



VERITASPREP
CHARTER SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Veritas Prep Charter School is a public charter school serving grades 5–8.

Our school is publicly funded, tuition-free, and non-selective. Our diverse student body mirrors that of Springfield city schools, and our unique approach places our scholars on a path to success.



VERITASPREP
CHARTER SCHOOL



LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Once again Veritas Prep Charter School scholars realized the ideal: high growth and high achievement. Our students are once again proving what is possible with hard work and determination. We are so pleased to have expanded our impact last year to serve scholars at the new Veritas Prep Holyoke, a Holyoke Public School, that serves scholars from South Holyoke

by assigned enrollment. We are serving the highest needs population in Holyoke, and in our first year of operation scholars at VPH had the second highest growth in the city. Our scholars in Holyoke are now back on a track to academic and life success. The opportunity to serve more students in our region is the result of years of hard work by our tenacious Springfield team who has proven that even in our most struggling communities, students can and will achieve at high levels.

Veritas Prep is successful both because of how deeply we care about each other and also how much we expect from one another. Our team is dedicated to getting it right for our scholars. In their four years with us, our scholars not only achieve at high levels but also grow into incredible young men and women who will make great contributions to our world. We've learned as much from them over the years as they have from us. Together, our story is one of students, teachers, leaders, families, and community members supporting each other to raise the bar for ourselves, our scholars, and the world around us.

As we look to the future we are excited about the possibility of expanding our program at Veritas Prep Charter School to serve our Springfield scholars through their high school graduation. Pending approval from the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, we will launch a new and innovative high school in school year 2021-2022. We couldn't do this work without your support! With this report, we invite you to take a closer look into some of our stories and accomplishments from the 2018-2019 school year.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Romano". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rachel Romano

PRINCIPAL



Amy Clark joined the Veritas Prep team in 2012 as the founding math teacher and taught math and science to fifth grade scholars for three years. Mrs. Clark became the school's first Assistant Principal in 2015 before taking the helm as Principal in 2018. Mrs. Clark's scholars increased their proficiency rates by more than 30%, and under her leadership, the school reduced suspension rates by more than 60%. Mrs. Clark is a graduate of Bryant University with a degree in Marketing and Management and a former Teach For America corps member in Detroit, Michigan.

LEADERSHIP TEAM



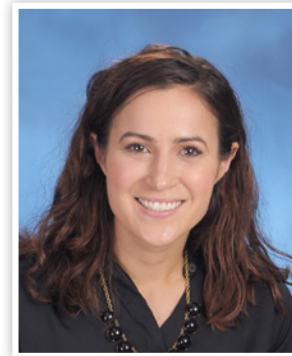
Emily Baecher
Academic Director



Kara Sikorski
Director of Operations



William Davis
Dean of Culture



Kelley Ryan
Dean of Student Support

A young woman with braids is shown in profile, focused on her laptop in a classroom. She is wearing a dark t-shirt with a logo that says "VERITAS CHARTER SCHOOL". In the background, other students are working at their desks, and a teacher is visible. A green banner with white text is overlaid on the image.

OUR BELIEFS >>>

All students regardless of race, class, or socioeconomic circumstance are entitled to a high-quality public education defined by high academic and behavioral expectations.

WE ARE SERVING OUR SPRINGFIELD COMMUNITY

Race/Ethnicity of Student Body

Veritas Prep



Springfield District



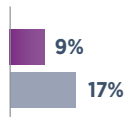
- Hispanic
- African-American
- White
- Other

Special Student Populations

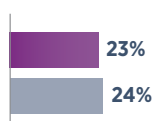
Economically Disadvantaged



English Learners



Students with Disabilities



- Veritas Prep
- Springfield District





OUR MODEL



- **High expectations** and support for every scholar
- **Development of scholarly habits** for high school, college, and career success
- **Professional development** and coaching that supports teachers who drive dramatic gains in scholar achievement



Our scholars are **defying expectations** in a city where only 1 in 2 children are expected to graduate.





