

**Report on the Status of  
Valparaiso Community School Corporation**

To the  
**Mayor and City Council**  
City of Valparaiso, Indiana

and

**Board of School Trustees**  
Valparaiso Community Schools



March 12, 2018

## Table of Contents

<b>Section 1: Corporate Mission and Selected Demographic Characteristics of our Students .....</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>Section 2: Corporate Finances: How We Monitor and Report the Condition and Performance of our Funds.....</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>Section 3: Status of the Referendum-Related Building Projects.....</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>Section 4: Status of the General Fund (Operations) Referendum .....</b>	<b>Page 8</b>
<b>Section 5: An Overview of Student Performance – Elementary Schools .....</b>	<b>Page 13</b>
<b>Section 6: An Overview of Student Performance – Middle Schools .....</b>	<b>Page 17</b>
<b>Section 7: An Overview of Student Performance: Valparaiso High School.....</b>	<b>Page 19</b>
<b>Section 8: School Safety and Security.....</b>	<b>Page 21</b>

**Section 1: Corporate Mission and Selected Demographic Characteristics of our Students**

**Our Mission:**

To provide a safe and supportive educational environment that enables each student to maximize their potential to learn.

**Selected Demographic Characteristics of Our Students:**

Approximately 6,235 students attend eight (8) elementary schools, two (2) middle schools, and one (1) high school. (Please see Table 1 for example.)

As a school corporation, the percentage of our students who qualify for Free/Reduced lunch has been approximately 28% for the past six years. (Please see Table 1 for example.) However, several of our schools (Flint Lake, Central, Parkview, and Thomas Jefferson Elementary Schools) have Free/Reduced student populations that are approaching 50%.

The composition of our student population is primarily Caucasian and the average percentage of our minority population over the past five years is 19%. (Please see Table 1 for example.)

**Table 1: Six Year Trend of Selected Demographics**

	<u>2012-13</u>	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>
<b><u>Enrollment</u></b>	6241	6403	6260	6171	6261	6235
<b><u>% Free/Reduced</u></b>	28	29	27.4	28	26.4	29
<b><u>% Minority Students</u></b>	18.66	18.94	19.6	19.7	20.9	21.7
<b><u>% Limited English Proficiency</u></b>	2.4	2.8	3.4	3.3	2.4	2.0

**Section 2: Corporate Finances and How We Monitor and Report the Condition and Performance of our Funds - An Overview:**

The Valparaiso Community School Corporation continues carefully manage the funds of the school district. We continue to use process tools that enable us to monitor how our budgeted funds are operating. We believe that these tools not only increase transparency, but also our accountability to our Board of Trustees, to our patrons, and to our community about our patterns of expenditure versus available revenue. The two tools that we use and report in our monthly School Board meetings are entitled “Year-To-Date Performance of Funds” and “Status of the General Fund”. (See Tables 2 and 3 for examples.)

*Table 2* depicts the relationship between the beginning of the year Cash Balance, YTD Expenditure and YTD Revenue. The result of this relationship, at a minimum, should be a ratio of 1.0 which signifies that our YTD pattern of expenditure is at least equal to our YTD revenue. If the ratio is greater than 1.0 it means our expenditures are less than our revenue (a positive situation). Finally, if the ratio is less than 1.0 it means that our YTD pattern of expenditure is greater than our revenue.

The goal each month is to achieve a level of performance that is at least equal to a ratio of 1.0. Moreover, when a ratio of less than 1.0 is evident, then the expectation is that the superintendent and the administrative team MUST be able to explain publicly to the Board of School Trustees why the ratio is less than 1.0 and what is the plan to remedy the imbalance between expenditures and revenues. Thus far, and thankfully, during our tenure, when a ratio of less than 1.0 has occurred in a fund the primary reason has been that it has occurred in a Fund in which revenue is received from property taxes and the <1.0 ratio will be resolved when we receive our property tax draw. For example, semi-annual payments were issued in January for Debt Service and Pension Debt Service causing these ratios to be well below one due to the timing of the payments. These ratios will revert to one or near one upon receipt of our 2018 property tax revenue later in the year.

