

### **MOUNT VERNON MISSION**

We are a school of inquiry, innovation, and impact. Grounded in Christian values, we prepare all students to be college-ready, globally competitive, and engaged citizen leaders.



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Each journey begins with a purpose. At Mount Vernon, we believe learning is a dynamic expedition—one where students cultivate agency, explore meaningful questions, and take action that is consequential to the world around them. As we reflect on the 2024-2025 school year, we do so through the lens of our ambitious **Impact Ready Project**, our ten-year strategic plan designed to prepare all learners for a future of college readiness, global competitiveness, and engaged citizen leadership.

In this report, we use the four targets within the Impact Ready Project to measure our progress, capturing the transformational moments that shape our learning community. Through stories, data, and evidence, you'll witness how Mount Vernon is designing a better world together. While this report highlights selected stories of purpose-driven learning, it also serves as a testament to the dedication of our students, parents, faculty, staff, and generous donors who make this journey possible.

As we chart the course for the future, we begin by celebrating the milestones of those who have reached their next summit, our remarkable Class of 2025. Their stories inspire us all to continue forging bold paths of inquiry, innovation, and impact.

The journey ahead is full of promise, and we are grateful to navigate it alongside you.

In partnership,

KHLundstrom

Kristy Lundstrom
Head of School & CFO





CLASS OF 2025

# THEIR JOURNEY OF Purpose

Blazing new trails, the Class of 2025 is the largest and most globally connected graduating class in Mount Vernon's history, with 131 students, including six graduates from Mount Vernon School Online (MVSO) and four students from our partnership with The Dewey Schools in Vietnam. Beyond their academic excellence, this class is defined by their bold curiosity, entrepreneurial mindset, and commitment to impact. From launching innovative projects to leading sustainability efforts to shaping meaningful dialogues, their influence extends far beyond the classroom. Their distinct journeys have earned them acceptance to top colleges in the US as well as full-ride merit scholarships to institutions across the country.

### **Honors & Achievements**

- · National Merit Finalist
- · Jefferson Scholarship Semifinalist
- Morehead-Cain Semifinalist
- · STAMPS Semifinalist
- · Torch Scholars Finalist
- · Hispanic Scholarship Fund Finalist



Adelphi University

### **Agnes Scott College**

**American University** Appalachian State University Arizona State University

Auburn University (15)

**Baylor University** 

### **Belmont University**

### **Berry College**

**Binghamton University Brenau University** 

California Lutheran University

Chapman University

### Citadel Military College

#### Clemson University (4)

Coastal Carolina University

### College of Charleston (3)

College of Coastal Georgia

Colorado College

#### Colorado State University (2)

Columbia University

**Davidson College** 

### **Drexel University**

**Eckerd College** 

### Elon University (4)

Florida Atlantic University

### Florida State University

Fordham University

### Fort Lewis College

**Furman University** 

Gadsden State Community

College

### **George Washington University** Georgia College & State

### University (3)

Georgia Highlands College

### Georgia Institute of

Technology (5)

Georgia Southern University (2)

**Georgia State University** 

Hampden-Sydney College (2)

Hawai'i Pacific University **High Point University** Hollins University

### **Indiana University**

Iowa State University

James Madison University

### Kennesaw State University (3)

Lafayette College

Liberty University

Louisiana State University (2) **Loyola Marymount University** 

Lynn University

### **Marymount Manhattan College**

### Maryville College

### Mercer University

Miami University, Oxford

Michigan State University

Mississippi State University

Montana State University New Jersey Institute of

Technology

New York University

### **North Carolina State**

University (2)

### **Northeastern University**

Northwest Florida State College

### **Northwestern University**

Oglethorpe University

### Ohio University

**Pace University** 

Penn State University Penn State University, Altoona

**Pratt Institute** 

Presbyterian College

### **Rhodes College**

### **Rollins College**

**Rutgers University** 

Sacred Heart University

### Samford University (3)

San Diego State University

Sewanee: The University of the South

Shenandoah University Simmons University

Southern Methodist University

### **Spartanburg Methodist College**

St. Mary's College, Maryland

St. John's College, Annapolis

Stetson University

Suffolk University

SUNY, Buffalo

Syracuse University

### **Texas A&M University**

Texas Christian University

The New School

The Ohio State University

### The University of Alabama (7)

**Tulane University** 

**Union College** 

University of Alabama at

Birmingham

University of Arizona

University of Arkansas

University of California, Davis

University of California, Riverside

### **University of Central Florida**

University of Colorado Boulder

University of Connecticut

### University of Denver

### University of Florida University of Georgia (18)

University of Illinois

### University of Kansas **University of Kentucky**

University of Maine

University of Maryland, College Park

University of Massachusetts,

Amherst

University of Miami

University of Michigan

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

University of North Carolina, Charlotte

University of North Carolina, Wilmington

University of North Georgia University of Pittsburgh

### University of Richmond

University of Rochester

University of San Francisco

University of South Carolina

University of South Florida

### **University of Southern California**

University of St. Thomas

University of Tampa (2)

University of Tennessee, Chattanooga

### University of Tennessee,

Knoxville (3)

University of Utah

University of Vermont

**University of Virginia** 

University of West Florida

University of West Georgia University of Wisconsin,

### Madison

University of Wisconsin-Stout

**Utah State University** 

### Vassar College

VinUniversity (Hanoi, Vietnam)

Virginia Military Institute Virginia Polytechnic Institute

and State University

### Washington University in St. Louis

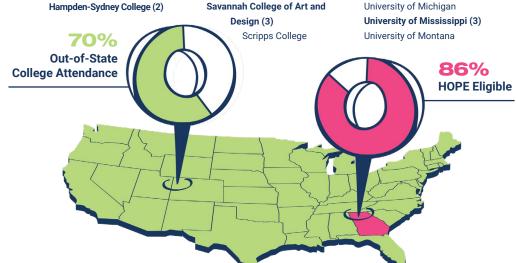
Western Carolina University

### William & Mary (2)

Wofford College

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

**Xavier University** 





### TARGET 1:

# LITERACIES, SKILLS & ATTRIBUTES

For the 2024-25 school year, we focused on the following strategic objective supporting Target 1:

 Advance the structures, systems, and formats to deepen a learner's engagement in purpose-driven projects, initiatives, and experiences that require discovery, teamwork, and application of knowledge to achieve impactful, viable solutions.

# Deepening the Journey of Purpose through Personalized Pathways & Impact Summits

Developing Literacies, Skills, and Attributes is a dynamic process rooted in relevance, reflection, and real-world application. This year, the School advanced this work by deepening purpose-driven learning across every division.



### **IMPACT SUMMIT SNAPSHOTS**

### Take a Ball, Leave a Ball - BENJAMIN R., CLASS OF 2032

During the Grade 5 Impact Summit, students begin to shift their thinking from what I love to how what I love can make a difference. For Benjamin, that realization came through soccer. After noticing that kids at local parks rarely had access to balls, he launched Leave a Ball, Take a Ball—a ball-sharing initiative designed to increase access to sports and encourage community connection.

