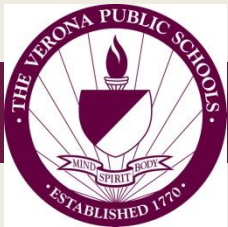


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# VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OCTOBER 9, 2012

CURRICULUM/STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

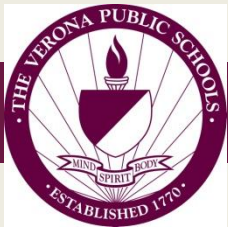


VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Agenda

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- Curriculum Update
- Strategic Plan
  - Overview
  - Process
  - Roles
  - Illustration Using Current Plan



# 2011-2012 Areas of Focus

AREA OF FOCUS	ACTION ITEMS	COMPLETE
Reading, K-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spring 2012 - will begin to look at Reading Workshop resources for possible implementation in selected grade levels next year</li> </ul>	√
Writing, 5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Writing Workshop</li> </ul>	√
Math, K-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor and evaluate enVision implementation in grades K-4 to identify inconsistencies – Dr. Santora visiting every K-4 classroom as well as meeting individual teachers to discuss data</li> <li>• Implement enVision math in grades 5-6</li> </ul>	√
Common Core Standards Alignment & Implementation Math: 3-5, 9-12 LAL: K-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of scope &amp; sequence documents that are aligned with Common Core Standards</li> </ul>	√ Approved 90+ redesigned curriculum documents since September 2011
In-house Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DBQ (Document Based Question) Assessment developed and implemented in Social Studies, grade 7 during 2011-2012 school year – aligned to NJASK Writing holistic scoring rubric</li> <li>• Grades 7 &amp; 8 English teachers developed common writing rubric based on NJASK Writing holistic scoring rubric</li> <li>• Common midterms/final exams administered at VHS in all core subjects</li> <li>• Common assessments utilized in all math courses, grades 5-8</li> </ul>	√



# District Accomplishments

- Increased AP offerings, participation rate and achievement:

## AP Results

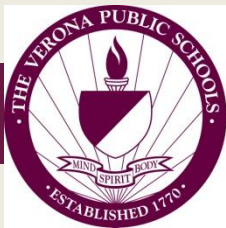
2012	% Chg	2011	% Chg	2010	% Change	
64%	68.4%	38%	-7.3%	41%	56.1%	3+ as % of all 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12th graders
90%	50.0%	60%	3.4%	58%	55.2%	# of tests offered as ratio of 11th & 12 graders
269	49.4%	180	5.9%	170	58.2%	Total # of tests administered
16	6.7%	15	7.1%	14	14.3%	Total # of AP courses offered

\*\* AP Enrollment for 2012/13 academic year: 371 (38% increase over prior year & 106% increase over 2011)

Year	# Students in Honors or AP Courses
2010-2011	332 students
2011-2012	339 students
2012-2013	361 students

127 students enrolled in AP in 2011/12 vs 89, 75, 82, 108 in prior 4 years.

- 94% of our student body goes on to post-secondary education with the vast majority being 4-year colleges
- Recognized AP Honors Students
  - 16 AP Scholars (students who score 3 or above on 3 or more exams)
  - 9 AP Scholars with Honors (students who average at least 3.25 on exams and score 3 or more on 4 or more exams)
  - 9 AP Scholars with Distinction (students who average at least 3.5 on exams and score 3 or above on 5 or more exams)
  - 3 AP National Scholars (students who score at least 4 on all exams and 4 or more on 8 or more exams)



# HSPA Progress

Increased focus on VHS grade 11 HSPA student preparedness, in conjunction with overall Curriculum Program improvements.

There has been a steady improvement in Advanced Proficient scores and a much lower percentage of Partially Proficient results.

		HSPA % Advanced Proficient					
		2012	% Chg	2011	% Chg	2010	% Change 2010-12
LAL		29.3%	24.7%	23.5%	59.9%	14.7%	99.3%
Math		30.6%	11.3%	27.5%	2.6%	26.8%	14.2%

		HSPA % Partially Proficient					
		2012	% Chg	2011	% Chg	2010	% Total
LAL		1.4%	-69.6%	4.6%	-2.1%	4.7%	-70.2%
Math		10.8%	-33.7%	16.3%	-28.5%	22.8%	-52.6%



