

VMS BUILDING GOALS 2005-06

1. Second Chance Reading - Four Vernon teachers have been trained to teach a program designed to help struggling readers increase their comprehension skills. The Second Chance Reading program is taught in one class per grade level. A week long training program was offered through the Department of Education this summer, and follow-up sessions are attended by the four Vernon staff members.

The students who were placed in the SCR program had ITBS reading comprehension scores ranging from the 28th to the 42nd percentile. The program should help these students to attain comprehension scores that will exceed a more acceptable comprehension level.

2. Character Counts - The staff continues to utilize and enhance the Character Counts program which was adopted at VMS at the start of the 2004-05 school year. CC lessons are taught in the exploratory programs to all students at Vernon Middle School, and the lessons are shared with regular and special education staff members who, in turn, lead regular class discussions on the six traits of CC. CC announcements are read daily over the intercom, and class discussions related to the topic often follow the morning announcements.

3. Bullying - Parts of two staff development days were devoted to bullying, its causes, and strategies which can be used by staff members when they witness bullying situations. Staff members are also trained to help victims of bullying by teaching them strategies to use in order to avoid becoming victims.