We receive two distributions of property tax revenue per year, typically in June and December. Therefore, it is not atypical for a fund supported by property taxes to be performing for several months at a ratio less than 1.0. Regardless of the Cash Flow variance, ratios of less than 1.0 must be studied and explained to the Board of School Trustees and to our public. The tools noted in *Tables 2 and 3* have been developed and deployed to facilitate analyzing the YTD Performance of the Budgeted Funds.

*Table 4* provides a six (6) year history of the General Fund Cash Balance. The General Fund is our largest Fund and its revenue is used to pay for items such as salaries, benefits, utilities,

Table 2  
YTD Performance of Funds

Month Ending: February 28, 2018	General Fund	Debt Service	Pension	Capital Projects	Bus Replacement *	Transportation
1. Cash Balance: January 1, 2018	\$ 6,874,990.83	\$ 1,445,764.90	\$ 231,886.93	\$ 1,833,765.97	\$ 757,284.61	\$ 2,033,407.46
2. YTD Revenue	\$ 6,653,473.64	\$ 490,872.00	\$ 575,000.00	\$ 24,977.90	\$ -	\$ 17,236.23
3. Total YTD Revenue (Line 1 + Line 2)	\$ 13,528,464.47	\$ 1,936,636.90	\$ 806,886.93	\$ 1,858,743.87	\$ 757,284.61	\$ 2,050,643.69
4. Total YTD Expenditures	\$ 6,286,710.73	\$ 1,787,000.00	\$ 800,307.25	\$ 979,936.27	\$ -	\$ 406,674.22
5. YTD Cash Balance (Line 3 minus Line 4)	\$ 7,241,753.74	\$ 149,636.90	\$ 6,579.68	\$ 878,807.60	\$ 757,284.61	\$ 1,643,969.47
6. YTD Fund Performance (Line 5 divided by Line 1)	1.05	0.10	0.03	0.48	1.00	0.81
<b>Month Ending: February 28, 2018</b>						
	Operating Referendum	Capital Referendum		Rainy Day		
1. Cash Balance: January 1, 2018	\$ 3,078,327.92	\$ 952,399.93		\$ 7,968,031.36		
2. YTD Revenue	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -		
3. Total YTD Revenue (Line 1 + Line 2)	\$ 3,078,327.92	\$ 952,399.93		\$ 7,968,031.36		
4. Total YTD Expenditures	\$ 480,725.48	\$ -		\$ 965,000.00		
5. YTD Cash Balance (Line 3 minus Line 4)	\$ 2,597,602.44	\$ 952,399.93		\$ 7,003,031.36		
6. YTD Fund Performance (Line 5 divided by Line 1)	0.84	1.00		0.88		

Temporary Interfund loans to:  
Debt Service Fund \$390,000  
Pension Debt Service \$575,000

If the ratio is (1) then Performance is GOOD  
If the ratio is > (1) then Performance is Excellent  
If the ratio is < (1) then CAUTION is NEEDED

Table 3  
GENERAL FUND For the Year 2018  
Expanded Appropriations as of February 29, 2018

Function	Description	Approved Budget	To Date Carryover Encumbrances	To Date Available Budget	Amount Expended Per Month												Total Expended For the Year as of Report Date	Cumulative % Spent	Cumulative Target %	Plus or Minus Target Rate	Appropriation Balance Remaining			
					Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec								
11000	Regular Programs	\$25,342,913	\$17,187	\$23,399,800	\$1,987,340	1,930,181														\$3,797,501	14.97%	16.60%	-1.63%	\$21,562,299
12000	Special Programs	15,910		15,910		71														0	0.00%	16.60%	-16.60%	\$259,063
14000	Summer School	259,063		\$259,063																0	0.00%	16.60%	-16.60%	\$259,063
16000	Remediation	50,202		\$50,202	208	182														368	0.73%	16.60%	-15.87%	\$48,834
17000	Payments to Other Gov Units	3,649,956		\$3,649,956		694,863														694,863	19.04%	16.60%	2.44%	\$2,955,093
21000	Support Service-Projects	1,448,913	771	\$1,448,784	89,263	110,214														199,477	13.77%	16.60%	-2.83%	\$1,249,307
22000	Support Services-Instruction	568,979	6,995	\$575,974	40,527	40,940														81,467	14.14%	16.60%	-2.46%	\$494,507
23000	Support Services-Gen Adm	1,181,562	7,659	\$1,189,221	84,593	105,000														189,596	15.94%	16.60%	-0.66%	\$999,625
24000	Support Services-School Adm	3,479,052	17,808	\$3,496,860	261,557	256,985														518,542	14.93%	16.60%	-1.77%	\$2,978,318
25000	Support Services-Bus & Operations	655,780	139	\$655,899	47,686	48,455														84,141	14.35%	16.60%	-2.25%	\$581,758
26000	Operation and Maintenance	4,411,089	14,333	\$4,425,422	276,254	285,203														561,457	12.69%	16.60%	-3.91%	\$3,863,965
30000	Community Services	791,185	1,655	\$792,840	71,622	77,606														149,228	18.82%	16.60%	2.22%	\$643,612
	TOTAL	\$41,853,394	\$68,547	\$41,919,931	\$2,739,051	3,547,660	\$0	0	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,296,711	15.00%	16.60%	-1.60%	\$35,623,220

