VIRGINIA BEACH FRIENDS SCHOOL

Knowledge. Character. Community.

Head of School Report
School Committee Meeting – October 8, 2019

October brings one of the busiest school months of the year. Middle through Upper School students recently completed successful Odyssey Trips to Camp Silver Beach (5-8), NYC (9-11), and NC/VA College Tours (12). The feedback from parents, students, and teachers was that all trips were incredibly successful.

Silver Beach continues to push our Middle School students outside of their box. For many 5th graders, this trip is typically one of their first solo overnight experiences away from family. The trip brings a mixture of nervous energy with excitement and anticipation all rolled into one. The experience has students bonding through high and low ropes course work as well as team building initiatives. Ultimately, the feedback from last year to this year was that for many middle school students, it was the highlight of their year. Prior to students leaving on the trip, we had a number of 5th grade students who were vocal about their excitement for the adventure based on the stories shared from last year.

The 9-11 grade NYC trip saw the group walking over 20 miles in the two and a half days spent on the ground in Manhattan. Upper School students experienced all that NYC had to offer during their short time in the City.

- Central Park Scavenger Hunt organized by students
- Toured Rockefeller Center where the group met up with Friends Alumni, Makala Bennett (Class

of 2019).
- Navigated the NYC subway system to Lower Manhattan where the group visited the 9/11

Memorial then walked to Battery Park taking a ferry to Liberty Island to see the Statue of Liberty

and Ellis Island.
- Dinner in Little Italy
- Toured the New School and Parson's School of Design
- Visited the Campus of NYU
- Saw To Kill a Mockingbird on Broadway after reading the novel for summer reading - Experienced the bright lights of Time Square

It's safe to say, the Friends students conquered New York City in ways they never could have imagined.

Our 12th graders visited a number of colleges and universities in North Carolina and Virginia with Galen and Danny during their Odyssey trip. The seniors spent time at Guilford College, UNC-Greensboro, Virginia Commonwealth University, and University of Richmond. The students had an incredible

experience getting a glimpse of what college will look like. Particularly, the visit to Guilford College (a Quaker institution) was a highlight of the trip.

Enrollment:
We enrolled 2 new students since our last admissions update. 1 Upper School 9th grader and 1 MWF (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) Cottage child. We are now at 105 students. Plus 4 enrolled in cottage students who will start after January.
Application in process=
1 Cottage - Jerome Meise (January start date)

Promising students in the admissions funnel =
2 Cottage
2 in pre-K (1 with November start, 1 with January start) 1 in Early K

We will be starting the wait list for Pre-K and hopes to split classrooms come December of January.

We have an upcoming Open House on Oct. 19th. The School is utilizing online advertising, along with printed flyers in locations like Starbucks and Panera Bread to help promote the event.

Social Outreach:
1. Car Wash Fundraiser, October 5 - Table Set-up with school info for inquiries!
2. African American Cultural Festival, October 5 from 12pm-4pm with Mike and Galen setting at the table.
3. Lynnhaven River Now Event - October 12th with Rachel, Garden Manager, promoting a garden hunt activity.
4. Recent VAIS Admissions Fair yielded 3 perspective families.
5. ZOO Boo Festival – potential participation

Virginia Beach Sports Academy:
As of September 9, 2019, Division 1 college coaches were allowed to actively start recruiting HS student athletes on their respective campuses. The Academy's goal for the fall (by November 7) is to have 20 Division 1 Coaches in the Wilson Center. To date, they have had visits to the Wilson Center from...

Colleges
The University of Delaware St. Bonaventure University Hampton University George Mason University St. Francis (PA)

Media
Coach Frank-Phenom Hoops Report Anthony Collins- Collins Sports Report
https://twitter.com/NorfolkKnights/status/1171955537086488576

Andrew Cavanos-Slam Magazine

- Coach Frank plans to stop by again and write up a full report on the Academy team sometime in the coming month.
- Jeriah Coleman (Davian Coleman's, VBFS Jr., older Brother) will be taking an official visit to St. Bonaventure later this month. While Ronell Giles is expected to sign his National Letter of Intent to St. Francis in PA this November.

