



March 2020

Timothy Edwards, Principal

Rhonda Perkins, Assistant Principal

Dear Yates Parents & Families,

Yates students in grades 3-5 are busy in their classrooms as they build toward the SOL tests coming in May. Students in all grade levels have worked hard all year and shown much progress in all subject areas, especially in reading. We're very proud of our students and want to commend them for their continued hard work and dedication. Spring Break be April 6th-10th.

Please be sure to help get your children to school regularly and on time. We want the best for your children and strongly believe that they gain the most from being at school on a consistent (if not daily) basis. In addition, we discourage students from being picked up early whenever possible in order for the students to get the maximum results from the instructional day. Thank you for your help and support in this regard.

As always, please let me know if I can help or support you in any way.

Timothy Edwards

Yates Elementary School Principal

Important Dates:

March 2020

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| 3/1 | Read Across America Week Foreign Language Week School Social Work Week |
| 3/2-6 | National School Breakfast Week |
| 3/2-8 | PTA Read-A-Thon Fundraiser |
| 3/5 | 5th Grade Field Trip Norfolk Zoo |
| 3/6 | Half Day Dismissal-12:10pm |
| 3/8 | Daylight Savings Time (Move clocks 1 hour ahead) |
| 3/9-13 | National Plant Services Week |
| 3/10 | PTA Board Meeting-5:30pm School Board Meeting-6:30pm |
| 3/11 | Spring Picture Day Helping Hands-9:15am |
| 3/12 | KG & 1st Grade Musical-6:30pm |
| 3/13 | 1st Grade Fieldtrip-VLM |
| 3/17 | School Board Meeting-6:30pm |
| 3-18 | 5th Grade Fieldtrip to VA Symphony |
| 3/19 | First Day of Spring |
| 3/23 | 4th Grade Fieldtrip to Colonial Williamsburg |
| 3/25 | Helping Hands-9:15am |
| 3/29 | PTA-Yates Mates Mile & Anchors Away 5K-2:00pm |

Spring Break April 6th-10th

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is just “Marching” along through our provocations, reading, writing, listening and retelling centers! We love our shared reading time and re-reading books our teacher has read! Tracking print, finding sight words, retelling and writing about the stories we read makes us better readers and helps us with comprehension! Looking at illustrations helps us learn more about the characters! First grade...we’re getting ready! We have been studying about jobs and why people need jobs. Some of the kindergarten parents even came in and talked about their jobs!!! We wrote about jobs, read non-fiction books about jobs, role played with puppets and wrote about different types of jobs! It’s never too early to become college, career and citizenship ready!!When we work, we earn money! Solving real life word problems and using manipulatives to help makes math skills fun! The weather will hopefully get warmer and we will start seeing a lot more living things like butterflies, bees, birds, bugs and rabbits! We will see the leaves starting to grow back, grass getting greener and flowers starting to bloom! What do living things need? Every day is a new and exciting day of learning! Continue reading, writing and completing homework! We are “Marching” strong through kindergarten!!

FIRST GRADE

March is upon us and the year is flying by just like kites on a windy day! Our homework program has had a successful beginning and we are super proud of our students. We are amazed by the effort our students are putting into their homework. Please continue to read nightly and make sure you mark the calendar in the agenda so that your child can get credit for all of that wonderful reading. This is the time of the year when it is critical that your child read and practice vocabulary on a consistent basis. Second grade will be here before you know it. It would also be helpful to check that agenda nightly and also the Living Tree website. We want to thank all of our families for the support and cooperation we have received. We couldn’t do it without you!

SECOND GRADE

Aren’t we lucky? Yes, we’re lucky to have such smart, hard working second graders. Our focus in math will be on using data from probability experiments to predict outcomes and collecting, organizing, and representing data using pictographs and bar graphs. In reading and writing, we are back again in nonfiction focusing on functional formats and research. Our second grade scientists will be investigating how magnets make things move by attracting or repelling them and observing, recording, and analyzing weather data to notice patterns and make predictions. Spring Break is around the corner and we hope you enjoy it!

