

Superintendent's Greeting

Dear VASD families,

Welcome to the 2019 – 2020 school year! The mission of the Verona Area School District is: Every Student Must Be Successful. The entire staff of the Verona Area School District (VASD) from teachers to support staff, food service, custodians, administrators and Board of Education is completely committed to our mission. Everyone's role in the district will continue to focus on making this the best educational experience for your child(ren)!

We are an active school district with so much to offer our students and their families. I want to focus this communication on four areas of activity.

Our Strategic Plan- Last summer the Board approved our five-year strategic plan which is built to support the mission of Every Student Being Successful. Additionally, last year the Board established two goals of removing the predictability of student outcomes and resource allocation. As we start year two of the plan, our first full academic year utilizing the plan, we will be aligning systems, policy and resources in support of that plan and the Board goals. Visit [verona.k12.wi.us/Strategic Plan](http://verona.k12.wi.us/Strategic%20Plan) to view our 2018-2019 dashboard and the entire five-year plan!

Building for 2020 - In April of 2017, the voters of the Verona Area School District overwhelmingly approved three referendum questions to build a new high school, remodel and repurpose Badger Ridge Middle School/Core Knowledge Charter School and the existing high school and K-Wing. Additionally, voters approved an operational referendum to pay for additional staff related to the new building. We are on schedule to open our new high school in the Fall of 2020. I encourage you to visit our website to see pictures, drone video and other documents related to this construction project.

School Attendance Boundary Changes: At their July 23 meeting, the Board of Education voted on attendance area boundaries for our elementary and middle schools taking effect in the 2020 - 2021 school year. The Board has not yet made a decision on the extent of grandfathering, if any, for elementary school students. For families who have a middle school student sometime in the 2020 -2021 to 2022 – 2023 school years, the Board approved carrying out a “phase-in” plan over a three-year period. Those families have already received a letter detailing that process. Additional information to families will come from the district as it unveils. In the meantime, you can find all things related to the boundaries process by visiting verona.k12.wi.us/Buildingfor2020.

Personalized learning - In April of 2013, the Board of Education approved the goal that every student in VASD would have a personalized learning plan. A great deal of work on building the necessary technology infrastructure and staff training has occurred and this past year, we

implemented personalized learning in every classroom of every school! Each student has now completed the goal of having a Personalized Learning Plan (PLP). We also created a personalized learning progression to support teacher practices in the classroom. Our focus remains on:

Academic goal setting

Learner profiles

Continual teacher professional development (this has been on-going since 2013)

A new software platform to support the work of student PLPs

Engaging with families during the PLP process

You can find the most up-to-date information on our website at verona.k12.wi.us/PersonalizedLearning.

These are only four of the many exciting and engaging activities going on in our District. I invite you to checkout our website and follow us on Facebook and Twitter to learn more. Additionally, there is a standing invitation to all members of our school district community to call or email me or any district staff with questions you may have regarding your child or any school district operation.

The Verona Area School District is an outstanding school district because of the commitment, hard work and sacrifice of the entire staff and community. Working together with families and the community, we can make this the best school district in Wisconsin and achieve our mission.

We look forward to this school year and we thank you for continuing to make learning the most important endeavor for all of our children!

*Kind regards,
Dean Gorrell, Superintendent
608-845-4310 (Office)
gorrelld@verona.k12.wi.us*