

Building Connections. Building Experiences. Building Thinkers.

High School Implementation Details

BUILDING CONNECTIONS							
Build a culture of learning that enables all students to achieve.							
Objective: Build an inclusive and safe learning environment that prepares students and staff to interpret and respond to situations with empathy and resilience.							
BUILDING CONNECTIONS: DISTRICT Implementation Details							
Action Steps	Ongoing Evidence of Progress	Action Step Leader(s)	Implementation Timeline				
			June - Aug.	Sept. - Nov.	Dec. - Feb.	Mar. - May	
Establish an instructional leadership team made up of representatives from each building, Director of Teaching and Learning, Superintendent, and Special Education Coordinator.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Meetings to provide input and advisory on establishing and strengthening district-wide instructional norms.	Director of Teaching and Learning	✓	✓			
September Update: Discussed a more efficient model of team organization. We decided to modify this so that we will have a district leadership team (DLT) instead. One of the areas the DLT will discuss and provide feedback on is instructional practices.							
Add parent representatives to the curriculum committee, which will be used to gather input and share ideas from the instructional leadership team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Quarterly meetings with meaningful opportunities for feedback	Director of Teaching and Learning, Superintendent	✓	✓	✓	✓	
September Update: The committee has not yet met for the 2021-22 school year.							
Add parent representatives to the facilities committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Quarterly meetings with meaningful opportunities for feedback	Superintendent	✓				
September Update:							

Set up and begin attending monthly grade level and content collaboration meetings K-12 to support struggling students, students with special needs, and staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly Meeting Notes- per grade level team 	Special Education Coordinator		✓	✓	✓
September Update:						

BUILDING CONNECTIONS: ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Implementation Details							
Action Steps	Ongoing Evidence of Progress	Action Step Leader(s)	Implementation Timeline				
			June - Aug.	Sept. - Nov.	Dec. - Feb.	Mar. - May	
Re-introducing and re-establishing PBIS with fidelity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Signage, matrices, lessons Plans and videos	Administration & teachers	✓	✓			
September/Oct. Update: All signs in the elementary for PBIS/Quest Updated and hung. Teachers and students are all taken through updates via meeting/assemblies. Main focus for elementary was speaking to resiliency and meaning for elementary aged students.							
Learning and teaching the SEL Standards <ul style="list-style-type: none">Morning Meetings and utilizing Harmony to focus on a goalSharing and implementing Closegap for those available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop and implement morning meeting expectationsPD for HarmonyGrades 2-5 are using Closegap daily with access to special teachers.	All teachers, paraprofessionals, and school counselor	✓	✓	✓	✓	
September/Oct. Update: Mrs. May has successfully set up Harmony with teacher and student roster for teacher and student use; Morning Meetings embedded into teachers schedules for daily meetings from 8-8:30 and lessons for teachers available on Harmony.							

BUILDING CONNECTIONS: MIDDLE SCHOOL Implementation Details							
Action Steps	Ongoing Evidence of Progress	Action Step Leader(s)	Implementation Timeline				
			June - Aug.	Sept. - Nov.	Dec. - Feb.	Mar. - May	
1. Teachers plan units together based on similar topics. 2. Identify real-world / relevant topics that can be used for standard-based units. 3. Ask students about current trends.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Team MeetingsProduct / Summative AssessmentsPossibly create units based on student questions and curiosity.	Adam Greer Bridget Tuccillo	Step 1 Step 2 Step 3	Step 1 Step 2	Step 1 Step 2 Step 3	Step 1 Step 2	
1. Finding ways to get all students together to show examples of what it means to #BeABlackKnight. 2. Community Members <ul style="list-style-type: none">Inviting the community to events.Showing Appreciation. 3. Teacher Support Outside Classroom 4. Social Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Opportunities for students to get involved and “run” the school.Student chaperones for guests.Teachers going to school events.	Adam Greer Karen Dishong	Step 1 Step 3 Step 4	Step 1 Step 3 Step 4	Step 1 Step 2 Step 3 Step 4	Step 1 Step 2 Step 3 Step 4	
1. Being intentional when teaching professionalism to students. (Specific real-world applications) 2. Having students reach out to local businesses and have discussions about technology / skills needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Final Projects / ProductThe communication between students and the community in a professional manner.	Adam Greer Chris Henry	Step 1	Step 1	Step 1	Step 1 Step 2	

September Update:

Goal 1:

- #1 Chris, Adam and Abbey are implementing a History/ELA Essay that is cross-categorical.
- #2 Bridget, Mark and Jack have implemented real-world topics through Project Lead the Way
- #3 The team is brainstorming resources to locate and utilize information tied to current events, such as NEWSELA and Interest Maps

Goal 2:

- #1 Welcome Back Day was held in the middle school as a collaborative opportunity to allow students to build connections with peers and work together as teams. During Advisory students have focused on the meaning of the Traits of a Black Knight have tied it to their current environment and how it pertains to their everyday school experience. Select middle school students are also involved with Mentoring within the elementary school.
 - #2 Examples of community connections at VBS: Don Masters Game, Powder Puff, Project More (in the process of bringing this program back after losing it due to COVID). Ideas for Future Connections: Town Hall w/ students, Mr. Yunker Day of Service, Angel Tree, Card Writing
- Connections have also been made with local area non-profit organizations to determine how VBMS can connect and volunteer, specifically during the holiday season. Currently, we have one active connection with Project Linus and the creation of blankets for children in Hancock County.