The group wanted to put their idea into action, but needed help. Students brainstormed who they could speak with to help. One student wrote to Arthur Blank. As many of the students lived in Dunwoody, they wanted to help children in their community. From there, they collaborated with MVXpert Rachel Waldron, Director of Dunwoody Parks and Recreation, along with local city leaders to bring the initiative to life.

Benjamin's team, including Wyatt B., Owen S., and Tristan T., focused on soccer at Brook Run Park, while another group that included Durham H., Amber C., and Rory M. brought the idea to basketball courts at Pernoshal Park. They worked with Upper School student Michael F. and Mount Vernon's Maker, Arts, and Design team to prototype and build the ball-sharing stations.

From this project, a new connection has been forged between the G5 Impact Summit projects and the Dunwoody Parks and Recreation department through Rachel Waldron. The partnership will continue next year.



# Man October Advised Antice Print Emma-Nea

### Passion Meets Possibility - EMMA-NEAL M., CLASS OF 2029

By Grade 8, students explore purpose through a wider lens, examining the industries and innovations that surround their interests. For Emma-Neal, a true student-athlete intent on making a difference, the Impact Summit provided the opportunity to connect her passion for running with helping those less fortunate.

Through a visit to Solidarity Sandy Springs, a local food pantry dedicated to reducing the impact of food insecurity, Emma-Neal was moved to consider other needs for families in the community. Taking into account her passion as a runner and leaning on the expertise of Tantrum Agency CEO, MV Parent and branding expert, David Tann, and Kalia Blake, a community relations manager for Habitat for Humanity, Emma-Neal launched her foundation, Soles 4 Souls.

Emma-Neal's empathy and passion resulted in a May shoe drive in the Middle School. Over three days, students donated gently used running shoes so that all athletes have the opportunity to run. As the shoe drive concluded and Emma-Neal carried large bags of shoes to her family's car, her smile showed everyone that she had found her purpose.

At the Grade 8 Summit, learners discover that purpose grows through curiosity, research, and relationships—and that their ideas can lead to meaningful innovation.

# Purpose at the Intersection of Passion and Impact

### SONOMA P., CLASS OF 2026

In Grade 11, purpose becomes deeply personal. As part of their Capstone Impact Summit, students reflect, research, and engage with mentors to refine their story, equipping them to navigate the college admissions process with clarity and confidence.

For Sonoma, this meant exploring the powerful intersection of neuroscience, theater, and advocacy. Inspired by AP Biology, she dove into research on cognition and accessibility and secured a summer Research Fellowship at Lumiere, an organization founded by Harvard and Oxford PhDs with the aim of providing high school students around the world access to research opportunities with top global scholars.

Sonoma also interned with the Mount Vernon School Brand Office, where she helped develop user personas for Mount Vernon School Online. Her goal: to elevate visibility for students with physical disabilities and influence more inclusive digital environments.

Through the Summit, Sonoma crafted a purpose statement that is both academically rigorous and deeply human. Blending science, storytelling, and social impact, she is already paving a path toward research, advocacy, and innovation at the college level and beyond.



# PERSONALIZED LEARNING PATHWAYS

### **Empowering Every Learner, Every Step of the Way**

We are committed to cultivating learner agency by creating personalized, purposedriven pathways that meet students where they are—and propel them toward where they want to go. During the 2024–2025 school year, we took bold steps forward to bring this vision to life across divisions, advancing Target 1 of The Impact Ready Project.

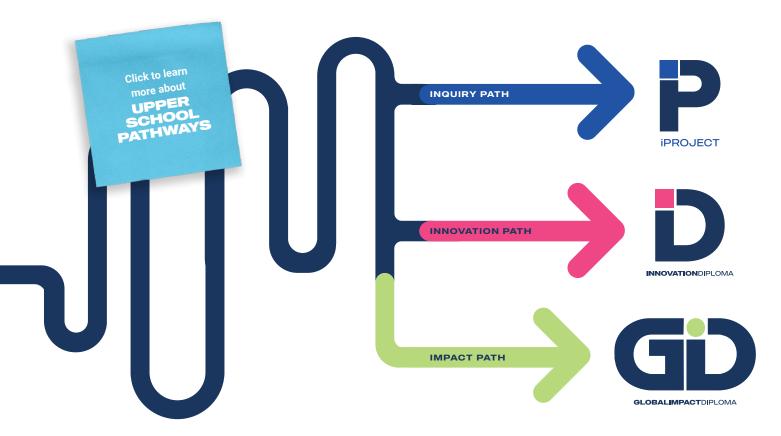


### Upper School Pathways: Inquiry. Innovation. Impact.

In December 2024, the Upper School launched **Personalized Pathways** for rising Grade 9 students, representing a bold leap forward in empowering students to thrive as innovators, leaders, and change-makers. Students now choose from three signature learning paths—**Inquiry, Innovation, and Impact**—each designed to align with their unique passions and future aspirations.

Every pathway combines rigorous academic foundations with real-world application through hands-on, cross-disciplinary experiences. Whether they're exploring global issues, designing solutions for real clients, or conducting inquiry-driven research, students are supported by dedicated advisors and a collaborative school community that amplifies their voice and agency.

The design is intentionally iterative. Personalized Pathways integrate with the Impact Summit experience and student portfolios to reflect evolving interests and strengths throughout high school. With increased parent engagement through MVXperts and robust advisory support, these pathways represent a scalable model for lifelong learning—one story, one summit, and one path at a time.



### Middle School BOOST: Building Strong Foundations

In Middle School, personalized learning also took shape through the launch of the **BOOST Program**—a specialized pathway for rising Grade 6 students with language-based learning differences. BOOST provides a structured, supportive environment designed to build confidence and foundational skills as students transition into Middle School with language-based learning differences starting with a cohort in the 2025-26 school year.

We know that **relationships are foundational to personalized learning.** Whether a student is navigating a new academic structure in Middle School or charting a course toward their future in Upper School, our community is designed to support each learner's Journey of Purpose.

We are proud to walk alongside our students as they discover who they are, how they learn, and the difference they are capable of making. Together, we are building pathways that lead not only to success—but to significance.

### TARGET 2:

# RELATIONSHIPS & NETWORKS

For the 2024-25 school year, we focused on the following strategic objective supporting Target 2:

 Engage learners in their interests, talents, and aspirations, and how they, as engaged citizen leaders, can meaningfully serve their communities and the world.

### **Immersive Learning, Real-World Impact**

Starting in Preschool, Mount Vernon students gain a competitive edge through immersive, real-world learning experiences that connect academic knowledge with hands-on application. For Upper School students, internships and externships—many of which take place during Interim—empower learners to explore potential career paths, develop transferable skills, and build meaningful professional networks.

