



# Elementary Virtual Learning Academy (VLA)

CANDACE GRAM, PRINCIPAL  
MARCH 3, 2022



# Meet the VLA Staff – The Heart of our School

## Kinder Team



Kindergarten  
Gretchen Weber



Kindergarten  
Angela Shomion

## First Grade Team



1st Grade  
Cassie Meyer



1st Grade  
Jenelle Rodemeyer

## 2nd Grade Team



2nd Grade  
Tracey Plante



2nd Grade  
Breken Lach

## Third Grade Team



3rd Grade  
Kelly Schirm



3rd Grade  
Brianne Waste

# Meet the VLA Staff – The Heart of our School

## 4-5 Team



4th Grade  
Suzie Heideman



4-5  
Kristen Boese



5th Grade  
Jeannie Nelson

## 6th



Laura Meyer



Stephanie Ryan

## Special Education /EL Team



Resource  
Megan Nelson



Center Based  
Kim Carlson



EL  
Kym O'Donell

# Meet the VLA Staff – The Heart of our School

## Art Specialists



K/1  
Shannon Opichka



2/3  
Tess Soucheray



4/5  
Matt Carlson

## Music Specialists

Picture Coming  
soon...|



2/3  
Liz Ziegler



4/5  
Shelby Ferry



Candy Gram  
Principal



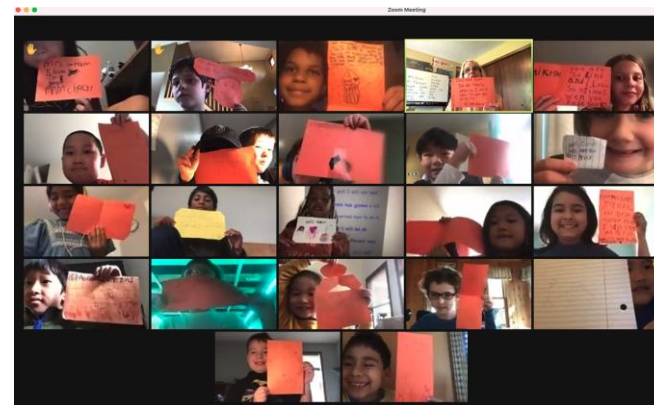
Katie Van Overmeiren  
Admin Assistant

# Enrollment and Transitions

- We started with over 330 students enrolled in VLA in fall of 2021 in grades K-6
- As of March 15 we will have 230 students enrolled for the remainder of the school year

## Transition Dates

- Oct. 25, 2021
- Nov. 29, 2021
- Jan. 3, 2022
- Feb. 23, 2022
- March 15, 2022







# STAY AT HOME SCHEDULE



## Typical Learner Schedule



8:00	VLA-TV	Zoom Meeting
8:20-8:40	Morning Meeting	Zoom Meeting
8:40-8:50	Independent Movement Break	Independent
8:50-9:20	Shared Reading	Zoom Meeting
9:20-9:50	Literacy Work Time	Independent Work/Seesaw Activities
9:50-10:50	Guided Reading	Zoom Meeting
10:50-11:20	Math Lesson	Zoom Meeting
11:20-11:50	Math Work Time	Independent Work/Seesaw/Small Groups
11:50-12:50	Lunch & Recess	Lunch & Recess
12:50-1:20	Activities & Office Hours	Independent Work/Seesaw Activities/Teacher Help
1:20-1:50	Number Corner/ Closing Meeting	Zoom
1:50-2:30	Specialists	Seesaw Independent Work

8:00 am	LIVE Youtube - Mrs. Thoma	VLA TV (All School News)  
8:20 am	LIVE Zoom - Ms. Boese	Morning Meeting / SEL Number Corner
8:50 am	LIVE Zoom - Ms. Boese	Literacy Lesson and Practice
9:50 am	Independent Work Time - Help from Ms. Boese (Office Hours)	Seesaw Activities (Literacy, Writing, Social Studies, Science, Vocab)
10:50 am	LIVE Zoom - Ms. Boese (M/W or T/Th)	Literacy Small Groups - Rotating Schedule (Groups @ 10:50 & 11:20)
11:50 am	BREAK (Lunch Bunch: T/W)	Lunch & Recess
12:50 pm	LIVE Zoom - Ms. Boese	Math Lesson and Practice
1:50 - 2:30 pm	Independent Work Time	Specials

