

# MVTHS students making academic gains

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MT. VERNON — Mt. Vernon Township High School is making academic progress in many areas, according to the findings in the district's 2011 report card from the Illinois State Board of Education.

The report was presented to the District 201 Board of Education by Superintendent Mike Smith at Monday's meeting.

The percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards on the Prairie State Achievement Exam climbed for the district in reading, math, and science while the state percentages dropped in each subject. MVTHS students jumped from 47.1 percent meeting or exceeding in reading to 49.3 percent, 35.7 to 41.9 percent in math, and 40.7 to 42.3 percent in science.

"We're doing very well in certain subgroups. We're actually up from last year in most all areas. We also know there are many areas where we need some improvement," Smith said.

The district also received a 19.3 composite score for the ACT assessment, off slightly from the state's 20.6 composite score.

While the district did not meet the ever-increasing adequate yearly progress benchmarks of No Child Left Behind, Smith is optimistic that steps to help students along an annual two-point growth model on standardized test scores is achievable.

"It's mostly positive, but again there are some areas for growth," he said.

#### IN OTHER BUSINESS:

- Students from the school's FFA Chapter spoke to the board

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about recent activities including the FFA National Convention and the organization's continued successes in competitions and membership as well as how the it is preparing them for future studies and careers. FFA Advisor John Kabat said, "All of these students are excellent students."

- Po' Boyz restaurant was approved as an additional food vendor for the school.

- Essay topics were reviewed for the annual Frederick Oehm Sr. Scholarship with eight topics carried over from last year and three new topics suggested by the student council. Board members selected "American Presidency 2012: What is needed to move America forward?" as the topic.

- Caitlin Grither was approved to serve as assistant Students Against Destructive Decisions sponsor.

- Smith said a letter of resignation was received from Brad Beaty as freshman boys' basketball coach. Action to approve the resignation will be taken in December.

- The board agreed to accept a donation of the land currently used as the G lot west parking area to the district by Ten Oaks Properties.

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