**In 2025, a record-breaking 83** Upper School students participated in week-long externships, exploring industries ranging from politics, meteorology, and healthcare to real estate, performing arts, and aviation. These opportunities allow students to shadow professionals, contribute to real projects, and gain insights into the working world.

These real-world experiences aren't just resume builders—they are meaningful journeys that shape students' perspectives and ignite their passions. From policymaking and public health to robotics and artificial intelligence, Mount Vernon students are diving into industries that inspire them. Here are just a few examples of how our learners are translating classroom knowledge into real-world impact:



### **EXPLORING POLITICS AND POLICY**BEN P., CLASS OF 2025

### U.S. House of Representatives, DC

In his second year interning for Rep. Gottheimer, Ben engaged in constituent communication, attended congressional briefings, and prepared legislative memos.

"One of the most incredible moments was standing on the House floor during a live vote. This internship has deepened my understanding of government and policymaking."

### PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH AND POLICY MAYA C., CLASS OF 2026

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

Maya shadowed Dr. Srinivasan at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where she attended meetings, connected with public health professionals, and conducted her own research project. With expert mentorship, she learned about survey design, data collection, and the publishing process.

"My time at the CDC has opened my eyes to the many career paths in public health and given me hands-on experience in research. It's been incredible to see how impactful this work is!"





### **EXPLORING AI AND ROBOTICS**GRAYSON R., CLASS OF 2027

### **Georgia Tech Robotics**

Grayson interned with the CORE Robotics Lab at Georgia Institute of Technology, gaining hands-on experience in machine learning and artificial intelligence. He participated in lab meetings, attended college-level classes, and studied large language models under the guidance of leading researchers.

"This experience has given me an invaluable glimpse into both the future of AI and what college life is like. It has been an incredibly educational and inspiring opportunity."

These immersive opportunities provide students with:

- Industry exposure to refine career interests and discover new possibilities.
- Professional mentorship to grow skills and build lasting connections.
- Real-world challenges that strengthen adaptability, leadership, and problem-solving.

Through strategic partnerships and purpose-driven experiences, Mount Vernon prepares students to thrive in college, careers, and beyond—as impact-ready leaders and engaged global citizens.

**Social capital** begins at our earliest stages of education at Mount Vernon, where it is truly a joyous endeavor across generations, cultures, and industries.

100+ Expeditions 100+ MVXperts



2023-24

Internships

2024-25

### TARGET 3:

# RESEARCH & INNOVATION

For the 2024-25 school year, we focused on the following strategic objective supporting Target 3:

 Strengthen and exercise foresight and futures practice by scanning for signals of change, stress-testing existing plans, gaining deeper insight into research areas external to as well as affecting the education sector.

# Innovation in Action: Scaling Research, Strategy, and Systems for the Future of Learning

At Mount Vernon, research and innovation are not a side project—they are embedded into the DNA of our school. By design, our organizational structure unites three powerful entities: our Preschool—Grade 12 flagship campus, Mount Vernon School Online (MVSO), and Mount Vernon Ventures. Together, they form an integrated innovation ecosystem that enables us to incubate, prototype, and scale ideas in real-time, delivering tangible value to students, families, and faculty alike.

This ecosystem allows Mount Vernon to live out the values of inquiry, innovation, and impact every day. Our ability to move fluidly between research and application was exemplified through the Mount Vernon Ventures Transformational R&D Reports:



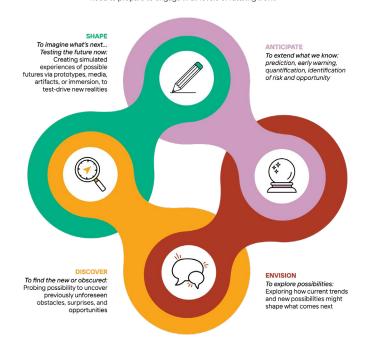
- Phase One Spring 2024: Imagine Then, Act Now:
   Futures Literacy for Learning Organizations, a 40+ page
   strategic guide released in Spring 2024, offers a
   blueprint for creating future-ready schools.
  - Phase Two Fall 2024: The Application Report delivers practical examples of how futures literacy is being implemented within real school settings turning big ideas into classroom reality.
- Phase Three Spring 2025: A culminating toolkit designed to help education leaders take transformative, future-oriented action.

One standout example of how these concepts come alive for students is the "Future of \_\_\_\_\_" project within our Innovation Diploma program. From October to December, upperclass members of the iD program engage in an immersive design challenge where they explore critical themes such as the Future of Food, Retail, or Air Transportation—developing agency, foresight, and strategic thinking.

In addition to these efforts, Mount Vernon actively amplifies student voices in the conversations shaping the future of education technology. This was exemplified when Maggie H. (Class of 2028) and Jalen H. (Class of 2027) were selected to serve as student panelists at the ATLIS Annual Conference, representing Mount Vernon among national education leaders. The Association of Technology Leaders in Independent Schools (ATLIS) brings together innovators committed to advancing learning through technology. As part of a student voice panel, Maggie and Jalen shared their perspectives on how tech impacts education, community, and future readiness. Their participation highlighted ATLIS' commitment to inclusion and the importance of student insight in shaping the future of independent schools.

### FOUR LEVELS OF FUTURING

As leaders and stewards of schools during complex times, we need to prepare to engage in all levels of futuring work.



Adapted from Scott Smith and Madeline Ashby (2020). How To Future: Learning and Sense-making in an Age of Hyperchange. Kogan Page, p. 23-25.

Looking ahead, the School will assemble and lead a **Council on Innovation (COI)** in September 2025. The COI will continue to be a hub for designing agile, human-centered systems in education, furthering our mission to lead through innovation and to prepare students for what's next.

By continually connecting research with practice, Mount Vernon not only stays ahead of the curve, we help shape it. Future literacy is an important muscle - the lens with which we iterate the student experience.

