

## Community

Verona Area High School (VAHS) is located on the fast-growing southwest side of Madison and serves students residing in Fitchburg, Verona, and a small area of Madison. Verona, once a small farming community, has experienced rapid growth. The 2016 Census Bureau population estimate stands at 12,969 residents, a 22% increase since 2000. Fitchburg, established as a city in 1983, is home to 28,875 residents.

## Students

The enrollment at VAHS as of September 2018 was 1606. Based on September 2018 enrollment data, 61.95% of our population categorized themselves as white/caucasian, 38.05% of all VAHS students categorized themselves as non-white, with 7.0% African-American, 20.6% Latino, 3.6% Asian, and 0.3% Native American, 0.06% Pacific Islander and 6.2% identifying as two or more. 140 students (9.0%) receive ELL services. Approximately 23.7% of VAHS students qualified to participate in free or reduced lunch programs for the 2017-2018 school year. VAHS currently serves about 109 students with disabilities, about 7.1% of the total student population.

## Curriculum

VAHS offers a comprehensive curriculum and has its foundation in serving all learners through differentiated teaching. The core curriculum in grades 9-11 does not track students by ability; instead advanced opportunities are offered through differentiated curriculum within the course. Consequently, VAHS courses do not carry designations such as "Honors" in their title.

VAHS offers 21 AP courses which are open to students in all grade levels; students are not limited on the number of AP courses they may take. Also offered are Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses in both the Biomedical and the Engineering strands. Junior and senior students also have the opportunity to take articulated dual credit courses in select core content areas as well as World Language and Biology 2. Additionally, juniors and seniors have the opportunity for Youth Options through the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison College and Edgewood College.

VAHS also offers a Youth Apprenticeship Program (YAP) open to juniors and seniors for a one- or two-year program. This is a cooperative program along with Madison College, the Dane County School Consortium and area employers. Students in the YAP complete their high school diploma, earn college credit and obtain paid work experience in an area of interest to them. Current YAP Areas Include: Agriculture/Vet Tech, Architecture/Construction/Skilled Trades, Automotive Technology, Biotechnology/STEM, Nursing Assistant/Pharmacy Technician Assistant, Engineering/Drafting, Finance/Accounting, Hospitality/Tourism/Food Service, Information Technology, Manufacturing/Welding.

For the Class of 2019, a total of 23.5 credits are required for graduation, including 4.0 English, 3.0 Social Studies, 3.0 Science, 3.0 Mathematics, 1.5 of Physical Education, 0.5 of Health, and additional elective credits.

Principal Ms. Pam Hammen (608) 845-4	School Counselors:
Associate Principals: Mr. Mike Murphy (608) 845-4505	House 1 Ms. Carri Hale (608) 845-4426, Ms. Lesley Morrison (608) 845-4588, Mr. Walter Williams (608) 845-4681
Mr. Jorge Avalos (608) 845-4412, Mr. Pheng Lee (608) 845-4560, Ms. Tamara Sutor (608) 845-4411	House 2 Mr. Shawn Harris (608) 845-4653, Ms. Kelly Knueve (608) 845-4626, Mr. Jeremy Solomon (608) 845-4429

## **Class Rank and Grading**

Class rank is not reported on the transcript or for college admission purposes. Cumulative grade point averages are currently reported using the following mark points:

A=4.00 B+=3.33 C+=2.33 D+=1.33 F=0 (no credit)

A-=3.66 B=3.0 C=2.0 D=1.0

B-=2.66 C-=1.66 D-=.66

Only final semester grades are used in computing cumulative grade point average. Grades from all courses are computed equally without weighting.

## **Alternative Education**

The Learner Education Alternative Pathway (LEAP) program is an opportunity for students to earn their diplomas through non-traditional methods. The program is intended for students who are at least 17 years of age and who are one or more years behind in credits earned. Credit deficient students work with our at-risk instructors to provide an individualized path toward graduation. Our at-risk teachers provide students with accelerated credit opportunities, integrated and online curriculum, project learning, and work/volunteer experience options to meet VAHS graduation requirements.

