



Mount Vernon City School District

165 North Columbus Avenue · Mount Vernon, New York 10553 · 914-665-5227 · Fax 914-358-2486
E-mail: wbennett-conroy@mtvernoncsd.org

Kenneth R. Hamilton, Ed. D.

Superintendent of Schools

Waveline Bennett- Conroy, Ed. D

Assistant Superintendent of School Improvement

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Spending Plan

The Mount Vernon City School District has submitted these proposed American Rescue Plan funds usage for approval from the New York State Education Department.

Reduce Learning Loss – 28.47%

MVCSD will utilize majority of the funding to address learning loss with the evidenced-based Summer Learning and Summer Enrichment Programs. MVCSD will be utilizing approximately 24% of the total ARP funding allocation. The summer programs are described below.

Elementary/Middle Summer Learning and Summer Enrichment Program Overview

The In-Person Summer Camp will service current first through sixth grade students from across the district who require additional academic support in ELA & Math to successfully meet grade level standards for the upcoming school year.

The program will serve all student demographics including ELLs and SWDs. The program will operate for twenty-four days, 4 days per week (Mon-Thurs), 6 hours per day.

The STEAM Camp will provide students the opportunity to implement the concepts and techniques they learned in ELA, Mathematics and Science during the year through STEAM curriculum and enrichment programs. These students will explore their imaginations through coding, virtual reality, building and flying drones, arts and crafts, building rockets and bridges, writing poetry and other activities. STEAM Camp will enhance students' self-confidence, personal growth, reduce "summer slide" and foster team work. This section of the MVCSD Summer Camp will take place after lunch for the afternoon session of the students' day.

Secondary School Summer Learning and Summer Enrichment Programs Overview

- The MVHS summer school program will be held at Mount Vernon High School, Monday through Thursday (23 Instructional Days). To attend this program, the following students' prerequisites must be met: Students did not meet New York State and Mount Vernon City District graduation requirement (2017-2018 Cohort). Cohort 2021-2022 students who currently ninth graders at Mount Vernon High School and need at least 3 credit can attend the summer program.
- Summer School Credit Recovery will offer our current students who failed core classes during the 2021-2022 school year the opportunity to make up the classes and receive credit. The Program will serve primarily seniors who need up to 3 credits to graduate in August 2022 and then 9th who did not accumulate enough credit to be promoted to the 10th grade. 11th and 10th graders will be enrolled if space permits. The goal of the Summer School Credit Recovery Program is to ensure that all students graduate on time. The program will be in person at MV STEAM Academy.

- Program Overview – MVSA students enrolled in the PCOPP program will take Spring semester classes at Lehman College in PRE-Calculus, Computer Science, Biology and receive academic support and tutoring. Chaperones are responsible for attending the classes with students.

Instructional Saturday Program

The program is designed to increase the instructional time and address the learning loss students experienced during the pandemic. The program will take place 5 hours per Saturday for 21 weeks which will result in 105 hours of overall instruction. The grades targeted for the program are 4th thru 8th. The curriculum will be aligned with Common Core Learning Standards/Next Generation Learning Standards and tailored for NYS exams. The program will employ a highly qualified and certified teaching staff. The focus areas in ELA and math will be determined after the school, class and student performance reports are analyzed. Parents/Guardians will receive initial assessment and progress reports and incentives will be given for performance and attendance.

Tutoring Services

One aspect of MVCSD's plan is to target students that were already facing limited educational opportunities, and we will be creating a Saturday tutoring program that will mainly pursue our students in foster care or are experiencing homelessness. This program will take place either at one of the schools or at with one of the community-based organizations.

Leveled Libraries – 2.51%

MVCSD intends to provide its students with opportunities to have more time reading books at their independent level based on their interest and demonstrate greater growth in reading and writing. The district aims to build their capacity and confidence as language arts and content-area literacy are combined. MVCSD will be expanding the balanced literacy program to all the schools and this combined with leveled libraries will be an integral part in our students becoming proficient and lifelong readers. The district will be purchasing leveled libraries for thirteen (13) schools that do not have leveled libraries.

A leveled book collection is a large set of books organized in levels of difficulty from the easy books that an emergent reader might begin to the longer, complex books that advanced readers will select. A leveled book set has several advantages, including the following:

- An organized set of books makes it easier to select books for groups of children.
- Having a gradient of text provides a way to assess children's progress over time.
- A book collection is established that does not need to be replaced but is revised and expanded over time.
- As the collection expands, the varieties of text will provide opportunities for children to increase their reading power through experiencing diverse texts.