- Davian is expecting South East Lousiana, Monmouth University, and LIU Brooklyn to come see him soon. Fingers crossed that he will get his first scholarship offer this fall.

As Virginia Beach Sports Academy continues to garner attention the Director, Walter, will continue to send articles and social media posts to the Friends

Budget and Finance:
Business and Finance Report sent directly to School Committee.

Academics:
In September, the School hosted Back to School Night for parents during the second week of school. We had a larger turn out this year than in year's past. We began with whole school introductions and a review of essential information in the Wilson centered and then parents headed to Lower School classes and the middle and upper schools for divisional information.

At the end of September, the 9-11 went on an Odyssey Trip to NYC, and the Seniors went on a college tour trip to Greensboro, NC and Richmond VA. Both of these were opportunities for the students to bond with each other and for faculty to get to know their students outside of the classroom as they built community. The college trip allowed the students to see 4 very different schools. At Guilford they each had an interview and the students, along with teachers, all met up with alum Anna Hutchins to learn more about her transition from VBFS to Guilford.

Galen also met with both the Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Norfolk Collegiate and the Assistant Head and Head of Upper School at Cape Henry this month. These meetings were an effort to ensure the VBFS curriculum is on the right track to send our students to these feeder schools and to continue to develop relations with our peer schools. This has already segued into more transparent communication and sharing of resources.

With the collaboration of our School Counselor and Head of School, Galen has developed a formal written medical leave policy for the school. We interviewed 4 possible substitutes and hired 3 new substitutes. We have begun collecting resumes for our High School English position.

We began our buddy program with pairings of MS/US students with Lower School students. Our first joint service project was creating compassion cards for International Day of Peace. Galen launched a new faculty observation and evaluation system for the entire school. In September, she met with and observed all new faculty members, and have begun observing and meeting with all returning faculty.

Development:
The beginning of the school year continues to be strong from a fundraising perspective.
Raised to-date: $115,000 ($15K has not hit the P&L yet as it has been raised for the Fall Festival via Crowdrise)
Goal is: $270,000
% to Goal: 43% to goal

We had a great first Advancement Meeting with Jim Metcalfe and Tim Craddock. Main highlights are the following:

Alumni/Past Community: Recently found list from the former Development Director to be scrubbed versus US Post office to see what are still qualified physical addresses. Will be developing a printed postcard to send to verified addresses that point alumni/past community to a specific webpage that showcases Friends today. Additional goal on that page is to gather email addresses and years attended.

We will then do a very specific ask to this community to support the Annual Fund through multiple ways. Timing = Oct/Nov

Annual Fund: Campaign to kick off to current community, alumni/past community, and recent alumni in early Nov.
Grants: Kristin doing an initial environmental scan and reviewing recently found files of past awarded grants to provide Advancement Committee a recommendation of which ones to go after.

Additionally, we are well under way with our partnership with Garland Waller and her BU students to produce a new promotional video about the Early Childhood program. They will be here and on campus shooting Thursday, October 17-Saturday, October 19th.

Counseling and Student Life:
Student, parent and teacher support is ongoing. In addition to addressing the various needs of Individuals, Dee has been busy with the following:

- She has reviewed all IEP's, 504 plans and Psychological testing reports for our students K through 12 who have been identified as having learning differences or special needs. In effort of ensuring their success and supporting our teachers.
- Personalized Education Plans have been developed outlining the student's diagnosis, specific needs and appropriate strategies to make certain their needs are met.
- Dee has been scheduling meetings with the parents of these students to review the plans and get their input.
- All seniors are registered and will sit for the SAT on October 5th. We have 1 senior who qualifies for school-based testing due to extended time. Dee will be proctoring his test here at VBFS on October 5th. All seniors are currently working on their common app application for colleges as well as requesting letters of recommendation for their college process. PSAT testing for 10th and 11th grade students will take place on October 16th. All materials have been ordered and received.
- Updates to the VBFS curriculum has been completed for NCAA. All VBFS curriculum has been approved.

