



# Mt. Vernon High School

## School Improvement Plan

### 2019-2020

**This plan is written in compliance with IC 20-31-5-4, IC 20-31-4-6, IC 20-31-6, IC 20-19-3-12.2, and 511 IAC 6.2-3. Additional input on professional development was sought from IC 20-19-2-11, IC 20-20-31. The technology coordination plan complies with IC 20-20-13. Mt. Vernon High School suspends no federal rules or statutes. In compliance with 511 IAC 6.2-3-2, Mt. Vernon High School recognizes Sec 2101(a)3(c)1(B)ii from the 2015 ESSA reauthorization supplants 511 IAC 10-6.**



## Curriculum:

Mt. Vernon High School uses the Indiana Academic Standards as our curricular framework which can be accessed on the Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation website at [www.mvcsc.k12.in.us](http://www.mvcsc.k12.in.us). Curricular teams of teachers have been developed by grade level and academic content areas to identify priority standards and supporting standards from the Indiana Academic Standards. Our curricular teams use an ongoing curriculum revision process during our scheduled delayed start Wednesday PLCs. During this time curricular teams also create common formative assessments to be used and analysed to gather data to monitor individual student academic growth to ensure all students will learn at high levels.

## Requirement Pertaining to Goals and Objectives:

Overall goals:

1. Provide an engaging and relevant academic program which provides preparation for all students in whatever their next phase after high school includes.
2. Provide a safe, effective, and efficient educational environment.
3. Maintain on-going, two-way stakeholder communication which serves to advocate for student success.
4. Attract, retain, and develop high-quality staff members through ongoing support.

MVHS Math Goal

- MVHS students will score 10% higher than the state average on the ISTEP+ Grade 10 Math Exam. Math SAT scores will increase by 1% (from 539 to 544).

Instructional Strategies (Teachers will...)	Learning Outcomes (Students will...)
Teachers will employ problem solving across the curriculum.	Students will successfully interpret information in a complex problem.
Teachers will develop content specific multi-step problems that include common building-wide vocabulary.	Students will learn a process to solve multi-step problems that incorporate common building-wide vocabulary.
Teachers will develop spiraled math concepts throughout the year.	Students will retain and apply math concepts learned throughout the year.
Teachers will model and provide opportunities for students to verbalize the process for solving complex problems.	Students will articulate solving a complex problem.
Math teachers will cycle essential learnings	Students will demonstrate proficiency on



based on measures of student proficiency on those essential learning concepts.	math essential learning concepts.
Teachers will provide students timely and effective feedback that leads to improved learning.	Students will use feedback to evaluate, revise, and expand their thinking and improve their problem solving performance.

#### MVHS English/Language Arts Goal

- MVHS students will score 10% higher than the state average on the ISTEP+ Grade 10 English/Language Arts Exam. Verbal SAT scores will increase by 2% (from 551 to 560).

Instructional Strategies (Teachers will...)	Learning Outcomes (Students will...)
Teachers will model and require students to state a claim, support it with at least two specific pieces of textual evidence, and connect the evidence to the claim. Various techniques (RACE, RAP, Yes, Ma'am) can be utilized.	Students will state a claim, support it with at least two specific pieces of textual evidence, and connect the evidence to the claim. Students will make use of provided formats.
Teachers will provide multiple sources/texts and model how to construct arguments using textual evidence.	Students will generate ideas by synthesizing and constructing arguments using textual evidence from multiple sources.
Teachers will break down instructions and/or prompts focusing on the required task, skills, and academic vocabulary. For example, having students number parts of the instruction, having students circle key words within instructions, and/or having students restate the instructions in common language.	Students will accurately complete tasks identified within instructions and prompts.
Teachers will collaborate on best practices, vocabulary, reading strategies, and text sets.	Students will use these strategies to practice, expand, demonstrate proficiency in assigned areas.
Teachers will encourage opportunities for students to engage in outside independent reading.	Students will read independently using high interest "just right" texts.
Teachers will model reading strategies and close readings in class. For example, making use of think alouds, phases of reading, and annotations.	Students will independently practice strategies and annotations to deeply engage with texts.



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Teachers will provide students with opportunities to practice timed writings of various modes in relation to cold-read texts.	Students will generate ideas by synthesizing and constructing arguments using textual evidence.
Teachers will provide students timely and effective feedback that leads to improved learning.	Students will use feedback to evaluate, revise, and expand their thinking and improve their English/language arts performance.

## **Reduction in Absenteeism:**

Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation, and specifically Mt. Vernon High School has an exemplary attendance record. In isolated instances where attendance does become a problem, we utilize the Hancock County Juvenile Probation System, to compel student attendance.

