

Facility Planning

Since February 2013, the District's Facility Advisory Committee has met to identify priorities and evaluate solutions for our aging facilities (i.e., Madison Elementary and Mount Vernon High School's Old Main and Agriculture buildings) and overcrowding.

In the spring of 2013, they recommended moving 6th grade to middle school to provide immediate relief to overcrowding at the elementary level. That change was implemented this fall.

In November 2013, the District hired HKP and Mahlum Architects to help determine the scope and cost of the projects which had, at that time, been prioritized by the Facility Advisory Committee:

1. A new elementary school
2. Rebuilding Madison
3. Adding space at both middle schools

Over the past year, the committee and the district have been carefully evaluating these and a variety of other options to ensure that the projects that are ultimately selected will best meet the needs of our students.

We need your input!

You are invited to share your thoughts on the options identified by the Facility Advisory Committee by completing a brief survey at:

<http://bit.ly/1wK5lu2>

We plan to take this input to the committee in November.

The survey will be available in hard copy in English, Spanish and Russian. You can pick up a copy at the District office and at all elementary, middle and high school offices.



Smarter Balanced (SBAC) Assessments

This spring students in grades 3-8 and 11 will take the new Smarter Balanced (SBAC) assessments, which are designed to measure student proficiency on the Common Core State Standards.

This is a significant change for our teachers and our students and we expect our scores, and the scores of schools across the state, to drop. While this is disheartening, we know that it is impossible to judge the quality of our educational program using one, large-scale test. We are committed to using our SBAC scores, together with other indicators of our students' learning, to continually improve our work with all students.

Whether you are a parent or family member of a student currently or formerly in our schools or a community member without a direct connection to our district, I encourage you to work with us to improve outcomes for all of our students.

Feel free to contact me at cburner@mvsd320.org or (360) 428-6181 for ideas on how to become involved.

It is going to be a great school year!



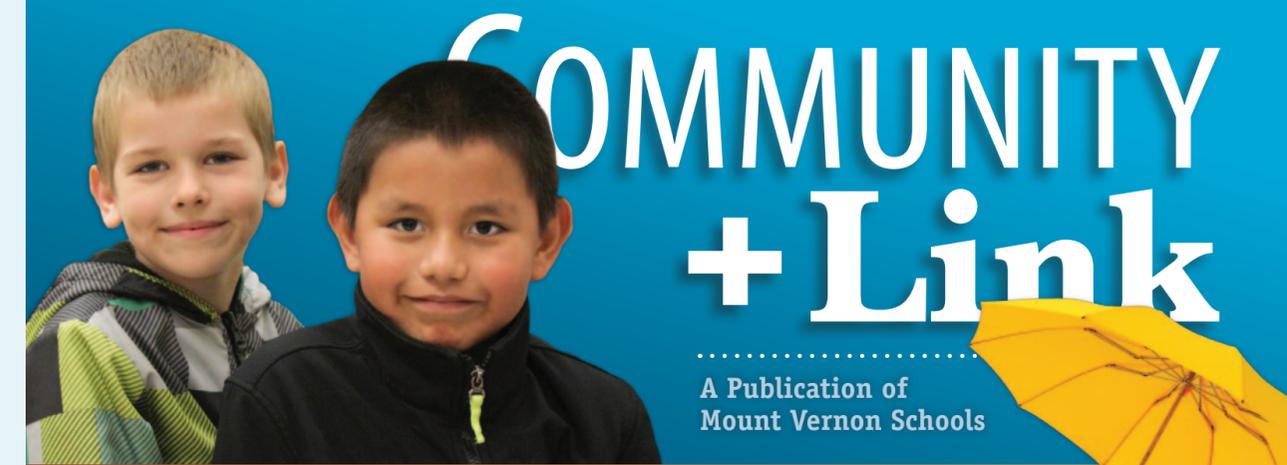
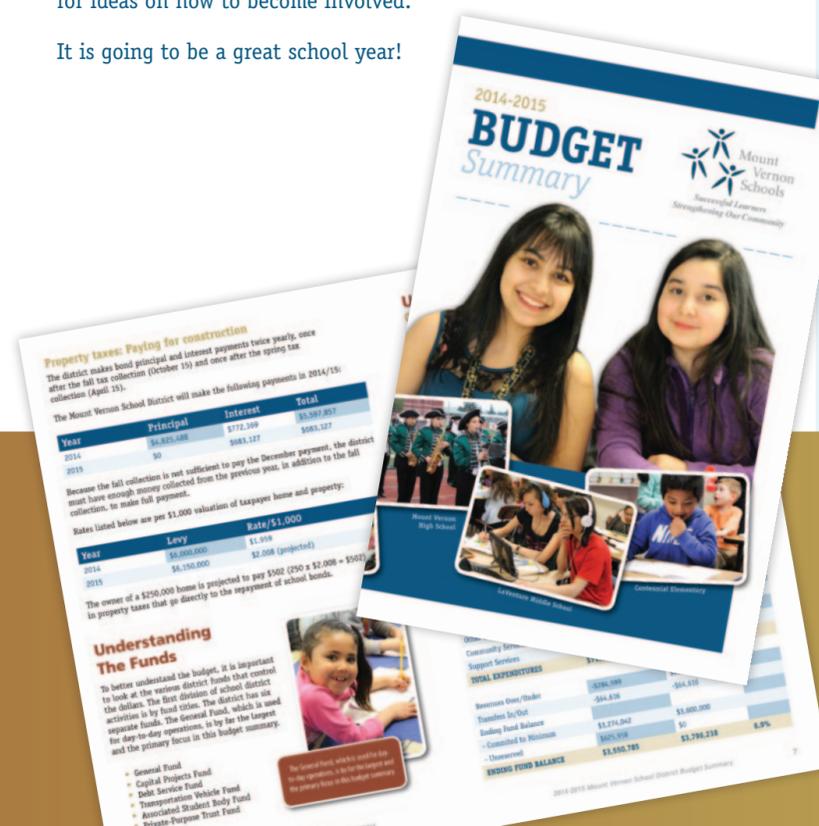
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- Skagit Public Utility District
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- Skagit Valley College