As of February 29, 2018, the remaining carry over encumbrances were added to the approved appropriations for a total available appropriation of \$41,919,931. Amounts are rounded.  
Based on a spending estimate, we would expect to spend 8.30% (percent) of our approved appropriations each month if expenses were spread evenly throughout the calendar year.  
As of February 29, 2018, we expended 15% of the approved budget.

**P. 6**

insurance, etc. The State Board of Accounts recommends the maintenance of a Cash Balance which is between 8% and 12% of the “Approved - General Fund Budget.” Currently we have achieved a level of Cash Balance that exceeds the threshold recommended by the DLGF. Our goal is to maintain a General Fund Cash Balance of approximately 12%. Thus, the General Fund Cash Balance is healthy and so too is each of our Budgeted Funds as noted on the following pages in *Tables 2 and 3*. As of March 2018, the “Financial Health” of the Valparaiso Community School Corporation is very positive.

**Table 4: Six Year Trend of General Fund Cash Balances**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Year End Cash Balance</b>	<b>Approved Budget</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
2012	\$730,367	\$36,195,494	2.02%
2013	\$2,015,929	\$38,141,200	2.02%
2014	\$4,096,969	\$38,491,200	10.64%
2015	\$4,379,181	\$38,750,809	11.30%
2016	\$6,289,365	\$39,155,000	16.06%
2017	\$6,874,991	\$40,167,817	17.12%

**Section 3: Status of the Referendum-Related Building Projects**

**Elementary Schools**

Heavilin, Cooks Corners, and Memorial are, with minor punch list items, completed. Central, Northview, Parkview, and Thomas Jefferson Elementary are all on schedule to be ready for our students in the fall. Furniture will be delivered this summer. If weather cooperates, we will have the playgrounds in and ready for the start of the school year. Substantial completion work will take place over the remaining school year months and the summer. Ribbon cutting ceremonies will be announced to the public in late July.

**Secondary Schools**

Currently the Valparaiso High School Auditorium, technology wing, secure entrance, front parking lot and eastern face of the school are either completed or near completion. The music wing is also near completion. These areas are currently in use by students and staff.

In addition to the above noted spaces, the entire HVAC, electrical, technology, mechanical, plumbing and roof features are underway. We anticipate completion prior to November 2018.

A 50-meter natatorium was approved, and construction will begin this spring. The project is to be completed in October 2019.

The Porter County Career Center has undergone infrastructure renovation and an addition to accommodate growth in student enrollment in “Advanced Manufacturing” and “Electronics” courses of study.

Our middle schools and Flint Lake are scheduled for their HVAC, roof, and secure entryways to be started and completed this summer.



**Section 4: Status of the General Fund (Operations) Referendum**

We asked the community to pass a \$4.5 million Operations Referendum to make up for the \$4.5 million on-going budget shortfall experienced by Valparaiso Community Schools due to the economic crisis in 2009. Again, the Valparaiso community was overwhelmingly supportive of our request and passed the referendum by a margin of 65% to 35%.

We indicated to our community that we would focus primarily upon increasing personnel and programs to provide our students with increased social and emotional support, decrease the incidence of intra-district student transfers and provide greater depth and breadth in the curriculum. We significantly decreased the incidence of intra-district transfers by employing seven (7) elementary school teachers. We have increased the level of academic and emotional support for our students thus far by expanding our Culture and Student Services to add a *Student-Parent Liaison*, Project LEAD remains strong and growing, and Teen Court has been utilized this year.

