



Mount Vernon School District

Parent Academy

[Mount Vernon Schools website](#)



MOUNT VERNON
SCHOOL DISTRICT



Mount Vernon School District



Ismael Vivanco, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Dan Berard
Executive Director of
Categorical Programs



Manny Espinoza
Gear UP Coordinator



Elizabeth Churape
Assistant Principal &
Migrant program Coordinator



Paula Desjarlais
Gear Up



Veronica Gonzalez
MVHS Liaison



Elia Solis
LaVenture MS Liaison



Rosa Soria Mondragon
Washington Elementary Liaison



Christina Mitchell Crim
Administrative Assistant to Categorical Programs



Our Why

To improve the quality of life for all our students and families by creating a place where they are valued, respected, included, and belong without having to give up their identity, language, values, beliefs, culture, etc.

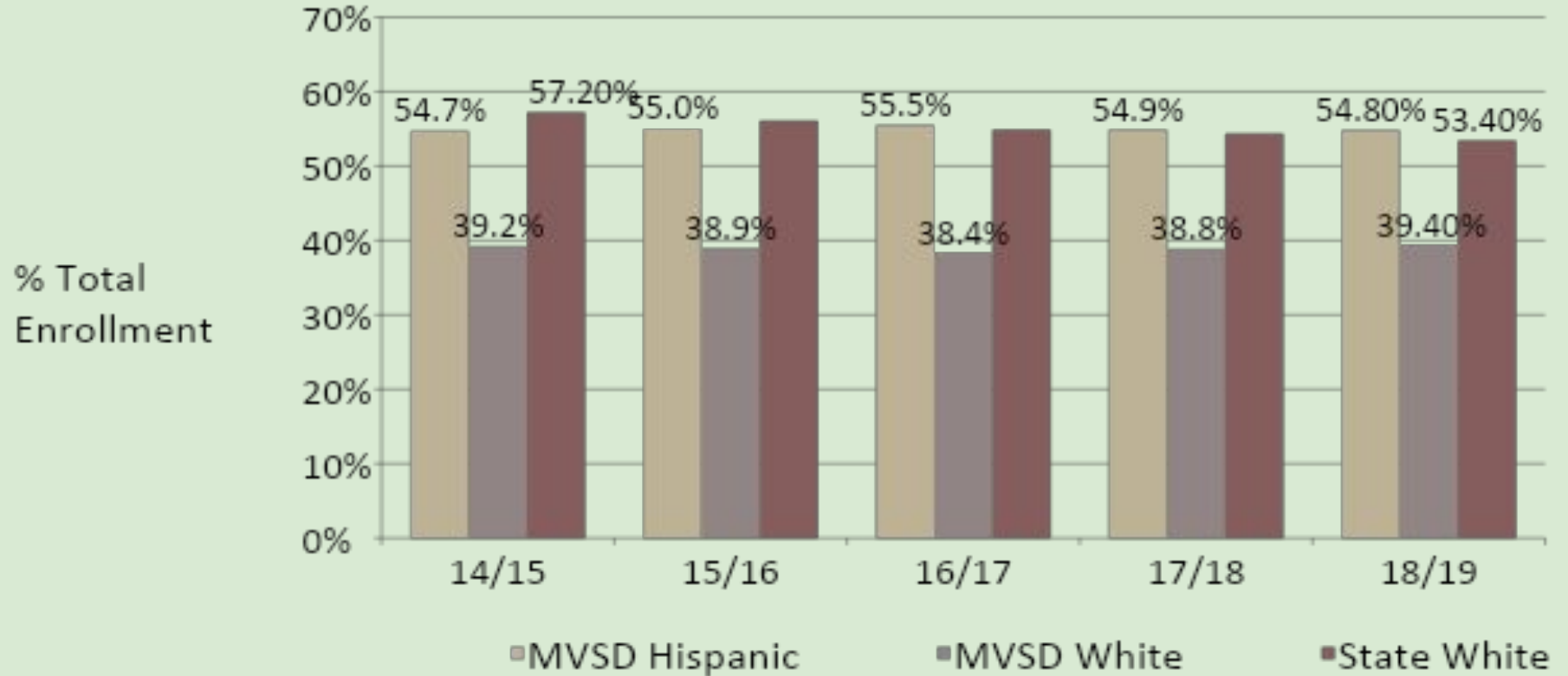


Why Parent Academies

Under the leadership and vision of our school board, the Mount Vernon School District identified family engagement as a priority strategy.

