

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

APRIL 2013 CURRICULUM UPDATE

Elizabeth Jewett
Nicole Santora, Ed.D.
Sumit Bangia, Ed.D.

Director of Instructional Studies
Supervisor of Math & Science
Supervisor of Humanities



VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Agenda

- Curriculum & Instruction Framework
- Progress on Current Initiatives
- Plans for 2013-2014



OUR MISSION:

To prepare students to be scholars and productive citizens through outstanding teaching, challenging curricula* and engaging co-curricular programs in safe and modern facilities.

*All students will achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards

STRATEGY 1

We will align, modify, and develop an integrated K-12 curriculum with built-in assessments to support the achievement of our mission and strategic objectives.

- Result 1:** Train teachers to use a computer software program (Rubicon Atlas mapping software) that will allow them to document the taught curriculum within the classroom.
- Result 2:** Familiarize the content area faculty members with new district model for unit planning and curriculum writing, (Understanding by Design – UbD) as needed for curriculum development in the 5-year cycle.
- Result 3:** Conduct a curriculum audit of the Verona School District to determine the extent to which the district has developed and implemented a sound, valid, and operational system of curriculum management.

STRATEGY 2

We will imbue in students, through curricular and co-curricular programs, traits of character, service, citizenship and social awareness.

- Result 1:** Clarify, emphasize, and enforce a uniform K-12 Code of Conduct.
- Result 2:** Institute service projects within each school that attract student participation.
- Result 3:** Formalize and expand character education programs that promote peer leadership and social awareness.
- Result 4:** Improve student conduct and peer relationships.
- Result 5:** Include citizenship grade on HS report card to reflect school standards.

STRATEGIC GOALS:

1. All graduates will have mastered a challenging curriculum that prepares them for productive futures as problem solvers, independent thinkers and responsible citizens.
2. All students will demonstrate character, service, citizenship and social awareness through curricular and co-curricular programs.
3. All teachers will meet or exceed the highest level of professional teaching standards.
4. All district facilities will provide students and staff with state-of-the-art, safe learning and working environments.

STRATEGY 3

We will partner with the community to expand curricular and co-curricular opportunities and parenting seminars/programs.

- Result 1:** Create a resource data bank for classroom teachers to augment lessons.
- Result 2:** Enhance the relationship between the school community and families in order to produce a sustained, collaborative effort of education.
- Result 3:** Embrace a philosophy of respectful and trusting relationships between staff and families.

STRATEGY 4

We will provide staff members with the training and support necessary to achieve the mission and strategic objectives.

- Result 1:** Provide personnel support for professional development, curriculum development and grant writing.
- Result 2:** Create a formal program including policies and procedures for professional development.
- Result 3:** Establish a variety of professional development opportunities that support the strategic plan.

STRATEGY 5

We will establish a framework for learning and standards for excellence in teaching.

- Result 1:** Increase the use of a variety of proven instructional strategies to advance the achievement of our diverse learners.
- Result 2:** Use an assortment of assessments.
- Result 3:** Build students' habits of minds.
- Result 4:** Increase collaboration with other education professionals to improve student learning.

STRATEGY 6

We will provide students and staff with necessary technology to achieve excellence.

- Result 1:** Ensure working, reliable computers in each of our classrooms, labs, and offices.
- Result 2:** Improve the technology infrastructure.
- Result 3:** Continue a professional development program that will provide staff with the skills needed to use and integrate technology in every classroom.
- Result 4:** Purchase new equipment to provide for building computer labs and classrooms.
- Result 5:** Provide adequate technology staffing to ensure working reliable computers in each of our classrooms, labs and offices.