We have also employed six (6) new PLTW teachers and each has been trained to effectively implement the PLTW curriculum. PLTW teachers provide K-5 students with one hour per week of engineering related learning experiences and is aligned with our extensive program offerings in grades 6-12.

Our instructional technology coaches have proven to be invaluable to staff. This dynamic group of educators is focused on assisting K-12 teachers to effectively use technology to differentiate instruction for students while increasing student engagement and collaboration through interactive learning.

We continue to anticipate the need to employ additional custodial, maintenance, secretarial, cafeteria, and certified personnel as the building projects draw closer to completion.

We maintain a dedicated amount of the referendum to provide corporation employees a 1% stipend throughout the referendum time period.

We believe that the expenditures that we have made are congruent with what we communicated to our patrons. Please see Tables 5.0-5.3. "Status of the General Fund (Operations) Referendum" for greater specificity relative to Referendum-Related appropriations, and current and anticipated expenditures as of March 2018. Once again, it is our community that has enabled us to enhance the support of our students and the depth and breadth of their learning experiences.

Table 5.0

Budgeted Referenda Dollars				
Referenda Budget Area: Elementary School (A)				
Appropriation Categories	Referenda-Related Appropriation	Referenda-Related 2015-06/20/17 Expenditure	NEW 2017-2018 Expenditure	Referenda-Related Unexpended Appropriation
A. 1. Elementary School Teachers	\$650,000 (10) Teachers	\$0	\$473,222 Added 7.5 teachers in 2017-18 for redistricting	\$176,778
A. 1.1 Elementary School Technology/ Instructional Coaches	\$260,000 (5) Tech/ Instr. Coaches	\$0	\$322,557 5.0 FTE	(\$62,557)
A. 1.2 Elementary School PLTW/ Foreign Language	\$300,000 (5) PLTW/ Foreign Lang. Teachers	\$365,857 5.0 FTE	\$0	(\$65,857)
A. 2. Elementary School Social Workers	\$300,000 (4) Social Workers	\$101,108 2 social workers	\$0	\$198,892
A. 3. Elementary School Aides/ Instructional Assistants	\$90,000 (2) ELL @ \$18k each (3) Aides (2) @HL, 1 @ CC	\$54,281 (2) aides at HL (1) aide at CC 1 Title Aide	\$0	\$35,719
<b>TOTAL CATEGORY A</b>	<b>\$1,600,000</b>	<b>\$521,246</b>	<b>\$795,779</b>	<b>\$282,975</b>

Table 5.1

Budgeted Referenda Dollars				
Referenda Budget Area: Middle School (B)				
Appropriation Categories	Referenda-Related Appropriation	Referenda-Related 2015-06/20/17 Expenditure	NEW 2017-2018 Expenditure	Referenda-Related Unexpended Appropriation
B. 1. Middle School Teachers (4) - 2 ELA; 2 Math	\$250,000	\$55,089 1.0 Teacher	\$217,874 6th grade Teaming & RtI 3.0 FTE	(\$22,963)
B. 1.1. Middle School Alternative School Teacher (2) Alternative School Teachers	\$130,000	\$0	\$31,854 2 ISS aides	\$98,146
B. 1.2. Middle School Technology/ Instructional Coaches (2)	\$130,000	\$180,940 2.0 FTE	\$0	(\$50,940)
B. 1.3. Expansion of Industrial Tech/ PLTW at Middle School (2) Teachers	\$200,000	\$140,951 2.0 FTE	\$0	\$59,049
B. 2. Middle School Social Workers (2) Social Workers	\$150,000	\$177,338 3.0 FTE	\$68,051 Test/Career Coordinator	(\$95,389)
(1) Transition Liaison				
B. 3. Middle School Instructional Assistants / Aides: (4)	\$66,000	\$53,843		\$12,157
(2) ELL and (2) Alt. Sch. Aides	ELL (\$36,000) Alt. Sch. (\$30,000)	ELL Coordinator		
B. 4. Middle School Custodial (2) M.S. Custodians @ \$30 k / ea	\$60,000	0	\$0	\$60,000
<b>TOTAL CATEGORY B</b>	<b>\$986,000</b>	<b>\$608,161</b>	<b>\$317,779</b>	<b>\$60,060</b>

