

Atlantic County's Best Kept Secret!

This winter, the Ventnor Educational Community Complex received notice from the New Jersey Department of Education that the district's waiver for QSAC (Quality Single Accountability Continuum) had been successfully approved! This allows the district to maintain highly qualified status for another three years! Ventnor was the only Atlantic County School this year to receive this waiver!

Through review of our QSAC Statement of Assurance as well as our District Performance Review, the QSAC committee comprised of the Superintendent of Schools, ESSA Coordinator along with Board of Education members, administrators and teaching staff engaged in meaningful conversation to drive the district forward. Curriculum and Instruction was on the forefront with PARCC achievement in areas of English/Language Arts and Mathematics. Highlights including all tested grades increasing in percent change in Level 4 and 5 from previous PARCC data in English Language Arts, all Grade 8 students who took Algebra I met or exceeded expectation set forth by the state, significant increase in both Mathematics and ELA for grade 5 (Mathematics up 19.6% and English Language Arts up 12.7% for Levels 4 and 5). All of these conversations and analysis led to programming. What are the factors contributing to student success? Our dedicated compassionate teachers, support staff, the administrative team and the parents and community that support our initiatives! All students in Grades 3-8 participate in Accelerated Reader, Fontas and Pinnell Level set testing, Achieve3000 and IXL in addition to classroom based instruction, NJ state model curriculum and online access to textbooks. The district has added Grades 3 and 4 to Office 365 (Microsoft based cloud access to Office products including Class Notebook and One Note) after reviewing the positive feedback from Middle School Staff and Students. The district is currently reviewing new Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Go Math series for Fall 2017 implementation in Grades K-5. This series enhances online experience and deepens the mathematical concepts for students.

With increasing focus on career and college readiness practices, the district has launched a one to one device initiative in Grades 5 and 6. The District is in hopes of moving one to one across Middle School in the Fall 2017. Students have instant access to online programs, search engines, Office 365 and all our web based programs. Along with increased awareness of engineering, design and inquiry based learning through our STEAM teachers, students are focusing on process. Recently, we added a class set of Ozobot programmable robots to our Middle School STEAM lab. Students will participate in coding and programming. Our classroom walls are opening with Skype in the classroom. Many classes are taking virtual trips to museums and looking forward to Microsoft's mystery Skype program!

Other new highlights for 2016-17 school year include our self-contained Multiple Disabled class for early Elementary students. This unique classroom focuses on individualized instruction to maximize student learning. The district is currently in the application process for New Jersey School Boards Association 2017 Innovations in Special Education Award. Limited space is available for out of district tuition. Interested families may contact Mrs. Gina Scharff, Supervisor of Special Education and ELL Services.

In addition to the area of Instruction and Program, districts applying for QSAC waiver were evaluated in the areas of fiscal, operations and Personnel. Indicators rate whether or not Board of Education reports are submitted, if district submits NJSMART data with no errors reported, HIB findings as well as if the district staff are certified, have appropriate job descriptions and abide by AchieveNJ

teacher evaluation regulations. The Ventnor Educational Community Complex met all of these goals at 100%.

The Ventnor Educational Community Complex is extremely proud of our highly qualified status and looks forward to enhancing current programs while focusing on student achievement. For more information on the District, please visit the district homepage at www.veccnj.org.