# VLA Chargers



- VLA TV
  - We start our day with a live broadcast of VLA TV. Throughout the year the 6th graders have taken over as our news anchors.
- Monthly "I am..." theme
  - Each month we focus on a different book
- Monthly packet pick-up days
  - All staff participate
- All School dress up days
- Guest Speakers
  - Authors
  - Athletes
- In-person PD days for staff
- Student Ambassadors
- We have created a 17th elementary school where we are all united even though our home schools are all different



# What Do Students Say About VLA?

- “We get to have our own space with our own stuff—our own classroom and supplies stuff. Not what our teachers or the school tell us we have to have...I used to not like school and not you can’t get me to leave your class...” – second grade student
- “I like the breakouts because I get to work with my friends and my community. It’s not hard because people always there to help you in virtual. I like doing science experiments at home like our crystal one. Because I could check it at night and on the weekends.” – second grade student
- “I love learning at home because I can pet my cats while I learn.” – kindergarten student
- “I love Mrs. XXX because she is silly and sings A LOT” – Kindergarten student

In response to: 2/17 - Morning Check-in: College Dress-up day!

**My Selfie for College Dress-up Day!**

If you don't have anything for COLLEGE day...be creative and draw some clothes on yourself!

Do you know what College is?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Have you thought about going to college?

Yes ☐ No ☒

Where would you like to go?



The collage features four sweatshirts: a grey one with 'HAWK' and 'HAWKS' text, a black one with 'MICHIGAN' and a 'M' logo, a maroon one with 'MINNESOTA' and a logo, and a purple one with 'HAWK' and 'HAWKS' text. In the center is a selfie of a student wearing a maroon sweatshirt with 'MINNESOTA' and a logo, and glasses. The entire form has a yellow background with a decorative border around the selfie.



# What Do Parents Say About VLA?

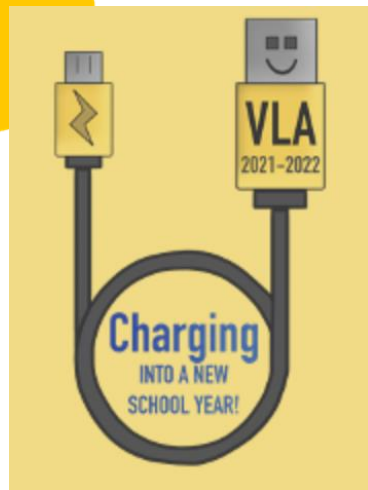


- “Thank you so much for the opportunity of being a part of VLA, it was a blessing to have the choice. We had amazing and caring teachers and miss them dearly!” -parent
- “This year with VLA has been a wonderful experience and you both have done a phenomenal job. We are very grateful to you.” - parent
- “We have been impressed with how well Ms XXX has cultivated connections with the students, helped them grow, and inspired them to learn. She's made the classroom engaging and fun. We're going to miss having her as our daughter's teacher.” - parent
- “Thank you for leading VLA and creating a wonderful experience for our kids.” - parent
- “You teachers work so hard. I just wanted to take a moment to say thanks, I love and appreciate you,” - parent

# What Do Teachers Say About VLA?



- "I love virtual because I can cover more content than before and include enrichment activities that I did not have time for in the past. The past 2 years that I have taught virtual have been awesome because I have a strong connection to the students and their families. Their families are visible and we have younger brothers and sisters who come in to be a part of our community." – Second grade teacher
- "I absolutely love teaching Kindergarten in VLA– besides the passionate, talented staff that I work with, the kiddos and their families are truly amazing! Every day I am greeted by 17 Kindergarten smiles and a love of learning that is so infectious it makes every day a treat!! I have been so fortunate for the past 2 years to be a huge part of this program in our district and I hope to be able to continue teaching in this dynamic digital learning world!" – Kindergarten Teacher



## Be the I in KIND!

Mrs. Heideman's 4th graders

I can show kindness by opening the door for someone

being there for someone when they really need you

I can show kindness by helping another student and making them feel included.

To me kindness means to try not to get in a fight with someone. Even when they're being mean to you

I can tell every body that they can change bullying and we can put it to an end.

I can show kindness by helping when a person falls