Table 5.2

Budgeted Referenda Dollars				
Referenda Budget Area: High School ( C )				
Appropriation Categories	Referenda-Related Appropriation	Referenda-Related 2015-06/20/17 Expenditure	NEW 2017-2018 Expenditure	Referenda-Related Unexpended Appropriation
C. 1. High School Teachers	\$1,000,000	\$56,722	\$231,826	\$101,452
C. 1.1. Core Curriculum Teachers	\$390,000	Spanish	3.5 Resource teachers and Chinese	
(1) Science, (1) Math				
(1) Music/Band, (2) English				
C.1.2 IB Teacher	\$65,000	\$0	\$0	\$65,000
C. 1.3. APEX After School Teachers (2)	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
C. 1. 4. Business/Economics Teacher (1)	\$65,000	\$0	\$0	\$65,000
C. 1. 5 High School Technology/ Instructional Coaches (2)	\$130,000	\$0	\$167,811 2.0 FTE	(\$37,811)
C. 1. 6. CTE/PLTW Teacher (3) (Robotics, Electricity, CAD Advanced Manufacturing, Pro Tech, etc.	\$300,000	\$270,262	\$0	\$29,738
C. 2. High School Social Workers (2)	\$150,000	\$279,570	\$203,845	(\$333,415)
			Career Counselor	
			Assistant Principal, Athletics	
<b>TOTAL CATEGORY C</b>	<b>\$1,150,000</b>	<b>\$606,554</b>	<b>\$603,482</b>	<b>(\$60,036)</b>

Table 5.3

Budgeted Referenda Dollars

Referenda Budget Area: Central Office (D)					
Appropriation Categories	Referenda-Related Appropriation	Referenda-Related 2015-06/20/17 Expenditure	NEW 2017-2018 Expenditure	Referenda-Related Unexpended Appropriation	
4.0 Corporation					
4.1 Organizational Development	\$214,000	\$87,640	\$53,000	\$38,360	
4.1.1 Data Analysis, Student/ Finance Management System	\$160,000	Skyward	Mastery Connect \$35,000		
4.1.2 Professional Development	\$54,000		Tech/PD		
4.2 Maintenance/Custodial	\$135,000	\$0	\$183,712	(\$48,712)	
(3) Maintenance			4 custodians		
4.3 Administration	\$115,000	\$120,440	\$139,976	(\$145,416)	
(1) Internal Auditor	\$60,000	Internal Auditor	HR, Payroll, Tech Support,		
(1) Data Clerk	\$55,000	Data Clerk	Fire Watchers		
4.4 Faculty/Staff 1% Raise	\$300,000	\$278,000	\$70,150	(\$48,150)	
<b>TOTAL CATEGORY D</b>	<b>\$764,000</b>	<b>\$486,080</b>	<b>\$481,838</b>	<b>(\$203,918)</b>	
	Aggregate of Expended Referenda-Related Personnel Dollars As Of 2/20/18:		NEW 2017-18	Left to expend	
<b>AGGREGATE TOTALS</b>	<b>\$4,500,000</b>	<b>\$2,222,041</b>	<b>\$2,198,878</b>	<b>\$79,081</b>	

**Section 5: An Overview of Student Performance – Elementary Schools**

We have eight elementary schools. Five of our elementary schools earned the grade of A on the State's A-F Accountability System and three schools earned the grade of B.

**Central Elementary**

- Student Council Service Projects to benefit GI's, the Animal Shelter and the Backpack feeding program
- Mr. Dan Darnell was named Academic Coach of the Year for Indiana
- Love and Logic Parenting Sessions
- School Wide Training and Implementation of Mind Up (Mindfulness Curriculum to promote emotional and mental wellness)
- Successful Merge of Central/Hayes Staff, Students and Families

**Cooks Corners Elementary**

- The Cooks Corners Science Bowl team placed 2nd in the state!
- In February Cooks Corners hosted our first Regional Robotics competition, where 28 teams competed for a spot at the VEX State Championship.
- With construction completed and our beautiful new furniture in place, we had our Grand Opening celebration this past February. During this time we dedicated our market space to the late Gary Webster, naming it the Webster Auditorium.
- Our Student Council has raised funds for multiple organizations including, Jar Wars to collect funds for hurricane relief fund for Puerto Rico; collecting food for the Salvation Army to make and deliver Thanksgiving meals to local community members; and participated in the Salvation Army's Toys for Tots drive providing gifts for many children during the holidays.
- Cooks Corners has our first CANstruction, Jr. team that will participate in the Annual Spring into the Arts Festival. They will be collecting canned goods to create a structure that resembles a skillet with bacon and eggs! The food will then be donated to our community.