## **ELL/Bilingual**

The English Language Learner/Bilingual (ELL/Bilingual) department is an integration of teachers from various core content areas: English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. The ELL/Bilingual department offers courses in English with language support that parallel the courses in the core departments. Students are held to the same rigorous performance standards as in all the core departments. One of the fundamental principles guiding ELL instruction at VAHS is that the students develop content and language acquisition simultaneously. The high school has also provided numerous hours of professional development training for teachers so they are prepared to make content accessible to English language learners in all courses.

## **Learning Environment**

The Verona Area School District is working toward full implementation of Personalized Learning. Toward this end, VAHS embraces the use of technology for teaching and learning, communication, collaboration, and productivity. A robust infrastructure provides access to a variety of resources throughout the building in classrooms, computer labs, offices and the Library Media Center. Mobility is also supported via a secure wireless network which allows laptops, iPads, smartphones and other devices access to the Internet to support learning. All students and teachers are utilizing iPads as one way to increase their ability to personalize learning for all students. In 2016-17, all students were issued iPads as a result of the school adopting a 1 to 1 learning philosophy.

Classes are scheduled on a block schedule rotation. Periods 1, 3, 5 and 7 meet on Day 1, and periods 2, 4, 6 and 7 meet on Day 2. This schedule also incorporates an advisory model with enrichment opportunities offered daily.

The VAHS Library contains over 12,000 volumes, both electronic and in print, for students and staff to access. In addition, school and at home access to an extensive array of databases is also provided. VAHS also provides access to state-of-art software in the school's recording studio, graphic design lab, as well as a comprehensive film production studio for news production.

Performance groups use a variety of venues, including the 700-seat auditorium with studio/rehearsal and fly space, a music recording studio, film/video studios, a ceramics studio, and an in-school art gallery. The school offers three gyms, a weight room, and a multi-purpose room. Within the campus area, students access a swimming pool, tennis courts, a stadium, and baseball, soccer, and softball fields. Language students may participate in several world travel opportunities. Science and agriculture-related classes enjoy an adjacent school forest, an animal laboratory, and an in-school greenhouse.

## Staff

The certified staff of VAHS is comprised of 136 staff members. In addition to teachers, this staff includes school counselors, school social workers, school psychologist, nurse, special education coordinators, technology coordinators, learning resource coordinators, and an athletic director. There are five building administrators and one police liaison. In addition, VAHS has 58 support staff members, including secretaries, custodians, food service workers, special education assistants, bilingual education assistants, interpreters and technology/LMC assistants. Staff development is a priority, and includes ongoing training to further implement Personalized Learning and increase technology integration.

