

ANNUAL REPORT
2016-2017

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 MISSION

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

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,

I am pleased to share with you our annual report for the 2016-17 school year. In our fifth year of operation we graduated our second class, the Veritas Prep Class of 2017 and the college class of 2025. 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 towards college. The class of 2017 had higher average scaled scores and higher median Student Growth Percentile than all other 8th grade classes in Springfield, Holyoke and nearby charters. The vast majority of these children came to us several grade levels behind. These young scholars are proof that quality education can change the trajectory of a child's life and put them on a path to academic and career success.

At Veritas Prep we hold every scholar to high expectations and push them to reach their fullest potential. We strive to be a proof point for Springfield and to reset the bar for all Springfield students. Veritas Prep ranked second in the Commonwealth last year for Math student growth percentiles (SGP) and fifth for English Language Arts. The growth percentiles are important because they don't just show our students' absolute performance, but rather how much they've learned in comparison to their academic peers across the state. This shows the value we added for our scholars in just one year. The overall percent of Veritas scholars scoring "proficient or above" in all three subjects was higher than the statewide averages across grades 5-8.

These results show the power of one team with a common mission, they are a testament to the hard work of our team; teachers, staff, our scholars and their families. We are all committed to and succeeding at achieving our mission to prepare our scholars to compete, achieve, and succeed in high school, college and beyond. 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. We will keep pushing ourselves to prove what is possible for Springfield scholars as we continue to defy the odds and prove what is possible when talented people join together around a critical mission.

We couldn't do this work without your support! 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



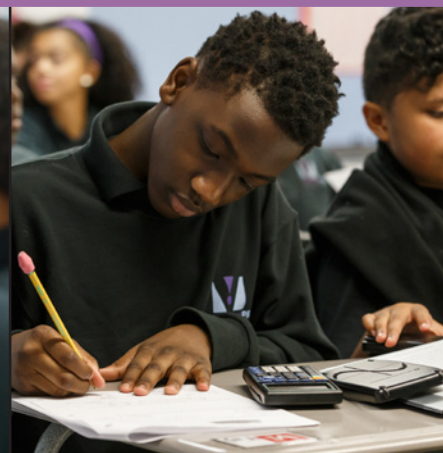
ARRIVAL AND MORNING WORK | 7:20 AM

Scholars are greeted at the door with a handshake and a uniform inspection before eating breakfast. During this time, scholars will also complete morning work to get their brains warmed up for the day to come!



TUTORING | 7:45 AM

Scholars are provided with individualized support and intervention every day.



PROBLEM SOLVING | 8:30 AM

A math class in which scholars grapple with meaty problems before sharing and discussing their solutions as a class.



LUNCH | 12:10 AM

Scholars enjoy lunch and social time with their friends.



ENRICHMENT | 12:35 PM

Scholars engage in music, fitness, or performance class every day.



MATH PROCEDURES | 1:25 PM

A fast paced class that has scholars practicing the skills and procedures needed to boost their fluency in mathematics.



LITERATURE | 9:30 AM

Scholars read a high-quality novel and engage in a rigorous class discussion about its overarching themes and plot elements.



SCIENCE | 10:30 AM

Scholars learn about the world they live in! Daily lessons involve Earth, Environmental, Life and Physical Science.



WRITING | 11:20 AM

Explicit instruction and examination of writing helps scholars develop their composition skills as they write about the novels they read in Literature.



SOCIAL STUDIES | 1:55 PM

Scholars study Humans and their environment, World Religion, Government, and US & World History.



TUTORING | 2:40 PM

During this time, scholars are able to receive additional guidance and support to master their class content.

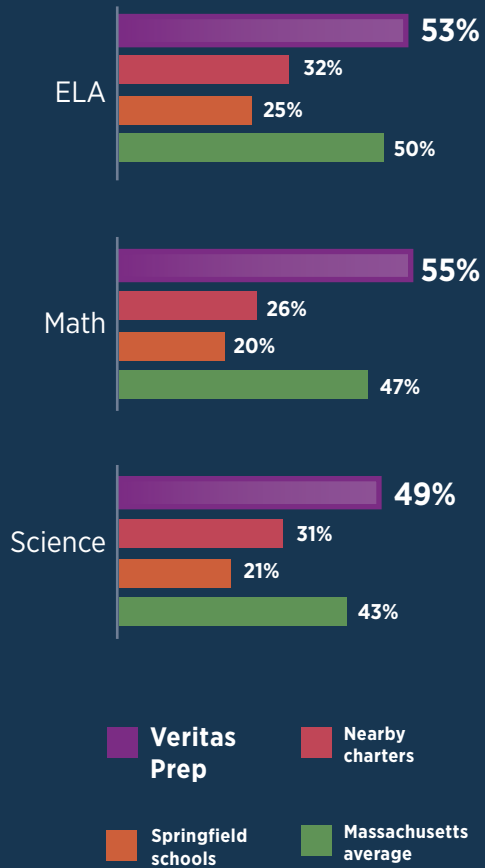


DISMISSAL | 3:30 PM

After a day of working hard, scholars are dismissed. Many decided to stay after to participate in clubs and activities because of the awesome dedication of our teachers!