## **Name and Description and of Assessments in Addition to ISTEP+:**

- **Advanced Placement (AP) Exams:** National assessment students may elect to take in conjunction with an Advanced Placement course which can lead to earning college credit. Students must earn a score of 3 or better on the exam to earn college credit.
- **ASVAB:** Offered to all 12th grade students. Can be used to satisfy graduation requirements via Graduation Pathways for students that have not passed the ISTEP+ assessment(s). Students must earn a minimum score of 31 to pass the ASVAB.
- **NWEA:** A nationally normed assessment used across multiple grade levels. Math, reading, and language academic growth are monitored multiple times throughout the academic year.
- **PSAT:** A nationally normed college readiness assessment and AP potential predictor administered to 10th and 11th grade students.
- **SAT:** A nationally normed college readiness assessment administered optionally in high school.
- **ACT:** A nationally normed college readiness assessment administered optionally in high school.

## **Professional Development Narrative:**

- **Data Analysis**
  - Mt. Vernon High School staff members participate in Professional Learning Community (PLC) sessions on a weekly basis which provides time, structure, and collaborative opportunity for student-centered data analysis. Working from a common curricular framework, aligned to state standards, teachers make use of PLC session time to evaluate instructional effectiveness as measured by summative assessments as well as ongoing formative assessments during the



instructional period. Additional data is provided through a number of sources including the USA Test Prep platform, Edmentum, NWEA, and locally-developed assessments. Data is analyzed to determine core program effectiveness and to determine where and when remediative interventions are necessary in order to close student achievement gaps.

- ISTEP+ Data: Student results are analyzed and disaggregated by subject (Math, English, Science), gender, free/reduced status, and other subgroup identifications. Comparisons are made to previous year results and where applicable to previous cohort results.
- SAT/ACT Data: Students results are analyzed and disaggregated. These results are compared to previous results to identify trends. Participation rates are also compiled.
- PSAT Data: Student results are analyzed and disaggregated. Comparisons are made to previous results and where applicable to previous cohort results.

- **Strategies, Programs, Services, and Activities**

- Mt. Vernon High School, in collaboration with all Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation schools, integrates the Indiana Academic Standards into a locally developed framework while also providing alignment to Dual Credit and/or Advanced Placement Course outcomes. This provides a strong and well-rounded core curriculum for students attending Mt. Vernon High School. Our students have opportunities to take courses for remediation/support (Algebra Year-Long, Developmental Reading, Foundational Math) as well as enrichment (Advanced Placement, Dual Credit).
- A student resource time (SRT) has been included within the daily class schedule in order to provide time for teachers to provide additional supports for students. Students are able to use this time to meet with teachers in order to receive additional instruction and/or have an opportunity to review concepts previously taught during regular class times. Teachers can request students to come visit them during this time based on data analysis of student achievement results.
- English and math teachers received professional development training in regards to developing essential learning (EL) targets through the identification of priority standards via Marzano in July 2019. This will in turn be used during PLC sessions in order to organize high-leverage learning opportunities for students. The plan is to continue this process with other subject areas on future dates.
- Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation makes use of online educational resources curated by Edmentum. Mt. Vernon High School specifically makes use of Study Island in order to serve as another data source for student achievement helping teachers determine students' levels of understanding as well as PLATO



courseware to deliver online course content which can also be used in a virtual school setting and/or for credit recovery purposes.

- MVHS provides students with well-rounded elective experiences through various course offerings in the areas of music, art, family and consumer sciences, business, technology, and world languages. These courses and programs serve to enhance our students' overall educational experience.
- Various professional development opportunities are provided to staff throughout the year. Examples include further training in the implementation of blended learning, continued development of staff capacity in professional learning communities, constructing effective curriculum frameworks, and constructing effective assessments leading to improved data analysis.
- MVHS also offers students unique educational programming through alternative education. The MV LIFE Center allows students to earn credits in an alternative environment including smaller classes sizes, blended learning, and non-traditional scheduling while still providing onsite support from teachers.

- **Evaluation on the impact of these activities**

- Mt. Vernon High School reviews local formative assessments and standardized summative assessments throughout the school year. Various groups of teachers meet weekly during their PLC sessions in order to analyze achievement data and discuss and determine best practices to bring about high levels of learning. Additionally, individual departments review data from a number of sources to identify areas of need. This analysis in turn informs daily instructional practices, periodic formative assessments (USA Test Prep, NWEA, etc.). These assessments serve as benchmarks for yearly state summative assessments for applicable students.

- **Assurances**

Principals have completed the IDOE Legal Standards for accreditation assurances.

