



VANDALIA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL



1011 West Fletcher Street
Vandalia, IL 62471
(618)283-5151 Fax (618) 283-8165

Brian Kern, Principal

Brian Holliday, Assistant Principal

July 20, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Vandalia Community Unit #203 is committed to providing a high-quality educational program for your child. We are working hard to provide programs to help all students succeed in our school district.

Your child attends Vandalia Junior High School which receives federal Title I funds. These funds provide help for your child to meet state achievement standards. In the 2011/2012 school year, the school did not meet the adequate yearly progress (AYP) targets.

Your child's school is in restructuring which means the school has failed to make adequate yearly progress for at least 5 years in the same subject and in addition to offering public school choice and supplemental educational services, another action is necessary. Options include reopening as a charter school, replacing all or most of the staff, entering into a contract with an entity, being taken over by the state, and implementing any other major restructuring of the school's governance. The 2012/2013 school year is the implementation year for the restructuring plan put in place by Vandalia School District #203 for Vandalia Junior High.

Our district's 2011 report card and the most recent AYP status report for the 2012 school year for your school (**enclosed with this letter**) show how your child's school compares to other schools in our district and state. Your child's school has been identified because Vandalia Junior High is not making AYP with our special needs children in Math because they did not make the Safe Harbor target of 49.6% being proficient in math. VJHS also did not make AYP with its overall population in reading and math. It scored at 81% overall in reading and 78.3% in math with the state minimum goal of 85% not being met. The school is working to improve the school's academic program by embarking a curriculum mapping program that will help us to identify areas of improvement in our reading and math curriculum. VJHS has made schedule changes that have increased our Language Arts preparation. VJHS has also implemented a common study hall time for all grade levels to allow for tutoring and extra assistance for our students during the school day with the focus of those study halls being math and reading assistance and remediation. The students at VJHS whom have special needs in Reading have also increased the time spent on Reading and increased the number of supplemental educational materials for this population.

The district and the State Board of Education are working with your child's school to help improve the academic standards of the school. This is being accomplished by providing technical assistance to the teachers and administrators within your child's school.

However, this may not be enough and we want to request your help as the school addresses its academic problems. The school would like to invite parents to serve on the committee that will need to develop a school improvement plan. We would also like to involve parents in addressing the academic issues that caused the school to be identified for school improvement.

As a parent you have the option to transfer your child to another public school within the district with transportation provided by the district. No other schools are available in VCUSD #203. No districts in the area have approved our request for our transfer students.

Please call Rich Well at 283-4525 if you have any questions about these services.

Thank you,

Rich Well
Superintendent, VCUSD #203