



THE
MOUNT
VERNON
SCHOOL

THE IMPACT READY PROJECT



A Journey of Purpose

INTRODUCTION

Mount Vernon launched an eighteen month, comprehensive visionary process for the journey ahead. Giving voice to questions, wonders, and curiosities, the School engaged our community and external experts through a thorough process of addressing two key areas:

- Looking back to look forward
- Learning from the future as it emerges

We reflect on the immediate past to play a role in informing our preferred future for the next decade.

The Impact Ready Project's bold, compelling vision strengthens the conditions to scale the School's brand identity and reputation as a leading, innovative independent school in Atlanta and throughout the country.



Three Co-Founders of the first club on Lower Campus.
The Tree Club was founded in 2022. Read more [HERE](#).

OUR PURPOSE ■ **Mission Statement**

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.

OUR COMMITMENT ■ **Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Action Statement**

We commit to creating and sustaining a school culture where all members feel valued and safe, sharing their authentic selves to design a better world...together.

OUR STRATEGY ■ **Foresight & Strategic Plan**

We cultivate and inspire growth through a strategic response to the disruptive shifts in the literacies, skills, attributes, and relationships required for current and future, local and global contexts.

OUR APPROACH ■ **Teaching & Learning Program**

We design relevant, transformational curricular and learning competencies from Preschool through Upper School, explored through an inquiry-based approach and assessed on levels of proficiency.

THE YEAR IS 2039.
THE SETTING IS COMMENCEMENT.



As family, friends, and mentors gather to celebrate the culmination of their wondrous experiences and accomplishments, current Preschool students (PK2) graduate from The Mount Vernon School.

We will be proud. We will be in awe. We will be ready to follow their lead.

Like any other generation before them, these young, energetic learners will run, skip, and even charge into their Preschool classrooms with intense excitement, bold naivete, and pure joy, ready to take on the world.

Unlike alumni before them, the pathways, experiences, and classroom settings enroute to 2039 will probably be less familiar, not as linear, more ambiguous, yet even more of a purpose-driven adventure filled with creative possibility and exciting opportunities.

We acknowledge that innovation and technology are revolutionizing the way we live, work, play, and gather. Yet, we value human connection and the ability to connect with

various types of people from different backgrounds is of great importance.

Navigating the complexities of these paradoxes, how will we be ready? How will an intricate network of educators, parents, industry experts, non-profit leaders, and civic officials adapt to support the journey for future generations of Mustangs to discover their purpose and make their own impact?

While we cannot predict the future of 2039, the rapidly changing contexts in the world will require something different from the learner, from the teacher, from the parent, and from the community.

We must ask new questions. We must create new insights. We must design new ideas with integrity and quality.

Like the Class of 2039, we are being called to step forward with curiosity and courage.

So....What are we waiting for? Let's go!



WHERE ARE WE GOING?





THE IMPACT READY PROJECT

A Journey of Purpose

Combining the wisdom of our community with the collected signals shaping an ever-changing future, The Mount Vernon School community has designed a strategic roadmap – **THE IMPACT READY PROJECT: A JOURNEY OF PURPOSE** – ready to embrace this moment.

Our journey ahead will be filled with opportunities and challenges. Approaching certain destinations along the way, there will be times we will feel like we are strolling through green meadows and at other times like we are canoeing a mountain.

There will be moments to find shelter for an approaching storm, rejuvenation under a waterfall, nourishment along a river, and celebration with fireworks illuminating from the ocean shore. This exhilarating adventure will take us to familiar landscapes, yet require off-roading to navigate unrecognizable margins at the edges of the Earth.

Embarking on a hopeful and exciting decade ahead, we are going on a journey to:

- > Discover where knowledge searches for maximum impact
- > Traverse all dimensions of community
- > Leverage emerging innovation in education
- > Cultivate an inclusive, regenerative school culture

Ultimately, reaching our destination will be defined by how well we live out our mission, preparing and graduating learners and leaders who are **Impact Ready**.

impact /'im.pakt/ **ready** /'redē/

agency to explore, discover, and act on what is meaningful to self and consequential to others