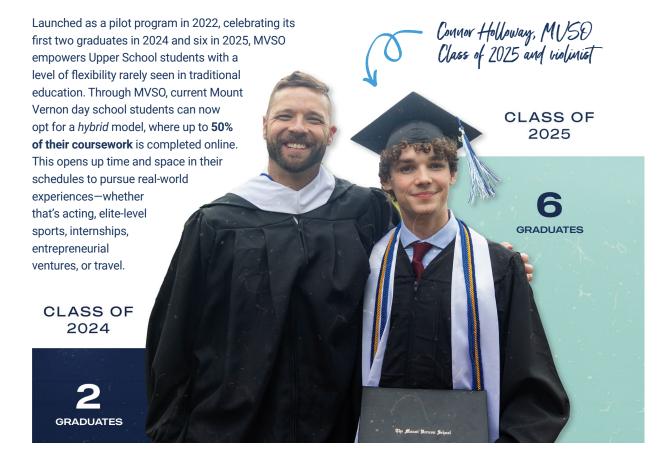


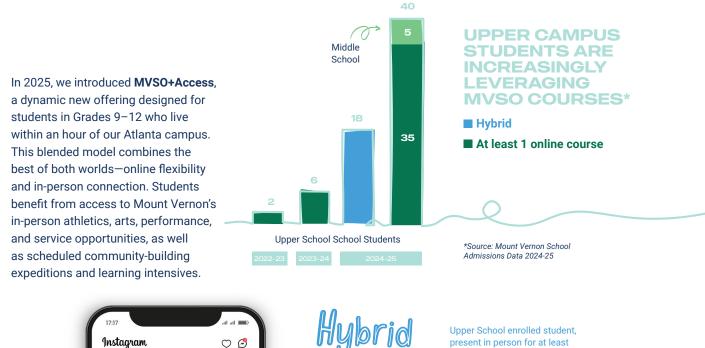


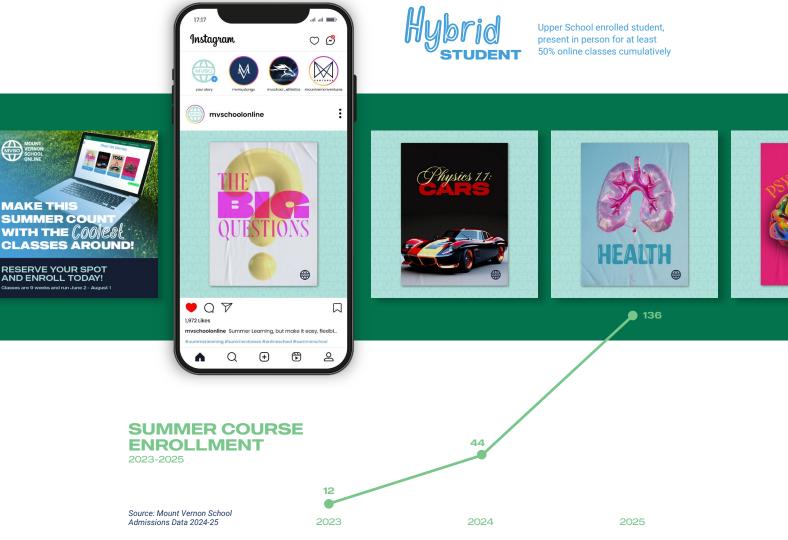
# EXPANDING ACCESS. ELEVATING POSSIBILITY.

### **MVSO Redefines Flexibility in Learning**

With our Atlanta-based campus operating at full capacity, Mount Vernon continues to extend its mission and impact through the strategic expansion of its global campus: **Mount Vernon School Online (MVSO)**.







As MVSO continues to scale, it doesn't just serve more students—it unlocks new possibilities for how learning happens, delivering value across our entire community by creating an education that adapts to the learner, not the other way around.

### TARGET 4:

# CULTURE & CONNECTION

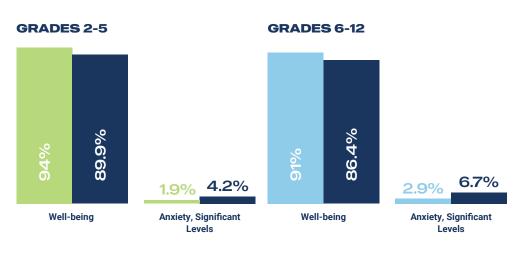
For the 2024-25 school year, we focused on the following strategic objective supporting Target 4:

 Develop a resilient and adaptable School culture committed to the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health in our community and devoted to upholding the School's values through dialogue, empathy, and appreciation of perspective.

Belonging and human connection remain at the heart of student success. When learners feel seen, valued, and heard, they are more likely to take risks, build confidence, and contribute meaningfully to their community. This year, through compelling stories, powerful data, and real-world examples, we see how intentional design - centered on empathy, identity, integrity, and connection - continues to create inclusive spaces where every learner can thrive.

At Mount Vernon, student well-being is more than a priority — it's a promise.

As a school that leans on data, research, and stories, we understand the increased desire and need for mental health support. In response, we bolstered our Collaborative Care team with the addition of Counselors who support the unique needs of students in transition years of both Grade 6 and Grade 9. In this past academic year, 89.5% students shared they are comfortable using mental health resources at school. This number continues to grow each year.

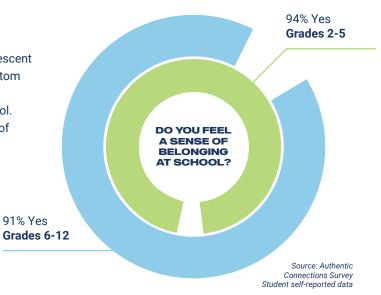




The Well-Being Index (WBI) is a measure of adolescent mental health. The measure assesses four symptom areas —Depression, Anxiety, Rule-Breaking, and Substance Use—and a scale on Isolation at School. The score is calculated out of 100, with the goal of being as close to 100 as possible.

"RELATIONSHIPS AND TRUST ARE FOUNDATIONAL, TO OUR COMMUNITY."

— The Impact Ready Project, Target 4



### **Building a Unified Community Through Empathy and Purpose**

During the 2024–25 school year, Mount Vernon students across each division engaged in experiences that strengthened empathy and purpose, with a portrait exhibit serving as a powerful centerpiece. Running from mid-January through February, the exhibit sparked cross-divisional learning through chapel reflections, visual arts, advisory conversations, and connected coursework. Anchored in the school's Journey of Purpose and the Impact Ready Project, the portraits inspired students and community members alike to reflect on values, service, and meaningful contribution—highlighted by a special MLK Day event including featured subject Ms. Bunny Greenhouse.









### **Exploring Faith & Fostering Understanding in the Upper School**

One powerful example of how Culture and Connection came to life in the Upper School was through the World Religions course, *Believe It or Not*. Students stepped beyond the classroom to visit synagogues, churches, and a Buddhist monastery—engaging directly with sacred spaces and faith leaders. These experiences deepened students' understanding of identity, belief, and purpose across cultures. The course culminated in a student-led Interfaith Chapel, where learners shared reflections and created space for respectful dialogue—celebrating both the diversity and common ground within our global community.



### Celebrating Cultures in Preschool

PK4 and PK5 celebrated
Hispanic Heritage Month by
inviting students to reflect on
their learning and engage in
hands-on experiences inspired
by various countries, including
a Colombian coffee sensory
table, Guatemalan kitemaking, Peruvian Ilama crafts,
and arepas from Venezuela.



### Building Attributes in Lower School

Leading with kindness and learning to be an upstander are everyday themes in Lower School. Fifth-grader Amber C., named Volunteer of the Year, exemplified this by continuing her annual toy drive for Right Side Up—showing how even our youngest learners make a meaningful impact through service.