# 2012-2013 Areas of Focus

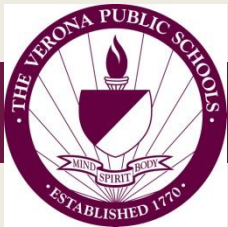
AREA OF FOCUS	ACTION ITEMS
Reading, 3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of Reading Workshop, grades 3-4</li> <li>• Re-evaluation of DRA training and implementation (currently administered 2X/year in grades K-4)</li> </ul>
Writing, K-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate informational/nonfiction writing to align with CCSS</li> </ul>
Math, 7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alignment to CCSS (effective September 2014)</li> <li>• Phase out Algebra I in grade 7</li> </ul>
Science, K-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine National Science Standards and begin process of curricular alignment</li> </ul>
In-House Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement DBQ - social studies, grades 8-12</li> <li>• Expand utilization of common assessments at VHS in all core subjects</li> <li>• Prepare for transition to PARCC assessments</li> </ul>
Teacher Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Form District Advisory Committee to select model (in partnership with Caldwell-WC and Glen Ridge)</li> <li>• Purchase software and training</li> <li>• All staff (administrators AND teachers) to be trained by July 2013)</li> </ul>
Expand Course Selection Options for VHS Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of redesigned semester electives in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Life &amp; Careers/Technology</li> <li>• Dual enrollment opportunities</li> </ul>
World Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of Mandarin program at Laning during 12-13 school year</li> <li>• Continue examining possibilities for restructuring of world language program - Mandarin to be offered at Laning in 12-13</li> </ul>



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# VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

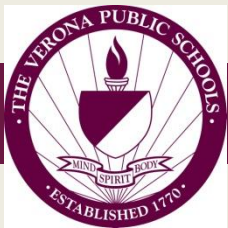


VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Overview

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- Purpose – to ensure our resources and focus remain centered upon student achievement
- Contents – Core beliefs, mission, goals, strategies, results
- Application – Utilized to guide staffing, budget, annual goal setting





# Roles

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Consultant

Judy Ferguson  
Centennium Consultants

Internal Coordinator

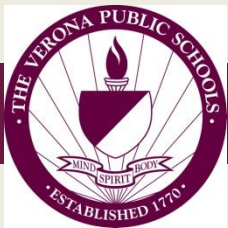
Elizabeth Jewett  
Director of Instructional Studies

Steering Committee

25-30 participants representing  
school, community

Action Teams

1 team per strategy – develop  
implementation plans for each strategy  
(includes additional representation  
from the stakeholder groups indicated  
above)



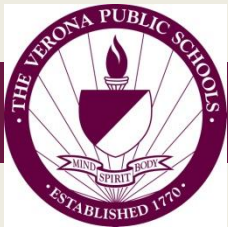
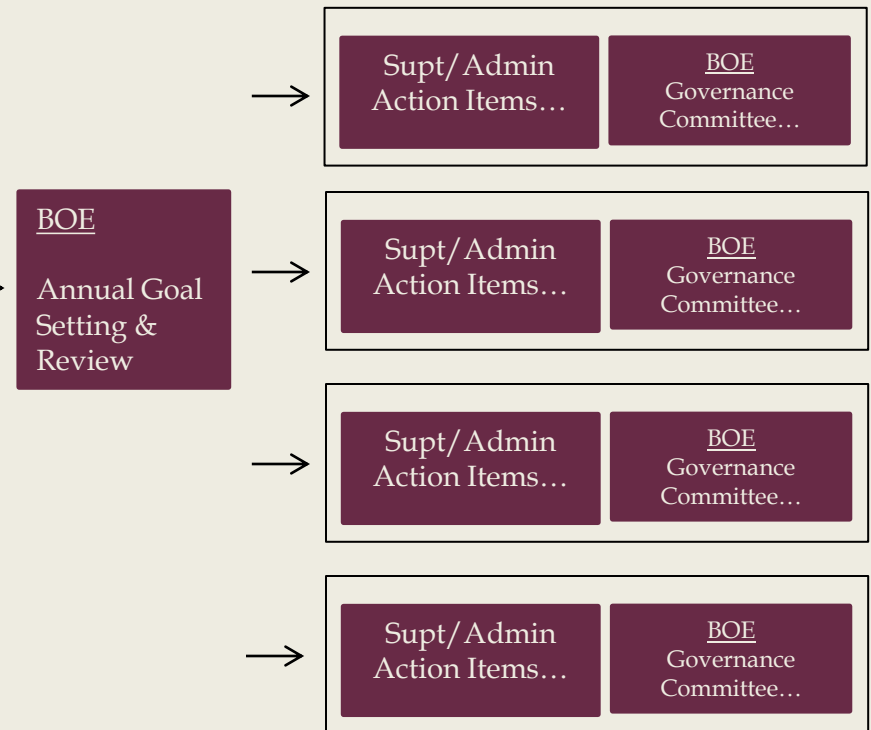
VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Impact on Annual Goal Setting

## Strategic Planning Oct '12 - Apr '13



## BOE Annual Goals Jul '13 - Jun '18



# Process

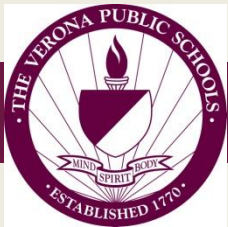
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OCT-NOV 2012