It is also crucial to provide variety within each level. Readers who experience only one kind of book may develop a narrow range of strategies for processing text. Instead, we want young readers to use their skills in a flexible way for many different purposes. For most children, becoming a good reader means having access to good teaching and to materials that will support the development of a self-extending system. Effective literacy programs offer a wide range of activities that support learning, including: Reading aloud to help children understand the structure of written language, expand their knowledge of words, and learn new ways of using language. Individual reading to help them become independent, get more practice, and choose books for themselves. Instructional reading, which involves a carefully designed program to help readers expand their skills and strategies

A key factor in the development of a self-extending system is supported reading of books that offer just the right level of support and challenge. When books are matched to readers, the young reader can continue the successful processing that builds the system.

MVCSD will be having an after school program specifically for our students with disabilities utilizing funding from Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA). To compliment that after school program, MVCSD will be applying portions of the ARP funding to the following areas:

Social Skills Group – 3.21%

Creating a social skills group for children ages 5-12 on the autism spectrum that covers topics including feelings, awareness of others, communication, friendship, and decision making. Groups will meet 2 times per week to reinforce social skills and engage in collaborative learning activities to strengthen students' connection with peers and adults in the school community. Program will run for 10 weeks per year.

Purchasing Supplemental Curriculum to support Students with Disabilities in grades Kindergarten through 12 – Educeri Subscription - 0.21%

Educeri is a lesson subscription service that are formatted using Explicit Direct Instruction (EDI) that gives teachers fast and simple access to hundreds of standards-based lessons. With Educeri, teachers have access to all content for all grades and subjects, allowing them to accelerate or remediate as needed. Teachers can quickly distribute an electronic version of the lesson to their students, and we are frequently adding quizzes and additional resources. Educeri's goal is to provide affordable and fast access to well-crafted, standards-based lessons that support great instruction, so students can learn more and learn faster. Educeri lessons are research/standards-based and classroom-tested. They support the instructional model of interactive teaching that we have pioneered called Explicit Direct Instruction. It makes content explicit and delivery direct, which is great for initial first teaching of difficult content and a great review for tests.

Purchasing Supplemental Curriculum to support SWDs K-12 – Boom Learning Subscription – 0.07%

Boom Learning is a platform in which teachers can individualize tasks that directly correlate with the student's IEP goals. Students receive immediate feedback if the answer was correct or incorrect. If incorrect, the wrong answer gets crossed out and they cannot move on until they get it right.

Mental Health - 0.43%

The teaching profession was stressful even before the pandemic started and quickly morphed into an even tougher one with the longer work hours, struggles to engage students remotely, repeated pivots from hybrid to remote to in-person instruction and not to mention the fears that they, or their loved ones, could get COVID-19. The pandemic has increased the levels of stress and anxiety in our students as they had to deal with the pivoting of instruction from hybrid, remote and in-person, the fear with getting sick or losing family members and friends, increased isolation, loneliness and sadness. MVCSD aims to reduce the mental health impacts of COVID-19 by offering some of the proposed mental health services for both staff, students and their families from the ARP funding. The programs the district intends to offer are:

- Introduction to Mindful Meditation - Learn meditation techniques for relaxation and stress reduction. All levels welcome!
- Creating Supportive Connections - Learn how supportive connections can aid in stress management, strategies for combating loneliness and social isolation, and steps you can take to strengthen your social network.

- Mindfulness Matters - Learn different ways of cultivating mindfulness and integrating it into your daily self-care practice.
- Sleep Soundly - Learn about the connection between sleep and mental health, various sleep disorders, and strategies for improving your sleep quality.
- Establishing Work-Life Harmony -This workshop will review how we can create more harmony in our lives by maximizing leisure time, pacing work/school schedules, and setting boundaries to avoid burnout and minimize stress.
- Mindful Journaling - Learn and practice tips and tricks for mindful journaling to expand creativity and meaningful change in our lives.
- Health and Wellness – Provide staff with non-invasive health screenings, mental health checks and benefits of exercise in daily routines.

Social Emotional Learning

MVCSD expects to use the ARP funding to build each student's SEL competencies, create an environment where students thrive and develop teacher and staff SEL and well-being. MVCSD recognizes that SEL skills: are critical to school, career, and life success; creates a school climate that impacts students' academic success and ability to develop social-emotional competencies; and teachers and staff play a significant role in helping students develop strong social-emotional skills.

SEL and DEI Survey and Data Collection -0.57%

Panorama's intends to provide assessment tools to help you measure and support each students' soft skills like growth mindset, self-efficacy, social awareness, and self-management. The assessment tools will be focused on SEL, based on CASEL's SEL Framework, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The data from these assessments will assist educators and administrators to build more positive, equitable, and supportive environments for student learning. Administrators will also be able to understand and develop adult well-being and capacity to support every student's social and emotional development.