# Empowering Dialogue in Middle School

The Student Dialogue
Series guided Middle School
students through structured
conversations on empathy and
integrity. Led by Dr. Chaundra
Suddith, the series encouraged
students to engage with diverse
perspectives, strengthening
both their community and
leadership skills.

### **All School Service Drives**

Mount Vernon's Fall and Spring Impact Drives united the community in service to local organizations, reinforcing our commitment to action and empathy.















"A COMMUNITY GROUNDED IN CHRISTIAN VALUES REFLECTS A COLORIDATION TO BE GIVERS RATHER THAN TAKERS, TO SERVE RATHER THAN BE SERVED, AND TO BUILD UP RATHER THAN TEAR DOWN."

<sup>-</sup> The Impact Ready Project, Target 4

### MOMENTUM IN MOTION: HEREHKTHROUGHYERR FOR MUSTANG ATHLETICS

In 2024–25, Mount Vernon Athletics surged forward with purpose, unity, and undeniable spirit. From State and Region Championships to Final Four appearances and Metro 10 titles, our athletes competed with heart and represented with pride. But the year's defining feature was not just our achievements—it was the movement happening around them.

This year, our community didn't just cheer from the sidelines. They took action. When student-athletes asked for lights on Ron Hill Field to reduce missed class time and expand opportunities, Mustang Nation showed up—writing letters, attending City Hall meetings, and advocating for the future of our programs.

That energy—collective, focused, and full of purpose—propelled us forward. It elevated our teams and united us as one school, one voice, one vision for what's next.



### **Mustang Signing Day: Purpose at the Next Level**

From the soccer pitch to the swimming lane, 11 seniors signed letters of intent to continue their athletic careers in college. These student-athletes exemplify the school's mission to equip learners with the confidence, skills, and purpose to make an impact—on and off the field.

BRISTAN DEROCHER Hampder
ETHAN EASTERLING Maryville
REESE HICKEY Samford
COLLIN MAHER Washing
DANIELA O'LEARY Universit

**DAVIS REGIER** Berry College

Hampden-Sydney College
Maryville College
Samford University
Washington University
University of Richmond

NATHAN SHUMWAY NATE THOMAS SOPHIA VAN NAME WALKER WARSHAW

**KENNEDY REYNOLDS** 

The College of William & Mary Rhodes College South Georgia State College William & Mary Hampden-Sydney College



### The Future Is on the Field

Momentum doesn't start in Upper School—it starts at the very beginning. At Mount Vernon, we're building a strong bench by investing in our youngest athletes early and often.

This year, our Middle School teams clinched three Metro 10 Championships—Boys Lacrosse, Girls Soccer, and Boys Tennis—proving that the foundation for long-term success is already in motion. Across the Lower and Middle Campuses, students are developing skills, confidence, and sportsmanship that will carry them forward as competitors and leaders.

BY THE NUMBERS

**DNE** STATE

Esports (Fall)



IN GHSA CLASS A

Ranked 5th out of 78 schools



REGION CHAMPION

Girls Flag Football



Softball
Girls Swim & Dive

### Mustangs in Training: Record-Breaking Participation

Mount Vernon's Mustangs in Training program reached record enrollment this year, introducing students as young as Kindergarten to sports like softball, cross country, basketball, soccer, lacrosse, and track. These developmental programs emphasize teamwork, movement, and joy—setting the tone for a lifelong love of athletics and wellness.

Whether learning to dribble, sprint, or swing, our youngest Mustangs are gaining more than physical skills—they're building the habits, values, and relationships that define Mount Vernon Athletics.



THREE
METRO 10 TITLES

Boys Lacrosse, Girls Soccer, and Boys Tennis

11 COLLEGE SIGNEES

# **PERSONAL GEOGRAPHIES CREATIVE POLLINATORS**

The Arts at Mount Vernon

In every brushstroke, movement, and monologue, Mount Vernon students mapped their personal geographiescharting who they are, where they've been, and where they're headed. From Preschool to Grade 12, the arts offered students a compass for self-expression and storytelling.

Like pollinators, they moved freely across disciplines and divisions-spreading ideas, sparking inspiration, and cultivating a community rooted in creativity. Whether throwing clay in a spirited competition, designing costumes for a state-winning production, or dancing under stage lights, Mount Vernon learners transformed artistic experiences into purposeful growth.

### **Mainstage Moments**

Mount Vernon's stages came to life this year with bold performances and original student work.

Upper School brought musical mastery to Hadestown Teen Edition, depth and whimsy to Twelfth Night, and originality to the Senior Ten-Minute Play Festival.

Middle School actors took on a wide range, from fall one-act plays to a student-written comedy sketch show, culminating in a spirited production of The Addams Family Jr.





### **Arts Madness**

A highlight of Upper School's arts calendar, Arts Madness invited students into a week of high-energy creative exploration. The signature event? A Pottery Throwdown—a fast-paced, tournament-style clay competition where students tested skill, speed, and artistic flair on the wheel.

TO THINK FAST AND **MESSY AND AMAZING."** 

- Eden Seib '26, Pottery Throwdown participant

### **Jazz Night: A Roaring Celebration**

Transporting guests to the 1920's and beyond, Jazz Night fused musical performance with immersive experience. Students performed jazz hits from the Harlem Renaissance to the Motown era in a night entirely designed and produced by the Entertainment Business class, proving that music and production go hand in hand.

### "WE DIDN'T JUST PERFORM MUSIC-WE BUILT AN EXPERIENCE."

- Cooper Walker '26, Jazz Night Performer



### **Arts in Action Day**

Lower School students spent an entire day immersed in the arts, rotating through workshops in dance, acting, visual art, and music. This hands-on experience encouraged curiosity, creativity, and confidence through playful exploration.

### **Dance Across Divisions**

- Lower School dancers grew in expression through Playmaker, culminating in a joyful Spring Recital on the gym stage.
- Middle School Dance Club earned accolades at the Revolution Talent Competition: 4th overall, one Platinum, and two Gold Elite awards.
- Upper School dancers took masterclasses with guest artists and performed at UDA Nationals, bringing discipline and dedication to the national stage.

"DANCE HELPS ME FEEL STRONG, GRACEFUL, AND CONNECTED."

- Charlotte Chaffin '27, Upper School Dancer

### **Honor Societies**

Thirty students were inducted into Mount Vernon's fine arts honor societies, representing outstanding commitment and achievement across disciplines:

- · National Art Honor Society
- Tri-M Music Honor Society
- National Dance Honor Society
- International Thespian Society

### **Award-Winning Design**

At Thescon, Mount Vernon designers stood out. Sonoma Peterson '26 and Dareen Cheong '25 earned Superior Thespy Awards for Costume Design at both the regional and state level, with Dareen also featured as a Thespian Showcase Winner—a standout among thousands of Georgia performers.

"DESIGNING COSTUMES IS LIKE BUILDING A STORY YOU CAN WEAR."

