



Vestavia Hills City Schools
2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT



Our Mission

The mission of Vestavia Hills City Schools is to ensure each student learns without limits by pursuing knowledge and igniting curiosity about the world through a system distinguished by:

- **A safe and nurturing environment**
- **The courage to be creative**
- **Unparalleled community support**
- **Appreciation of diversity**
- **Multiple paths to a bold future**



Message from the Superintendent



Vestavia Hills City Schools is a reflection of the values of its community, and the results are a magnifying glass into its priorities. When excellent teachers are supported by engaged parents, collaborative partnerships, and local government, students are far more likely to succeed in their academic endeavors. Vestavia Hills is the picture of just this kind of community support, and the 2021-22 school year was a clear reflection of this commitment.

This year, students from Pre-K through high school learned and applied knowledge in profound ways, strengthened their character by focusing on core values, and prepared to confront the inevitable challenges they will face. Students excelled in their endeavors as evidenced by the remarkable number of academic accomplishments, scholarships offered to students, and state championships in art and athletic competitions. They traveled throughout the state and nation to learn, perform, and compete. They found meaning in learning about math and science, reading biographies, and creating projects. And, they continued a wonderful tradition of supporting philanthropic efforts throughout our community.

As a superintendent, I am very appreciative of the exceptional teachers and staff that persevered through many challenges while holding firm to their calling. They continued to excel in their professionalism and commitment to the over 7,000 students who attend VHCS. As a parent and fellow educator, I am grateful that my children grew by learning, playing, failing, and recovering, all while being challenged and supported by educators who genuinely loved them.

VHCS has a storied tradition of success bolstered by unparalleled and remarkable support of many stakeholders. Parents, PTOs, the VHCS Foundation, Help the Hills, our 100+ Partners in Education, service clubs, and many others continued to prioritize the education of our children. Their support of our teachers and staff allowed us to vigorously pursue the mission to provide every student the opportunity to learn without limits.

The 2021-22 Annual Report includes many examples of another remarkable year in Vestavia Hills City Schools. I believe the accomplishments and highlights demonstrate our commitment to strive for excellence no matter the limitations that life brings. It is also the energy that propels us into another year that we can aspire to unlimited accomplishments.

Todd Freeman, Ed.D.
Vestavia Hills City Schools Superintendent

School System Highlights

- Received the prestigious “Promising Practices” award from Character.org for development of character education and core values in schools
- Named to the list of Best Communities for Music Education from NAMM Foundation for the fifth consecutive year
- Launched the Neighborhood Bridges program to create awareness and support for students and families in need throughout our community
- Received more than \$250,000 from school PTO groups to fund special projects
- Awarded more than \$155,000 in grants from VHCS Foundation to support professional development, technology and STEM activities and furniture for multipurpose spaces

Teachers of the Year

Caroline Barrow

Vestavia Hills Elementary Dolly Ridge

Allison Charles

Vestavia Hills Elementary East

Laney Graham

Vestavia Hills Elementary Liberty Park

Carri Haywood

Vestavia Hills Elementary West

Brett Richards

Liberty Park Middle School

Jordan Singletary

Vestavia Hills High School Freshman Campus

Erin Deerman

Vestavia Hills High School

Cortney McKinney

Vestavia Hills Elementary Cahaba Heights

Elementary Teacher of the Year

Jill Wiggins

Louis Pizitz Middle School

Secondary Teacher of the Year



Elementary Cahaba Heights

- Donated more than 1,800 pairs of socks to local shelters during Socktober Drive
- Raised more than \$56,000 for school and classroom needs during annual Heights Heroes 5K and Fun Run
- Donated more than 18,000 Legos for patients at Children's of Alabama
- Created *Highlighting Heroes* student-led podcast to tell inspiring stories of local heroes
- Established Gratitude Group student leadership team to find creative ways to express thanks to those who serve in school and community



Elementary Dolly Ridge

- Received “Promising Practices” award from Character.org for implementation of core values and character education
- Completed construction of a new school library
- Students won first place at E3 STEAM competition at the University of Montevallo
- Participated in numerous service opportunities including a joint project with Leadership Vestavia Hills benefiting a local food bank
- Expanded focus on character development with three cohorts of teachers participating in Hope Institute programming





Elementary East

- Named a State and National School of Character by Character.org for implementation of the Friendship Initiative
- Named sixth-best elementary school in Alabama by *U.S. News and World Report*
- Raised more than \$3,800 for the Rucker Collier Foundation, supporting research to treat understudied pediatric cancers
- Donated thousands of food and clothing items to YWCA and Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Alabama during annual Caring and Sharing Week and Santa's Workshop fundraisers
- Unveiled "Character Houses" program to emphasize importance of school's core values of Empathy, Acceptance, Grit, Love and Excellence



Elementary Liberty Park

- Launched STEM pilot program for VHCS elementary schools, including a K-5 weekly STEM class, K-2 STEM Club and 3-5 STEM Team
- Developed local, state, national, and international partnerships with schools ranging from the Vestavia Hills community to Cairo, Egypt
- Hosted inaugural VHELP Fine Arts Night as community event to spotlight local artisans, community organizations and student talent
- Raised more than \$50,000 for fine arts refurbishment, including new stage curtains and audio-visual equipment
- Revitalized service learning to emphasize authentic student ownership; efforts included a coat drive for Truckload of Warmth, Get Up and Serve to benefit Cornerstone Schools of Alabama and Canary to support Community Foodbank of Central Alabama

