



# THE HAWKS NEST

January 2021

VALLEY RIDGE ACADEMY

## Letter from our Principal

**H**ello VRA Families,

The first half of the school year officially ended on Monday of this past week. The first semester brought challenges, successes, and lots and lots of learning! Everyone has been asked to step outside of their comfort zones and embrace the seemingly ever-changing landscape of teaching and learning in 2020/21. I am extremely proud of the way the students, staff and community has risen to the occasion and found ways to adapt. As we move into the second semester, it is important that we all continue to work with and support each other to finish the year strong and successfully.

Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> is a Teacher Planning Day. While teachers work to close out the first semester, the amazing VRA maintenance team will be sanitizing and deep cleaning throughout the school to ensure the school environment stays clean and safe for everyone in the building. I cannot thank the maintenance team enough for all they do around the school. They diligently work behind the scenes making sure the school is running smoothly so our students and staff can keep their focus on instruction. It is because they do such an outstanding job, that we do not always notice them, but their impact is felt each day.

As we start the second semester, we welcomed back many students who had been engaged in distance learning up to this point in the school year. Their first day back was January 26<sup>th</sup> and I am sure they were a little nervous as well as excited to rejoin their classmates in person. The classroom teachers did an outstanding job of working with those students to support their return to the building and I am happy to say they have hit the ground running.



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## Letter from our Principal (cont.)

Thank you for the support that the VRA community has shown throughout the first semester. With all of us working together, I know the second semester will be even better!

*Sandra McMandon*

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## Cell Phone Policy Reminder



**P**arents/Guardians/Caregivers,  
please remind students:

**UPON DISMISSAL, ALL  
CELL PHONES / ELECTRONIC DEVICES  
MUST REMAIN  
OFF AND STORED**

**IN BACKPACKS UNTIL STUDENTS ARE  
OFF SCHOOL PROPERTY.  
THIS INCLUDES ALL INDOOR / OUTDOOR  
AREAS WITHING THE SCHOOL GATES.**

**SCHOOL  
ZONE**

**NO CELL  
PHONE  
USE**

# VRA Cheer Squad State Champions!

Congratulations to Coach Kristin Troyer and her amazing VRA Cheer Team.

They earned First Place in the State Cheer and Dance Competition in Daytona!

*Go Hawks!*



**MASK  
REMINDER**

Parents/Guardians/Caregivers,

Please remember students coming into school must always wear a mask.

**UPON DISMISSAL, FACE COVERINGS MUST STAY ON – EVEN OUTDOORS – UNTIL STUDENTS ARE OFF SCHOOL PROPERTY.**

A useful tip is to put 5 masks in your students' backpacks on Sunday night or Monday morning, so they are prepared and remember their masks for the week.

## VRA Staff of the Year

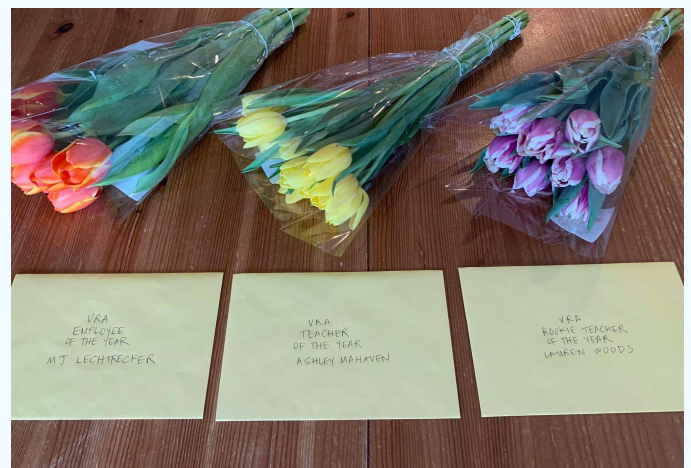
Congratulations!

MJ Lechtrecker, Employee of the Year.

Ashley Mahaven, Teacher of the Year.

Lauren Woods, Rookie Teacher of the Year.

*We have the best staff members!*



# Character Counts! Celebrations

# RESPECT

**K-8** classrooms/homerooms celebrated Character Counts! on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. One student from each class was nominated for demonstrating the pillar of



**Treat others with respect and follow the Golden Rule • Be tolerant and accepting of differences • Use good manners, not bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others • Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone • Deal peacefully with anger, insults, and disagreements**

Each nominee received a certificate, VRA magnet, and a bag full of fun rewards!

