

Victor Intermediate School



**4th Grade
Parent Orientation
March, 2021**

Video Presentations

- A Message from VIS Principal Kevin Swartz:

<https://www.loom.com/share/db69c6a53020415788d7d713ca74e977>

- A Message from 4th Grade Counselor Katie Carrozzi:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PScJPX93qCXx5OnvWGwMeq3oQw4rMAWY/view?usp=sharing>

- A Word from our 6th Grade Students:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1N1xjXEBPVf2qblUbUy3URzWDWj7-EL_W/view

About our Building

- 4th-6th grade-support approximately 1,000 students.
- 13 projected sections at grade 4.
- 12 projected sections at grade 5.
- 14 projected sections at grade 6.
- Students are placed on 2 person teaching teams at all grade levels. One teacher focuses on math, the other ELA.
- 3 Counselors, Principal, 2 Assistant Principals
- Goal is to make a large building feel small for our students.

RESPECTS

**We Respect Ourselves
We Respect Others
We Respect VIS**

Why is our Motto Important?

- Serves as foundation for positive praise/recognition for students while also as a foundation to address negative choices.
- Goal is to help students live up to the model independently as they progress through VIS.
- Establishes consistent expectations across building and classrooms.
- It can provide parents with common language to use when addressing positive/negative choices at home.

VIS Structure--Teaming



- Teaming model affords students with opportunities to work with several teachers throughout the year.
- Provides opportunities for effective placements & relationship building for all students. Supports JH transition.
- Teachers specialize in either Math or ELA; this has created deeper understanding of standards. Teachers meet weekly to design common activities, assessments, and experiences for students. ***Teacher collaboration = higher levels of student learning.***
- Teams are balanced by gender, student needs, and abilities.
- VIS students have the same opportunities for support & enrichment regardless of what team they may be on.

WIN Block (Whatever I Need)

- 40 minute block each day (rotates between Math & ELA) to support ALL students based on learning needs.
- WIN time can consist of:
 - Special education supports
 - AIS services for students in Reading & Math
 - Support groups with focus on pre-teaching
 - Grade-level groups with focus on re-teaching and extension as needed.
 - Enrichment/Extension groups with focus on challenge.
(Ex. Math Olympiad)
- Students may receive WIN instruction from their teaching team or other staff members depending on need.

Academic Focus



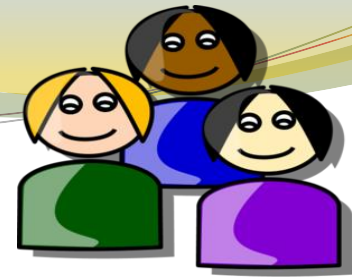
- Goal of our staff is to instill a growth mindset in our students; it is not just about the answer. Rather, it is about the process and ensuring students have a deep understanding content standards.
- Encourage students to take risks, share ideas, & understand multiple pathways to success.
- Grades are derived by measuring student understanding of agreed upon standards. Utilize standards based progress reports grades K-6—consistent & aligned.
- Curriculum & assessments are consistent across teams.

Special Area Programs

- General Music (one out of four days).
- 4th Grade Band, Orchestra, Chorus (AM rehearsals)
- Full year Art program (one out of four days).
- Full year Physical Education Program (every other day).
- Media Center Specialist (Maggie Elliot).



Varied Programming



Multi-Age Program option for students in grades 4 and 5.

English Language Learner (ELL) supports provided in both push in and push out settings.

Enrichment Teacher (Amy Smith-Fazan) who supports students in ELA/Math classrooms as well as WIN and through small group explorations.

AIS Support for students who meet requiring intervention in ELA & Math. This support is aligned with our WIN block.

Special Education Programs:

- Consultant Teacher Model (additional special education provider supporting the class).
- 12:1:1 programs for Math and ELA.
- 12:1:3 program (self-contained).
- 8:1:1 program (self-contained).
- Targeted Resource Room Per IEP.