Steering Committee convenes to revisit mission, establish new goals, and develop new strategies

DEC 2012-APRIL 2013

Action Teams are formed and collaboratively outline the expectations/results for each strategy



VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## 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.
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# 2011-2012 District Goals

## Strategic Plan

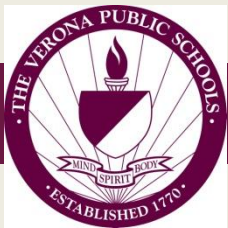
Annual  
Goals

Committee  
Agendas

Quarterly  
Reviews

### District Goals

1. Execute year 4 of the current Strategic Plan
2. Expand use of data to drive instructional and curricular decisions, K-12
3. Improve curricular articulation, K-12



VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# DISTRICT GOAL #1

## Execute Year 4 of Strategic Plan

### Strategy 1 - Curriculum

#### Action Items

#### Training & Curriculum Writing:

- **Summer 2012 - Scope & Sequence documents developed for specified courses**
- **Scope & Sequence documents are posted via online curriculum database**
- **Continue to implement revised department meeting structure and collaborative quarterly faculty meetings**
- **Writing Workshop fully implemented K-6, Reading Workshop to be implemented 3-4 during 2012-2013 school year**



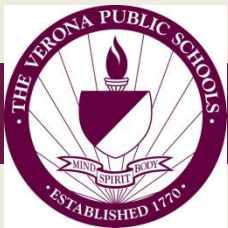
# DISTRICT GOAL #1

## Execute Year 4 of Strategic Plan

### Strategy 2 - Co-curricular / Citizenship

#### Action Items

- Representatives from district meet with VMAC on an ongoing basis to assess effectiveness of current program offerings
- HIB committee continues to plan appropriate programs for students, K-12
- VHS peer leadership program has been revised to incorporate more peer-to-peer interaction, specifically between peer leaders and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students during Freshman Seminar classes



# Strategic Plan Goals & Indicators

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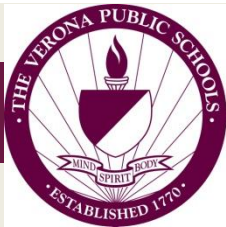
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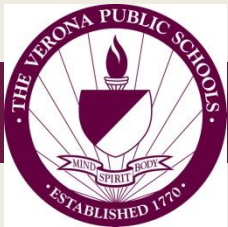
VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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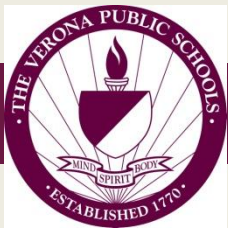
- One measurement-college and work place readiness - over 90% of our student body goes on to post-secondary education-with the vast majority being 4 year colleges
- Increase in number of AP offerings, increase in number of scores 3 or above, and increased in number of students in advanced and honors classes
- Track performance on in-house benchmark assessments instituted at specific times of the year to identify student gaps/strengths-specific clusters identified by department that we track and measure improvement



## STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL #1:

All graduates will have mastered a challenging curriculum that prepares them for productive futures as problem solvers, independent thinkers and responsible citizens.

- Each student is tracked on yearly progress of state examinations - data analysis facilitated by Curriculum Team
- Facilitate service component to our athletic participation
- Team sports work on some form of service endeavor
- We are initiating the process of tracking what our students do AFTER leaving VHS to gauge our program strengths/needs



## STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL #2:

All students will demonstrate character, service, citizenship and social awareness through curricular and co-curricular programs.

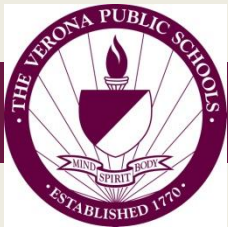
- Decrease in discipline referrals - we have instituted quarterly measurements of student discipline
- Aligned code of conduct throughout K-12 so we promote consistent message to our students regarding positive contributions to school and community
- Instituted community service club at VHS-track # of students and # of hours
- Track numbers of students involved in co and extra-curricular activities - goal is 100% participation, we have somewhere around 80+ % of students at VHS involved in some form of after school activity



## STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL #3:

All teachers will meet or exceed the highest level of professional teaching standards.

- As measured in professional growth plans through institution of *Understanding by Design* framework - teachers utilize framework to develop unit plans and scope and sequence documents as part of PGP
- We track specific teacher assessments to measure alignment to our expectations
- Through completion of 100 hours of professional development required by state - tracked yearly



## STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL #4:

All district facilities will provide students with state-of-the-art, safe learning and working environments.

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- Additional funds allocated for Buildings and Grounds in 2011/2012 and 2012/2013
- Cooperative relationship with town expanded – allowing us to complete more comprehensive projects on a larger scale than in the past
- Raising the quality of the facilities at all six buildings in as equitable and timely a manner as possible