**Flint Lake Elementary**

- Our Flint Lake STEM/PLTW lab has served as host to area school districts interested in learning more about STEM initiatives in elementary schools. Also, our STEM teacher received a Lowe's grant to build a Maker's Space in our school.
- Flint Lake has partnered with a local church to elicit volunteers to assist with our backpacks and snacks program and our new Study Buddies academic tutoring program. Through Study Buddies in particular, students are able to establish relationships with a strong adult mentor as well.
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**P. 14**

- Flint Lake held our first Flint Family Reads initiative this fall in which all families in our school read the same book together. This was the work of our Title I team to promote parent involvement, and it was a huge success! We will provide families with another book this spring and we will host a day-long visit from that author in March.
- Flint Lake added a school therapy dog this school year. June is also sponsored by Vale Park Animal hospital. (It should be noted that when June misses a day of school, she gets many more concerned questions from the students than when the principal is out of the building!)

**Heavilin Elementary**

- STEM Research award for our Robotics team students
- Implementing the Heavilin PRIDE program (Positivity Respect Integrity Determination Empathy) for all staff and students K-5 to belong to a House (making small schools inside of our big school)
- Our Connected Paint Mural and Event on May 31 to bring together our school community before opening our doors
- Two hugely successful student events: Freaky Friday (attendance of 850+) and Valentine Movie Night (student attendance of over 430)

**Memorial Elementary**

- We survived the construction process and still had great student achievement in class and on the 2017 ISTEP. Ribbon Cutting of New Playground was an exciting event for students and the official Ribbon Cutting ceremony was held on March 15, 2018.
- Pen Pals from Grades 1, 2, 4, and 5 were made with the VHS Football Players and VHS Girls Basketball Players
- Maintained Status of being a Riley Children Hospital Miracle School as well as raising money for Valparaiso's Family House, American Heart Association, and Hurricane Relief in Texas.

**Northview Elementary**

- Science Bowl State Champions - The Science Bowl competition is a state-wide online science competition in which teams take an online test at their school. The competition includes an individual round, as well as team and experiments Rounds. Northview placed first in the state in their class.
- IASP Triple Top 10 School - This special designation is given to schools that rank in the top 10 in the state in the Spell Bowl (3<sup>rd</sup>), M.A.T.H. Bowl (6<sup>th</sup>), and Science Bowl (1<sup>st</sup>) in a given year. Northview was the only school in their class that earned the Triple Top 10 designation in 2017-2018.

## **P. 15**

- Robotics Regional Excellence Award, Design Award and Berth in State Competition - In the VEX Robotics competition, the Design Award is awarded for demonstrating the most effective and efficient robot design process. The Excellence Award, the highest award presented in the regional competition which also includes an automatic berth in the state competition, is presented to the team that demonstrates overall excellence in all components of the competition and has created a high quality VEX robotics program.
- Digital Citizenship Certified School - Northview was designated a Digital Citizenship Certified School by Common Sense Media for being a school that is dedicated to teaching digital citizenship to its students and to taking an approach to integrating digital citizenship that includes the whole school community.
- Student Council Food Drive & Service Projects - Ranging from the annual SOUPer Bowl (food collection during Super Bowl week) and Riley Week (fundraiser for Riley Children's Hospital) to the funding of a college scholarship for former Northview students, the Northview Student Council is actively engaged in promoting service outreaches for the school community.

### **Parkview Elementary**

- Parkview Math Bowl Team placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the state
- Celebrated the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program offered in grades K-2 serving 132 students
- Month of Caring Service Learning Projects during the month of December donating to Lake Shore Paws, Lotus Reach, Porter County Animal Shelter and Hilltop Food Pantry
- Our Greater Good Lunch Buddies Program matches a student with a community mentor who then comes to eat lunch and spend recess with the student.
- The construction at Parkview presented opportunities for students to celebrate Career and Construction Worker Day, and friends and families of the Parkview team helped teachers move to their new classrooms.