Dee is working with Walter Mfuko of Virginia Beach Sports Academy to assist the new students as they acclimate to the culture and expectations of VBFS. The process is going well.

- VBSA Sports Academy senior, Jalen Moore is going through the exact same college process as other VBFS seniors.

The application for Quaker Youth Leaders will be passed out on September 23rd. The applications will need to be completed and submitted by October 1st. Three new members will be selected. New QYL members will be notified by October 4th. The first activity they will immediately begin to work on is the annual Peace and Social Justice Day. Dee has also contacted Pat Glass to work on arranging the annual QYL trip to the Mattaponi Reservation in early spring.

Parent/Teacher Organization and Library Outreach:

Courtney Grew, co-chair of the Friends' Parent's Association and the School's Librarian, has done a remarkable job creating and cultivating a new enthusiasm for reading at Friends School. This enthusiasm has translated into a number of different outreach efforts that are currently underway.
To date, Courtney has organized:

1. A Birthday Book Club Program. Parents can sign-up to have a book donated in their child's name for their child's birthday. This book is then presented to the child during library time on his/her birthday. This opportunity has been very popular with a new brochure recently created, and there is also an on-going event on the FB page so parents will continually see it as an opportunity.

2. Career Night. This event sees local officials like firefighters, police officers, and other professionals visiting Friends School to read to our youngest students. On Tuesday, October 1, Friends hosted three firefighters from the Virginia Beach Fire Department who arrived in their truck. They read a children's story about a firefighter. This first event went very well! We had 9 families in attendance! 2 of which don't even go to Friends School.

Next Monthly Career Night is November 14th at 5pm with a local author and artist who created a book all around being thankful which is perfect for the season. This will be in partnership with Mom & Me Boutique and North End Juice Company. The event is being promoted as an evening of "supporting local" businesses too.

3. The Friends Book Fair is coming up in November alongside Grandparents Day - Courtney intends to create an event during Grandparents Day to share about the birthday book club, etc.

4. The School would like to find a $1000 donor who would be in support of literacy during the book fair who would actually "buy a book for every student at a $10 value" which would be donated to the library with their names on them.

5. Book Fair Grant Competition - Arctic Adventure – Courtney is looking to have the School participate in a library decorating contest that could see Friends School possibly winning $5000, if victorious! The School is going to partner with a local celebration stylist, Peach Perrychute, to go all out on décor.

Finally, our Parents' Association is busy preparing for the School's October 19 Fall Slime Festival. Along with this preparation, the Parents' Association has also reinstituted Coffee Fridays for parents to park and mingle each Friday morning with coffee provided by them.

Building and Grounds Update
Cottage: At this time, the interior structural work for The Cottage renovation project is 100%. The exterior portion is about 90% complete. The fire alarm system upgrade portion of the project is in the permitting process. This portion should be completed in its entirety in the next 4 weeks or sooner. The access control and CCTV monitoring portion of the cottage renovation project has started and should be completed within the next 2-4 weeks.

Woolman: Sealing of the Woolman building's hallway floor was completed over this past weekend.

Wilson: A cleanup of the utility trailer and exterior area of the Wilson Center that borders the apartment complex will be completed during the weekend of October 11th. This project is being spearheaded by

FACT (Families of Autistic Children of Tidewater) in conjunction with a team of volunteers with that organization.

Technology Update
The fiber optic cabling project is 90% complete. Testing is underway and the network should be up and running within the next 2 weeks.

VBFS Report on Athletics and Special Programs *By: Jason Weast*

I. Summer Camp

A. (Please see the Partnerships section for potential summer camp info.)

II. Extended Care Program

A. We are currently researching a possible partnership with Mike Ponditis of Healthy Snack Solutions. This company provides health snack options that are gluten-free, nut-free, and allergen-free at affordable, bulk prices. We think it may be a good option to provide a snack to those students who are staying in our extended care program for the entire 3 hours and for students who may not have packed an extra snack.