## Graduate Data

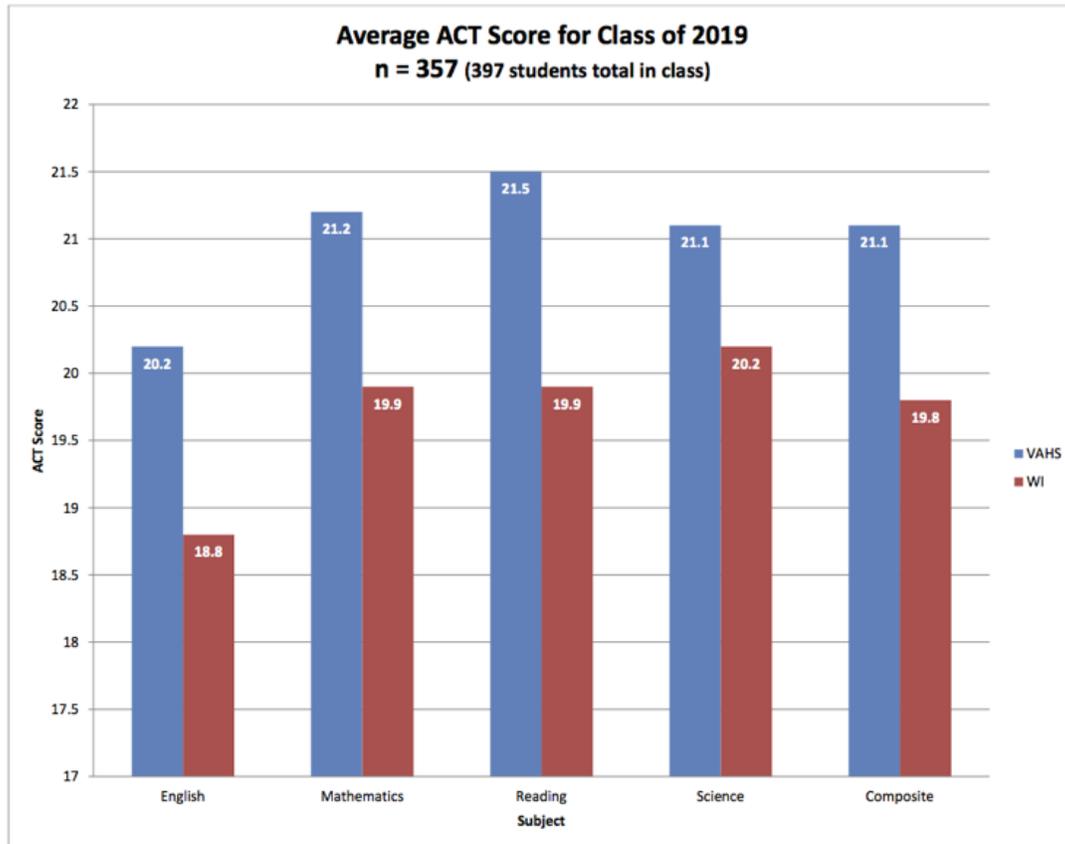
The VAHS Class of 2017 reported 375 graduates. Post-secondary plans at the time of graduation were the following:

Enrollment in 4-year college/university.....	69.5%
Enrollment in technical college/2-year.....	19.3%
Job Training.....	1.6%
Enlistment in full-time military.....	0.5%
Full-time or seeking employment.....	4.7%
Undecided/Not Reported.....	2.1%
Travel.....	2.3%

# Test Results

## ACT Results

The ACT was taken by 357 members of the class of 2019, approximately 90% of the class. Here is a breakdown of how VAHS performed in comparison to state averages:



## PSAT Results

The PSAT is an optional test available to sophomores and juniors that allows junior test-takers to qualify for all associated National Merit Scholarships. We had two members of the class of 2019 receive the distinction of being named National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists, and three more were honored as Commended Students.

## AP Results

A total of 603 students reported 1,125 Advanced Placement exams in 24 different subject areas in May 2018. The results of examinations with more than 10 participants are:

Subject Area	Total	Scores of 5	Scores of 4	Scores of 3
All subjects	1,125	114 (13%)	194 (22%)	253 (28%)
Biology	72	0	12	26
Calculus AB	110	25	31	28
Calculus BC	14	2	1	8
Chemistry	25	2	1	7
Comp Govt & Pol	23	5	10	4
Comp Sci A	14	2	6	2
English Lang	187	4	31	67
English Lit	83	8	14	25
Environmental Sci	46	2	9	2
Human Geography	102	26	25	18
Macroeconomics	24	1	3	4
Physics 1	42	1	9	9
Physics 2	13	1	1	7
Psychology	150	49	41	30
Statistics	143	12	36	49
US History	8	1	4	2
World History	34	1	8	14

