

Van Wyck Elementary

Eagles

Our demographics

School principal: Steven Puckett **Began at school:** 2018 **In district:** 2007 **In education:** 2000

Grades served: PreK – 4 **Enrollment:** 730 **Economic status:** 18% free & reduced lunch

Diversity: 82% White, 10% African-American, 1% Hispanic, 7% Other

Number of teachers: 43 **Classified:** 14 **Administrators:** 3 **Counselors:** 2 **Media specialist:** 1

Other: Nurse, Elementary STEAM Specialist, Reading Coach, Speech, ESL, Psychologist, Technology Coach, Preschool Psychologist, Preschool Speech, Reading Interventionist

Teachers with advanced degrees: 46.4% **Teacher attendance:** 95.4% **Student attendance:** 96.4%

Our mission

At VWES, we “Take Aim at Greatness” everyday, everyday, everyday by embracing a positive and engaging learning environment, incorporating interdisciplinary learning experiences that challenge all stakeholders to achieve their personal and collective best.

Our core values

Positivity. Leadership. Learning. Collaboration. Consistency. STEAM.

Our facilities

Date main building was built: 2018 **Date of renovations:** N/A

Square feet: 120,608 **Number of computers:** 200 **Number of classrooms:** 48

Specialty areas: 1 STEAM lab, 2 computer labs, gym, 48 smart panel TVs, one media center, one art classroom

Our school programs

- **STEAM & Teacher Training** – Students participate in a course that extends science, technology, engineering, arts and math instruction in a lab-based environment.
- **Honor Choir** – The choir is open to fifth graders with strong musical interest.
- **iLead** – This is a leadership development program designed for selected young men and women in fifth grade. This program allows students to cultivate and develop the necessary traits needed to become a leader and a strong contributor to society. This program also encourages involvement from male community members and fathers that integrate themselves into our school culture and provide positive male leadership.
- **1:1 technology** – in grades K-4.
- **Eagle Team Days & Dollar for Dress Down** – Students are given the opportunity each month to learn about an important charitable cause in our community. Students will be allowed to dress in a way

that promotes either school spirit or the selected cause and a portion of proceeds will be donated to the cause. This program encourages students to become community minded and to give charitably.

After school programs

- **Fit Kids**
- **Girl Scouts**
- **Girls on the Run**

Our parent support programs

- **Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO)**
- **School Improvement Council (SIC)**
- **Parent/Community Volunteer Programs**
- **ILead Leadership Program**
- **Annual Volunteer Breakfast**
- **Know Before You Go Safety Program**

Our school strengths

- **Diverse academic and enrichment programs** – In addition to the core subject areas, we offer visual and performing arts programs, including art, music, physical education, keyboarding and STEAM. We have a reading coach and technology/math coach who support teachers as well as students. We offer a gifted-talented program as well as a reading enrichment program that meets the needs of our students on all levels. We also offer Study Island and RAZ Kids computer-based programs designed to support our classroom instruction, both in the classroom and at home.
- **Strong community and parent involvement including excellent communication** – We believe that learning is a team sport and that we can't be successful without support from staff, students, parents and the community. We have a supportive PTO that works to match classrooms with parent volunteers, provides funding for programs and technology that are needed in the school, grounds and building enhancement projects, and focuses on encouraging the team atmosphere we rely on. We keep our parents informed in a variety of ways including weekly parent emails from teachers, weekly parent ConnectED phone calls, regularly-updated website and a variety of social media outlets.
- **Cooperative learning teams** – We work hard to establish a team culture in our school. Each grade works together as a team to meet the needs of the students and to contribute to the overall school team. Teachers in individual grade levels meet weekly to collaborate on the best ways to provide instruction and to analyze performance data. Teachers work together to adjust and modify if necessary to make sure the needs of all students are being met. Teachers focus on a standards-driven instructional model which is

matched with interdisciplinary approaches to deliver the best possible instruction to students. We require all subject areas to incorporate a balance of whole-group instruction and small-group instruction, as well as individual conferencing to make sure each child is met on his/her level. Administration and support staff are a large part of the team and are involved in all staff meetings.

- **Take Aim at Greatness** – We will “Take Aim at Greatness” by being intentional in our decisions and our actions. We focus on five strategic targets which will help all students be successful not only at school, but throughout their lives. These targets are:

Target One: Be Positive: Take aim at the right attitude!

Target Two: Be a Leader: Take aim at being a good example!

Target Three: Be Teachable: Take aim at learning!

Target Four: Be a Team Player: Take aim at teamwork!

Target Five: Be your best everyday, everyday, everyday! Take aim at consistency and high standards.