*We applaud our kids of character!*

## **Kindergarten –**

Leroy MacKenzie, Oliver Vokal, Vaibhav Prabhakaran, Maddox Cunningham, Everlee McGarvey, Kade Carlson, and Maddox Perez.

## **First grade –**

Harper Gruver, Collin Smith, Jaxon Jones, Annika Schurmann, Teagan Power, Decorah Deegan, and Addie Shelton.

## **Second grade -**

Brooklyn Deuter, Rhys Wedel, Brooke Postell, Steven Escobar, Ava Bruckner, Abigail Helfer, Leann Salar, and Anna Kuckel.

## **Third grade –**

Prisha Kc, Ava Nguyen, Sofia Buckley, Amelia Kosho, Emma Blumberg, Jack deRemer, and Nathan Trinidad.

## **Fourth grade –**

Anthony Gorelik, Haley Greer, Jocelyn Banks, David Trifiletti, CJ Anunciacion, and Myles Trecker.

## **Fifth grade –**

Connor Shelton, Donovan Markle, Yiwen Chen, Colin Stoutamire, Aubrey Alexander, and Sophia Arvay.

## **Middle School –**

Raquel Vega, Jaden Price, Connor Dean, Ashley Knowles, Daniel Kuckel, Faith Sanders, Elliot Lim, Michael Rocco, Fenix Montague-Gomez, Jordynne Comeau, Tessa Harry, Jaedon Fiesta, Gabriela Aristiguieta-Salcedo, Hudson Clark, Jessica Japzon, Isabel Wolf, Mariella Love, Matthew Oberkehr, and Lidia Agyeyeva.

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VRA celebrates the pillar of **CARING** during the month of February.



# VRA Students of Character

We are proud of you!





# VRA Students of Character

Well done Hawks!



# Counselors' Corner

## CHORES TEACH CHILDREN RESPONSIBILITY AND INSTILL A SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT AND PRIDE

Children love to help! Sometimes it is not easy to know when to start giving children responsibility for helping around the house. Here is an article full of ideas to help you determine which chores are right for your child:

<https://www.verywellfamily.com/giving-kids-chores-that-are-right-for-their-age-620310>



## High School Information

### Registration Timeline for Career and Technical Education (CTE) of St. Johns County

Application submission deadline for students currently enrolled in a St. Johns County public school:

**February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, by 5:00 pm**

#### Timeline

**Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>** - Middle School Blitz held at each Middle School.

**Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>** - Online application OPENS at 8:00 am for newly applying 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. View instructions showing how to apply.

**Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>** - High School Showcase virtual event from 3:30 – 7:00 pm.

**Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> - Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>** - Academy Nights (see schedule below)

**Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>** – Auditions:

- St. Johns County Center for the Arts auditions at St. Augustine High School.
- Murray Middle School Arts auditions will be held at Murray Middle School. Please bring your printed audition form.

**Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>** - Registration deadline, online – Registration will be closed at 5:00 pm.

# High School Information (cont.)

**May 1<sup>st</sup>** - Last day for late applications.

**Jun. 1<sup>st</sup>** - Last day to apply for review.

**Jul. 1<sup>st</sup>** - All out of zone placement decisions will be finalized.

## High School Showcase

The annual High School Showcase was hosted virtually this year on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 3:30 – 7:00 pm.

## Academy Nights

Each high school hosted an informational 2021 Academy Night.

**Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>** - St. Johns Technical High School from 5:30 – 6:30 pm.

**Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>** - St. Augustine High School – ALL St. Johns County Center for the Arts and Murray Middle School requests must apply by January 28, 2021. (Auditions at St. Augustine High School and Murray Middle School will occur on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021) 6:00 – 7:30 pm.

**Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>** - Creekside High School from 6:00 – 7:30 pm.

**Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>** - Bartram Trail High School from 6:00 – 7:30 pm.

**Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>** - Ponte Vedra High School from 6:00 – 7:30 pm.

**Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>** - Pedro Menendez High School from 6:00 – 7:30 pm.

**Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>** - Allen D. Nease High School from 6:00 – 7:30 pm.

Any SJCS D resident who is moving a student from home school, virtual school or private school may apply for an academy by pre-registering for school on-line at the SJCS D website and selecting to also apply for a Program of Choice. All pre-registrations need to be completed online by the end of the school day February 5<sup>th</sup>.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact the Career & Technical Education Department at (904) 547-4870.