2014-15 Budget Summary

Careful and transparent management of taxpayer resources is a top priority for the Mount Vernon School District and our Board of Directors. With that commitment in mind, we have created a Budget Summary to provide an overview of the central components of our 2014-15 budget.

Access the full report online at: www.mountvernonschools.org



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Featured Alumni »

You will find our alumni working in every field imaginable, changing the world around us every day. Take a look at what our alumni are doing today and where they started.

Featured Articles »

Improving teaching and learning for all students

Facility Planning

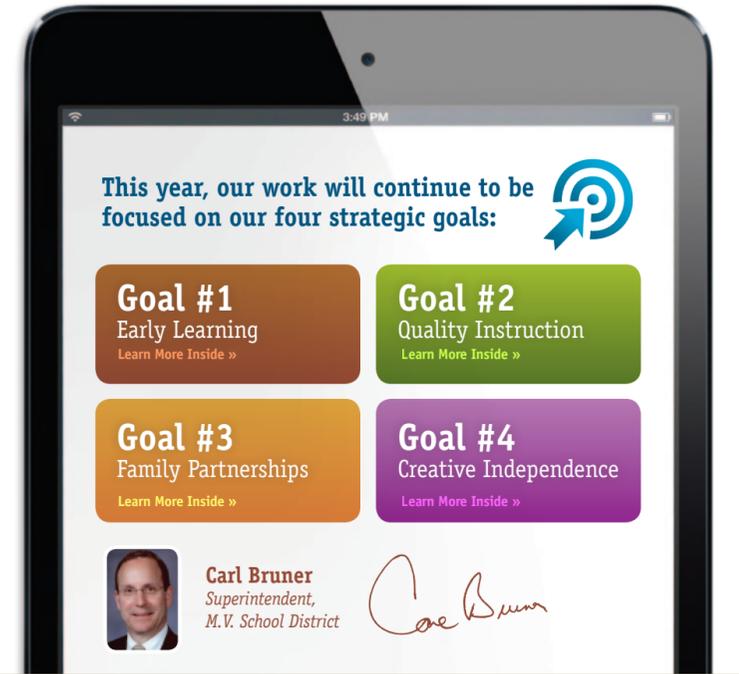
Smarter Balanced (SBAC) Assessments

Thanks to our 2014-15 Calendar Sponsors

2014-15 Budget Summary

www.mountvernonschools.org

The first quarter of the 2014-15 school year is well underway as are our efforts to improve teaching and learning for all students in our schools.



This year, our work will continue to be focused on our four strategic goals:

Goal #1
Early Learning
[Learn More Inside »](#)

Goal #2
Quality Instruction
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Goal #3
Family Partnerships
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Goal #4
Creative Independence
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Carl Bruner
Superintendent,
M.V. School District

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Successful Learners Strengthening Our Community



FEATURED ALUMNI

Our alumni are working to change the world around us.



Improving teaching and learning for all students »



Improving teaching and learning for all students »

“Choose a career that challenges,” says MVHS grad and physician...



Jennifer Meyer, MD

Jennifer Meyer, who attended Mount Vernon schools from kindergarten through high school, recalls a handful of great teachers who her kids could name today because she still talks about them. “There were several at Jefferson and La Venture, and Mr. Dixon and Mr. Cornelius at MVHS,” she says. “It’s hard to single out only a few, but they taught lessons that still influence me today.”

