



# Student-Centered Experience

Develop/sustain a culture of belonging, safety and positive student-staff relationships

## Promoting Positive First Experiences for VPS Students



Lake Shore incoming kindergarteners learn about school procedures during Jump Start

### Incoming Kindergarteners "Jump Start" into 2024-25 School Year

Many of our youngest learners got to experience school before the official first day. On August 14 and 15, over 1,000 VPS students participated in Jump Start Kindergarten at their home elementary schools. Jump Start is a shortened-day experience that allows our incoming kindergartners an opportunity to become familiar with their teacher, classroom, learning routines, and settings within the school, to promote a positive transition.

Data shows that students who attend Jump Start are better prepared for kindergarten than children who don't participate. During Jump Start, students make new friends and explore reading and math. These opportunities contribute to confidence, leadership skills, and enthusiasm for school.

What a strong start for our kindergarteners!

## Sixth Grade Students Kick Start the 2024-25 School Year

Sixth grade is an important year for students transitioning into middle school. To support a positive start to the school year, all VPS middle schools hosted a 6th grade Kick Start for the first day of school. Kick Start provided the opportunity for 6th graders to attend school before 7th and 8th graders arrived. Students were able to meet teachers, follow their schedule and make new friends.

Over 1,350 students participated in the 6th Grade Kick Start. Students were so confident by the end of the Kick Start day. They were still nervous about all of the 7th and 8th graders coming the next day but they knew where to find all their classes and understand the structure of the school day. The first day of school was very smooth because the 6th graders had a stronger understanding of the routines, knowing what to expect, and some initial relationships in the school community.

