



**Vestavia Hills
City Schools**
2022-2023
ANNUAL REPORT





Message from the Superintendent

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; appreciation of diversity; multiple paths to a bold future; and unparalleled community support. Our school system is a reflection of the priority our community places on education. When excellent teachers are supported by engaged parents, collaborative partnerships, and local government, students are far more likely to succeed in their academic endeavors.

The 2022-23 school year is a compelling reflection of this kind of commitment. Students from Pre-K through their senior year 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. They excelled in their endeavors as evidenced by the remarkable number of accomplishments, scholarships offered to students, and state championships in academic, art, and athletic competitions. Our students traveled throughout the state and nation to learn, perform, and be challenged. Finally, they continued a wonderful tradition of giving back to the community through impressive philanthropic efforts.

Our team of teachers and staff have continued to excel in their professionalism and commitment to the more than 7,000 students who attend VHCS. Parents, PTOs, the VHCS Foundation, Help the Hills, Partners in Education, service clubs, and many others continued to prioritize supporting our schools. These invaluable partnerships have allowed us to more confidently pursue our mission to provide every student the opportunity to learn without limits.

The 2022-23 Annual Report includes many examples of another remarkable year in Vestavia Hills City Schools. Parents and community members alike can clearly see the value of the investment made in our school system. I believe the accomplishments and highlights in this report demonstrate our commitment to strive for excellence in all the experiences we provide for students.

Thank you for supporting the mission of Vestavia Hills City Schools!

Todd Freeman, Ed.D.

Vestavia Hills City Schools Superintendent



School System Highlights

- Named to list of **“Best Communities for Music Education”** from NAMM Foundation for sixth consecutive year
- Named an **Arts Schools Network Exemplary School** – one of only 13 schools selected nationwide
- Supported by more than **\$250,000** from school PTO groups to fund special projects
- Awarded **\$164,000** in grants from VHCS Foundation to support professional development, arts and STEM projects, and other special programs



Teachers of the Year

Carmen Sullivan

Vestavia Hills Elementary Cahaba Heights

Kellie Miller

Vestavia Hills Elementary Dolly Ridge

Meg Walker

Vestavia Hills Elementary East

Kalyn Randolph

Vestavia Hills Elementary Liberty Park

Amy Woodard

Liberty Park Middle School

Michaela Spence

Louis Pizitz Middle School

Emily Hall

Vestavia Hills High School Freshman Campus

Megan Humphries

Vestavia Hills Elementary West, Elementary Teacher of the Year

Amanda Jordan

Vestavia Hills High School, Secondary Teacher of the Year

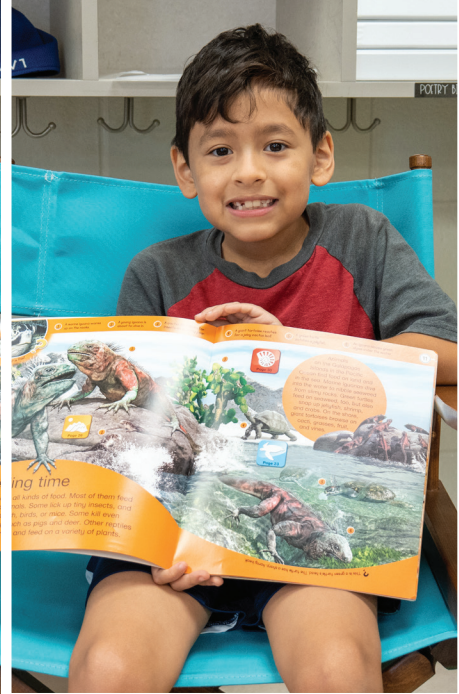


Elementary Cahaba Heights

- Held inaugural "Take Your Parent to P.E. Day" to showcase value of physical education
- Completed character Passion Projects including school garden, sign language learning, and lunches with senior adults at New Merkel House
- Raised more than \$19,000 for American Heart Association through annual fundraiser
- Donated 900 pairs of socks to those in need during annual Socktober drive
- Donated 775 food items to Vestavia Hills Methodist Church during annual Canary Food Drive

Elementary Dolly Ridge

- Ranked among top 25% of public schools in 2023 Alabama Legislative School Performance Program
- Selected as the only elementary school in the U.S. to send a student-designed payload of instruments into the atmosphere aboard a United Launch Alliance rocket
- Received second “Promising Practices” award from Character.org for “Ridge Readers” core values book collection program
- Donated more than 50 boxes of food items for area schools through Caring and Sharing Week and Santa’s Workshop
- Established student leadership opportunities: Safety Squad, Student Ambassadors, Outdoor Explorers, Student Advisory, and Broadcast Team





