virtual learning journey and we appreciate you!" she wrote in a message to all faculty.

Social distancing and the school closure made things different this year. VCS Panther Families treated teachers to lunch from Tuscany Grill to be enjoyed in their homes!



## Student of the Month for May: Honesty/Trustworthiness

Danielle Matthews was chosen by her eighth-grade teachers as Student of the Month for May for the character qualities of Honesty/Trustworthiness.



"I'm very glad to know that I have a reputation of trustworthiness among the staff at Viera Charter School. I strive to be a sincere and trusted student and classmate," Danielle said.

This character award may be the most important of all her many accomplishments, according to her mom.

"We are proud of all of Danielle's academic and extracurricular activities at VCS," Jen Matthews said of the accomplished horn-playing band member. "As important as those accomplishments are, it is the quality of her character we cherish most. We are very happy that VCS has recognized her for the genuine, fair and sincere person that she is."

The nominating teacher, Mrs. Rabun, is also faculty advisor for Student Council, of which Danielle is a member. "Danielle is a very conscientious student who strives to bring humility and honesty into all her endeavors. She was instrumental in helping to



coordinate several activities this year, including the home goods drive for the Brevard Rescue Mission. She also served on the Student Government in the position of Historian. Danielle exemplifies what it means to be trustworthy."



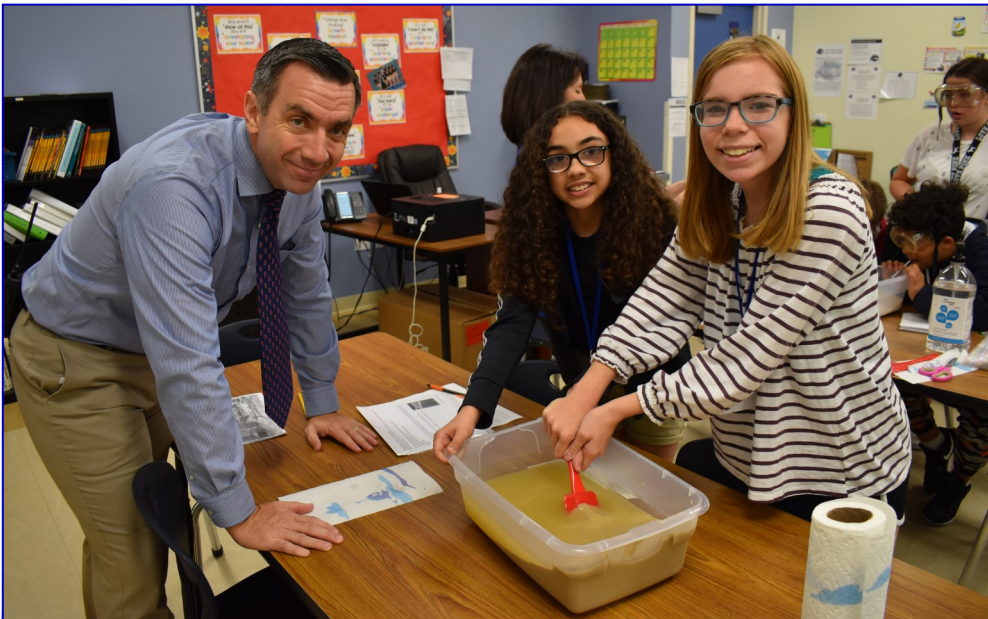
## Dr. William Booth is New VCS Dean and UCF Adjunct Professor

Dr. William Booth joined staff as Dean this year, and he'll also head up the Cambridge Program and assist Dr. Cady with other projects. Viera Charter is the only elementary school in Brevard to offer this advanced curriculum, and one of a handful of middle schools. Faculty has spent the past year getting trained and certified.

Dr. Booth earned his Master's of Education in Social Science Education and spent many years in the classroom. He was named Social Studies Teacher of the Year for Brevard County and the State of Florida in 2014. All his degrees were earned at University of Central Florida, including his doctorate, and a B.A. in Political Science. He maintains his status as a UCF adjunct professor.

In his decade-plus as a teacher, he also taught psychology, sociology, philosophy, anthropology, and history.

"I am excited to be at VCS," Dr. Booth said. "The school has a sterling reputation in the community and is staffed with a dedicated group of learning professionals. While most of my experience is at the secondary level, I always wanted to gain experience at the elementary level. I couldn't be happier now, getting to serve both age groups."



### 50 and Quarantined?



Misidentified in the April newsletter, Mrs. Honeycutt celebrated her 50th birthday and followed a suggestion from above for virtual learning. "Dr. Cady asked that we do something fun and out of the box with students, so since it was my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, I decided to do a '50s dress up day with '50s music and dancing. The students were adorable."



## Pandemic Costs Eighth Graders a Traditional Graduation: *Teachers to the Rescue!*

Of all the vital year-end ceremonies, one is the most important one: eighth grade graduation. Students of Year 2020 have attended VCS since entering second grade, when the school opened in 2013, seven years ago. Unable to celebrate at the end of the year, the teachers, staff and administration ran to their rescue, organizing an impromptu graduation ceremony for each student, complete with a yard sign marking their important milestone. Please check out their graduation video shared on our VCS webpage.



**Above: Now**  
**Below: August 11, 2020**  
***\*See You Then!***

*\*Tentative District Date, dependent on in-school return*