VERITAS PREP SCHOLARS COMPARED TO PEERS

2017 MCAS Student Scores Across Grades 5-8
Percentage Proficient or Advanced



COMPETE

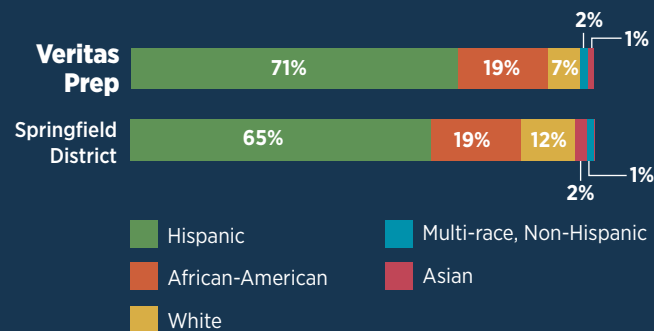
OUR SCHOLARS
OUTPERFORM THEIR
ACADEMIC PEERS





WE ARE SERVING OUR SPRINGFIELD COMMUNITY

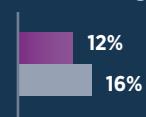
Race/Ethnicity of Student Body



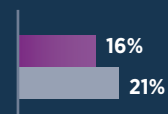
Economically Disadvantaged



Limited English Proficiency



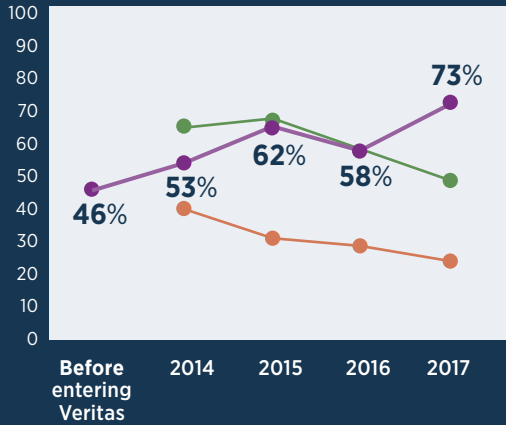
Special Education



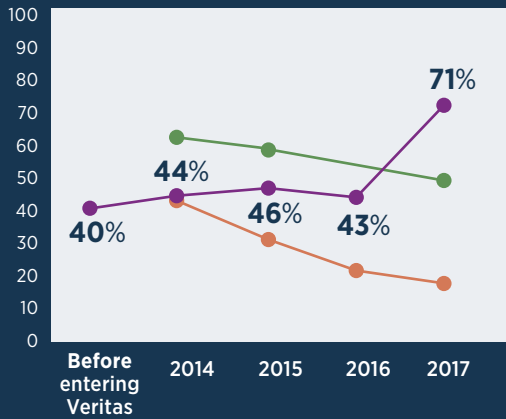
■ Veritas Prep
 ■ Springfield District

CLASS OF 2017

ELA MCAS/PARCC Scores
Percent Proficiency



Math MCAS/PARCC Scores
Percent Proficiency



Veritas Prep Massachusetts Springfield



ACHIEVE

OUR SCHOLARS MAKE
IMPRESSIVE GAINS OVER
TIME AT VERITAS PREP

GRADUATE PROFILE

STEPHANIE MORALES, VPCS CLASS OF 2016



"What school did you come from?" is a question Stephanie Morales has been often asked since she arrived at Putnam High School in the Fall of 2016. Her mom, Vanessa Torres, has been asked the same. They're asked by those who are impressed by the attitude and work ethic Stephanie brings to school everyday. Both proudly answer, "Veritas Prep!"

Stephanie is a member of Veritas Prep's inaugural class and now attends high school at Putnam Vocational-Technical Academy as a sophomore. There, she is a member of the honor roll (1st Honors), ROTC, and the junior varsity volleyball team in addition to her regular studies in the vocational nursing program. Her schedule is always filled but Stephanie wouldn't have it any other way; it's the challenge that keeps her motivated.

"I think you need to go big or go home," Stephanie said. "Whether it's school, homework, or sports, you can't slack off and expect to be successful. You need challenges to push you—they're motivation to reach my goals." She advises current and future Veritas Prep Scholars, including her younger sister, to have a similar attitude. "Be yourself and be a leader. Don't follow the wrong crowd who will lead you down the wrong path and become a slacker. Remember that you're excellent."

