



Van Far School District

Dear Parents & Guardians,

This summer, our school district is excited to offer **Summer Journey**, a **free** summer learning program for all students. Summer Journey is designed to be **fun, engaging, and meaningful**, giving students a positive and enriching summer experience.

Students will participate in **over 60 hours of learning** throughout the summer. This time allows students to review important skills they've already learned and build confidence as they prepare for the upcoming school year. Academic classes focus on reading, language arts, math, and science or social studies. These classes are **hands-on, interactive, and theme-based**, so learning feels active and enjoyable—not like a traditional school day. There is **no homework, no tests, and no grades**.

Summer Journey also includes enrichment **courses**, which give students opportunities to explore, create, and discover through fun, hands-on experiences. These courses may include activities such as building and launching rockets, cooking, performing skits, or participating in fitness and sports-based learning. Journey courses are designed to spark curiosity, teamwork, and creativity while keeping students excited about coming to school each day.

If you are the parent of a child who will be entering Kindergarten in fall 2026, I strongly encourage you to consider enrolling your child in **Summer Journey**. We have noticed that when these young students meet their teachers, fellow students, and our staff during the summer, they are eager to return in the fall and find that "first day of school" experience to be a positive one. Our Kindergarten curriculum includes a week-long "Welcome to School" segment that helps students learn about their classroom and school, practice typical classroom routines, and participate in fun activities that celebrate starting school off right.

Finally, **Summer Journey** offers an enticing incentive program for students. Students will be eligible to receive **daily** rewards if they come to school, exhibit a positive attitude and behavior, and work to improve their achievement. At the end of the program, some lucky students will also win **Grand Prizes**, which will be awarded on the final day. And, as in past years, all our students who demonstrate outstanding attendance will be rewarded with **Attendance Recognition** gift cards, ranging from \$50 for "near perfect" attendance to \$100 for "perfect attendance."

Who should attend **Summer Journey**? Everyone. Simply put, it's good for kids. Look at the information enclosed. You'll be glad you did!

Sincerely,

Dr. Natalie Gibson
Superintendent

Van Far School District Summer Journey Course Offerings

All Academic Courses (Language Arts, Mathematics, Reading, Science and/or Social Studies) are offered during morning sessions. All Journey Courses are offered during afternoon sessions. Students participate in Journey courses for blocks of time, enabling every student to participate in every Journey course.

Summer Journey Location(s):

El Dorado Springs Elementary & El Dorado Springs
Middle and High Scho

Kindergarten (Students Entering K)

My Town, Your Town, Our World!

In this course, young learners embark on an exploration of different types of communities—urban, suburban, and rural. Through interactive read-alouds, role-playing, and community-themed games, students discover the people who live, learn, and work in these diverse environments. Math activities include counting, drawing, and coloring shapes and numbers. In hands-on literacy and math centers, students use their imaginations to build model communities while discussing the various roles people play within them. The course emphasizes social skills cooperation, and the value of diverse community roles.

On the Move!

How do your young explorers like to travel? In this transportation-themed course, kindergartners discover how people move around—from city streets to open waters. After a brief introduction and rest time, students dive into engaging read-alouds, purposeful play, and hands-on activities that spark curiosity and creativity. Outdoor activities keep the energy high before students explore theme-based centers, experiencing the excitement of transportation using all their senses.

Primary (Students Entering 1st-3rd Grade)

Journey Courses

Abacadabra Academy
Let's Get Moving

Stack it Up
Mission Control

Creaturs, Critters, and Creativity
Shake, Rattle, and Roll

Elementary (Students Entering 4th-5th Grade)

Journey Courses

Art with an Aptitude
To Games and Beyond

Daily Challenges Jr
Sports Clip Jr

Lifetime Sports Jr
Hoopla

Intermediate (Students Entering 6th-8th and/or 9th Grade)

Journey Courses

3D Art
Daily Challenges Plus

All for One
Rockets Plus

Mixed Media
Sports Clip Plus

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Summer Journey program?

The Van Far School District Summer Journey is an extended learning summer program operated by Van Far School District and Catapult Learning to provide a world-class educational experience to district students.

What does the program cost to parents?

The programming is free to all students.

When will the program be held?

Van Far Summer Journey operates 4 days per week from May 26th to June 19th, 2026. Daily from 8:00am to 3:30pm.*

**Dates may change based on the number of days missed due to inclement weather. Changes will be announced.*

Must my child be in attendance every hour of the program to receive credit for the Summer Journey program?

No. We understand students may have vacations or camps planned. While prizes for good attendance are available to students, a child's occasional absence should not deter parents from enrolling their children in the program.

Will transportation be provided to and from the program?

Yes, transportation will be provided for those student families who qualify for transportation during the regular school year. However, bus routes will be limited and may vary from routes during the regular school year. Transportation information will be sent to those families who require transportation as soon as the plan becomes available.

What will my child(ren) do each day?

In the morning, Summer Journey students attend engaging academic classes where they may read interesting adventure stories, play language arts games, and/or use technology to solve math mysteries. A typical schedule would include four morning classes of Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science or Social Studies.

After lunch, students will explore a variety of fun-filled courses that rotate for those enrolled in the program.

How does the incentive program work?

Many students will win daily incentives for their efforts through a daily drawing, or some similar format established by the summer site. Your student is also eligible to receive one of the following incentives for their Summer Journey attendance:

- Perfect attendance = \$100 gift card
- Up to one day missed = \$75 gift card
- Up to two days missed = \$50 gift card

Will breakfast and lunch be served every day?

Yes, the District has applied for a special state grant whereby ALL students would receive a free breakfast and lunch daily. In the event the grant is not approved, breakfast and lunch will be served using the same systems that are currently in place.

How do I enroll my child for Summer Journey?

Enroll online at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd7bPGulxEH1Z5NDhItaNLsY4zII9T5I-qbDuw2tJT_aeHVCg/viewform

Catapult Learning



STUDENT INCENTIVES

Attendance

Student incentives are dependent on actual full-day attendance in the Summer Journey program.

\$100 Gift Card

Perfect Attendance

\$75 Gift Card

Up To One Day Missed

\$50 Gift Card

Over One Day, Up To Two Days Missed

Gift cards can be used in the local stores or malls.

Daily Incentives

Daily incentives will be awarded to students based on good attitude and achievement as determined by each site.

Van Far School District

Enrollment Information Enclosed

Van Far Summer Journey operates from May 26th to June 19th, 2026. Daily from 8:00am to 3:30pm. Changes will be announced.