### **Thomas Jefferson Elementary**

- Named Title 1 School of the Year for Excellence in Student Performance in the State of Indiana. Only twenty-six schools in the United States received this designation. We represent Indiana.
- Nominated as a Blue Ribbon School (unique for a Title 1 School). We submit our application March 30<sup>th</sup>. Only eight schools in Indiana were nominated for Blue Ribbon. TJE is one of the eight schools nominated. TJE was nominated due to consistent high performance for three or more years in a row.



**Table 6: Elementary Student Performance ISTEP**

	<u>2012- 2013</u>	<u>2013- 2014</u>	<u>2014- 2015</u>	<u>2015- 2016</u>	<u>2016- 2017</u>	<u>2017- 2018</u>
<b><u>Student Enrollment</u></b>	2728	2715	2693	2714	2825	2728
<b><u>Attendance Rate</u></b>	97	96	97	96	97	97
<b><u>% Free/Reduced Lunch Students</u></b>	31.6	32	32.5	32	30	31
<b><u>Grade 3: Average % Passing Math</u></b>	95	94	75.5	73.5	76.6	in Progress
<b><u>Grade 4: Average % Passing Math</u></b>	93	84	74.9	74.1	80.0	
<b><u>Grade 5: Average % Passing Math</u></b>	94	96	80.8	74.5	80.4	
<b><u>Grades 3-5: Average % Passing Math</u></b>	84	95	76.9	74.0	79.0	
<b><u>Grade 3: Average % Passing E/LA</u></b>	96	96	86.9	83.6	86.6	
<b><u>Grade 4: Average % Passing E/LA</u></b>	95	94	83.1	83.8	82.7	
<b><u>Grade 5: Average % Passing E/LA</u></b>	88	91	78.1	74.4	80.9	
<b><u>Grades 3-5: Average % Passing E/LA</u></b>	93	94	82.7	80.6	83.4	

**Section 6: An Overview of Student Performance – Middle Schools**

We have two middle schools. One school earned the grade of A on the State's A-F Accountability System and one earned the grade of B.

**Ben Franklin Middle School**

- Spell Bowl qualified for the state competition in Class 1 at Purdue University for the last 10 years and came in 5th place this year. Our students continue to achieve top honors in Academic Super Bowl and the National Geographic Geography Bee.
- B.F. Life is our student created website designed by students for students. It is modeled after Valpo Life and is used to promote the positive happenings of our school. It highlights the many wonderful opportunities our students are involved with.
- Our Drama Club performance of The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe held two sold out shows in February and featured over 60 students in various roles. Students, staff, and families worked together on the costumes, set design, and props which culminated in two evenings of delightful entertainment.
- 8th Grade Boys Basketball team was undefeated this season and won the conference championship.
- B.F. Reads a Book is a yearlong reading program created for the Benjamin Franklin school community. We read, discuss, and enjoy books together. The 2017-2018 topic is Digital Citizenship and all students, staff, and parents are encouraged to read any or all of the six books featured this year and attend book discussions and activities.

**Thomas Jefferson Middle School**

- State Spell Bowl Champions (11th consecutive year) and Regional Science Olympiad Champions (advancing to State Competition).
- Initiation of sixth grade transition activities, including counselor/8th grade mentor visits to 5th graders in the spring, followed by lunch with the counselors in the Fall, stacking cup competitions, and classroom goal-setting responsive circles.
- Around the Table Dinners for 6th grade families hosted in collaboration with VU and Empower Porter County
- Faculty from TJMS presentation on Restorative Practices at the IMLEA (Indiana Middle Level Education Association) Conference.