LITERACIES, SKILLS, & ATTRIBUTES

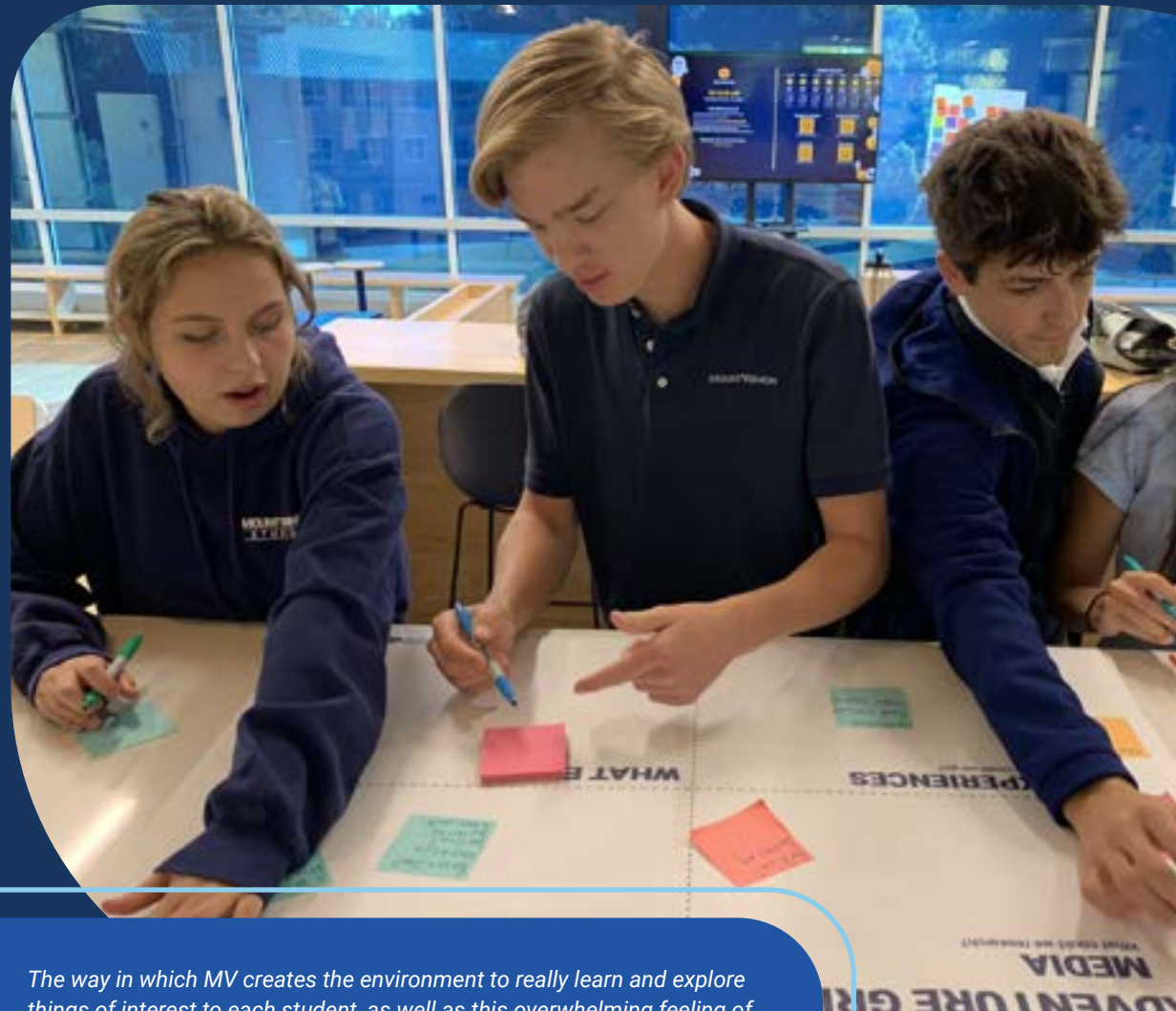
TARGET 1

Discover where knowledge searches for maximum impact

At Mount Vernon, knowledge is not just about knowing that, knowing how, or even knowing why. For us, knowledge extends beyond these foundations. Knowledge is doing. Knowledge searches for maximum impact.

At every stage from early childhood to adolescence to adulthood, the acquisition of knowledge and the application of knowledge optimize full engagement and deep learning when constructed through relevant and contextualized pathways of differentiating, customizing, and personalizing learning experiences. Being active participants in wondering and wandering through the fields of knowledge gives learners greater ownership of their learning and extraordinary meaning and purpose to their world.