## VAHS Course Offerings

### **Agriculture**

Veterinary Science  
Advanced Animal Systems/Vet Science  
Science of Veterinary Medicine  
Science of Veterinary Medicine 2- Dual Credit  
Soils and Plant Science  
Advanced Soils and Plants-Dual Credit  
Horticulture  
Agriculture Structures/How To  
Power Mechanics  
Advanced Power Mechanics  
Natural Resources Management  
Agriculture Food Science  
Biotechnology -Dual Credit  
Advanced Biotechnology -Dual Credit  
Youth Apprenticeship-Agribusiness Work Experience  
Youth Apprenticeship-Veterinary Technician Work Experience

### **Art**

Art Foundations  
Foundations of Digital Media and Design  
Ceramics 1, 2 & Advanced  
Sculpture/Welding  
Computer Art & Design 1, 2, & Advanced  
Drawing 1 & 2  
Painting 1 & 2  
Photography 1, 2 & Advanced  
3-D Design  
Computer Art and Design 1, 2 & Advanced  
Video Production and Film Studies  
Advanced Video Production  
VCAT-News Production & Advanced  
Adaptive Art Mentorship  
Advanced Art Studies

### **Business Education**

Your Money  
Business, Marketing, and Finance  
Law & Ethics  
Digital Visual Communication  
Layout & Design  
Managing your Financial Life  
Social Media and Advertising  
AP-Economics-Macro  
AP-Economics-Micro  
College Accounting -Dual Credit  
Web Design  
eTechnology  
Yearbook Production  
Youth Apprenticeship-Finance and Accounting  
Youth Apprenticeship- Hospitality and Tourism

### **Computer Science**

Exploring Computer Science 1 & 2  
Game Design  
AP Computer Science Principles-PLTW  
AP Computer Science A  
Exploring Software Development  
Mobile App Design  
Youth Apprenticeship-Information Technology Work Experience

### **ELL/Bilingual Course Offerings:**

ESL1, ESL 2, ESL 3  
English for the 21st Century  
Spanish Language Arts 2 & 3  
ELL Biology  
ELL Environmental Science  
ELL Principles of Chemistry and Physics  
ELL Global Issues  
ELL World Studies  
ELL US History

### **English**

Principles of Literacy  
English 1, 2, & 3  
Accelerated English 1-2  
AP English Language & Composition  
AP English Literature & Composition  
English Literacy  
College Bound Writers  
Intro to College Writing and Reading Strategies - Dual Credit  
Literary Perspectives  
Art of Persuasion  
Creative Writing  
Nonfiction Writing Project (Newspaper)  
Eco Literature  
Voices Rising -Literature of Resilient  
Page to Stage-The Art of Theatrical Adaptation

### **Family and Consumer Science**

Surviving Independently  
Culinary 1 & 2  
Culinary 3- Foods Around the World  
Professional Cooking- ProStart 1 & 2  
Bakings and Pastry Arts  
Medical Occupations  
Medical Terminology  
Housing & Interiors  
Child Development  
Working With Children  
Certified Nursing Assist. Youth Options  
Youth Apprenticeship- Pharmacy Technician Work Experience  
Youth Apprenticeship-Hospitality and Tourism Work Experience

**Math**

Math for the Trades 1 & 2  
Math Concepts  
Pre-Algebra  
Algebra 1  
Geometry  
Geometry For Stem  
Algebra 2  
Algebra 2 -Dual Credit  
Advanced Algebra  
College Algebra  
Precalculus  
Statistics  
AP Statistics  
AP Calculus AB  
AP Calculus BC  
AP Calculus BC-12

**Music**

Concert Band 9  
Symphonic Band  
Advanced Wind Ensemble  
Chorale 1 & 2  
Advanced Concert Choir  
Concert Orchestra  
Advanced Symphony Orchestra  
Intro to Band/Orchestra  
World Drumming  
Joyful Noise Music Mentor  
Guitar 1, 2 & Advanced  
Piano 1, 2 & Advanced  
Creating Music  
AP Music Theory  
Music Production 1, 2 and Advanced  
Musical Theatre  
Instrumental Jazz 1  
Vocal Jazz