- Dareen Cheong '25, Thescon Winner









Let's Do This Capital Campaign



As you enter Mount Vernon's Upper Campus, one message rings clear: *Progress You Can See — Momentum You Can Feel*. This bold declaration, emblazoned on campus signage, reflects the transformative progress made possible by the Let's Do This (LDT) Capital Campaign—including one of this year's most exciting milestones: the installation of new turf on our softball and baseball field.

# MORE THAN A FIELD: A HIGH-PERFORMANCE SPACE FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

With fresh turf covering the diamond and outfield, this new surface is more than an upgrade—it's a strategic investment in student experience. Designed to support softball, baseball, and on-campus practice space for soccer and lacrosse, the field reflects our commitment to building multi-functional spaces that elevate opportunity and maximize resources.



# Upper School student feedback contributed to campaign messaging.

### **WHY TURF MATTERS:**

- All-Weather Playability: Fewer rainouts and longer seasons mean Mustangs now train and compete earlier in spring and later into fall. Turf drains quickly and stays game-ready—even in soggy conditions.
- Sustainability in Action: With no irrigation, mowing, or chemical treatments, the field significantly reduces our ecological footprint—conserving water and eliminating runoff.
- Consistent Quality & Safety: An even playing surface means fewer injuries, fewer bad hops, and better visibility—especially for younger athletes.
- Durability & Versatility: Built for volume, the turf field accommodates multiple teams and programs, making it a year-round asset for our school and community.



### WHAT'S NEXT?

### **BREAKING GROUND ON WHAT'S POSSIBLE**

The completion of the turf field marks more than a campaign milestone—it signals that we are on the precipice of the next bold step. With planning and preparation well underway, Mount Vernon is poised to break ground on the undeveloped 10 acres of Upper Campus—unlocking a new chapter of growth, innovation, and access for generations to come.

From the original land acquisition in 2015 to the vision laid out in our Impact Ready Project, Mount Vernon's campus evolution is intentional and mission-driven. These next steps will further unify our community, expand our athletic and academic offerings, and deepen our investment in the holistic development of every learner.

The Let's Do This Capital Campaign is not just about facilities—it's about creating space for students to thrive, for ideas to flourish, and for purpose to take shape.

We are so grateful for the dedication of our Let's Do This Capital Campaign Council. With this team of Board members, parents, and employees, we continue to build on the campaign's momentum to reach our \$11 million goal and complete the building project.

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- Lauren Black
- · Jeff Black
- Kate Burke
- · Greg Cox
- · Kristen Cranmer
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# THE POWER OF Participation: FUELING INNOVATION THROUGH THE MVFUND

### **MVFUND: Investing in Every Learner, Every Day**

The Annual Fund is Mount Vernon's most essential giving initiative, supporting the core of what makes our school extraordinary. While tuition covers a significant portion of a Mount Vernon education, it does not cover everything. The MVFund bridges that gap—accounting for 3% of our operating budget—and directly enriches every student's experience.

### **Every Dollar Counts Toward:**

- Innovative academic programming, athletics, arts, and clubs
- · Leading-edge faculty professional development
- · Transformative learning technology
- · Financial assistance to broaden access
- · Advanced campus safety and security resources

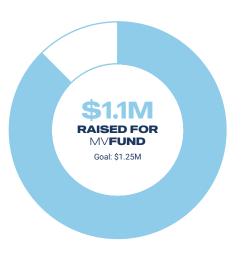
### Where does your gift go?

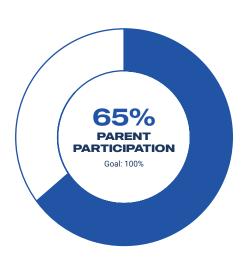
Straight into action. MVFund contributions are fully tax-deductible and immediately directed into Mount Vernon's operating budget—making an immediate, measurable difference in every classroom, every hallway, and every playground.

### 2024-25 Annual Fund Snapshot

This year, the Mount Vernon community generously contributed \$1.1 million, with 65% of parents participating—an inspiring testament to the belief in our mission. At the same time, we fell short of our \$1.25 million goal and did not reach our full participation target. While these gaps affect our ability to fully deliver on the promise of a Mount Vernon education, they also reveal where we can grow. With this strong foundation and renewed focus, we're energized to close the gap and reach even greater heights together in the year ahead.

Together, our collective support provided much needed support for the programs and people that make Mount Vernon such a unique experience. With collective effort and renewed energy, we are confident that next year can—and will—bring even greater results. Together, we can get there.





80% Faculty & Staff Participation

Faculty & Staff Participation

Board of Trustees Participation

100% Executive Leadership Participation

### ©MVFUND LAUNCH & PARENT OUTREACH

September & October 2024

Parent volunteers connected with their peers via phone and text to encourage supporting the MVFund and shared insight on how every student benefits from this annual fund.







# MARCH MADNESS

### Spring 2025

A friendly competition turned fierce as classrooms and grade levels battled for the bracket win. This high-energy initiative brought families together and inspired giving through games, incentives, and a sense of fun.

### CONGRATS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grades 6, 7, and 8 all made it to the Final Four and won an ice cream social!

### **Companies Who Matched**

- · American Century Investments
- The Aramark Charitable Fund
- AT&T
- Bark
- · Boston Consulting Group
- CBRE
- The Coca-Cola Company
- Delta Air Lines Foundation
- · Elasticsearch
- FiServ
- Gartner
- · Girl Scout Troop 22186
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- T-Mobile
- · Thermo Fisher Scientific
- · Truist Financial
- UBS
- UPS
- Vanguard
- Viasat
- Vova Financial
- · Warner Bros. Discovery
- · Wells Fargo
- · WestRock Inc.
- Workday
- Yahoo

# Thank you to our dedicated MVFund Parent Committee—Your Outreach Made a Difference.

- Chairs: Scott and Lauren Tucker (Class of 2033)
- Britt Amos (Class of 2030 and 2033)
- Melissa Briley (Class of 2036)
- · Kate Burke (Class of 2030)
- · Anna Collins (Class of 2030 and 2033)
- JD Clockadale (Class of 2027, 2028, and 2029)
- Tim Gillis (Class of 2032)
- · Blair Harrigan (Class of 2032)

- Jill Hodges (Class of 2028)
- · Katy and Charles Hollingsworth (Class of 2030)
- Telisha Jackson (Class of 2026)
- · Gerald Lauria (Class of 2031)
- Taylor Smith (Class of 2037)
- Cissy and Michael Zelickson (Class of 2029 and 2031)

# MVFund Parent Participation by Grade Level

TOGETHER WE WIN: 100% PARTICIPATION ACROSS ALL GRADES TO REACH \$1.25M

## **ØALL MUSTANGS. ALL IN.**



86% G4 85% G7 77% G5

77% G6

76% G8

72% PRESCHOOL

71% G2 70% G1 69% FRESHMEN 60% G3

60% SOPHOMORES 58% JUNIORS 46% KINDERGARTEN 38% SENIORS



### 2024-25 MVFUND DONORS

### **DONORS BY GIVING LEVEL**

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Christine and Ben Phelps
Anna and Carl Streck

