



Vertus HIGH SCHOOL

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A survey was sent home to families during the summer to help us prioritize our spending federal funding (ARP ESSER). We also met with staff and students to get feedback from all stakeholders. Based on the survey and those conversations, the highest priority area was academic interventions and supports and access to technology and attendance interventions. Other top priorities emerged: mental health supports, social-emotional supports, and professional development for staff.

We have already begun to support the highest priority area through our summer programs and professional development. We are a year-round school, and some of the funding will be spent on transportation to ensure that all of our students are able to get back to the building in person. The summer students spent time on our online learning platform. Teachers also worked with students in small groups or 1:1 to strengthen skills and increase student confidence and engagement in learning.

We have also been providing professional development to teachers specifically geared towards the academic support of our students. All staff was trained on our various online platforms and assessments, including using the data to inform classroom instruction. Teams worked together to plan for continuity of instruction and skill-building across grade levels. Our Academic Intervention Staff was trained on reading and math intervention programs (also purchased through this funding). This program will be used with students whose NWEA results show the most significant gaps. These professional learning experiences will help strengthen instruction and ultimately close learning gaps.

In addition to programs and professional development, we hire additional staff to return to five-day per week instruction in September. We are hiring two additional Intervention Teachers to support reading and math skills, an Attendance Officer, a Family Resource Coordinator, and a social worker. The Attendance Officer, Family Resource Coordinator, and Social Worker will create the staff for our Family Center, which will work with students and their families to transition back to in-person instruction, helping them navigate any roadblocks that may be in the way.

As we look to the start of the 2021-22 school year, we will continue to communicate additional opportunities for our students through the federal funds.