



## OUR MISSION

To prepare students in grades 5 through 8 to **compete, achieve, and succeed** in high school, college, and beyond.

## OUR VALUES

Veritas Prep is founded on the belief that all students regardless of race, class, or socioeconomic circumstance are entitled to a high quality public education defined by high academic and behavioral expectations.

## OUR MODEL

- We maintain **high expectations.**
- We believe in **structured environments.**
- Our curriculum is **focused on outcomes.**
- We use **data to drive instruction.**
- Our scholars have **more time to learn.**
- We focus on **character development.**
- Our **teachers make all the difference.**



AT VERITAS PREP WE

COMPETE

ACHIEVE

SUCCEED



### *Dear Friends,*

In our fourth year of operation, the 2015-2016 school year, we reached our capacity serving more than 300 scholars in grades 5-8 and we graduated our inaugural class, the college class of 2024. These scholars made staggering gains in their time at Veritas Prep and we sent them off fully prepared for the rigor and expectations of high school as they charge on toward college. Our first graduates leave a legacy of hard work and achievement which sets the bar high for each class that follows.

At Veritas Prep, we strive to be a proof point for Springfield and to reset the bar for all Springfield students. To that end, we opted to take the state assessments online last year because we want ourselves and our scholars to begin preparing for what will soon become the norm. We learned a lot from the experience of administering an online assessment across the school and are learning a lot from the performance of our scholars. The “technology enhanced items” were technically challenging for our scholars, but they also demanded our scholars to think and show their understanding in unique ways. We will use all of this data to inform programmatic changes that will keep us ahead of the curve and our scholars competitive with their peers. As we compare the performance of our scholars to their peers in the district, it’s worth noting that while the standards assessed were the same, the test was different as there was no other Springfield school that took the assessment online.

As this report illustrates, our scholars are outperforming their peers by a wide margin and firmly on a path to college. The vast majority of these children came to us several grade levels behind. We are so proud to be realizing our mission and we remain driven to put every scholar we serve on a path to college and future success.

Thank you for your support and interest in Veritas Prep. With your help, we will continue to transform public education in the city of Springfield.

*Sincerely,*

Rachel Romano  
*Executive Director*



# A Day in the Life of a Veritas Prep Scholar



## ARRIVAL 7:20 AM

Scholars are greeted at the door with a handshake and a quick inspection of the uniform before eating breakfast.



## TUTORING 7:50 AM

Scholars are provided with individualized support and intervention every day.



## PROBLEM SOLVING 8:30 AM

In math, scholars grapple with meaty problems then share and discuss their solutions as a class.



## LUNCH 11:50 AM

Scholars enjoy lunch and some time to socialize with friends.



## ENRICHMENT 12:15 PM

Scholars have fitness, music or performance class every day.



## PROCEDURES 1:05 PM

A fast-paced math class where scholars practice skills and procedures to build their fluency in mathematics.



### LITERATURE 9:30 AM

Scholars read a high-quality novel and engage in a rigorous class discussion.



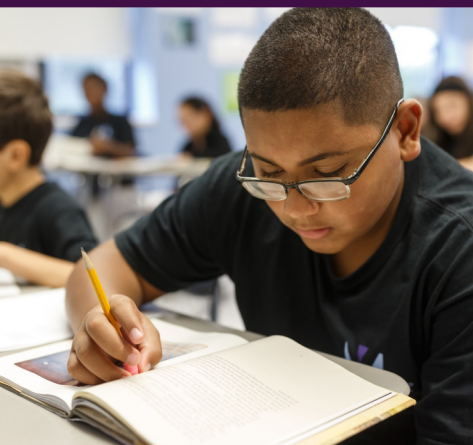
### COMPOSITION 10:20 AM

Explicit writing instruction helps scholars develop their composition skills as they write about what they've read in Literature class.



### SCIENCE 11:00 AM

Scholars receive daily instruction in Earth and Environmental, Life and Physical Science.