Mount Vernon High School alumna Jennifer Meyer, MD, says there isn’t a day at work when she’s not thankful that she chose pediatric medicine as a career. “Helping parents embrace preventative health care for their children and make healthy choices for themselves, is very satisfying.” she says.

Following graduation, Meyer earned a BA degree in English and Black Studies from Amherst College, Amherst, MA and graduated from the University of Miami Medical School, Miami, FL. After completing a residency in Pediatrics at the University of California, San Francisco, CA, she, her husband and one-year-old daughter spent a year volunteering at community clinics in Tanzania. Today, after working in medical centers in California, she and her family live in Seattle where she practices at the Group Health Family Medical Center.

There are many health care professionals in Meyer’s family, and her Anatomy education began early - watching her Uncle Morrie clean ducks after a morning hunt. “But I didn’t pursue medicine until later in my college career,” says Meyer. “By then I knew that being a doctor would give me skills to work with and help people anywhere I lived.”

Meyer’s advice to MVHS students is to “find a career that you love - one that keeps you challenged and learning.” She’s done just that and asks, “How can you not love your work when a five-year-old patient yells, “Look at all your wrinkles!”



Goal #1 Early Learning

Ensure that every student completes kindergarten with the skills needed to be successful in their further education.

Key Initiatives will focus on:

- Continuing to partner with local preschool providers to ensure children are ready for kindergarten
- Continuing to improve teaching and learning for all students in our full day kindergarten programs (now located in all schools)



Goal #2 Quality Instruction

Students at all levels will develop an age-appropriate ability to:

- Formulate, represent, and solve mathematical problems
- Build content knowledge; comprehend and critique information; value evidence; and use technology strategically and capably in reading, writing, listening, and speaking

Key Initiatives will focus on:

- Identifying new math curriculum materials for grades K-12
- Supporting teachers by integrating reading, writing, math, and science curriculum to better help students meet the Common Core State Standards
- Supporting teachers in implementing research-based strategies for English Language Learners



Goal #3 Family Partnerships

Engage families to provide encouragement and support to students, ensuring that student needs are met and their educational opportunities are enhanced.

Key Initiatives will focus on:

- Rescheduling elementary parent-teacher conferences to October, to allow for earlier communication
- Increasing partnerships with community agencies to provide more ESL classes for parents learning English as a second language
- Increasing outreach to families within their neighborhoods to help them learn strategies to support their students’ learning



Goal #4 Creative Independence

Encourage and facilitate student independence, self-motivation, perseverance, and creativity, preparing our graduates for continuing education, careers, and fulfilling lives.

Key Initiatives will focus on:

- Implementing a new program of supports for highly capable students in all schools
- Expanding partnerships with Skagit Valley College to increase opportunities for students to earn college credit in high school
- Exploring a partnership with Skagit Valley College and Skagit Regional Health to prepare students for careers in health care
- Increase early identification systems and supports for students at risk of dropping out of high school
- Providing teachers with training on the use of a variety of technology tools to enhance student engagement and learning

Points of Pride
New Teacher Highlights



Deanna Huddle
LaVenture Middle School — Grade 6 Language Arts

- Masters of Education, Literacy with Reading Endorsement, Western Washington University
- Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education with ELL Endorsement, City University of Seattle
- AA Degree, Skagit Valley College

Interesting Fact » Deanna went to college at the same time as her children.



Ben Hazelwood
Mount Vernon High School — Social Studies

- Bachelors in History & Economics, University of Washington
- Masters in Education, Framingham State College
- Nationally Board Certified

Interesting Fact » Lived and taught in Warsaw, Poland.



Elizabeth Churape-Garcia
LaVenture Middle School — English Language Arts, Dual Language

- Teaching Credential, Western Washington
- Master of Public Administration, Seattle University
- Bachelor of Arts in Public Affairs & Spanish, Seattle University

Interesting Fact » Elizabeth has said that she enjoys learning so much she would like to be in school full-time.



Jorgen Otterholt
Little Mountain Elementary — Grade 4

- Graduated from Mount Vernon High School
- Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Anthropology, Western Washington University
- Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education, Central Washington University

Interesting Fact » Traveled extensively. Very excited to be back in Mount Vernon.



Julie Miller
Little Mountain Elementary — Grade 3

- Graduated from Mount Vernon High School
- Bachelors in Education with a minor in Spanish and a reading endorsement
- Western Washington University

Interesting Fact » Julie has traveled to 14 countries.



Jose Garcia III
Madison Elementary — Grade 4 Dual Language

- Graduate of Mount Vernon High School
- Associates of Art, Skagit Valley College
- Bachelor of Arts in Education, K-8 Elementary Education, Western Washington University

Interesting Fact » First generation college graduate. Student taught at Washington Elementary through the Collaborative Schools for Innovation & Success grant.