

The mission of Exploration Academy is to provide a flexible structure for students to determine their own direction for learning based upon their individual passions, interests, and needs. Individualized attention is paid to each student, as parents and an advisor work closely and collaboratively with the student to map out a personalized learning plan, where students choose to engage in project-based learning, technology infused-learning, 21st century skills/career exploration and development, and social/emotional growth. Students will engage in deep learning, attain needed skills for a successful post-secondary school future, and develop a love of learning.

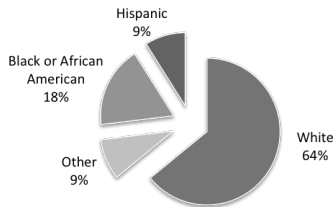
The Verona Area School District (VASD) is working with all district schools to ensure that:

- Every student has a personalized learning plan that provides a path to discovery and achievement and that plan is reviewed and changed at least annually based on the student's needs
- Every student's parent, guardian or advocate participates directly in the design, implementation, and outcomes of that student's personalized learning plans
- Every student meets or exceeds personalized learning plan goals every school year
- Every Verona Area High School student graduates
- Every graduate achieves their choice of college and career path

Exploration Academy

Associate Principal: Pheng Lee
300 Richard St., Verona, WI 53593
608-845-4560; leep@verona.k12.wi.us

School Demographics



Includes 12.8% special needs;
15.4% free & reduced lunch



80 students
with 5 advisors



www.facebook.com/theexplorationacademy



@EAVerona



•*Our Vision* is “Finding, Exploring, and Growing Students’ Passions, Interests, and Needs for Personalized Learning.”

•*Our Mission* is to provide a flexible structure for students to determine their own direction for learning based upon their individual passions, interests, and needs. A highly qualified staff supports the student’s pursuance of learning, as a process of growth. Individualized attention is paid to each student, as parents and an advisor work closely and collaboratively with the student to map out a personalized learning plan, where students choose to engage in project-based learning, technology infused-learning, 21st century skills/career exploration and development, and social/emotional growth. Students will engage in deep learning, attain needed skills for a successful post-secondary school future, and develop a love of learning.

•*Our Foundational Elements include:*

Element 1: Learning—In order for students in Exploration Academy to be successful, we must focus first on student learning. We continually measure and reflect utilizing the following lens: Are students learning or doing? Are students deeply learning or complying?

Element 2: Engagement—For students to truly learn, they must be engaged at high levels. For many students, the absence of engagement in learning has resulted in gross under-achievement. Students must be deeply and personally engaged in learning in order to learn at high levels.

Element 3: Motivation—Student learning is dependent upon the student’s motivation to move forward with new learning. Therefore, the development of a context for learning that is based in research around intrinsic motivation is essential for current and life-long learning experiences. Do students have autonomy in their learning experience? Are students pursuing mastery in their learning experience? Do students see purpose in their learning experience?

Element 4: Relevance and Rigor—Student learning experiences must be personally meaningful and purposeful. Clear ties between “real-world” application and/or place-based learning with rigorous academic expectations are essential.

Element 5: Growth—The true marker of success in learning is whether evidence of growth has occurred. It is imperative that students understand learning to be a process of growth. Students must be permitted to take ownership and monitor their learning growth on a personalized pathway toward rigorous learning outcomes.

Exploration Academy Governance Council Members

Paul Driftmier - President

Dawn VanHook - Vice President

Steve Hueur - Treasurer

Cathy Driftmier - Parent Rep

Kathy Erickson - Parent Rep

Mona Cassis - Parent Rep

Chad Welty - Staff

Lesley Morrison - Staff

Pheng Lee - Director

District Report Card

- #6 High School in WI by U.S. News & World Report
- #16 on “Best Public High School” List by Niche Rankings 2015
- “Exceeds expectation” rating on DPI report card
- 1 of 27 WI districts honored by College Board on 5th Annual Advanced Placement District Honor Roll