Development
of **scholarly**
habits



ARRIVAL AND MORNING WORK

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

PROBLEM SOLVING

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

High
expectations



MATH PROCEDURES

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



ENRICHMENT

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



LITERATURE

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



SCIENCE

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

Curriculum
focused on
outcomes



SOCIAL STUDIES

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

Support for
every scholar



DISMISSAL

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

OUR MISSION

COMPETE

Our scholars outperform their academic peers



ACHIEVE

Our scholars make impressive gains over time

SUCCEED

Our scholars succeed in high school on their way to college

STUDENT PROFILE

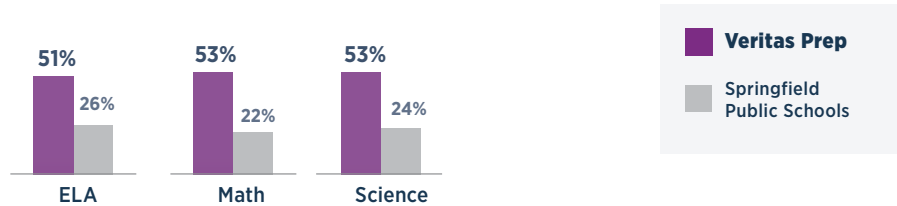
TRINITY HALL
VPCS 5TH GRADER



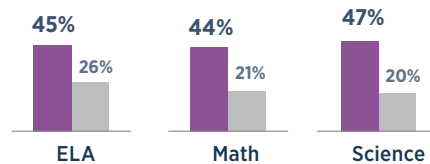
OUR SCHOLARS COMPARED TO PEERS

2019 MCAS Student Scores Across Grades 5-8 (% Proficient or Advanced)

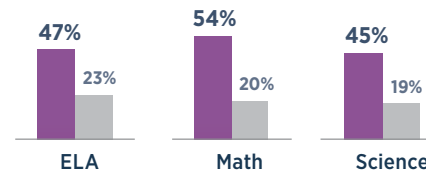
General Student Body



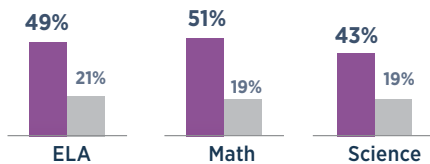
African American



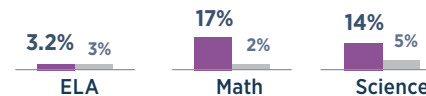
Hispanic/Latino



Economically Disadvantaged



Students with Disabilities



Trinity Hall is a newcomer to Veritas Prep as a fifth grade scholar. "I was nervous at first, but now I'm looking forward to the years here at VPCS. It's way different than my last school. People here seem ready to learn and respect their teachers," she explains. "We know it is important to try, even if you make a mistake, so that teachers will know what you're thinking. I have to push myself, and embrace the struggle," she adds.

Math is Trinity's favorite subject, but she's really happy that she also can take theatre class for one of her enrichments. "The awesome teachers are there to help you. I would like to be on student council in the future so I can improve the school community," Trinity says. She is looking forward to all she can learn here, and getting to know more nice teachers over the next few years.

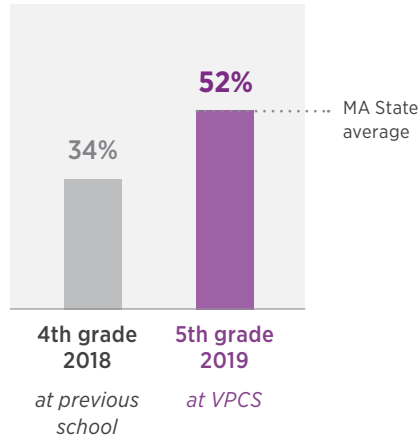


5TH GRADE STUDENTS MAKE A LEAP AT VPCS

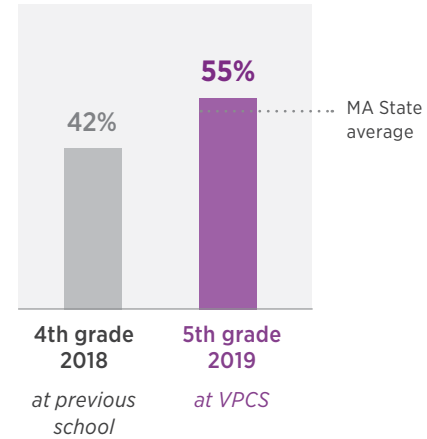
At the end of the year, VPCS had 18% more 5th graders on grade level in math and 13% more in ELA, closing the gap to the State. That's good enough to be #1 for growth in Massachusetts across all schools welcoming students as 5th grade middle schoolers.

