



VALHALLA COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL – A FOUNDATION FOR LIFE

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Direct Instruction is one of the cornerstones of the innovative programming at VCCS. Direct Instruction is a set of teaching and learning strategies that have been proven effective over decades in countless research studies. Kelli Flint, a math teacher at Valhalla, says that the Direct Instruction approach is effective because it "...presents each concept in a clear and concise manner that systematically builds into the concepts of future lessons."

Reading mastery – mastering the ability to read at an early age – is one of the primary goals of Valhalla Community Charter School in Valhalla Centre. The ability to read and understand is the foundation for all other learning, and teachers at VCCS use a very effective Direct Instruction program to teach reading to elementary grade students. Students who have been in the "Reading Mastery" program for two years (learning through a combination of phonics, whole group response, fluency, reading comprehension and writing components), are all at or above their grade level in their reading ability.

In addition to the reading program, students also develop their basic math skills at VCCS through two highly researched and effective math programs which also use the Direct Instruction approach to teaching and learning.

The promotion of Rural Leadership, another cornerstone of the program at VCCS, involves preparing students for active participation in community life through learning how to make their voice heard, how to participate in and run meetings and to develop a willingness to serve their community.

Since its beginnings in 2008 as a Charter school, the student population at VCCS has grown from 36 students to over 100 in grades K to 9, and welcomes students from Beaverlodge, Hythe, LaGlace and as far away as can be practically managed – some parents choosing to drive students to meet the bus when their home is too distant for buses to reach. The program has had a positive impact on all students, but is most effective for children who attend beginning in the early grades, learning their basic skills in reading, writing and mathematics at an early age. Steve Mumert, Principal at VCCS, says that "...our school is about partnering with parents in a very intentional way to achieve the best possible educational experience for 'our kids'."

Valhalla Community Charter School accepts children on its wait list at any time, and will be registering for grades 1-9 for the 2014-2015 school year beginning April 22. Kindergarten registration is already ongoing. For more information, please contact the school at (780)356-2370.