Multi-Age: A Historical Perspective

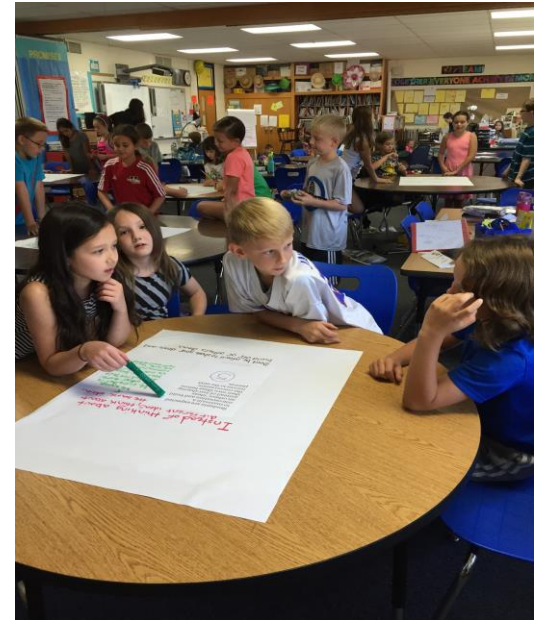
- 1994 - Multiage first implemented at VCS
- 1996-2012 – 3 grade year span;
a variety of teaming and classroom configurations
- 2012 – present
 - 4th and 5th graders enrolled
 - 2 single classrooms of 22 students



24 Successful Years!!!!!!

The Gift of Time!

- Students remain with the same teachers for their two years in our Multiage setting. This eliminates the “getting to know you” time each fall and allows the teacher a greater depth of knowledge of the strengths and needs of each student. This means an additional month of learning!
- Our classes have the flexibility to extend work time as needed- we aren't fixed to a rigid schedule (because we don't switch classes). Each year the “olders” leave and a younger group joins each team, always keeping the mix of students **fresh yet familiar.**



*Multiage staff will be present at the conclusion of our meeting this evening to answer specific questions you may have regarding the program.

Sample 4th Grade Schedule

Time	Class
9:15-9:35	Attendance/Announcements & Morning Meeting/Homeroom
9:38-10:58	Math (80 Minutes)
11:01-11:41	WIN ELA or Math (40 Minutes)
11:44-12:24	Lunch/Recess
12:27-1:47	ELA (80 Minutes)
1:50-2:30	Science/Social Studies (40 Minutes)
2:33-3:13	Physical Education/Art/Music (40 Min)
3:15	Dismissal

VIS Homework Beliefs

- We value the importance of *independent reading*. There is nothing more critical than inspiring and encouraging children to develop strong habits of learning through engaging texts both inside and outside of school.
- We recognize that homework impacts children and families differently. As such it can be a cause of significant stress, anxiety, or frustration.
- We believe homework can be of value as long as it is aligned to best practices in instruction. Some of these include extension of learning, independent practice, fostering creativity, finding relevance, and engaging in self-assessment.
- We value the attempt, not just the results. Homework is a form of formative assessment for the teacher as well as the student and it should positively impact actions or interventions moving forward.

Based on these HW Beliefs

What VIS Parents Can Expect:

- Students should be reading 30 minutes daily or 2-3 hours per week at home in addition to weekly math HW from all math classrooms.
- Homework will be constructive, not punitive.
- Where possible, teachers will work to assign homework on a weekly basis rather than nightly.
- When necessary, homework may be differentiated based on individual student needs.

Social/Emotional Supports

- Counselor assigned to each grade level—they will stay with students/families throughout all 3 years at VIS.
- Counselors can provide:
 - Individual counseling to students
 - Group counseling
 - Support in times of challenge or crisis, either emotionally or academically.
 - Assistance in creating plans to support students
 - Classroom guidance lessons for all students around bullying, mindset, conflict resolution.

Building Information/Activities

- Track and Field Days (All Grades)
- Homespun Days- 4th
- Healthy Living Days- 5th
- Career Day- 6th
- Recognition Programs/SOM
- Buddy Network
- Girls on the Run
- Science Fair Grades 4-6
- Student Council



Opportunities for Involvement

- Parent Organizations: PTA/PIE/VOICE
- Lunch & Learn
- Homespun/Healthy Living/Career Days
- Special Guests Day (5th Grade)
- Field Days (6th grade)
- Classroom Activities/Classroom Volunteers
- Building Council



Key Contacts

Katie Carrozzi will serve as 4th grade counselor and will work with your child for all 3 years at VIS.

carrozzik@victorschools.org

Kevin Swartz/Principal:

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Michele Maloney/Asst. Principal:

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Staci Thibodeau/Asst. Principal:

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Questions

Thank you for taking the time to review this presentation and please remember that from this point forward, we consider you part of the VIS family. Should you have any questions regarding your child's transition to VIS, please do not hesitate to contact us. You can also visit our building website at:

<http://www.victorschools.org>

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