When “learners are placed in the front seat of their learning journey and supported to become drivers of it” (Education Reimagined), positive identity is nurtured, purpose emerges, and impact is realized.

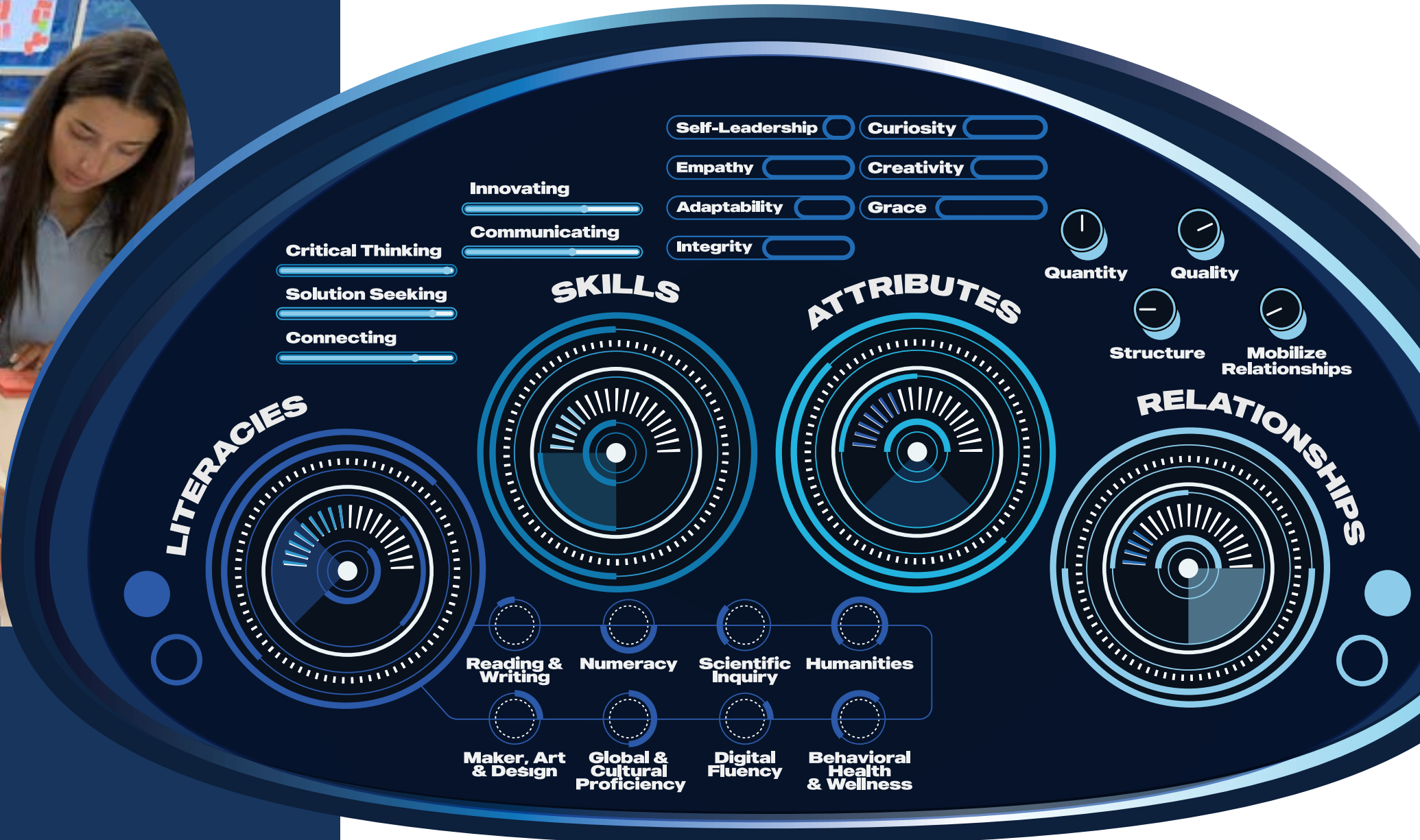


The way in which MV creates the environment to really learn and explore things of interest to each student, as well as this overwhelming feeling of being supported that you give to our kids is invaluable. I love the curricula and the way in which you help our kids navigate what courses they should take, what courses they should try, and ensure they are tapping their own inner stories and passions.