### SOCIAL STUDIES 1:55 PM

Scholars study Humans and their Environment, World Religion, Government and U.S. and World History.



### READING WORKSHOP 2:40 PM

Scholars learn the explicit skills and strategies they need to grow stronger as readers.



### INDEPENDENT READING 3:00 PM

Scholars apply those skills during independent reading with a book of their choice.



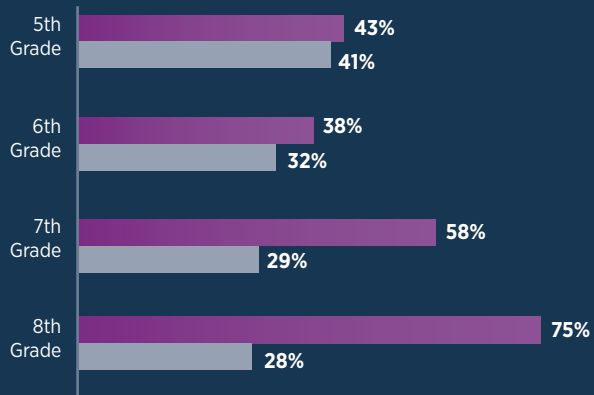
### DISMISSAL 3:30 PM

Scholars are dismissed and many stay after to participate in a variety of clubs and activities because we have the most dedicated teachers on the planet!