<http://cte.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>

## Useful links:

Program of Choice Guide:

<https://cte.stjohns.k12.fl.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-2022-High-School-Programs-of-Choice-Guide.pdf>

FAQs:

<https://cte.stjohns.k12.fl.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Frequently-Asked-Questions-Programs-of-Choice.pdf>





# Instructional Materials Adoption - ELA

## 2020-2021 Instructional Materials Adoption



### English Language Arts (ELA)

St. Johns County School District curriculum department representatives and adoption committee members have completed the review process for the Instructional Materials Adoption for English Language Arts (ELA). On January 26, 2021, the School Board will conduct a public hearing to receive comment from the community regarding the final list of recommendations for instructional resources for this adoption. The public is invited to attend this hearing. Committees composed of teachers, district content experts, parents and community members compiled the lists. The hearing will be held at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium of the District Administrative Building located at 40 Orange Street in St. Augustine.

Please [Click Here](#) to view the final recommended selections. [Click here](#) for links to the selections. If you would like access to available printed materials or require assistance reviewing the online resources, please call the Instructional Resources and Media Services office at 904.547.3947. Materials are available for review from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. when district offices are open. Board action on the final recommendations for English Language Arts instructional materials is expected to take place at the School Board meeting in February.

# Instructional Materials Adoption - ELA

## 2020-2021 English Language Arts Instructional Materials Recommendations

Grade	Course Title	Course Number	Publisher	Title
<b>Elementary Recommendations</b>				
K	Language Arts-Grade Kindergarten	5010041	Savvas Learning Company, LLC	Florida myView Literacy
K	Language Arts-Grade Kindergarten	5010041	McGraw-Hill School Education, LLC	Florida Wonders
1	Language Arts-Grade One	5010042	Savvas Learning Company, LLC	Florida myView Literacy
1	Language Arts-Grade One	5010042	McGraw-Hill School Education, LLC	Florida Wonders
2	Language Arts-Grade Two	5010043	Savvas Learning Company, LLC	Florida myView Literacy
2	Language Arts-Grade Two	5010043	McGraw-Hill School Education, LLC	Florida Wonders
3	Language Arts-Grade Three	5010044	Savvas Learning Company, LLC	Florida myView Literacy
3	Language Arts-Grade Three	5010044	McGraw-Hill School Education, LLC	Florida Wonders
4	Language Arts-Grade Four	5010045	Savvas Learning Company, LLC	Florida myView Literacy
4	Language Arts-Grade Four	5010045	McGraw-Hill School Education, LLC	Florida Wonders
5	Language Arts-Grade Five	5010046	Savvas Learning Company, LLC	Florida myView Literacy
5	Language Arts-Grade Five	5010046	McGraw-Hill School Education, LLC	Florida Wonders
<b>Secondary Recommendations</b>				
6-8	M/J Language Arts 1	1001010	McGraw-Hill School Edition, LLC	McGraw-Hill/Study Sync
6-8	M/J Language Arts 1	1001010	Savvas Learning Company, LLC	My Perspectives
6-8	M/J Language Arts 2	1001040	McGraw-Hill School Edition, LLC	McGraw-Hill/Study Sync
6-8	M/J Language Arts 2	1001040	Savvas Learning Company, LLC	My Perspectives
6-8	M/J Language Arts 3	1001070	McGraw-Hill School Edition, LLC	McGraw-Hill/Study Sync
6-8	M/J Language Arts 3	1001070	Savvas Learning Company, LLC	My Perspectives
9-12	English 1	1001310	McGraw-Hill School Edition, LLC	McGraw-Hill/Study Sync
9-12	English 1	1001310	Savvas Learning Company, LLC	My Perspectives
9-12	English 2	1001340	McGraw-Hill School Edition, LLC	McGraw-Hill/Study Sync
9-12	English 2	1001340	Savvas Learning Company, LLC	My Perspectives
9-12	English 3	1001370	McGraw-Hill School Edition, LLC	McGraw-Hill/Study Sync
9-12	English 3	1001370	Savvas Learning Company, LLC	My Perspectives
9-12	English 4	1001400	McGraw-Hill School Edition, LLC	McGraw-Hill/Study Sync
9-12	English 4	1001400	Savvas Learning Company, LLC	My Perspectives