### **Champion Society** \$10,000-\$14,999

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#### Accelerator Society \$5,000-\$9,999

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Edward Inman Ashley and Mario Jaekel Allyson and Jordan Kiel Leah and Michael Maceroli Christina and Walter McClelland Sabrina and Kevin McNerney Lori and Dan Middleton Masami and Eric Middleton Kelly and Mark Miller Lynn and Phil Moore Angela and Michael Nagy Jen and Mike Nolte Maureen and Todd Pierce Unda and Steve Pozzobon Sharon and Jay Putnam Marli and Scott Quesinberry Funmi and Trey Rachal Lori and Chris Reinking Mary Catherine and Ben Riddick Stephanie and David Rodrigues Rosenberg 2006 Family Trust

Kathy Schwock

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Jerry Silver Candace and Stuart Smartt Jennifer and Brandon Smith Karen and Kevin Smith Jennifer and David Song Paige and Ariun Srinivasan Courtney and Bryan Stillwagon Anna and Carl Streck Christine and Steve Strong Laura and Mark Stubblefield Beth and Eric Tietz Susan and Glenn Viers Desiree and David Vogt Kristen and Dan Wagner Kate and Matt Whitmore Jen and Jake Wojcik Adriana Perez and Joe Wolenski Erin and TJ Wolfe Kristen and Ali Yarbou Cissy and Michael Zelickson



## MUSTANG GOLF TOURNAMENT

& PICKLEBALL ROUND ROBIN

The bi-annual Mustang Golf & Pickleball Tournament is a highly anticipated event that combines the spirit of friendly competition with a powerful purpose.

This year, 23 golf foursomes teed off on beautifully manicured greens at Dunwoody Country Club, while 20 pickleball players brought energy and excitement to the courts. More than just a day of sport, the tournament raised vital funds in support of Mount Vernon's financial assistance program, helping ensure that more students have access to a transformative Mount Vernon education.

\$28,740

**Net Total Raised** 

**NEW THIS** 

Pickleball Round

**Robin Tournament** 



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Ashley Giardino, Co-Chair Marci Ehrlich, Co-Chair 36 Parent Volunteers





# Pallying Together: MUSTANG RALLY 2025 BREAKS RECORDS & BUILDS COMMUNITY

What a day! Mustang Rally this year, held on Friday, April 25, 2025, brought the Mount Vernon community together in a powerful way, full of energy, creativity, and purpose. The celebration began with the annual student parade, kicked off in electrifying fashion by the Atlanta Braves' "Heavy Hitters" drumline. From there, the energy never let up.

Rally 2025 raised \$141,161.24 net to support professional development for Mount Vernon's faculty. These funds will send teachers to national conferences, fuel innovation, and directly impact every classroom.

On Ron Hill Field, for a third year in a row, Grade 8 students took the lead—designing and facilitating the student Field Games, where all ages competed in creative challenges built around movement, collaboration, and fun.

A new fan favorite? The Rally Stage, where student talent lit up the day with performances, including Lower School performing Katy Perry's Roar, and faculty performing in a Masked Singer Competition in Upper School, student-designed costumes.

Leading into Rally, Middle School students put their design and engineering skills to the test in a thrilling Soap Box Derby, where they raced their own hand-built cars in front of a cheering crowd, showcasing innovation, teamwork, and just the right amount of friendly competition.

The day was filled with joy, connection, and community.

And a special congratulations to Novi Deverell, winner of the Golf Cart Raffle, which raised an additional \$21,300 for the Let's Do This Capital Campaign.



#### Thank you to our sponsors and underwriters for rallying with us to invest in what matters most-our people.

#### Innovation Sponsors (\$15,000)

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#### Experience Sponsors (\$5,000)

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#### Carnival Sponsors (\$2,500)

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# FUNDING & RESOURCES

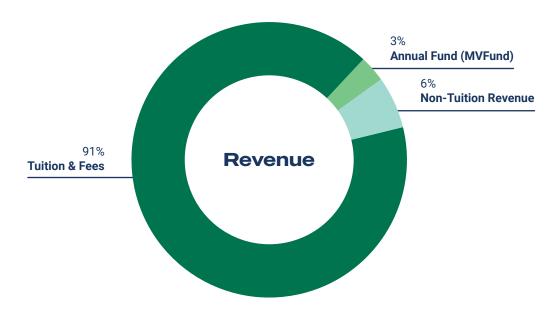
The School invests in faculty and staff, professional development, technology, and infrastructure to continually reinvest in student learning at Mount Vernon.

#### 2024-25 Operating Revenue

The revenue streams of the school are broken into 3 main categories:

- 1. **Tuition:** The primary source of income, covering the core costs of instruction, faculty salaries, and daily operations.
- 2. MV Annual Fund: Philanthropic contributions that are part of our operating budget, providing critical, flexible dollars to enhance programs, support faculty, and fund strategic priorities not covered by tuition.
- 3. **Non-tuition revenue:** Income from non-tuition sources such as summer programs, after-school care, facility rentals, and merchandise—helping to diversify and strengthen the school's financial foundation.

Emerging sources of non-tuition revenue, while currently, modest, offer significant potential for Mount Vernon's future. Initiatives such as AMP Camp and Mount Vernon Ventures consulting represent early steps toward building sustainable, mission-aligned income streams. By expanding local, regional, and global partnerships and exploring new market segments, we aim to diversify our revenue model—ultimately reducing reliance on tuition and strengthening the school's long-term financial resilience.





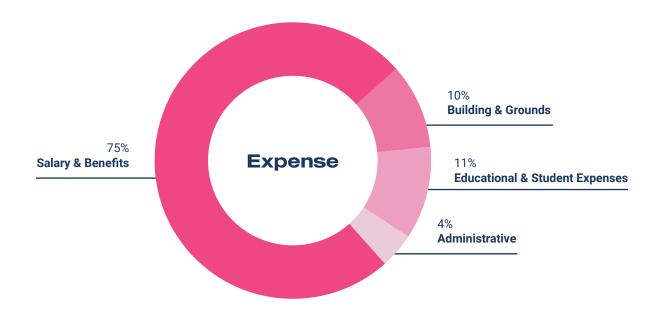


#### **2024-25 Spending**

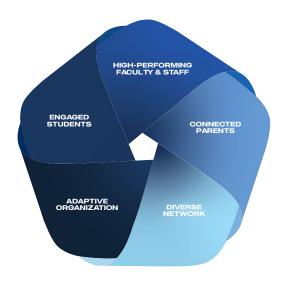
Our single greatest investment remains in our people. Over 75% of the 2024–2025 annual budget is allocated to **supporting and retaining a high-performing faculty and staff.** This commitment directly translates to an exceptional learning experience for every student.

