



MT. VERNON

COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

Press Release

For Immediate Release;

State Releases 2016 iSTEP+ Results

As many of you know, the state finally released the results of the 2016 ISTEP+ test. For schools, educators, parents, and most importantly students, the scores are lagging data as they are now more than 280 days old. We can utilize this data as a new benchmark but it cannot be used to improve student learning. At Mt. Vernon, we have relied on other measures to assist our teachers in making informed decisions to improve each and every student's achievement levels. One of the tools that we have utilized over the years and found to be both reliable and consistent is the NWEA. NWEA is a standardized test and the data from NWEA has guided our administrators and teachers to make changes to our curriculum, our instruction, and our resources.

The test scores for Mt. Vernon Schools have decreased. Unfortunately it is a statewide trend. However, it is important to remember that the 2016 test was a new test with a new testing vendor. More importantly, it is the third new test in three years. As educators, dedicated to our students, we will not make excuses, but deal with the hand we're dealt.

In our digital environment, we have curriculum that is aligned to state standards as a resource. We have focused on Math in grades 3-8 to ensure it is aligned with the curriculum for the new College and Career Readiness standards. Dr. Bond, Mt. Vernon's Director of Curriculum and Assessment has worked with a committee of teachers for the development and implementation of the new mathematical process standards.

While we anticipated a drop in our math scores from previous years with the new standards and a flawed testing environment, we will not use that as a crutch. We meet with our principals once a month to discuss building level achievement data as a guiding measure. In these meetings we discuss data obtained from NWEA, Study Island, Dibels, and teacher feedback.

The 2017 ISTEP+ begins the last week of February and the Mt. Vernon staff is working diligently to prepare our students. With the support of our community, we will focus on remaining positive and seeking "Quality Continuous Improvement" ensuring students leave our doors prepared for their future.

Respectfully,

Shane

Dr. Shane Robbins
Superintendent of Schools