**Physical Education/Health**

Health Education & Blended Health Education  
Fitness for Life  
Physical Education Foundations  
Individual Sports  
Team Sports  
Lifeguard Training/CPR for Professional Rescuer  
Water Safety Instructor Training  
Strength, Speed and Agility  
Character & Leadership Development  
Adaptive PE Mentorship  
Coaching and Officiating Sports

**Project Lead The Way -Engineering**

PLTW-Introduction to Engineering  
PLTW- Principles of Engineering  
PLTW-Engineering Design and Development

**Project Lead The Way- Science**

PLTW-Principles of Biomedical Science  
PLTW-Human Body Systems  
PLTW-Medical Interventions  
PLTW-Biomedical Interventions

**Science**

Biology  
Biotechnology -Dual Credit  
Advanced Biotechnology -Dual Credit  
Biology 2  
AP Biology  
Environmental Science-Wisconsin Ecology  
AP Environmental Science  
Earth Science  
Physical Science  
Applied Chemistry  
Chemistry  
AP Chemistry  
General Physics  
AP Physics 1 & 2  
AP Physics C. Mechanics  
Youth Apprentice- Biotechnology Work Experience

**Social Studies**

United States History  
Modern Revolutions  
Global Issues  
Area Studies- Africa  
Area Studies- Latin America  
Introduction to Sociology  
Social Psychology  
Ancient Civilizations  
Government & Politics  
Psychological Foundations of the Adolescent  
Cultural Perspectives in America  
Rock & Roll Society & American Culture  
Sports & History  
AP Psychology  
AP World History  
AP United States History  
AP Comparative Government and Politics  
AP Human Geography  
Social Studies Capstone-Blended

## **Technology Education and Engineering**

Exploring Technology

Wood Processes 1 & 2

Advanced Wood Processes- Dual Credit

Adaptive Technology Education Mentorship

IT Essentials- Dual Credit

Electronic Engineering

Applied Electricity

Engineering Drafting

Computer Aided Drafting and Design

Metal Fabrication- Dual Credit

Machine Tool- Dual Credit

Welding Technology

Advanced Welding Technology- Dual Credit

Principles of Construction

Computer Auto Maintenance

Power Mechanics & Advanced Power Mechanics

Sculpture/Welding

Robotics

Youth Apprenticeship-Automotive Technology Work Experience

Youth Apprenticeship- Construction Work Experience

Youth Apprenticeship-Information Technology Work Experience

## **World Languages**

American Sign Language 1 & 2

French 1st through 5th year

German 1st through 6th year

Spanish 1st through 5th year

Spanish Language Arts 1 & 2

# EXPLORATION ACADEMY PROGRAM

High school aged students residing in the Verona Area School District have the choice to attend Verona Area High School or be part the Exploration Academy Program.

Students choose Exploration Academy for its focus on providing an equitable and excellent educational experience. EA is a rigorous academic experience that challenges students to reach proficiency in their learning. Students cannot “just get by” in Exploration Academy. However, Exploration Academy was designed to meet students where they are in a flexible manner to provide support where needed, while recognizing students’ individual strengths, passions, and interests. It is the recognition of these strengths, passions, and interests, which form the basis for each student’s learning experience. Students are drawn to EA because they are able to have voice and choice as a way to be highly motivated and engaged in learning that is personally meaningful and relevant.

Admission to the Exploration Academy Program is open to all Verona Area School District students who choose to apply. All applicants are admitted based upon the availability of space. Exploration Academy is a school targeted to engage all students and does not define itself as a school for “gifted and talented” or “at-risk.” The complete spectrum of students attends Exploration Academy.

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, 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**Percentile vs. Cumulative GPA for Six Semesters for the Class of 2019 at  
Verona Area High School, Verona WI  
n = 383 students**

