

2015-2016
Annual Report



VESTAVIA HILLS

CITY SCHOOLS

Message from the Superintendent

In the 2015-16 school year, we moved our focus as a district to the implementation phase of our community-developed Strategic Plan. This plan helps us to define ourselves as a system distinguished by creating a safe and nurturing environment for students, providing opportunities for the courage to be creative, unparalleled community support, an appreciation of diversity, and opening multiple paths to a bold future for our students. Our charge will continue to be providing educational experiences that allow “learning without limits” for all students.

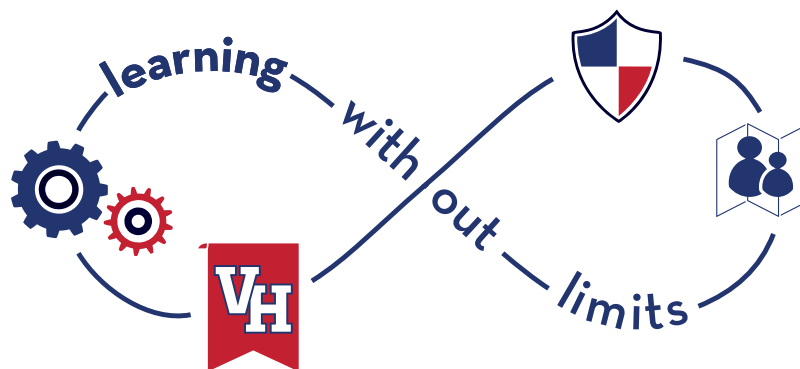


This focus led us to some significant decisions and actions in the past school year. Many of those accomplishments are seen in the pages of this annual report. This document captures only a fraction of all that our students and schools have achieved in the pursuit of learning, service, and significance. Our students, faculty, and coaches have demonstrated the highest quality of work through state championships in multiple sports, nationally-ranked ACT scores, and a record number of teachers who received state and professional awards. They continue to carry out their responsibilities at an unparalleled level.

At times, we may think our mission is impossible with all of the challenges we face and the weight of responsibility that comes with our work. Ultimately, we know it is possible because of what our faculty and staff do day after day to enhance the lives of the children in our schools. They are the reason our students accomplish so very much.

Thank you for your continued commitment to Vestavia Hills City Schools and our mission of *learning, leading, serving, and celebrating* without limits.

Sheila Phillips
Superintendent



Strategic Plan Highlights 2015-16

- » Implemented Seal of Biliteracy for secondary world language students
- » Offered multiple new Advanced Placement courses
- » Developed new school schedules to provide collaborative time for teachers
- » Designed an improved evaluation process for teachers
- » Began instructional rounds and “Learning Walks” for teacher development
- » Created *Learning Without Limits* blog and curriculum videos for parents
- » Developed digital citizenship standards for students
- » Adopted district Data Governance Policy
- » Redesigned and aligned school websites
- » Developed the district’s first Crisis Communication Plan
- » Launched the VHCS mobile app

OUR SCORES

ACT Aspire Subject Proficiency

- » Math: 79%
- » Reading: 73%
- » Science: 66%
- » English (10th Grade): 83%
- » Writing (10th Grade): 72%

**Note: ACT Aspire administered to grades 3-8 in 2015; 10th grade testing and English and Writing subjects added in 2016.*

ACT Composite

- » 2014 average: 25.8
- » 2015 average: 25.3
- » 2016 average: 25.5

Advanced Placement

- » Total number of AP exams: 928
- » Total number of students in AP courses: 359
- » Total number of AP subjects: 24
- » Percentage of AP students with scores 3+: 73%
- » AP National Scholars: 14
- » AP Scholars with Distinction: 50
- » AP Scholars with Honors: 20
- » AP Scholars: 46

Vestavia Hills City Schools

- » Teachers of the Year: Suzanne Bonovitch (VHEE), Dawn Norris (VHEW), Lauren Dressback (VHHS), Nancy Portera (VHELP), Jennifer Isbell (LPMS), Vicki Cato (Pizitz)
- » Dr. Sheila Phillips named to *Birmingham Magazine* list of “People Making it Happen in 2015,” “Superintendent to Watch” by National School Public Relations Association, “Outstanding Leader in School/Community Relations” by Alabama School Public Relations Association, and recipient of “Excellence in Writing” awards from Alabama School Public Relations Association and National School Public Relations Association
- » Vicki Bruce named ACES Central Region Extended Day Director of the Year
- » Completed first-year implementation of Strategic Plan
- » Began implementation of district-wide facilities plan
- » Merged Drug Awareness Team with Help the Hills
- » Completed first Aspiring Administrator Cohort with Samford University
- » PTO donated more than \$187,000 to fund projects in technology, arts, classroom enhancements, science experiments, and physical education facilities
- » VHCS Foundation awarded more than \$55,000 in grants to all 8 schools for professional development, instructional materials, and a “Green Roof” project at VHHS