Mount Vernon believes that learning is amplified in dynamic, flexible environments. That's why we continue to reinvest in the upkeep and evolution of our **buildings and grounds**, ensuring they remain functional, and forward-thinking spaces for our community.

As a school of inquiry, innovation, and impact, we are dedicated to providing top-tier educational resources and experiences. Our investment in student learning includes food service, classroom supplies, equipment, and everevolving technology—all essential to delivering a transformative learning journey.



For the 2024-25 fiscal year, the School had \$41.7M in operating revenue and \$38M in operating expenses. As a non-profit organization, the School's financial goal is to reinvest resources back into our students, employees, and programs. We aim to keep our operating revenue and spending in alignment with a small percentage of net operating income reserved to serve debt principal, invest in routine capital projects (outside of the Let's Do This Capital Campaign), and secure our banking relationship.



## CORPS OF IMPACT

One of the 4 essential catalysts outlined in the Impact Ready Project that is essential for the School's success is the Corps of Impact, which is made up of

- engaged students
- · high-performing faculty & staff
- · connected parents
- diverse network
- · an adaptive organization

## Faculty + Staff AWARDS



**EILEEN FENNELLY** 

National Association of Geoscience Teachers Outstanding Earth Science Teacher of the Year



**SAMANTHA FLOWERS** 

International Dyslexia Association of Georgia, Outstanding Service



**RUSS MALSNEE** 

NBOA Award for Professional Achievement in Business & Operations



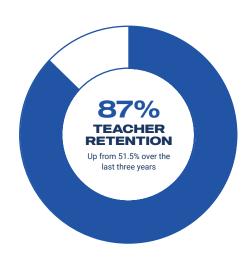
**KAREN MEACHAM** 

HEROIC Award for Outstanding Educational Impact (Kennesaw State University and the Miner Family Foundation)



**COURTNEY STILLWAGON** 

Atlanta Business Chronicle CFO of the Year Finalist



**56** 

Faculty & Staff Attended and Presented at Regional and National Conferences

### EMPLOYER Auslades









## Alumni SPOTLIGHTS

Mount Vernon Alumni continue on to design a better world as their journey of purpose continues beyond our campus.

ONCE A MUSTANG, ALWAYS A MUSTANG

Alumni, click to update your information, share a life update, and check in with us.



#### **CLAIRE JARRELL, CLASS OF 2018**

Now based in Bozeman, Montana, Claire Jarrell ('18) is entering her second summer with the Montana Outdoor Science School. As a certified Master Naturalist, Claire brings science to life through nature-based lessons, teaching and exploring the outdoors in one of the country's most scenic landscapes.

#### **ANYA SMITH-ROMAN, CLASS OF 2017**

This fall, Anya Smith-Roman ('17) is headed to London to pursue a Master's in Creative Education at the Royal College of Art—the world's top-ranked design school. With a passion for innovation in learning, Anya continues to explore the intersection of creativity, design, and education on a global stage.





#### **ADEOLA AJAYI, CLASS OF 2010**

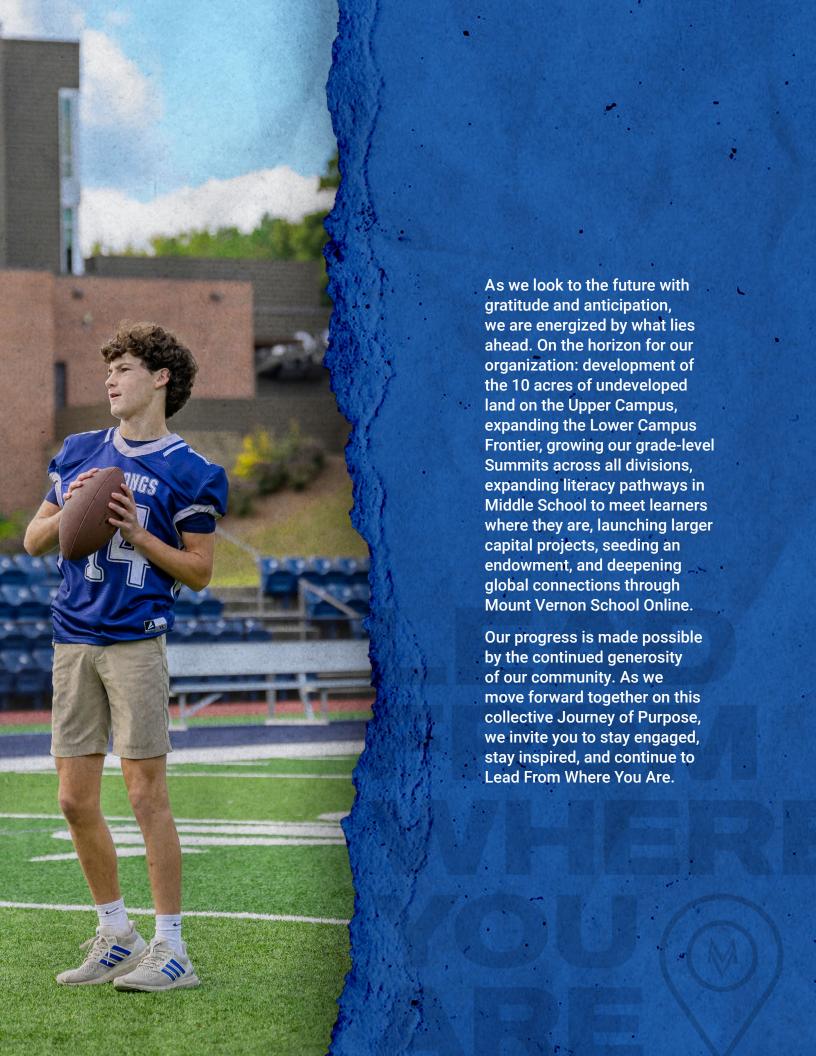
Since founding the AOA Foundation in 2019, Adeola has empowered youth in Nigeria through basketball, education, and community support. His impact includes hosting 750+ children at annual camps, rebuilding the only court in Sango Joju, and opening Dr. Jackie Learning Hall and Curtis Berry Seating. The foundation has donated thousands of meals, shoes, jerseys, and hygiene backpacks, installed a clean water well, and distributed 1,550+ pounds of rice to widows and families. In 2025, over 200 youth participated in AOA programs—continuing Adeola's mission to uplift and inspire.

#### **MICHAEL CUOMO, CLASS OF 2009**

After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy, Michael served over eight years in the Navy as a Nuclear Surface Warfare Officer. He and his wife, Sam, now live in Woodstock, GA, with their 10-month-old daughter, Chloe, and their two dogs, Poppy and Minnie. Following their move from Washington state back to Georgia, Michael earned his MBA from Georgia Institute of Technology. Today, both he and Sam work as consultants, partnering primarily with clients in the utility sector.











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