Elementary West

- Applied and approved to adopt a facility dog to support students and faculty through Service Dogs of Alabama
- Service learning project provided many necessary items to Birmingham Humane Society
- Contributed thousands of food items to local families and foodbanks through canned food drive
- Continued character education emphasis with participation in Hope Institute, and instituted West Way Crews to create camaraderie within school faculty
- Student Ambassadors at West expanded duties to include carpool duty, library helpers and peer helpers to provide service opportunities while modeling good character and citizenship





Liberty Park Middle School

- 8th Grade Spanish students partnered with class in Peru to conduct class video chats and learn about culture and language
- Inaugural App Creator class students wrote code and designed app for school science classes
- Raised more than \$22,000 for Unless U during Spirit Week
- Cheerleaders placed first in state competition
- Choir joined with Pitz choral students for inaugural joint assessment and workshop



Louis Pizitz Middle School

- Donated more than 5,000 food items to local food pantry during SGA canned food drive
- Donated \$5,000 to Magic Moments from SGA and Ambassador fundraiser
- Two robotics teams competed in state and world robotics championships
- Won “First Place with Special Merit” award in American Scholastic Mathematics Competition
- Started school broadcast team called “Pirate Vision”



High School & Freshman Campus

- 13 National Merit Finalists, 4 National Merit Scholars, 10 National Merit Commended Students
- 74% of seniors offered more than \$44 million in scholarships, a school record
- We the People team won state championship for 18th consecutive year and division championship at national level
- Math Team won Alabama Statewide Mathematics Contest and one international competition
- 103 students earned Seal of Biliteracy in 8 languages
- Theatre Department won “Best in Show” and 15 students won individual awards at Walter Trumbauer Theatre Festival
- Five students named Employees of the Month at Academy of Craft Training
- Four students named HOSA State Leadership Conference winners
- Four students won first place medals at SkillsUSA state competition
- Two students won first place at FBLA State Conference
- RISE raised more than \$226,000 for UAB O’Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center
- SGA raised more than \$75,000 for Children’s Harbor and donated more than 20,000 food items to local food banks
- Raised more than \$80,000 in donations to One Birmingham Service Club through second-annual Love Your Neighbor Week
- AP with WE Service students donated more than \$1,300 and 135 toys to the Toys for Tots program
- Freshman students donated more than 4,300 food items to local foodbanks





1Rebel Athletics

- 21 teams qualified for postseason play
- Girls' and boys' tennis and boys' golf teams won 7A state championships; middle school teams won metro championships in 7 different boys' and girls' sports
- 20 students won individual state championships in tennis, cross country, and track and field
- John David Smelser named ASWA 7A Girls' Basketball Coach of the Year
- At least 24 students continuing their athletic careers on the collegiate level

H 2021-22 District Data

Academic

250 seniors graduated with **Advanced Academic with Honors** diploma

85% of seniors entering at least **83** colleges in **24** states

74% of seniors offered scholarships totaling a **school record \$44.5+** million

25 Average **ACT** composite score **157** CTE credentials earned

634 students took **1,405** AP exams, and **86%** scored a **3 or higher**
Highest in 5 years

Academic
\$41.6 million
Military
\$2 million
Athletic
\$819,000
Other
\$114,000

Enrollment

7,117 students with **96%** Average Daily Attendance

Our students hail from **25** countries and speak

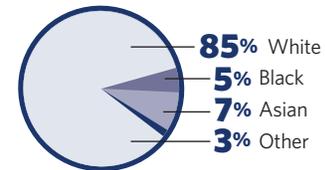
36 languages

Pre-K	K-5th	6th-8th	9th-12th
119	3,203	1,721	2,074

1,144 Gifted Students **483** English Learner Students

591 Extended Day Program Students

Student Enrollment by Race

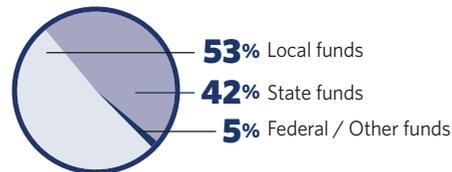


Finance

\$100.1 million **FY 2022 Budget**

\$7.03 million

Cost of one month's operations



\$12,780 per-pupil expenditure

52.05 mills local **ad valorem taxes**

Faculty & Staff

959 Employees

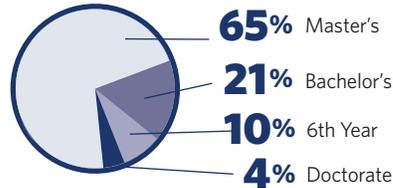
598 Certified / Licensed

339 Classified / Staff

21 Counselors

1 District Social Worker

Faculty Educational Qualifications



Operations

1.3 million square feet of building space

812,000+ meals served

\$3.24 million in annual utility costs

125,000+ miles driven by bus

52 custodians

10 transportation staff

45 Child Nutrition Program Staff

18 school nurses

6,000+ school nurse clinic visits

6 Maintenance technicians

12 school resource officers



Vestavia Hills City Schools

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