## **Cultural Competency:**

Students at Mt. Vernon High School have a variety of opportunities to learn about other cultures through art, music, literature, and world language courses. Additionally, our ENL coordinator provides varying levels of support for both students and staff. Also, our F1 and J1 Visa Programs help both visiting students and resident students at Mt. Vernon High School to



experience a rich cultural experience. These experiences are also expanded through the continued development of our overall International Program.

MVHS is in the process of further developing a character education and social-emotional learning framework which will provide knowledge, skills, and support for both students and staff. These initiatives are geared toward emphasizing our culture of caring throughout the building, which in turn fosters better academic achievement.

MVHS students also have the opportunity to participate in service learning each year. Each fall, the MV Community Service Day involves students from all grade levels serving the community in various ways by completing projects coordinated through open applications. In the spring, the MV Senior Work Day allows senior students the opportunity to give back to their school by completing projects across all school campuses.

### **Provisions to Maximize Parental Participation:**

Parents' participation is a key component to success within our school. Parents actively support Mt. Vernon High School by participating in a variety of organizations designed to provide connections between the school and families. This includes groups such as the Athletic Boosters and Band Boosters as well as the newly initiated Mt. Vernon Community Champions. The school organizes several events to facilitate communication between the school and home.

There are several events that take place throughout the school year to facilitate communication between the school and home as parents are welcomed into the building. One such event involves our Centralized Registration event which is hosted at Mt. Vernon High School. This allows students and parents from across the corporation to receive all materials for the upcoming school year and become familiar with the school building as well. Staff including members from the counseling department are available to address any concerns and answer questions as needed.

An annual back-to-school event is also conducted each year which allows parents the opportunity to follow an abbreviated version of their student's schedule and visit with teachers. This event allows parents to become more familiar with the building itself as well as learn more details about their child's classes.

As we certainly want to maintain open lines of communication, several parent nights are organized throughout the year with topics ranging from participation in athletics to senior information to concerts and other fine arts programs.



MVHS also believes in including parents in the educational process. This includes ensuring that parents have access to students' academic records via the Skyward student information system, setting up observer accounts in students' online learning management systems, and sharing class information through teacher websites and/or agenda pages. Great effort is taken in sharing information through our school's various social media accounts, school website, as well as through a weekly newsletter emailed to all students, parents, and staff, which is also posted on our school website.

Several clubs, co-curricular activities, and athletics have booster clubs which work to support student programs through fundraising and committee work.

### **Provisions to Maintain a Safe and Disciplined Learning Environment:**

Mt. Vernon High School maintains a safe and orderly learning environment through emergency preparedness drills. Each year MVHS completes the required number of state-mandated drills in order to ensure that students and staff understand safety procedures.

School resource officers (SROs), secure entrances, and security cameras provide additional safety measures in the building. The school corporation has an electronic visitor check-in system that coordinates with our volunteer background database. All visitors must provide identification before being given access to the rest of the building. Upon presenting identification, the visitor will be given an ID badge to use while at school. This measure provides an extra step towards maximizing the security of the main entrance to the building.

### **Provisions for the Coordination of Technology Initiatives:**

Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation classrooms utilize many tools and resources to foster and develop deep learning where students are engaged in rigorous, relevant, and technologically enhanced curriculum. MVCSC strives to develop teachers that understand how to integrate technology at the highest levels to support high learning outcomes for their students. Our district technology team provides many resources and guides our professional development and coaching using the SAMR and Triple E frameworks. We model and stress to teachers that, to have the biggest impact on student learning, we must use technology to transform lessons and ask students to do things that previously were unimaginable. In the hands of a well-trained teacher, technology can be a tool to accelerate learning and give students new opportunities to create and share their work. All students in grades K-3 have access to an iPad and all students grades 4-12 have access to a Chromebook 24/7 as we believe providing our students with these devices and providing teachers with training on best practices for technology integration will help us provide our children with personalized, rigorous,



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innovated, and immersive learning opportunities that empowers our students to be successful.

### **Courses Offered and Encouragement Toward Core 40 or Academic Honors**

MVHS offers a varied and robust curriculum. We work to provide challenging courses as well as academic support programs to help all students learn at high levels. Specific information about our course offerings can be found in our academic [Course Handbook](#).

### **Statutory Requirements:**

This plan was approved by the Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation's Board of Trustees on September 16, 2019.

It can be accessed easily and in easily comprehensible language, online at [www.mvcsc.k12.in.us](http://www.mvcsc.k12.in.us)

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Dr. Jack Parker, Superintendent  
Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation

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Date

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Mrs. Desiray Scalf, MVCTA President

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Date