THIRD GRADE

Third Grade is enjoying learning science through investigations this marking period! We enjoyed making hypotheses and testing the speed that lemonade powder dissolves in hot, warm, and cold water. Next, we will learn about Simple Machines and how they are used in our everyday lives to help us! In Math, we are finishing learning about adding, subtracting, and comparing fractions. Then we will go deeper learning about graphing and probability. Third graders are working diligently to read and analyze what they have read and have begun test taking strategies to prepare for our assessments later in the marking period and year. Thank you parents for your support at home!

FOURTH GRADE

The fourth grade students have been busy reading poetry and learning about fractions in math. Please continue practicing basic multiplication and division facts to improve fluency within more difficult math tasks. In VA Studies we are studying the American Revolution and will take a field trip to Colonial Williamsburg on March 23. Please check with your child to ensure they have necessary supplies at this halfway point of the year.

FIFTH GRADE

Things are really kicking into gear in March! We have a lot of instruction days without any breaks so make sure you are here every day! 5th grade is visiting the Norfolk Zoo on March 5th as part of the STEM 360 Grant Program. We will also be visiting the Virginia Symphony Orchestra at the Ferguson Center on the 18th. Students are expected to wear business casual attire, which can include any of the following: dress pants, khaki pants, button up shirts, collared shirts, blouses, skirts, or dresses). SOL tests begin in May, so make sure to review all your notes, complete homework, and as always continue reading at home. One last month until Spring Break, let’s make it the best ever!

Counselors Corner



Attention:
5th Grade Parents & Students

Middle School is coming!

"A Word From Your PSC"

I wanted to notify my 5th grade parents, that your 5th grader will be going through the process of selecting elective courses for their 6th grade year. In past years, students have brought home a sheet of paper. This year, the district has launched a new program where your upcoming 6th grader can log into their Student-View and make their selections. Currently, the selections are: Exploratory (your student can explore different electives such as art, technology, writing, drama, etc.) as they decide what educational path they want to embark on while in middle school. The other options are band and chorus, which are full year options. I would like to encourage you to talk with your 5th grade student about their choices and ask your student to show you their selections. The elective selection process closes on March 20th.

The middle schools will host a "Middle School Welcome Night" for all upcoming 6th graders. This event will be held on March 19th at 6 pm for all middle schools with the exception of Huntingdon. Huntingdon Middle School will hold their night on April 23rd at 6pm.

In our February guidance lesson, we reviewed "Personal Space" as this has been a concern in the hallways for the students as they move about the building and when they have group time in the classroom. We will continuously work on obtaining personal space within the classrooms and hallways throughout the remainder of the year.

During the month of March, your students will learn about "Determination". As we are determined to pass our SOL's with flying colors and finish this year out strong, academically.

Mrs. Flournoy

Professional School Counselor

Richard T. Yates Elementary School



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<http://yates.nn.k12.va.us/>

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Getting your Yates Mate to school on time, everyday, helps set the stage for a successful day!

- Students are considered tardy if they are not in their classrooms at 9:05am.
- The front doors are locked at 9:05 am. Please ring buzzer and walk your student to the Main office to sign them in and receive a Tardy pass. Excessive tardiness often lead to academic struggles, so please be sure to have your child at school on time and ready to learn everyday.
- If your child is absent, the absence will be “unexcused” until a note explaining the absence is submitted to the Attendance Secretary. As per Newport News Public Schools policy and the Code of Virginia laws, a note must be submitted within 5 school days of the student returning to school. We now have “Submit Absence” on the Yates Elementary School Website. It is located on the Quick links on our home page.

The new focus this year will be addressing excessive absences. The districts goal is to have all student's miss less than nine days or less per school year.

- Truancy proceedings will take place for excessive tardies and absences.
- Please send in any change of address (proof of residency is needed ie. Utility bill/lease agreement).

You may also email attendance notes directly to our Attendance Secretary at: juanita.riddick@nn.k12.va.us or on the [Yates Main Website](http://yates.nn.k12.va.us) under “Submit and Absence”(yates.nn.k12.va.us).