Elementary East

- Ranked among top 25% of public schools in 2023 Alabama Legislative School Performance Program
- Fourth and fifth grade engineering teams participated in STEM competition, earning first and second place in their respective divisions
- Fifth grade students led grant writing and installation of new playground equipment for students with special needs
- Organized inaugural East EAGLE Color Run supporting Unless U
- Raised more than \$1,400 for Rucker Collier Foundation through student-led fundraiser



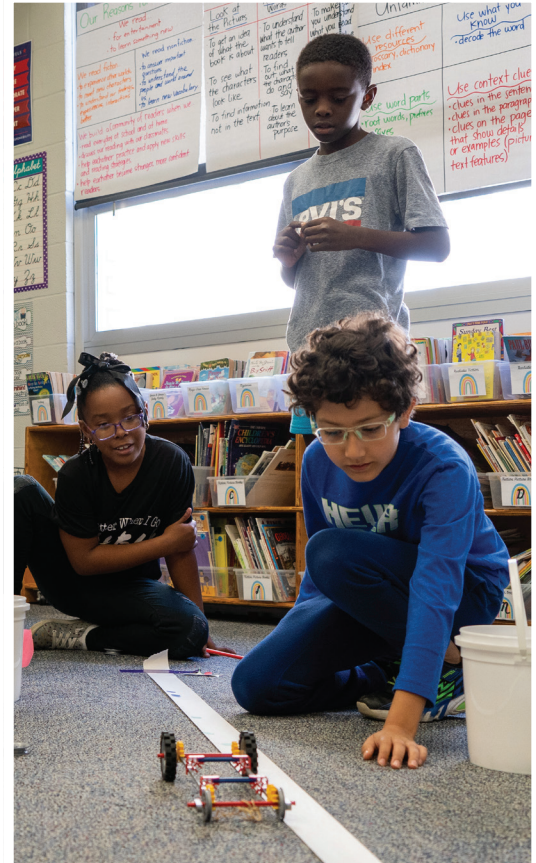
Elementary Liberty Park

- Ranked among top 25% of public schools in 2023 Alabama Legislative School Performance Program
- Implemented school Torch Teams to emphasize and celebrate "R.E.B.E.L.S." core values: Respect, Empathy, Bravery, Excellence, Legacy, and Service
- Received Promising Practices Award from Character.org for "Specials Special Day" events
- Raised more than \$7,000 to St. Jude Walk/Run, and more than \$50,000 for school literacy resources
- Hosted inaugural Fall Family Literacy Night and second-annual Spring Fine Arts Night to showcase student learning and service



Elementary West

- Ranked among top 25% of public schools in 2023 Alabama Legislative School Performance Program
- Completed first school year with VHEW facility dog, Merlin, supporting students and staff
- Donated more than 9,000 food items to local food bank
- Supported Toys for Tots as well as dozens of local children and families in need during holidays
- Grew focus on character and core values of Kindness, Respect, and Responsibility through ongoing partnership with Hope Institute at Samford University





Liberty Park Middle School

- Held inaugural STEAM Day along with students from VHECH and VHLP to showcase student innovations and experiments
- Raised \$15,000 for Magic Moments organization
- School nurse Sarah Guiler named Alabama School Nurse of the Year
- Implemented "Friday Families" student and staff small groups to enhance learning of core values
- 7th grade girls' basketball and boys' golf teams won Metro Championship





Louis Pizitz Middle School

- Ranked among top 25% of public schools in 2023 Alabama Legislative School Performance Program
- Won state championship in competitive cheer in school's first year of competition
- Won first place in state MATHCOUNTS competition and participated in nationals
- Raised and donated \$5,000 to Miracle League through school fundraiser
- Michelle Binder named Edith May Sliffe Award winner for excellence in mathematics teaching



High School and Freshman Campus

- 20 National Merit Finalists and 1 Semifinalist - most of any HS in Alabama
- Math Team repeated as state champions, placed second in international competition
- 116 students earned Seal of Biliteracy
- 5 students named Employees of the Month at Academy of Craft Training
- RISE raised more than \$230,000 for UAB O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center
- SGA raised more than \$61,000 for Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Alabama and donated more than 20,000 food items to two local food banks
- AP with WE Service students held inaugural Toy and Book Drive to support local children in need
- VHHS German students won University of Alabama's 2023 German Day competition, and freshman French students won 76 awards at University of Alabama French competition