OUR SCHOOLS



Vestavia Hills Elementary East

- » East students featured in an international article about STEAM education using AudioCubes
- » Mark Richardson received Learning for Life Award from Samford University
- » Students donated more than 9,000 food and supply items for children in greater Birmingham area
- » Nationally-ranked third graders placed in the state Continental Math League competition
- » Students collected more than 1,100 cans of food for donation during 100th day of school celebration
- » Raised more than \$3,700 for the American Heart Association during Jump Rope for Heart
- » Deanna Bell awarded Orff Level III Certification from Samford University and named District 3 co-chair of the Alabama Music Educators Association

Vestavia Hills Elementary West

- » Jamie Kolb named Alabama Art Teacher of the Year
- » VHEW chosen as one of 5 schools in Alabama for Google Expedition virtual reality learning
- » Collected more than 5,800 cans of food for donation in 5 days
- » Girls on the Run Team raised \$1,000 for UNICEF and donated more than 1,000 art items to Children's of Alabama
- » Donated 5,000 books in the 2016 Better Basics Book Drive and received \$1,000 first-place prize
- » Book fair collected more than \$5,000 to enhance school library collection
- » Students donated \$7,000 as part of Juvenile Diabetes Walk

Vestavia Hills Elementary Cahaba Heights

- » Earned Let's Move! Active Schools national award
- » Raised more than \$14,000 during Jump Rope for Heart
- » Toy drive with Chick-fil-A collected 236 toys for The Salvation Army
- » Students donated more than 1,000 food items during CANuary food drive
- » Students donated more than 2,500 books during Better Basics book drive
- » School held inaugural Science Night to showcase student STEM projects





Vestavia Hills Elementary Liberty Park

- » School opened STEM Innovation Lab to allow students space to solve open-ended problems
- » VHELP students ranked #1 in reading and #3 in math in *Birmingham Business Journal* Education Guide
- » Launched \$4.5 million construction project to include 14 new classrooms and a lunchroom expansion
- » Collected more than 5,100 items to serve Birmingham-area families in need during Get Up and Serve Week

Vestavia Hills Elementary Central

- » Received \$1,000 grant from Walmart to fund new classroom technology
- » Students raised more than \$65,000 in Gear Up! fundraiser for technology and classroom enhancement
- » Students collected more than 2,000 food items during Food for Families drive
- » All classrooms outfitted with Lego Robotics kits for enhanced STEM instruction
- » Students donated more than 300 toys to Chick-fil-A Toys for Tots drive
- » Students donated \$1,000 to the Bell Center for Early Intervention

Louis Pizitz Middle School

- » More than 150 7th graders qualified as winners of the NaNoWriMo national novel writing competition
- » Boys track and field team won middle school state championship
- » Students launched a weather balloon with help from WeatherBrains meteorologist Bill Murray
- » Kim Bain featured in *The Instrumentalist* magazine
- » Symphonic band performed at Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago
- » Band students earned more than 150 Superior medals at state festival
- » Inaugural “Creating with Code” class invited to present at AETC Student Showcase in Birmingham



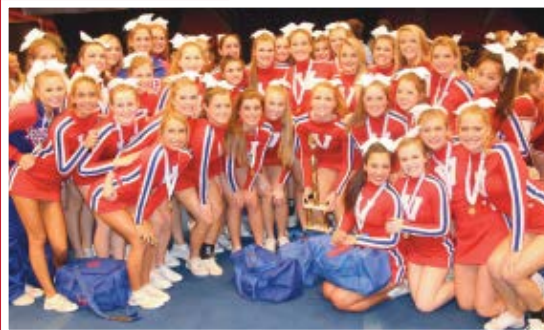
Liberty Park Middle School

- » Joy Bragan named Alabama PE Coach of the Year
- » Linda Rummell traveled to Republic of Georgia as a U.S. State Department Teacher for Global Classrooms
- » Students packed more than 1,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now food drive
- » Students donated more than \$5,000 to the Leukemia-Lymphoma Society
- » Students donated more than \$1,200 to Kulture City
- » School held inaugural Veterans Luncheon for dozens of local veterans
- » Selected to pilot ZooU 7th grade biology study at the Birmingham Zoo