PERCENTAGE AT GRADE LEVEL

Math



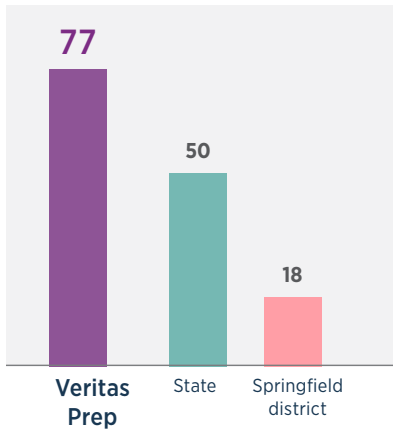
ELA



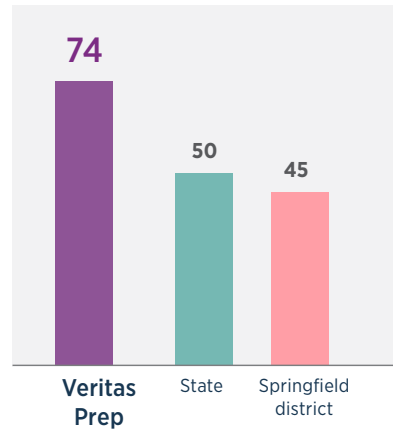
8TH GRADE ACHIEVEMENT

8th graders were in the top 25% of students in the state in math and had the second highest growth out of all middle schools in the state.

MATH ACHIEVEMENT PERCENTILE COMPARED TO STATE AND DISTRICT



STUDENT GROWTH PERCENTILE COMPARED TO STATE AND DISTRICT



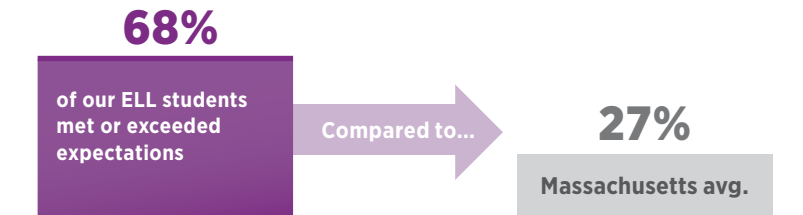


At Veritas Prep, we're setting the bar for excellence in Springfield.

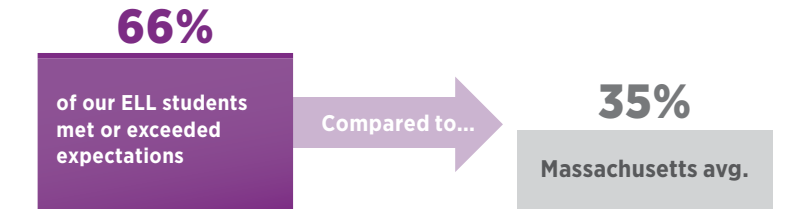
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS ARE THRIVING AT VPCS

Our English language learners are thriving compared to the Massachusetts state average.

5TH GRADE SCIENCE



6TH GRADE SCIENCE



7TH GRADE ELA



STUDENT PROFILE
JAYLA FISHER
8TH GRADER

Jayla Fisher is an eighth grade scholar at Veritas Prep who feels she's grown a lot as a student here. "I'm challenged to be my best every day," explains Jayla. "At my previous school I was always top in my class, but here, I wasn't, because the work was more advanced, so it made me work harder," she adds. With high expectations for her future, Jayla plans to attend Deerfield Academy so that she can get accepted to the best colleges. She wants to work as a NASA engineer or pursue a career in criminal justice as a lawyer representing the underserved.

She feels the best part of Veritas Prep is the way teachers encourage her and push her to be better. "Let's face it, there's always room for improvement," she says, smiling. "The great teachers over my four years here have showed me the value of hard work and explain how I'll use the skills I have learned so I can have the best possible future," she continues. "So when we struggle in class they stop and help us to regroup and refocus on where we went wrong." At VPCS Jayla feels that the amount of homework, while a lot, helps her to practice skills. She likes the experiences she's had on field trips over the years and the opportunities to be herself and express who she is in class, in clubs, in enrichment classes, and at community meetings.