Arts

- VHHS was one of only 13 schools in U.S. given “Exemplary School” designation by Arts Schools Network
- VHCS was named to list of 2023 Best Communities for Music Education
- Four VHCS students selected as winners in Alabama State Superintendent’s Art Show
- More than 40 music students selected for All-State choir and band
- Impulse Dance Company performed at Alabama State Capitol
- Seven students named national qualifiers at Alabama State Thespian Festival

1Rebel Athletics

- 23 teams qualified for postseason play
- Won state championships in baseball, boys’ cross country, boys’ golf, boys’ tennis, and boys’ wrestling
- 11 students won individual state championships in tennis, wrestling, and track and field
- Won national championship in junior varsity cheerleading
- Won Metro South Championships in middle school boys’ bowling, boys’ and girls’ golf, girls’ tennis, and, girls’ basketball
- Began competition in Girls’ Wrestling as emerging sport
- At least 22 students continuing their athletic careers on the collegiate level



Academic

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

87% of seniors entering at least **81** colleges in **25** states

76% of seniors offered scholarships totaling **\$41+** million

25 Average **ACT** composite score **53** **CTE** credentials earned

625 students took **1,424** **AP** exams, and **87%** scored a **3 or higher**

Enrollment

7,068 students with **95%** **Average Daily Attendance**

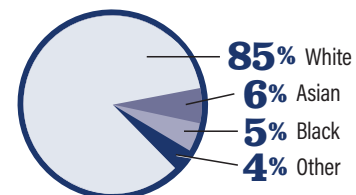
Pre-K	K-5th	6th-8th	9th-12th
111	3,151	1,651	2,150

1,126 Gifted Students

153 English Learner Students

653 Extended Day Program Students

Student Enrollment by Race

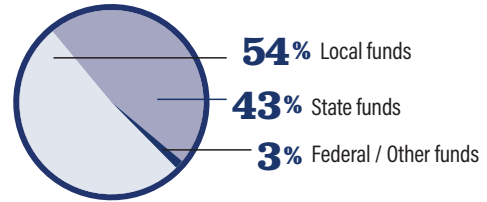


Our students hail from **43** countries and speak **31** languages

Finance

\$105,504,586 FY 2023 Budget

\$8,792,049
Cost of one month's operations



\$13,816 per-pupil expenditure

52.05 mills local **ad valorem taxes**

Faculty & Staff

929 Employees

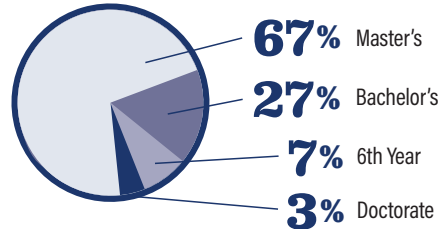
615 Certified / Licensed

314 Classified / Staff

21 Counselors

1 District Social Worker

Faculty Educational Qualifications



64 VHCS teachers who have **National Board Certification**

Operations

1.3 million square feet of building space

\$3.5 million in annual utility costs

688,000+ meals served

125,000+ miles driven by bus

54 Custodians

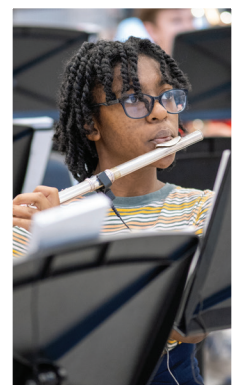
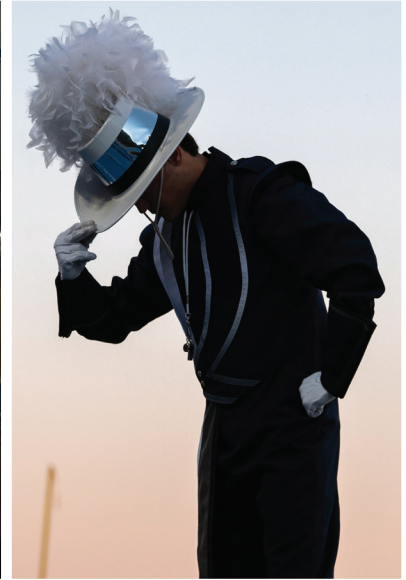
41 Child Nutrition Program Staff

7 Maintenance technicians

15 Transportation staff

19 School nurses and **14,000+** School nurse clinic visits

13 School resource officers





Vestavia Hills City Schools

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