Professional Development – 0.76%

Professional Development will provide learning opportunities for all teachers in the form of individualized coaching and large - group professional development. The Innovation and Transformation Coaches (ITCs) will work closely with instructional leaders of the Mount Vernon City School District and school-based leadership teams to best tailor the services to individual and collective needs. The ITCs will focus on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) utilizing the CASEL 5 in their work with teachers, leaders, other staff, and families.

The CASEL 5 are embedded in the work we will be doing.

- SELF-AWARENESS: The abilities to understand one's own emotions, thoughts, and values and how they influence behavior across contexts.
- SELF-MANAGEMENT: The abilities to manage one's emotions, thoughts, and behaviors effectively in different situations and to achieve goals and aspirations.
- SOCIAL AWARENESS: The abilities to understand the perspectives of and empathize with others, including those from diverse backgrounds, cultures, & contexts.
- RELATIONSHIP SKILLS: The abilities to establish and maintain healthy and supportive relationships and to effectively navigate settings with diverse individuals and groups.
- RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING: The abilities to make caring and constructive choices about personal behavior and social interactions across diverse situations.

Intramural Sports -2.29%

Each school will have the opportunity to create a sports program for their community or participate in intramural sports between schools, with participating school communities deciding on which sport(s) they want to have. MVCSD strongly believes in developing the “whole students” and view intramural sports as a place where students can relieve stress, increase physical exercise, better socialize with other students and the community, more opportunities to increase their individual leadership and create an overall fun and safe environment.

Safety & Security

The district is committed to safety and security and intends to upgrade security at all points of entry. To that end, we plan on investing in technology to help improve the physical and cyber security of our buildings and network. We are interested in improving the monitoring of access and entry points and are eager to implement Timepiece and continue our consultant work with CLPS. Cyber Security is at the front of public-school safety especially over the last two years and the onset of the pandemic. With a big increase in digital and online learning, comes a new wave of potential ransom-ware and cyber-attacks on public school networks. To that end, the network software to increase preventive measures as it pertains to cyber security is essential. Security is the foundation of any school setting. Students cannot learn if they do not feel safe. We are committed to creating safe and nurturing environments for our students. It should be noted that many students will feel less secure than usual because of their relative isolation due to COVID.

Minor Remodeling Upgrades -31.76%

To combat the COVID-19 pandemic, the MVCSD aims to upgrade twenty (20) restrooms district-wide and security at all points of entry and. It also intends to renovate a classroom to create a Pre-K classroom at one of our schools. The district also will be upgrading six (6) schools’ public announcement system.

Technology – 6.69%

MVCSD will be adding large interactive displays for classrooms district-wide as they provide with flexibility, reusability and a variety of tools to make learning fun and increase student engagement. These will allow students to use technology productively that will teach them valuable life lessons and skills they could possibly use in their future careers. MVCSD will use a portion of the funding to purchase laptops.

Employ BOCES to digitize and store MVCSD Paper files into one location – 2.96%

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need to have as many things on a digital platform as possible especially with staff working from home, the need to social distance and reduce the transmission of this or any virus. With that in mind, MVCSD would like to ensure that all our records are stored electronically and in one location. This digitization of files will also provide our staff with easy accessibility, data security, increased productivity and eventual cost reductions.

MVCSD’s Website Redesign - 0.29%

As with the digitization of files, the pandemic highlighted the fact that MVCSD needs to redesign its website to make it more accessible and easier to navigate, better integrate with other programs and applications, increase its capacity to provide better resources and update its platform to the most current version available. All of these will eventually be more cost effective than what is currently present and enables the district to better communicate with its stakeholders in understandable and uniform format and translatable into each user’s language.

COVID-19 Cleaning Supplies and Staff Training – 2.39%

As mentioned in question 3 above, MVCSD intends to purchase cleaning supplies to make sure, to the best of its ability, to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus as well as other viruses. MVCSD will

train staff on things that they can do to stay healthy and provide a clean and safe environment to work and for students learn.

COVID-19 Testing – 1.95%

Also mentioned in question 3 above, MVCSD will set aside money for testing with its three partners: Westchester County Department, Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center and Mount Sinai Hospital.

Cafeteria Food Options – 14.33%

In the 2018-19 school year, seventy-eight percent (78%) of the students in MVCSD qualified for free/reduced lunch. Often times our schools are where many students depend on receiving their meals and during remote learning the district still offered takeout breakfast and lunch. It has been highlighted that people with underlining conditions suffered more with a higher possibility of dying. With that in mind, MVCSD plans to provide its students with healthy foods that are identified to boost the immune system, provide key nutrients to improve concentration, produce a better attitude and address obesity.

Employee Benefits and Indirect Costs 1.11%