**Table 7: Middle School Student Performance ISTEP**

	<u>2012-13</u>	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>
<b><u>Student Enrollment</u></b>	1521	1583	1499	1388	1354	1439
<b><u>Attendance Rate</u></b>	97	97	96	95	96	97
<b><u>% Free/Reduced Lunch</u></b>	27	27	26.8	25	25	27
<b><u>Grade 6: Average % Passing Math</u></b>	90	92	77.4	76.6	74.7	In Progress
<b><u>Grade 7: Average % Passing Math</u></b>	86	85	64	59.8	66.7	
<b><u>Grade 8: Average % Passing Math</u></b>	87	89	65	63.5	68.6	
<b><u>Grades 6-8: Average % Passing Math</u></b>	88	89	67	66.6	70	
<b><u>Grade 6: Average % Passing E/LA</u></b>	85	86	79.4	80.4	76.9	
<b><u>Grade 7: Average % Passing E/LA</u></b>	83	81	81.2	76.2	81.5	
<b><u>Grade 8: Average % Passing E/LA</u></b>	86	86	70.3	71.5	74.1	
<b><u>Grades 6-8: Average % Passing E/LA</u></b>	85	84	76.2	76.0	77.5	

**Section 7: An Overview of Student Performance: Valparaiso High School**

Valparaiso High School earned the grade of A on the State's A-F Accountability System.

- Two VHS juniors submitted an experiment that won a seat on the SpaceX Falcon 9 vehicle that will be launched to the International Space Station in April. The students used the VHS STEaM labs, CADD Computers, and 3D Printers to build the experiment that has the potential to slow the rate at which alzheimer's disease develops in the brain.
- VHS teacher, Mr. Ben Lieske received the Eli Lilly/Independent Colleges of Indiana Most Influential Teacher Award. Mr. Lieske was nominated by a former student.
- VHS had an unprecedented number of National Merit Recognitions with 17 students earning the honor
- The VHS Spanish Department was awarded the 5-Sun Department of Spanish state distinction by the Indiana Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. The award is given to recognize a department that stands out at the state level of numbers of students participating in the state Spanish contest and National Spanish Exam.
- The Speech and Debate Team earned significant recognition from the National Speech & Debate Association. The team is ranked among the top 4% of schools nationwide.

**Athletic Performance**

- DAC Champs in Football
- DAC Champs - Boys Basketball
- Semi-State Champs Girls Cross Country

**Community Leadership**

**Table 8: High School Student Performance**

	<u>2012-2013</u>	<u>2013-2014</u>	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2017-2018</u>
<b><u>Student Enrollment</u></b>	2178	2105	2057	2056	2052	2068
<b><u>% Attendance Rate</u></b>	96	96	96	96.7	96.7	96.2
<b><u>% Free/Reduced Lunch Students</u></b>	23.8	22	22	22.8	22.8	24.6
<b><u>Graduation Rate</u></b>	92	92	96.6	94.5	92.8	In Progress
<b><u>% Honors Diplomas</u></b>	48	52	52.4	48.3	49.7	
<b><u>% College Bound</u></b>	81	85	75.6	74.3	77.7	
<b><u>% Pass Math (Algebra) Standard</u></b>	64	82	76.6	46.2	45.3	
<b><u>% Pass English/Language Arts Standard</u></b>	90	91	90.9	60.8	74.1	
<b><u>% Pass Both Math and E/LA Standards</u></b>	85	85	80.1	41.3	43.8	

**P. 21**

**Section 8: School Safety and Security**

With the recent incident of school rampage violence in Parkland, Florida, there is a heightened focus on school safety and security. Fortunately, it did not take such an act of violence for Valparaiso Community Schools to engage in discussions concerning school safety and security. By law, we are only required to have one certified Indiana School Safety Specialist per district. Valparaiso Community Schools has 15 certified, 6 in training, and a list started with 7 names for next year's training. Of the six attending this year, one is Chief Balon, Valparaiso Police Department, and the other is Jeff Biggs, Assistant Chief Porter County Sheriff. I am pretty confident that we are the only district of our size that has a Chief and an Assistant Chief going through the training. The communication that takes place among our agencies is important and outstanding.

Over the past year, the implementation of *One County One Protocol* and *SchoolGuard* have been our focus. Additionally, we added the position of Director of Safety and Security, and are currently working with Chief Balon to add an additional SRO to the middle school for the start of the 2018-2019 school year. A joint effort between the Sheriff's office and our schools has allowed us to share access to our video cameras with the Sheriff's office in an emergency situation. We also installed *Safe Visitor* at all of our schools. This allows us to scan an ID or DL to check a limited criminal history and the sex offender registry. We continue to stay ahead of our safety needs, and will continue to find better ways to train students and staff.