STRATEGY 7

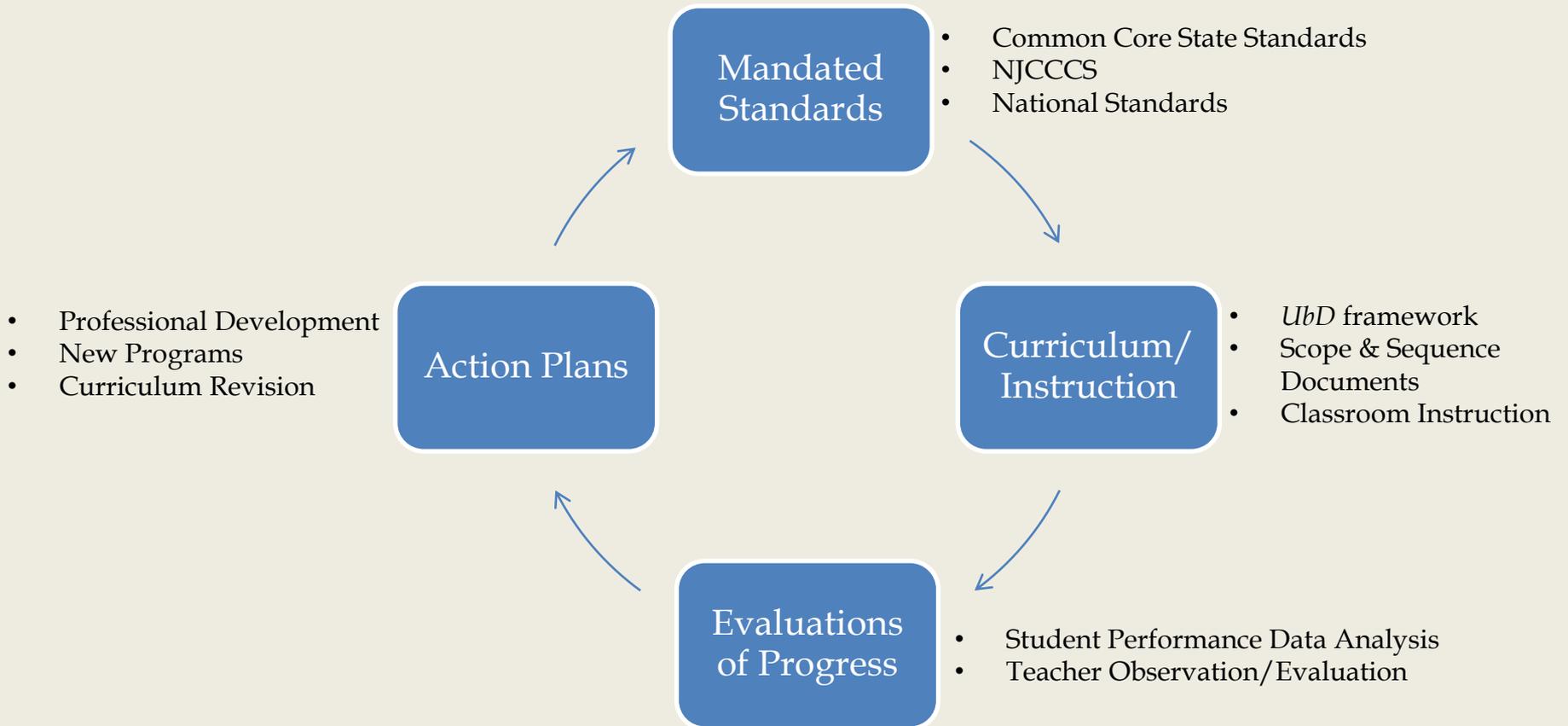
We will create safe and inviting learning environments.

- Result 1:** Refurbish the existing structures at all school facilities not addressed during the construction and renovation projects, per LAN Associates Needs Assessment of 2004.
- Result 2:** Create safe and secure school facilities following local, state, and federal recommendations.
- Result 3:** Establish a checklist for safety and quality of life standards to be maintained at each school facility.
- Result 4:** Maximize parental cooperation in the following safety areas: (a) vehicular traffic at school drop-off and pickups and (b) food and snacks brought to and sold in schools.
- Result 5:** Provide a positive, inviting atmosphere in each building through welcoming facilities and courteous personnel.



VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Curriculum Framework



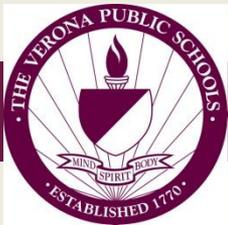
2012-2013 Areas of Focus

AREA OF FOCUS	ACTION ITEMS
Reading, K-12✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of Reading Workshop, grades 3-4• Re-evaluation of DRA training and implementation (currently administered 2X/year in grades K-4)• Use of periodicals and primary sources
Writing, K-6✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incorporate informational/nonfiction writing to align with CCSS
Math, 5-8✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gr 5 – implemented CCSS September 2012• Alignment to CCSS for grades 6-8 (effective September 2013)• Phase out Algebra I in grade 7
Science, K-12✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examine National Science Standards and begin process of curricular alignment



2012-2013 Areas of Focus

AREA OF FOCUS	ACTION ITEMS
In-House Assessments In Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement DBQ – social studies, grades 8-12 • Expand utilization of common assessments at VHS in all core subjects • Prepare for transition to PARCC assessments
Teacher Evaluation ✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form District Advisory Committee to select model (in partnership with Caldwell-WC and Glen Ridge) • Purchase software and training • All staff (administrators AND teachers) to be trained by July 2013
Expand Course Selection Options for VHS Students ✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of redesigned semester electives in 21st Century Life & Careers/Technology • Dual enrollment opportunities
World Language ✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Mandarin program at Laning during 12-13 school year • Continue examining possibilities for restructuring of world language program



NJASK Cluster Analysis

NJASK Math:

- Numbers & Numerical Operations
- Geometry
- Patterns & Algebra
- Data Analysis, Probability, & Discrete Math
- Problem Solving

NJASK LAL:

- Writing
 - Speculative & Expository
 - OR
 - Persuasive & Explanatory
- Reading
 - Working with Text
 - Analyzing Text

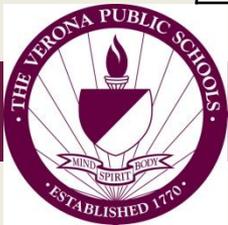


Reading, K-12

CCSS – English/Language Arts (ELA) Changes

- READING - Increased emphasis on informational texts (nonfiction) vs. narrative texts (fiction)

Grade Level	Narrative	Informational
K-4	50%	50%
5-8	45%	55%
9-12	30%	70%

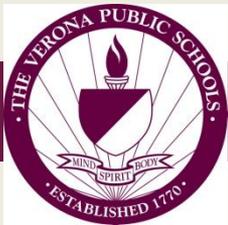


Reading, K-12

- First year of full implementation of reading workshop, grades 3-4
 - Interdisciplinary approach for certain RW units (Science or Social Studies related)
 - Reading Workshop will be expanding to K-2 for the 2013-2014 school year
- Infusion of Nonfiction across all grade levels (K-12):
 - Periodicals
 - NY Times Upfront
 - Scope
 - Cobblestone
 - National Geographic
 - Zoo books
 - Newspapers
 - NY Times
 - Primary Sources (7-12)

MEASURED IMPROVEMENT:

- Expected after initial years of implementation

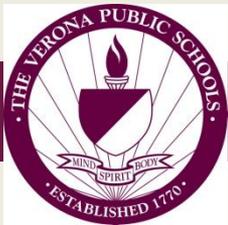


Writing K-6

- Continued implementation of Writing Workshop, grades K-6
- Revised writing calendars with focus upon writing in the content areas (tie to research)
 - K: developed a community-based unit tied to social studies
 - Grade One: focus on science related topic (e.g., research animals)
 - Grade Four: New Jersey history (brochures)

MEASURED IMPROVEMENT:

- At grades 3-4, improved relative to DFG two years in a row
- Closing gap with DFG in grades 5-6



CCSS – Mathematics Changes

In comparison to the 2008 NJCCCS, the NJDOE has made the following codes:

- + = New requirement, previously at a higher grade level
- = New requirement, previously at a lower grade level
- N = New content, not previously required

Grade Code	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
N	1	5	0	2	2	1	2	0
+	1	4	5	5	11	14	10	4
-	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2



Math, 5-8

- Consolidated 5th grade math levels in order to ensure CCSS are adequately covered – effective 13-14
- Newly updated curriculum aligned to CCSS developed for math, grades 6-8, to be implemented September 2013

MEASURED IMPROVEMENT:

- Expected after initial years of implementation

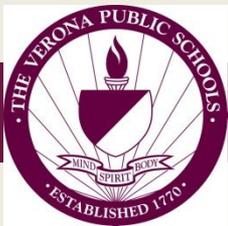


Science, K-12

- 7-12, professional discussion on the framework for K-12 Science Education (Foundation for Next Generation Science Standards)

MEASURED IMPROVEMENT:

- Curriculum to be redesigned once new standards are adopted by NJDOE



Science, K-12

- Integration of STEM-based educational opportunities
 - Robotics in Computer Science (VFEE Grant)
 - PreCalc Honors/Physics Honors coordination of instruction (VFEE Grant)
 - STEM Day 2013 at BCC
 - Engineering by Design Push-In Enrichment Program, grades 3-4

MEASURED IMPROVEMENT:

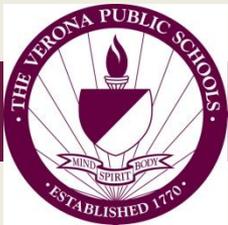
- Will be looking to gather post-high school data through College Clearinghouse



Science, K-12

Engineering by Design (EbD) Push-In Enrichment Program

- EbD is a standards-based national curriculum model for STEM education
- Developed by ITEEA's (International Technology and Engineering Educator's Association) Center for Teaching and Learning
- TCNJ is part of EbD consortium – will be providing PD to Verona staff
- Will replace current pull-out G/T program for grades 3-4 in 2013-2014
- Looking to expand to grades 1-2 in 2014-2015



Science, K-12

Engineering by Design (EbD) Push-In Enrichment Program

- Students learn concepts and principles in an authentic, problem-based learning environment
- The program is built on constructivist models of instruction
- Concepts for Lessons include:
 - Invention
 - Innovation
 - Inquiry
 - Design
 - Power & Energy