Vestavia Hills High School

- » Habitat for Humanity built its 11th house
- » Relay for Life raised over \$275,000
- » SGA donated \$25,000 and gifts to Children's Harbor during fall charity drive
- » Marla Hines named Presidential Award Recipient for Excellence in Math & Science Teaching
- » All 3 concert bands and the marching band received superior ratings
- » All 8 choirs received superior ratings at every 2016-17 competition
- » Rebelette dance team placed 1st at the state competition and 3rd nationally
- » AP World History students placed 1st and 3rd at JV History Bowl State Championships (first year competing)
- » Faith Lenhart and Meg Rudolph selected to pilot national arts teaching standards
- » Buddy Anderson and Tyler Burgess received Learning for Life Award from Samford University
- » Nate Conoly named Alabama Debate Coach of the Year
- » *The Muse* named Gold Crown Award recipient from Columbia Scholastic Press Association
- » We the People team won state championship, placed 4th in national finals
- » Science Olympiad team placed 3rd at regionals, top 10 in first-ever trip to state finals
- » More than 50 business volunteers participated in Mock Interview Day
- » More than 1,300 Microsoft Office Specialist certifications awarded to students
- » Deana Goodwine named Alabama Business Education Association Secondary Teacher of the Year
- » 66% of graduates were offered more than \$26 million in scholarships



VHHS Athletics

- » Varsity Girls soccer won 7A state championship, ranked #1 in America
- » Varsity Girls Tennis won 7A state championship and Pensacola Blue Angels Tournament
- » Varsity Boys Wrestling won 7A state championship
- » Varsity Boys Soccer won 7A area championship
- » Multiple students won individual state championships in track and field, golf, and tennis
- » Competition cheerleading team placed 4th in the nation at UCA National High School Cheerleading Championship
- » Varsity Rebelettes won state championship, placed 3rd at nationals

WHO WE ARE

2015-16 Enrollment

- » Students: 7,014
- » Households: 4,380
- » VHECH: 401
- » VHEC: 798
- » VHEE: 816
- » VHELP: 656
- » LPMS: 475
- » PMS: 1,089
- » VHHS: 1,970
- » VHEW: 809

Average Daily Attendance: 96.2%

Graduation Rate: 97%

Free & Reduced Lunch: 10%

Ethnicity

- » White: 81%
- » Black/African American: 7%
- » Asian: 7%
- » Hispanic/Latino: 4%
- » Other: 1%



2015-16 Budget

- » \$77.2 million
- » Local: 53%
- » State: 43%
- » Federal: 2%
- » Other: 2%
- » Ad Valorem Tax: 52.05 mills
- » Per-pupil expenditure: \$10,501
- » State average: \$8,979

Faculty and Staff

- » Employees: 846
- » Certified/licensed: 529
- » Non-certified: 317
- » Doctorate: 3%
- » 6th-year: 8%
- » Master's: 60%
- » Bachelor's: 29%
- » National Board Certified Teachers: 77





VESTAVIA HILLS
CITY SCHOOLS

Vestavia Hills Board of Education

1204 Montgomery Highway, 35216
(205) 402-5100
<http://vestavia.k12.al.us>

Vestavia Hills Elementary East Grades K-3

2109 Tyson Drive, 35216
(205) 402-5200

Vestavia Hills Elementary West Grades K-3

1965 Merryvale Road, 35216
(205) 402-5151

Vestavia Hills Elementary Central Grades 4-5

1289 Montgomery Highway, 35216
(205) 402-5300

Vestavia Hills Elementary Cahaba Heights Grades K-5

4401 Dolly Ridge Road, 35243
(205) 402-5480

Vestavia Hills Elementary Liberty Park Grades K-5

17051 Liberty Parkway, 35242
(205) 402-5400

Louis Pizitz Middle School Grades 6-8

2020 Pizitz Drive, 35216
(205) 402-5350

Liberty Park Middle School Grades 6-8

17035 Liberty Parkway, 35242
(205) 402-5450

Vestavia Hills High School Grades 9-12

2235 Lime Rock Road, 35216
(205) 402-5250

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