## VERITAS PREP SCHOLARS COMPARED TO DISTRICT PEERS

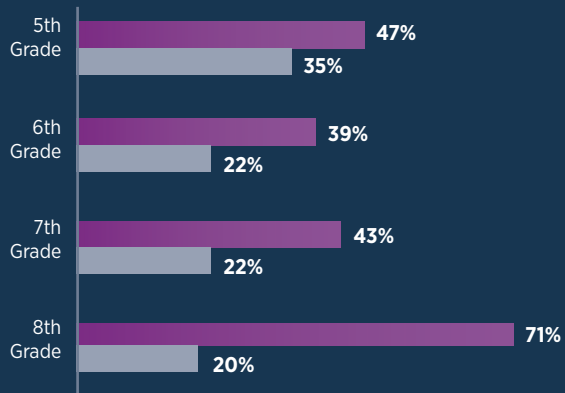
### ELA Scores

Percentage Proficient or Advanced



### Math Scores

Percentage Proficient or Advanced



Veritas Prep

Springfield District



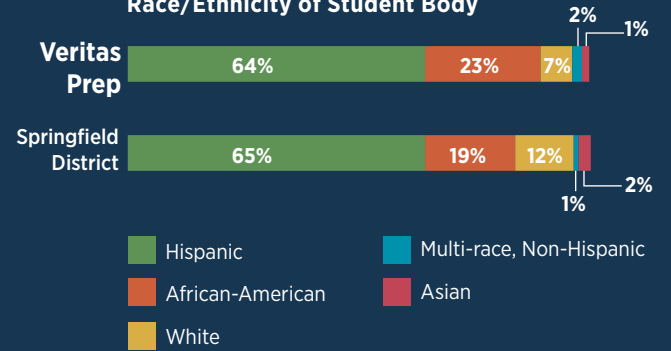
# COMPETE

OUR SCHOLARS  
OUTPERFORM THEIR  
PEERS IN DISTRICT  
SCHOOLS



## WE ARE SERVING OUR SPRINGFIELD COMMUNITY

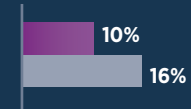
### Race/Ethnicity of Student Body



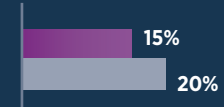
### Economically Disadvantaged



### Limited English Proficiency



### Special Education

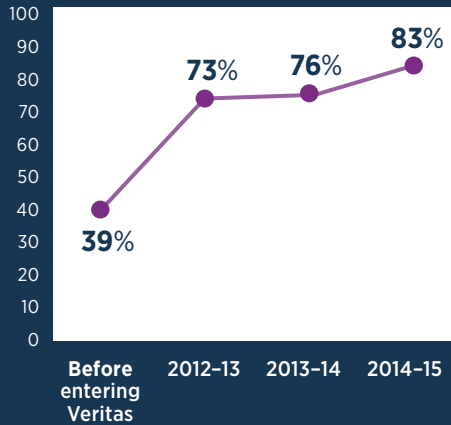


■ Veritas Prep      ■ Springfield District

## CLASS OF 2016

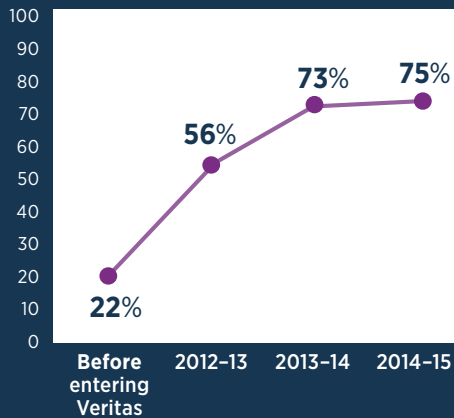
### ELA MCAS/PARCC Scores

Proficient or advanced



### Math MCAS/PARCC Scores

Proficient or advanced



# ACHIEVE

OUR SCHOLARS MAKE  
IMPRESSIVE GAINS OVER  
TIME AT VERITAS PREP





## STUDENT PROFILE

### MICHAEL PAUL



"Mikey constantly tells me that going to Veritas Prep is why he's doing so well in high school" says Jennifer Bettancourt, mother of Michael Paul, a Veritas Prep inaugural class graduate and now a Freshman at Springfield Central High School.

During his time at Veritas Prep, Michael grew up a lot, she added, and is highly focused on school. He knows grades are important to opportunities now and in the future.

The biggest lessons he learned from Veritas Prep are serving him well in high school—organization and responsibility. The biggest challenge so far at high school, Mom explains, is girls—they're a distraction! Another reason Michael is doing very well is how he was prepared academically for the rigors of ninth grade. Ms. Bettancourt explains that her older daughter, who didn't attend VPCS, struggled much more with the transition to high school and she noticed the content Michael was learning at VPCS was the same as she was learning in high school.

He learned (the hard way) that homework matters. The only dip in grades he's had in the first term of high school was the weight homework played in his grades. A big motivator for Michael is extracurriculars. He has joined Springfield Central's branch of the ROTC and played fall football, and this winter he'll join the wrestling team. If he misses homework his grade suffers and if his grade suffers, he can't be on the team. "The school prioritizes academic classes so I get help with homework and projects after school before practice," Michael explained "and I'm on track to be on the Honor Roll."

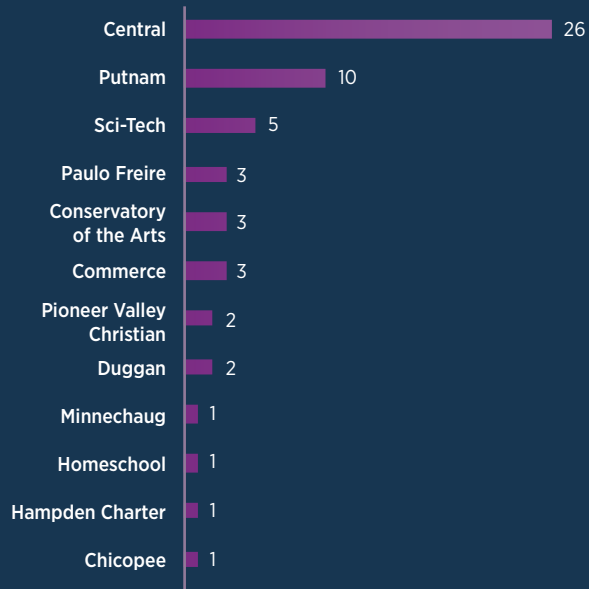
"I think Michael knows that Veritas prepared him with strong reading, math and science skills, and he feels it gave him a good advantage," Ms. Bettancourt expressed, "and now Biology is his favorite subject."

