



Mt. Vernon Middle School

Reading and Math
Specialists

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Purpose of a Middle School Specialist

Our mission is to meet students academically where they are and help them grow. We are dedicated to building relationships to foster a safe environment where students can ask questions, make mistakes, and feel ownership in their learning.

- Teach GOAL classes
- Measure student growth with frequent progress monitors
- Determine gaps in individual student learning by analyzing data
- Address learning gaps by intentional planning of lessons using various instructional strategies
- Facilitate a classroom culture of cooperation and learning
- Collaborate closely with classroom teachers
- Provide support to all students during digital learning and quarantine situations
- Be flexible in thinking and planning for the future to provide the best education for all students at MVMS

Strategies, Activities, and Building Relationships

Students who have been identified with learning gaps have been scheduled in GOAL classes. Due to the diverse learning needs of each student in the class, it is important to use educational strategies and activities that best meet each of their individual needs. Our main priority is to build a relationship with each and every student in our class so they feel comfortable and safe to make mistakes and learn from them.

- Chunking/Presenting content in small, sequentially related sets
- Cooperative grouping
- Self-assessing/self-rating scales
- Modeling
- Guided practice
- Frequent structured practice
- Identifying errors in reasoning
- Student-friendly/high interest problems, articles, and prompts
- Learning style and interest interviews/inventories
- Frequent feedback
- Practice sessions prior to testing
- Voluntary lunch groups
- Support during virtual learning
- Support during extended absences
- Targeted spiral reviews
- Pre-teaching skills
- Building authentic relationships
- Article-of-the-Day
- XtraMath
- Exact Path
- Quill Grammar
- ReadTheory

Professional Development, Training, & Preparation

In order to meet the needs of students who have experienced learning gaps and/or interruptions in the typical learning processes, we have participated in the following professional development and learning opportunities:

- New Art and Science of Teaching
- Digital Learning Pathway Cohort
- CIESC Trainings
- Smekens Trainings
- PLC Collaboration
- MTSS Committee
- Digital Math/English Language Arts Curriculum Committee
- Data Analysis
- Always looking for additional trainings to support student growth