- We researched a variety of different engagement models.
- We landed on an academy platform after reviewing successful academy models.
- We utilized an Americorps volunteer to assist in creating our own scope and sequence.
- Annually, we seek feedback from parents and staff to refine, modify, and enhance the experience
- We ensure that it is meeting the needs of our families.

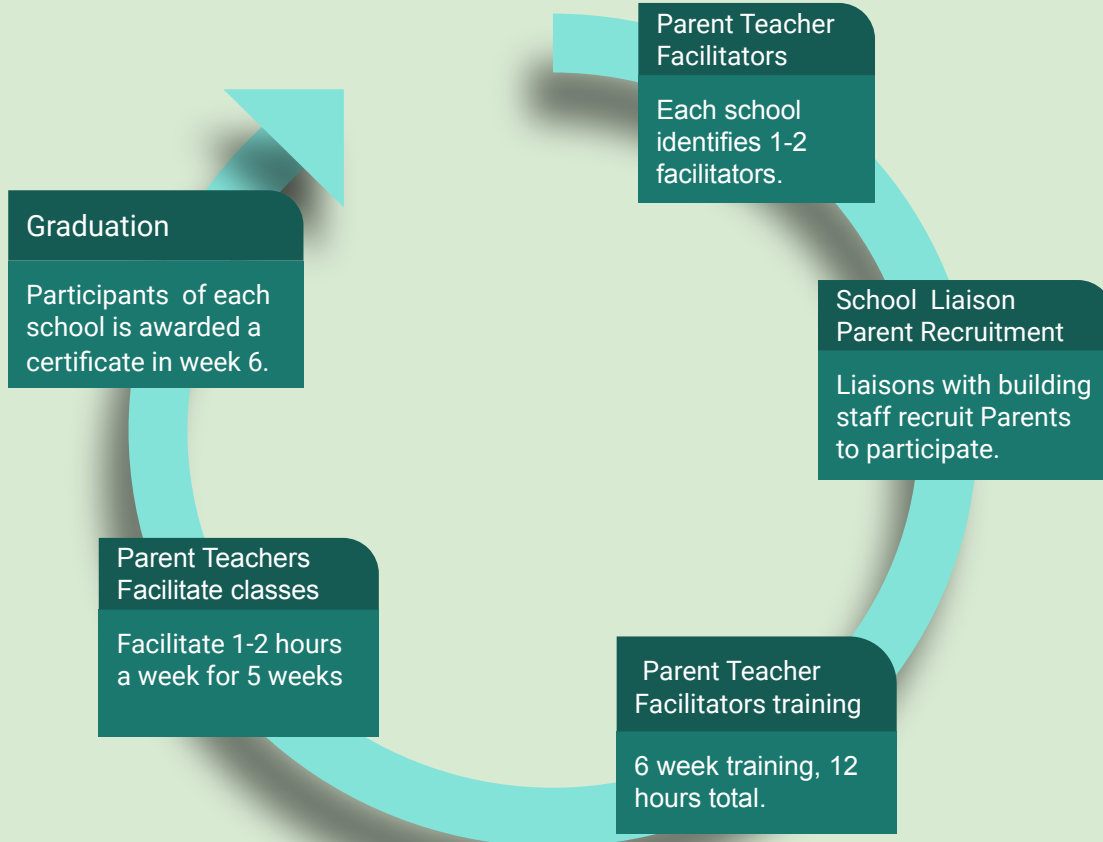
Community and Demographics



Parent Academy Overview

- **Parent Academy** consists of six weeks of evening classes taught **to** parents **by** parents. Parent Teachers and staff are compensated for their time to train for and teach the 6 weeks of Parent Academy.
- We **focus** on ensuring families have the information and skills needed to help their students be successful.
- **Families** are empowered to become advocates for themselves, their children, and the community as they engage in conversations centered on supporting student success.
- These classes are designed to:
 - Enhance access to resources available in the district and community,
 - Provide information on social emotional learning,
 - Help families navigating educational systems, (grades, attendance, food services, counseling, etc),
 - Increase understanding of how to support their students options for college and career,
 - Enhance opportunities to meet with school staff and other parents to help build community and a shared support network to ensure student successes.

Parent Academy Process





Recruitment of Parent Facilitator

At the beginning of the Parent Academy, liaisons in each building will connect with those parents who showed interest in taking a lead role in the program from past Parent Academy Classes. Liaisons connect with parents who filled out a survey form the prior year, as a student, in expressing their interest in a lead role as a facilitator the following school year. Each school identifies 1-2 facilitators based on family enrollment and language(s) of focus.

Parent Teachers and staff are compensated for their time to train for and teach the 6 weeks of Parent Academy.



Process of Parent Facilitator Training

When Parent Teacher Facilitators are chosen, The “Parent Teachers” come together as a team with District administration and building Liaisons to be taught weekly lessons. Training sessions are about 2 hours and gives parent teacher facilitators the opportunity to learn the content, ask questions, and become comfortable to reteach families in their own buildings the material they learned that week. The lessons are taught to the enrolled “Parent Students” usually the following day.