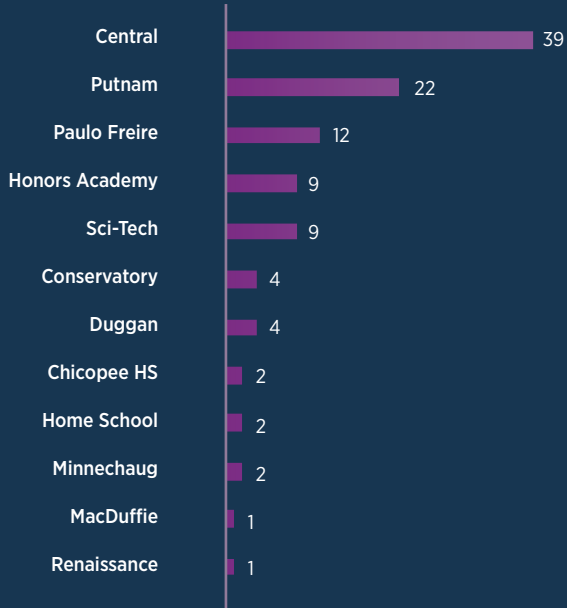
Stephanie is grateful for Veritas Prep for helping her develop this attitude and her mother agrees. She always tells her daughter that nothing is going to be handed to her and that hard work is needed to get to where she wants to be. Ms. Torres credits Veritas Prep for helping instill that work ethic in her daughter and said that the change in her daughter was noticeable after four years at the school. The habits Stephanie developed were crucial in receiving one of the limited seats in Putnam's nursing program. She made a positive impression on her teachers with her work ethic, practicing good classroom habits, and advocating for herself by asking teachers for recommendations. She put into action the same values that Veritas scholars practice everyday using DRIVE—Determination, Responsibility, Integrity, Vision, and Enthusiasm.

DRIVE values aren't the only thing from Veritas Prep that Stephanie brings to Putnam, she still wears her old fitness uniform to gym class. Most of her peers don't recognize the shirt's logo and ask what school it's from. She proudly answers, "Veritas Prep!"



OUR GRADUATES ARE ENROLLED IN THESE HIGH SCHOOLS

NUMBER OF STUDENTS AT EACH SCHOOL

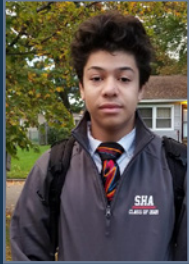


SUCCEED

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

GRADUATE PROFILE

ISAIAH HERNANDEZ, VPCS CLASS OF 2017



The transition to high school has gone well for Isaiah Hernandez, a member of Veritas Prep's second graduating class and of the Springfield Honors Academy's inaugural class. The new school was founded to be an option for students who want to have an extra challenge in a rigorous academic setting. Isaiah has no doubt Veritas Prep prepared him to meet those challenges. "I learned how to effectively take notes, write essays, and manage stress at Veritas," Isaiah said. "I learned it helps to make the work fun."

Isaiah participates in ROTC and continues to spend time with the other Veritas alum at the school. The first wave of progress reports came out and Isaiah is continuing where he left off after graduating from Veritas - his grades continue to be strong. He received the top mark, an "S," in all of his classes, which include pre-AP courses and a combination of Algebra 2 and Geometry. Isaiah said that he was proud of his performance in that math class, especially given the challenge of learning both subjects simultaneously as early as 9th grade.

Isaiah's mother has three children who are Veritas scholars, two alum and one in eighth grade. "They're prepared for high school," Mrs. Hernandez said and she went on to explain how she saw her children's comprehension, motivation, and academic performance improve over the course of their time at the school. She's proud of their increased level of preparedness. Even among students who chose to take on the extra challenge offered at the Springfield Honors Academy, Isaiah noticed he possessed a mindset that some of his peers didn't. "I learned at Veritas that it's okay to fail as long as you tried. If you don't try then you can't get better." This is the growth mindset at work, taught to all Veritas scholars, who learn failing is the first step toward learning how to improve.

Isaiah wants to go to a college like MIT or Stanford, both requiring high levels of academic achievement. Mrs. Hernandez has confidence in her son and believes that the education he received at Veritas Prep is being reinforced in high school and he'll be full prepared to take on the challenges of college. Isaiah agrees and has some advice for current & future Veritas Prep scholars, "Pay attention to your work. It'll help in the long term and you'll understand why once you get to high school."



FINANCIALS

OPERATING REVENUES

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Tuition | \$3,800,894 |
| Government Grants & Funding | \$443,813 |
| Private Funding | \$585,906 |
| Student Program Funding | \$211,593 |
| Interest / investment Income | \$2,040 |
| TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES | \$5,044,248 |

OPERATING EXPENSES

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Personnel costs | \$2,743,779 |
| Administration costs | \$261,972 |
| Instructional services | \$526,313 |
| Pupil and community Services | \$582,444 |
| Operations and Fixed Charges | \$858,623 |
| TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES | \$4,973,130 |

CURRENT EQUITY

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Changes in unrestricted net assets from operations | \$71,118 |
| Net Capital Investments | \$56,058 |
| Unrestricted Net Assets (Beginning of year) | \$626,635 |
| Unrestricted Net Assets (End of year) | \$697,379 |

2016-2017 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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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**.