"He knows where he's going," Ms. Bettancourt states. Michael has envisioned his whole life: after high school, then a scholarship to Florida State University to play for the Gators while he studies Engineering (his back-up plan if the NFL doesn't scoop him up.)



## OUR GRADUATES ARE ENROLLED IN THESE HIGH SCHOOLS

NUMBER OF STUDENTS AT EACH SCHOOL



# SUCCEED

OUR SCHOLARS ARE  
SUCCEEDING IN HIGH SCHOOL  
ON THEIR WAY TO COLLEGE



## STUDENT PROFILE

### CHARDAE MOORE



"I miss Veritas Prep so much" Chardae tells her mother, Ms. Darlene Porter, regularly. Chardae Moore is part of the Veritas Class of 2024, and among the graduates of the inaugural class of scholars. Ms. Porter explains how Chardae misses her friends, but she mostly misses the structure, the fact that all students are focused on learning, showing respectful behavior, and having every one of her teachers care about her. She is now a ninth-grade Freshman at the School of Science and Technology in Springfield.

Chardae's transition to high school is going very well. In her first quarter she earned a spot on the Honor Roll and the volleyball team. At first she was placed in average math and English Language Arts classes but within weeks of the beginning of school, she advocated for herself to move into higher classes because math class was 'way too easy' and she wanted more challenging academic work. After making her case, she has been switched to Advanced Algebra, the highest-level math class a freshman can take, and a higher-level Reading class. Chardae, once a quiet and reserved student who could easily have slipped through the cracks, learned to advocate for and push herself to achieve to her full potential at Veritas Prep. The school's DRIVE values are alive and well in Chardae as she makes her way through high school on her way to college.

Like any new freshman, Chardae was nervous at first, but soon realized she was very prepared for the work, of finding new friends, and navigating challenging workloads. As for friends, she found some other VPCS alum to hang out with and gravitates toward students who are more serious and focused on their learning. Ms. Porter believes it was Veritas Prep's high expectations which prepared Chardae to compete with her peers academically and instilled the habits and discipline to be successful in a school without the expectations, structure and support that Veritas provides to its scholars.

Catching Ms. Porter on her cell watching one of Chardae's volleyball games, she explains that it was Veritas Prep that got her ready for high school. Even though she had moments of goofing off in middle school, she left eighth grade ready for the challenges to compete and succeed in high school. She can't wait to visit Veritas Prep when volleyball season wraps up in November and before she starts on the basketball team. She knows what she wants from high school and she's going after it.

"I'm very proud of her," Ms. Porter beams, "and her team just won!" *Go, Team Chardae!*



## FINANCIALS

### OPERATING REVENUES

Tuition	\$3,614,178
Government grants & funding	\$517,789
Nutrition funding	\$145,693
Private funding	\$415,572
Student program funding	\$148,711
Interest / investment income	\$1,703
<b>Total operating revenues</b>	<b>\$4,843,646</b>

### OPERATING EXPENSES

Personnel costs	\$2,624,568
Administration costs	\$247,208
Instructional services	\$629,587
Pupil and community services	\$567,445
Operations and fixed charges	763,794
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>\$4,832,602</b>

### CURRENT EQUITY

<b>Changes in unrestricted net assets from operations</b>	<b>\$11,043</b>
Net Capital Investments	\$55,685
Unrestricted Net Assets (Beginning of year)	\$626,832
Unrestricted Net Assets (End of year)	\$626,635