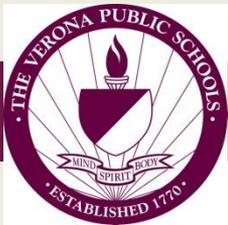


In-House Assessments

- Implement Document Based Question (DBQ) – social studies, 7-11
- Math department is beginning to develop common assessments

MEASURED IMPROVEMENT:

- More varied, frequent, and accurate assessment of student progress



Teacher Evaluation

- District-wide PD sessions on:
 - NJDOE proposed regulations
 - Marzano Causal Teacher Evaluation Model
 - iObservation software
- Admin PD is facilitated collaboratively with Glen Ridge
- DEAC, in conjunction with administrative team, is finalizing summative evaluation rubric, effective 13-14



Expand Course Selection Options for VHS Students

- Discrete Math course to be offered as 12th grade math elective, 13-14
- Investigating adding a Robotics semester course at VHS
- Economics, Holocaust & Genocide offered as semester courses during 12-13
- Contemporary Issues, History of Film to be offered as semester courses during 13-14
- Tomorrow's Teachers – looking to expand to 6 credit course next year

MEASURED IMPROVEMENT:

- More diverse and rigorous array of courses on student transcripts
- Will be looking to gather post-high school data through College Clearinghouse



World Language

- Implemented Mandarin program at Laning
- Presentations at each elementary school of language options in grade 5
- Spanish – developed a curriculum map articulating coherent sequence among levels, grade 5 – AP Spanish
- Use of *lingtlanguage* web site

MEASURED IMPROVEMENT:

- In process – a clearly articulated curriculum, grades 1-12



Additional Accomplishments

- Online books launched in Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra II courses
- Math department at VHS has established PLCs with a focus on:
 - Assessment
 - Vertical/horizontal curriculum articulation
 - Creation of quality summer assignments
 - Data analysis



Additional Accomplishments

- Recognized on AP Honor Roll by College Board for increasing level of participation AND performance
- Closing the gap with the DFG for %PP on HSPA



Strategic Plan 2013-2018

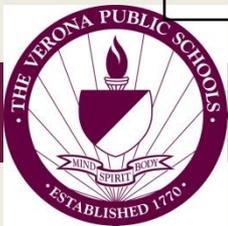
MISSION

The mission of the Verona Public Schools, the center of an engaged and supportive community, is to empower students to achieve their potential as active learners and productive citizens through rigorous curricula and meaningful, enriching experiences.

GOALS

We will know we have accomplished our mission when...

1. All students articulate and embody our core values.
2. All students demonstrate meaningful academic and social growth.
3. All students independently apply learning experiences to new contexts.
4. All students graduate from high school with a thoughtful plan for the future.



VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2013-2014 Areas of Focus

AREA OF FOCUS	ACTION ITEMS
Reading, K-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial implementation of RW, grades K-2 • DRA training, grades 1-2 • Foundations training, grades K-2 • Expand use of periodicals & primary sources
Writing, K-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to focus on integrating writing across the disciplines • Piloting new series grades 6-8
English, 7-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to incorporate informational texts into classroom • Expand use of nonfiction
Math, 6-8 (Math 5-8 in 12-13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of new CCSS-aligned curriculum in grades 6-8
Science, K-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin collaborative study of NSF Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) • Begin investigating literacy-based programs for grades K-5 • Exploring literacy-based K-4 instruction



2013-2014 Areas of Focus

AREA OF FOCUS	ACTION ITEMS
Social Studies, K-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Begin investigation literacy-based programs for grades K-4•Continued focus on DBQs
In-House Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Development of Student Growth Objectives by all Departments accompanied by meaningful assessments
Teacher Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Continue training for all staff on Marzano Causal Teacher Evaluation model•Training for admins on Principal Evaluation Model•Fully implement iObservation software for observation and evaluation process
Expand Course Selection Options for VHS Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Investigate potential new electives for 14-15: robotics at VHS & HBW, computer science at HBW, AP Environmental Science
World Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Development of effective assessments to accurately gauge student learning in all dimensions of the target language



Thank you!



VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

APPENDIX

School Performance Report Analysis



VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	LAL %P	Peer Rank	Math %P	Peer Rank	Avg % P	Summary Peer Rank	Performance
In Verona's Peer Group							
Governor Livingston (Berkeley Hts)	99	84	97	94	98	89	Very High
Livingston	99	77	96	84	97.5	81	Very High
Point Pleasant Beach	97	39	96	90	96.5	65	High
Glen Ridge	96	29	93	35	94.5	32	Lagging
Kinnelon	97	19	92	19	94.5	19	Sig Lagging
Verona	96	13	90	10	93	12	Sig Lagging
NOT in Verona's Peer Group							
Madison	97	48	89	32	93	40	Average
Princeton	96	32	92	52	94	42	Average
Chatham	98	58	95	61	96.5	60	Average



VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS