

# New student academic data system in place at MVTHS

*Innovation will be rolled out to teachers Tuesday*

**BY JASON SILVEY**  
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — A new system of sorting and retrieving student academic performance data at Mt. Vernon Township High School will allow teachers and administrators to offer timely support for their learning needs.

Superintendent Mike Smith explained that while the information existed to monitor how a student's education is progressing through classroom grades, test scores, and other factors accessing all of those diverse pieces of data for 1,200 students has been a challenge.

"As we move forward to more data driven decision making, we had a need for a long time to generate student data. It all existed, but it might be in six different file cabinets in six different offices," Smith said. "We needed to make it readily usable and available to see how the student is doing. Getting that information to the teachers so they can respond with the appropriate intervention has been a major issue."

As district officials investigated the issue, they found that no single data system offered everything the school needed. Instead it contracted with Crystal Reporting to create a new system utilizing the Skyward student data system the district had in place and incorporating other information.

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"Nothing like this has really existed before. The software program they've put together is almost limitless," Smith said.

A year of intensive program writing, technology building, and data collecting has culminated in a system that will allow the district to quickly retrieve data such as standardized test scores including questions missed, grade history, grade point average, credits earned, attendance, and discipline by

grade level, department, class, teacher, individual students, feeder schools and many other categories.

Smith said, "We're now at a point where we can produce by department, teacher, or period, any type of demographic break-out. From a planning perspective, the most exciting aspect is immediacy. We can have all that information sorted and arranged for teachers for a particular academic intervention. All of that is literally at the teachers' fingertips."

The system just became fully operational last week, and Smith said the district plans to roll it out for staff use Tuesday.

"Every time a grade is

updated we can see how well a student is doing and make formative assessments for every single student," he said. "We'll take the rest of the school year to really figure out what the system can do. It's really almost limitless. It just comes down to how many different combinations of data you can think of."

The innovation at MVTHS has already garnered attention from other districts.

"The consultant works with huge districts across the country and is already getting calls from folks from state boards about what this system can do. The word is beginning to spread," Smith said.

[jsilvey@morningsentinel.com](mailto:jsilvey@morningsentinel.com)

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