— MV Parent

IMPACT QUOTIENT

The Mount Vernon dashboard to gauge maximum impact



RELATIONSHIPS & NETWORKS

TARGET 2

Traverse all dimensions of community

On the joyous endeavor of traversing all dimensions of community, there are no defined limits, no barriers to entry. At Mount Vernon, learners have equal permission to seek and to explore, traveling over and through, sometimes sideways, back and forth, and around again.

Engaging the world with curiosity, learners cultivate and create intermingling rivers of connection between people, ideas, and sectors. It is through these connections that learners wrestle with voices and perspectives that challenge their assumptions.

Being more proximate, learners become story-informed, experience-informed which bridges the distance between me and we.

Fostering deep relationships inside the School and extending them beyond its boundaries (in-person, virtual, or blended) are truly foundational to learning, service, and engaged citizen leadership.

Additionally, preparing learners to be competent and competitive in a culturally diverse society and in a globalized world, learners must be equipped with the means of accessing and analyzing a broad range of cultural practices and meanings as well as to engage in experiences that facilitate global and intercultural relationships. It is through these experiences and shared contexts that learners accrue meaning, revealing the next step along the journey and ready to make an impact.

I was drawn to the promise that learning in a more innovative empathy-fueled way with students would be the journey of a lifetime. It still is – and sharing it with people I call colleagues and friends makes the work urgent and joyful.

– MV Faculty Member





RESEARCH & INNOVATION

TARGET 3

Leverage emerging innovation in education

In order to meet the needs of this generation, we must remain agile to new ideas.

As producers of research, strategy, and design, we are committed to leveraging emerging innovation – modifying certain systems and methodologies, adopting new approaches, and thinking differently as if our industry no longer existed.

We value being research-informed with data-driven evidence in successful instructional practice and emerging innovative models.

We value people-centered design principles that guide teaching and learning. Central to this, robust partnerships within a diverse network are imperative.

We choose to experiment with extraordinary ideas that one day might become the norm. We will not just build a roadmap for future generations, but we will continue to carve a path for the future of learning itself.

As technology advances to bring us new immersive worlds, how teachers must also advance to educate children and prepare meet these new opportunities.

– MV Faculty Member

CULTURE & CONNECTION

TARGET 4

Cultivating an inclusive, regenerative school culture

We reflect on the past to play a role in informing our preferred future for the next decade. Looking back, we have built something exceptional, an incredible foundation that will continue to push the mission and vision forward for generations to come. Transformation is not possible without the dedication of a high performing faculty and staff, a committed and connected parent community, and most importantly, an engaged and passionate student body.

While appreciating the progress of the past, we choose to meet current and future dynamic circumstances head on, accept them, and even incorporate them as a part of our journey. A readiness disposition will continue to strengthen our identity and resolve as we transform into a better version of ourselves.

Facing the future with courage, embracing the journey requires the School to stand firm by creating the ripples on the water needed to scale innovative, transformative experiences.

- > A school of inquiry, innovation, and impact requires all learners to dialogue respectfully with voices and perspectives that challenge us to grow.
- > A community grounded in Christian values reflects a collective conviction to be givers rather than takers, to serve rather than be served, and to build up rather than tear down.
- > A mission to prepare all students to be college ready, globally competitive, and engaged citizen leaders demands for us to develop the literacies, skills, and attributes to actively design a better world.

Ultimately, relationships and trust are foundational to our community. We grow, fail, and progress together.

Plenty of people are good, but you can't just be good, you have to do good.

— MV Student

WHAT WILL WE NEED?

Living life and traveling together, relationships are foundational for the journey ahead. Culturally and collectively, the Mantra Map reflects the conditioning and fuel required for sustained growth, performance, and accountability over time. They are the behaviors that thrive in this culture. Remaining committed to utilizing and following our Mantra Map will allow us to achieve our bold vision and design an incredible future together.

MANTRAS





THE YEAR IS 2023.

THE SETTING IS THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.

Emotional yet excited Preschool parents walk hand-in-hand into the School with their energetic, eager learners. They are welcomed by a warm, loving set of Mount Vernon teachers, saying, "We have been anticipating your arrival." Parents with tears in their eyes send their child in to make an impact.

The journey begins.





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