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Aaron Mendelson, <i>Chair</i>	Charles Alves	Matthew Landon
Michael Sweet, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Judith Crowell	Ashley Martin
Anthony Gabinetti, <i>Treasurer</i>	David Fuller	Greg Moody
Lisa Doherty, <i>Secretary</i>	Ryan Holmes	Rebecca Sela
Louis Abbate	Dale Janes	Carl Wistreich
Susan Alston		

## FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE DONORS

Business West	The George H. & Jane A. Mifflin Memorial Fund
Community Foundation of Western Mass.	HR Knowledge
Country Bank	Northwestern Mutual Foundation
Field Eddy Insurance	

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

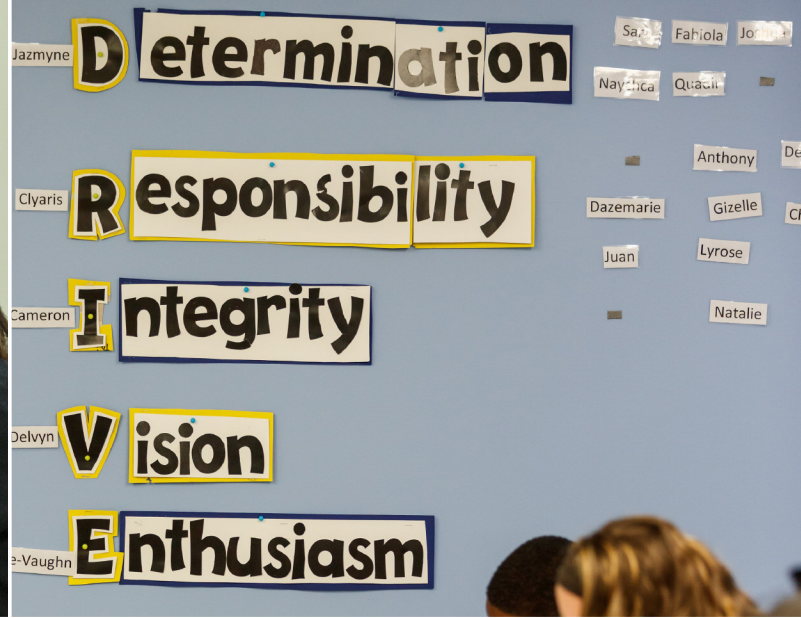
Louis Abbate	David and Sarabeth Fuller	Leamsy Mercado Gonzalez
Ron and Glay Abdow	Anthony Gabinetti	Steven Mitus
Susan Alston	Ramsys Garcia Lopez	Greg Moody
Emily Baecher	Lynne Gonclaves	Tess O'Rourke
Dana Barrows	Kathleen Gorman	Candy Oyler
Celeste Benoit	Joanne Gunderson	Marian Poe-Heineman
Tricia Canavan	Jacquie and Tim Kenny	Rick and Dawn Raymond
Frank and Brenda Canning	Alison Kilgore	Rachel Romano
Bob and Barbara Carroll	Matthew Kuzmeskas	Vearle Sayer
Kevin Christian	Cathy Lange	Isaiah Suarez
Cameron Crapps	Holland and Marilyn Low	Wilbur and Judy Swan
John Davis	Yamil Maldonado	Michael Sweet
Stephen Davis	John and Candace Marsellus	Bob and Joan Thomas
Brenda Doherty	Elizabeth Mayo	Eliza Wilmerding
Dianne Doherty	Dale Mazanec	
Lisa Doherty	Aaron Mendelson	

Photos by David Butler, Butler Photography, [butlerphotography.net](http://butlerphotography.net)

Select photos by Bryce Vickmark, [vickmark.com](http://vickmark.com)

Design by The Sketchy Pixel, [thesketchypixel.com](http://thesketchypixel.com)

Graduate Profiles written by Anne Kelleher, 8th grade Student Support Teacher







Our scholars are proof that **strong schools** and **great teaching** can change the trajectory of a child's life and put them back on a path to **academic success**.