Parent facilitators will work closely with their school liaison who will help to set up, get materials ready and support facilitation of the Topic. Each of the weeks parent teacher facilitators repeat process to be ready for future lessons. Parent Teachers and staff are compensated for their time to train for and teach the 6 weeks of Parent Academy.



Parent Teacher Facilitators in Action:

- Helps create a welcoming environment and builds a sense of community for all families
- Delivers lesson, responds to parent questions and helps clarify information presented on the day
- Liaisons are available to support when needed
- Communicates relevant information: upcoming dates

Recruitment of Families

Liaison's at every school recruit parents to participate in the Parent Academy by making personal phone calls, sending out flyers in the mail, talking to families during fall conferences, connecting with families that have expressed the need of additional support for their student, parents that have expressed that they would like to be active, send messages through the Blackboard Connect or Remind and at times, home visits.

When parents indicate that they are interested in participating in the program we provide information and assistance in helping to fill out the registration forms. We stay in contact with these “parent Students” throughout the academy through emails, phone calls and/or text messages. Effective communication has helped to remind parents of the upcoming classes, celebrations, etc.



Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, participants will be able to:

1. Identify and implement essential leadership principles.
2. Recognize ways to become advocates and leaders in their schools and communities.
3. Understand key components of school and district structures and opportunities.
4. Support their child's achievement and success
5. Families obtain supports and connections that align in their students education and lives.

Resource Fair- On our first meeting we have a Resource fair that invites community members and programs to provide information to all families. We also use this time to introduce Parent facilitators and Building liaisons so that families get to know their school support system. (Boys and girls Clubs, YMCA, Children of the Valley, Gear UP, Library, girl/boy scouts, Sea-Mar, Migrant services, Domestic violence resources, 100% graduation booth, food services, Community Action, Childrens museums, Housing authority, Vision and dental companies, ect..)

Childcare Provided- We provide childcare for the Parent teacher nights as well as the parent trainings. We try and recruit students to help entertain and help out with homework for community service hours. We also recruit staff that are bilingual to do crafts, snacks, and homework help while training is going on.

Evening training, teaching, and Celebration Meals- We reach out to local businesses to get donations of Coffee, water, snacks, meals.

