



## From Our CEO

Thank you for your support of Vertus. We are committed to working with your family to make sure your student graduates prepared for adult success.

### Attendance

School success starts with attendance. Our students have a lot of work ahead to prepare for college and careers. Our goal for each student is 93% or better attendance. No student should miss more than one day a month. Research is clear: students who miss school are much less likely to graduate.

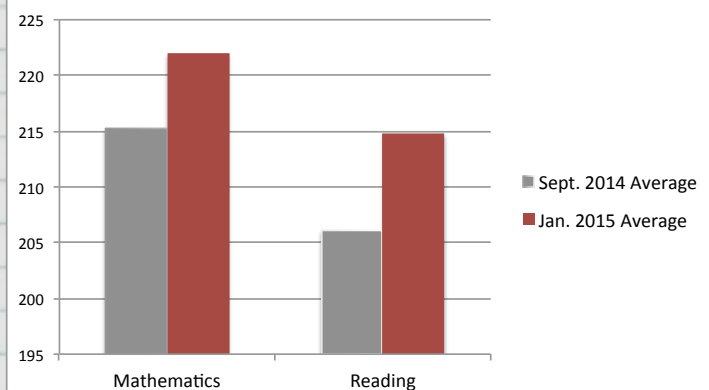
### Academics

Students' academic success is our top priority. We will be sending out second quarter progress reports the last week of March. Parent-teacher conferences will be on April 6 (for Mr. Johnson, Mr. Bray, and Mr. Duesler's teams) and April 7 (for Mr. Kadar, Mr. Peavy, Mr. Daniels, and Mr. Woods' teams). More information will follow.

### Calendar

We are making some updates to our school calendar. There will be a separate mailing with further information.

Thank you for letting us educate your young men. Each one is precious to us. Together, we will fulfill Vertus' mission – preparing leaders of character for the community and the workplace.



## NWEA Data Shows Remarkable Growth for Vertus Students

Hard work pays off! Vertus students have gained an average of more than one grade level in both Reading and Mathematics on the national NWEA test in just the first four months of school.

The NWEA measures academic growth with a scale called a RIT score. On average, students' RIT scores are expected to increase by 2.0 points between the September and January tests. Vertus' average scores increased by 6.8 points in Mathematics and 8.7 points in Reading.

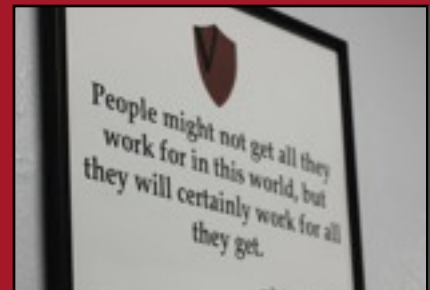
Congratulations to our Vertus men on their outstanding achievement! We are proud of their successes and confident that they will continue to grow as scholars this year and beyond.



**OFF-CAMPUS LEARNING:** Vertus students observe a demonstration at MCC during an October field trip.



**MORNING MEETING:** Michael Mack receives a character award from Dr. Mac at a Friday morning meeting in February.



**SUGGESTIONS FOR NEWSLETTER STORIES?** Contact Naomi Geier at 585.481.4499 or [ngeier@vertusschool.org](mailto:ngeier@vertusschool.org).

## Character Awards Celebrate Virtues of Vertus Men

Every Friday, as students gather for Morning Meeting in the multipurpose room, Dr. Mac prepares to give out the weekly character awards. Each week, Preceptors single out students who have displayed a particular character strength to receive awards during a special ceremony at Morning Meeting.

In addition to the character awards, there is a Brothers' Keeper award for students who make a special effort to help each other, a Team Grit award for the learning team that made the most academic progress the previous week, and a Team on Track award for the team with the best academic performance overall.

Award winners receive certificates and Vertus wristbands, which can be used to purchase items from the school store. These include T-shirts, pencils, notebooks, and lanyards, all bearing the Vertus shield. We are proud to celebrate our young men for their achievements as they grow into leaders of character.

## VERTUS BASKETBALL SCORES BIG



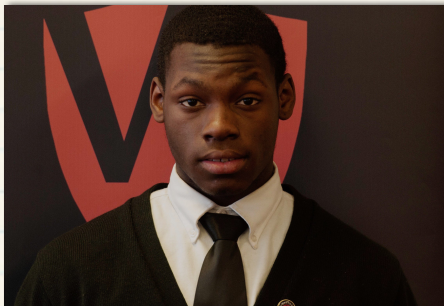
*The Vertus basketball team, coached by Cory Johnson and Jose Barocio, has been practicing for three months and shows great promise. Armed with natural athletic ability and a competitive spirit, these young men will be an exciting team to watch.*

### The Vertus Character Strengths

- Curiosity**—Eagerness to explore new things and ideas.
- Gratitude**—Appreciation for what we receive from others.
- Grit**—Perseverance and commitment to long-term goals.
- Optimism**—Believing that the future holds positive possibilities.
- Self-Control**—The ability to regulate thoughts, feelings, and behaviors.
- Social Intelligence**—Awareness of other people's motives and feelings.
- Zest**—An approach to life filled with excitement and energy.

## VERTUS HONORS MEN OF THE MONTH

The Man of the Month award honors a Vertus student who lives out the virtues of Courage, Responsibility, and Leadership on a daily basis. Students nominate their peers for consideration and the entire staff works together to choose one monthly winner from the nominees. Congratulations to our first three Men of the Month!



**Divine Williams**  
October 2015



**Savon Scott**  
November/December 2015



**Justin McGill**  
January 2015