B. https://www.healthysnacksolutions.com/

III. Co-curricular Programs

A. Here is a list of our potential programs for the 2nd quarter of school. More details to come on the next report: 1. Soccer Shots (3yrs. - 8yrs.) 2. Co-ed Futsal (indoor soccer) Club (3rd - 5th grades) 3. Basketball Club (K-3rd; 4th - 9th) 4. Visual Art Studio (3rd - 8th grades) 5. S.T.E.A.M. Club (Pre-k - 2nd; 3rd - 8th Grades) 6. Girls on the Run (3rd - 5th Grade girls) 7. Yearbook Club (Middle/Upper School) 8. Study Hall (Middle/Upper School) 9. Coding Club: Sponsored by Code Emoji Company (1st - 5th grade)

IV. Athletics

A. For the next couple of months we are going to focus on rebuilding two of our main sports programs: Basketball and Soccer.

1. Basketball

a) For basketball we are potentially going to have enough boys to make a middle school basketball team. In order to achieve this goal, we will need complete commitment from each of the students that I have sign-up on the interest list. Next week I will be personally reaching out to parents to confirm whether or not they are committed to playing a full season of basketball this upcoming season. In the event that a middle school basketball team cannot form, we will proceed along the co-curricular route to continue to grow the interest of the sport. We will also be leveraging our partnership with Virginia Beach Sports Academy to have them host some basketball camps over the course of the year for the kids.

2. Soccer

a) We are now in year 2 of our partnership with Soccer Shots, a nationally recognized company that provides programmed soccer instruction to students ages 3 years old to 8 years old. This year we have had a group of those students age out of that particular program. We are looking to utilize this opportunity to “fan the flame” of soccer by establishing a lower/middle school Futsal (indoor soccer) Team. Danny Grondin, long time

soccer and basketball coach at VBFS has graciously volunteered to coach our youngsters and reignite the passion for soccer here at VBFS.

V. Gym Rentals

A. We are currently still in the market for new, potential renters for our facility.

VI. Partnerships

A. With my position, I am constantly meeting or phone conferencing with community partners that want to help us out in all sorts of ways. Below is a list of current partnerships that I have foster and could be beneficial to the school from a programming perspective and marketing perspective:

1. Scott Williams, Director of Camp 4 Real

a) Camp 4 Real is a health-conscious summer camp that teaches students how to maintain a well-balanced healthy lifestyle while still having fun. This camp has strong community ties to the UVA area and is one of the most popular summer camps around that area. Scott Williams came to us last year in hopes of expanding his summer camp program into the Tidewater area. After much planning and communication, we were unable to successfully launch his program. However, Scott did not want to give up. We are currently working on a plan to get our local community excited about his camp by having some community respite nights where parents can drop the kids off for a couple of hours. We are hoping to confirm some dates by next week for the respite events and summer camp in 2020.

b) Link: http://www.camp4real.com/

2. Seth Broudy, Director of Grom Coast Surf Company

a) Technically we have come to the conclusion of our pilot "Surf Club" partnership with Seth Broudy's Grom Coast Surf Company. However, we have been in discussion for potentially putting something together for summer camp that could see our kids getting a discount for signing up with him.

b) https://www.facebook.com/GromCoast/

3. Kristen Watson, Regional Director of Code Emoji

a) Code Emoji is a nationally recognized company based out of Chicago, IL that focuses on educating younger students in the art of coding and computer competencies. In the last 5 years the company has begun to branch out of Chicago into other regions of the country. We had Code Emoji run a pilot summer camp program with VBFS this past summer and the kids really seemed to enjoy it. We are looking to partner with Code Emoji during the 2nd or 3rd quarter for a co- curricular program and then eventually get them on the books again for summer camp in 2020.

b) https://www.codemoji.com/