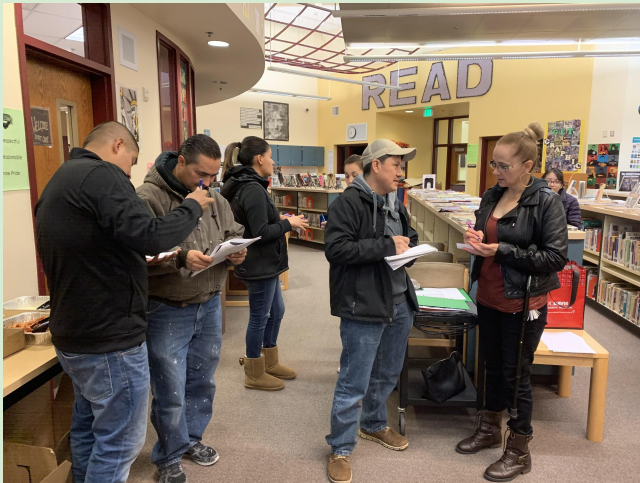
Funding- Parent Academy cost approximately \$30,000 to help cover the cost of Additional hours for Staff, Parent teacher contracts, and Supplies.



Curriculum and Topics

Topics Include Links attached to presentation:

- Week 0- [Overview of Program and responsibilities](#)
- Week 1- [Academic Standards, student schedules, and advocating students](#)
- Week 2- [Attendance and Skyward Workshop](#)
- Week 3- [Socioemotional Health and Supports](#)
- Week 4- Elementary [Supporting your child to be Successful](#)
- Week 4- Secondary [College](#)



Parent Testimonials

(Videos of Parent facilitators)

Sra. Reyes
Parent Student in 2018
Teacher in 2019

Sra. Covarrubias
Parent Student in 2018
Teacher in 2019



Sra. Reyes
Class of 2018



Sra. Covarrubias
Class of 2019

Celebrations

At the end of the training weeks, we host a Parent Academy Graduation event that invites Parent Teachers, Parent students, their families, administration, and all others involved in the process of Parent Academy to celebrate with a dinner and recognition of their time and efforts.

Recognition for Parents that complete the program- Parent teachers were awarded with a Certification of Completion from MVSD, Donated Flowers, gift cards, and a ***SVC Completion certificate and one College credit.** *Partnerships with Skagit Valley College

- During the 2019-2020 school year a partnership with SVC developed a course that gave one college credit to each parent Teacher and Parents that completed the 6 week course.



Parent Graduates					
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Graduates of program	81	78	110	149	162

Parent Opportunities

Field trips, Skyward Workshops,
Groups that continued to meet

Feedback from the parents:

- " I really could see my child here."
- " This was a great opportunity for us parents."
- " BTC has amazing programs."
- " You can feel the energy."
- " Western is huge, but there is a ton of support."
- One parent said, "I can see myself coming to BTC!"



COVID Modifications for 2020/2021

Parent Academy was reformatted this year to focus on helping parents to understand how to support remote learning.

We delivered resources and instruction utilizing home visits, bringing in small groups on site, and providing opportunities for all families to access this information remotely.

The links below are the resources and tutorials we used to help families and daycare providers with Accessing and navigating Google classroom, Accessing Google Drive, Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning supports, and overall resources to help families with learning at home.

[Navigating Technology Tools & Resources](#)

[Resources to make learning at home better for everyone](#)

[Recursos en español](#)

Curriculum and Resources



- Week 0- [Overview of Program and responsibilities](#)
- Week 1- [Academic Standards, student schedules, equal vs. equitable, and advocating students](#)
- Week 2- [Attendance and Skyward Workshop](#)
- Week 3- [Socioemotional Health and Supports](#)
- Week 4- Elementary [Supporting your child to be Successful](#)
- Week 4- Secondary [College Syllabus for Fall 2019](#)
- [Post Parent Academy Survey](#)
- [Parent Academy 2019-2020](#)
- [Other resources](#)