Goal 3:

- #1 Planned Advisory Sessions - Working on Handshakes and Email Writing
- #2 Future Ideas: Manufacturing Day, Speakers, PLTW

October Update: 6th Grade Cross Curriculum Lab between math and science using volume. Isometric drawings connecting math and design and modeling (PLTW).
Camp Nuhop - building connections between students and teachers in a non-traditional environment.
Volunteer Day - building connections between the 8th grade students and the community.
6th grade success working on email writing and formal writing when addressing teachers.
Advisory showcase displaying video and posters students created displaying the traits of a black night.
6th grade math designing a tent to use real world applications of surface area and volume.
8th grade LA students are researching a real-world problem and trying to find solutions.
6th grade book talk Google Form: helping students to share about the books they've read and find recommendations.
RR math cooking lessons, using fractions in the real world.
RR LA wrote directions and followed each other's directions to complete tasks each student chose to demonstrate their interests.
7th grade Science students presented their learning for their classmates.

November Update: Advisory Panel for 6th and 8th grade students to make connections and share advice.
Idea: Van Buren community is dedicating flag poles to village residents who have served in the Armed Forces on Veteran's Day -- would it be appropriate for 8th grade students to go watch the presentation?

BUILDING CONNECTIONS: HIGH SCHOOL Implementation Details							
Action Steps	Ongoing Evidence of Progress	Action Step Leader(s)	Implementation Timeline				
			June - Aug.	Sept. - Nov.	Dec. - Feb.	Mar. - May	
Provide additional quarterly opportunities for staff-student relationship development (i.e. hobby day - staff hosts group of students based on a common interest; staff wellness - art projects, walks, flowers, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop a Google Form for staff to submit songs/storiesIdentify time frame (period/s - days) to implementPlay music selected by staff members over the PA and share a story about the staff member.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Connections Group CommitteeConnections Committee/ HS PrincipalConnections Committee					
Establish a “buddy program” for early elementary and HS students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Establish a pairing/grouping of students (1st - 9th, 2nd - 10th, 3rd - 11th, 4th - 12th)Develop monthly exercise to get students together (lunch, reading, Pen Pal, cookout)Determine locations and people (i.e. - 1 and 2 come to HS, 11 and 12 to Elem.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Elementary Teachers/ Counselor/ Connections CommitteeElem. Counselor / HS Counselor - Connections CommitteeElem. Principal / HS Principal					
Develop Van Buren alumni connections that engage our alumni, build pride	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop quarterly programs that encourage Alumni to come back to the building.Utilize the connections Brian Career Advisor has done in his classes to connect to alumni.Create a Van Buren Alumni Facebook Page and invite alumniCreate a google form to send to alumni- specifically for updates to Van Buren, a database of alumni, swift contacting, subscribe to different events/ parts of the building, come help, donate, focus on Keeping connected, and we are doing fun stuffDevelop and promote alumni event for each sports season.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Admin/ connections groupBrian/ connections groupMcGrain/MarshallConnections committeeN/AConnections Committee/ Athletic Director					
<p>September Update: Homecoming tailgate for high and middle school teachers, Donut Days (business sponsor? If not, teachers chip in for donuts), For Buddy Program: creating a bridge for 5th to 6th grade transition in order to reduce anxious feelings of going to a new building and all the unknowns that come along with switching from elementary to middle school.</p> <p>Alumni Page Started on Facebook- Obe is looking into getting this going. Posts would be made here about things at sporting events, alumni tents at football games, alumni hospitality room for basketball games. Make certain years/decades the focus of certain events. Implement during the 21-22 basketball season. Have water and snacks available and host/hostesses.</p> <p>Work on an alumni banquet for the summer of 2022 . Implement a 50 year club.</p>							
<p>October Update: Long-term goal- staff day care? VB students volunteer (during study halls?) get community service, CPR and babysitting certification (at the church down the street?) kids take shifts, helps teachers with costs and be able to come to events, continue looking into donut costs, staff Christmas party, end of 9 weeks Fern celebration? (November 12), parent teacher conferences potluck?, AXE THROWING!!!!!!!!!!!! (\$25per person for an hour)</p>							

November Update: December 15 Wednesday (students come in late IE no academic watch. How would buses work for that?) Staff party with scavenger hunt. Black Horse Catering?

Buddy Program: Make Christmas cards with grade level buddies, email back and forth with grade level buddy, have older students read a book with younger student, Bad Dad Jokes Game, November- read a book, Spilt grades up by Last name and send to specific grade level classroom to do activity, Read alternating pages between older and younger student, Nov. 22 or 23 for buddy reading day, Elementary student provide book to read - picture book or whatever book they are reading - Kevin and Mike find date and time - 9-12 go over elementary pair up with a student in elementary student. Last names of high school student will be divided into groups to go to specific elementary grade level

November Update: Groups are set alphabetically and paired grades 1-4, Nov. 22 HS students will go to elementary classes to read for 15 minutes. Kevin is working on a schedule and we are working on instructions in an email for students and teachers.