OUR MISSION

COMPETE

Our scholars outperform their academic peers

ACHIEVE

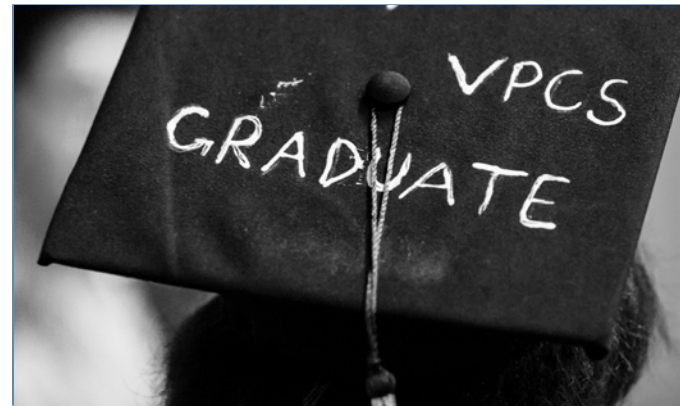
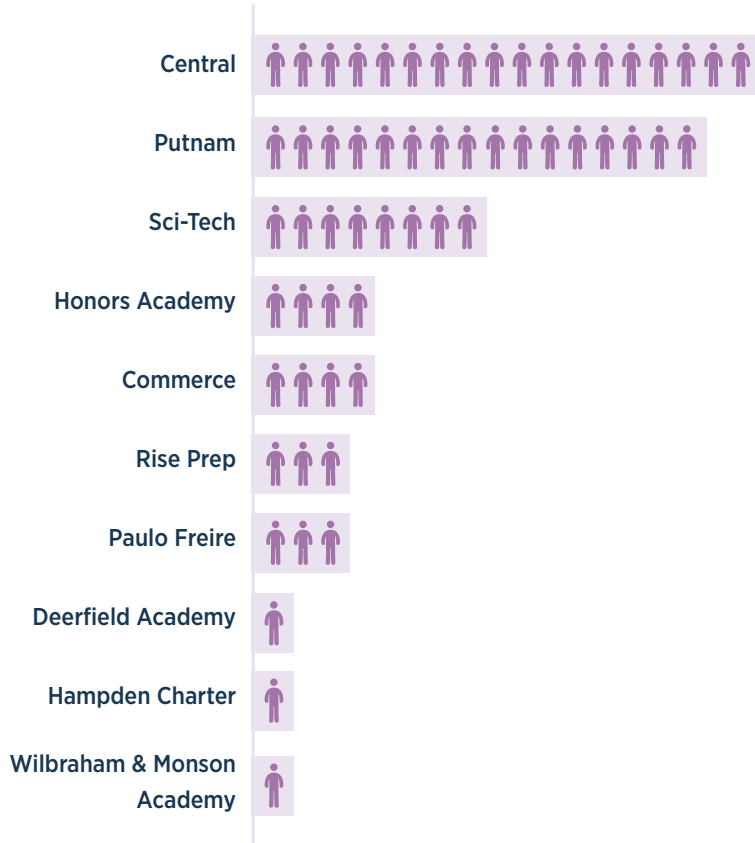
Our scholars make impressive gains over time

SUCCEED

Our scholars succeed in high school on their way to college

like this
#Lawless

OUR GRADUATES ARE ENROLLED IN THESE HIGH SCHOOLS



URI

FINANCIALS



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Organizations

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FINANCIALS

OPERATING REVENUES

Tuition	\$449,5968
Government Grants & Funding	\$434,826
Private Funding	\$590,275
Student Program Funding	\$205,384
Interest / Investment Income	\$1,878
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	\$5,728,333

OPERATING EXPENSES

Personnel Costs	\$3,799,010
Administration Costs	\$190,324
Instructional Services	\$554,165
Pupil and Community Services	\$52,788
Operations and Fixed Charges	\$722,257
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$5,318,543

CURRENT EQUITY

Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets from Operations	\$409,790
Net Capital Investments	\$936,319
Unrestricted Net Assets (Beginning of Year)	\$274,191
Unrestricted Net Assets (End of Year)	\$208,332



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