

Envisioning the Future

Vanguard College Preparatory School Strategic Plan 2010 – 2015

June 2009

Vanguard College Preparatory School is a mission-driven organization. We exist to change lives, to educate young minds, and to prepare our students for success in the colleges or universities of their choice. In a challenging and charitable environment, the School is developing leaders and citizens for the 21st Century in a community which celebrates academic excellence and passionate interests.

To help the School plan for the future, the Board of Trustees constituted a Strategic Planning Committee comprised of Board members, Faculty, and Administration. The School engaged a consultant, George E. Conway of The Education Group, Dallas, who led a planning retreat for the Board in February 2009. He surveyed our current parents and our alumni on their opinions about Vanguard. He also met with parents and friends of the school in discussion groups and with faculty and student leaders in separate meetings about important issues facing the School. With the direction of the Board and the opinions collected from the constituencies of the School, the Strategic Planning Committee conducted a series of weekly meetings from March through May which culminated in a draft plan being presented to the Board of Trustees. After modifications, the Board adopted the plan to take effect beginning July 1, 2009.

This plan is not written in stone; rather, it is an organic document which will be reviewed and modified each year by the Board. This documents a blueprint of the future as we currently see it. It will guide everything including the budgeting process, curriculum development, marketing plans, faculty professional development, and faculty and staff evaluation.

We invite you to read this plan and share it with those who might be interested in Vanguard. We want the people of Waco and our surrounding communities to know the great treasure we all have in The Vanguard School.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to offer the best pre-collegiate education in Central Texas. We are grateful to everyone who participated in this process, especially the members of the Strategic Planning Committee, for their help and insights.

The Board of Trustees

Table of Contents

Mission Statement	3
School Motto	3
Core Values	3
Mission-Driven Goals	4
Students will	4
Faculty with the Administration will	4
Administration will	4
Board will	4
Parents will	5

Mission Statement

Vanguard College Preparatory School is a non-parochial, independent school that prepares our students for academic success and fulfilling lives. The foundation of the Vanguard experience is based on our core values - rigor, responsibility, and respect. The community of Vanguard students, faculty, administrators, and parents is committed to a personalized learning experience that prepares each student to excel at the collegiate level.

School Motto

Rigor, Responsibility, Respect

Core Values

Rigor: Our collegiate-style campus and small class sizes provide students with the academic freedom to discover intellectual and personal passions through a demanding curriculum taught by motivated educators. Beyond a robust regimen of core subjects, our students are challenged by their peers and the faculty to explore the meaning of complex information and to apply knowledge in the service of their communities and careers.

Responsibility: We develop responsible students by entrusting them with an age-appropriate degree of freedom, balanced with clearly defined standards of behavior and accountability. The interaction of freedom and accountability between students, faculty, and administration helps each student exercise the integrity, self-discipline, and responsibility necessary for success at the collegiate level.

Respect: We provide a supportive, safe environment for our students. The foundation of this environment is based on mutual respect among individuals, students, faculty, parents, and the administration. The culture of mutual respect extends beyond the classroom onto the campus, athletic fields, the students' homes, and the surrounding community. Our students' self-respect and their respect for others are foundational to success in any endeavor after Vanguard.

Mission-Driven Goals

Students will:

1. Conduct themselves honorably within the spirit and letter of the Honor Code.
2. Be prepared for the next level of their educational journey by successfully completing the requirements for graduation.
3. Meet the School standards for responsible behavior.
4. Develop and demonstrate passion through consistent application of effort in an area inspired by personal interest, the curriculum, or extra-curricular activities.
5. Fulfill the service requirement for graduation.
6. Be given freedom in proportion to the responsibility they assume.

Faculty with the Administration will:

1. Ensure the curriculum they teach reflects the core values and mission of the School.
2. Keep current on educational trends and develop professionally so they can better serve their students.
3. Work cooperatively.
4. Be professional and responsive in their interactions with parents.
5. Maintain a supportive and professional relationship with students and one another.

Administration will:

1. Administer the School in a manner consistent with the Mission and with best practices in independent schools.
2. Support and fairly evaluate faculty and students.
3. Work cooperatively with the Board of Trustees, giving guidance and providing research to facilitate the Board's work.
4. Further develop the use of technology throughout the School.
5. Work toward attaining full capacity enrollment of 240 students (approximately 40 students per grade).
6. Maintain an average class size of 13.
7. Improve the Science facilities.
8. Continue to develop athletic, artistic, and extra-curricular opportunities for students.
9. Expand the parent education programs.
10. Continue to provide opportunities for parents to volunteer at the School.
11. Continue to cultivate alumni involvement in the School.
12. Create a new faculty and athletic coach mentoring program.

Board will:

1. Create policies consistent with the mission of the School and best practices of independent schools.
2. Ensure the School conforms to all legal obligations of an independent school in Texas.
3. Ensure the School has the resources and physical space to meet its goals.
4. Provide proper accounting and oversight of the School's resources.
5. Select, evaluate, and support the Head of School.
6. Monitor the implementation of policies through positive involvement with the life of the School.
7. Annually review the planning markers and the targets of the Strategic Plan.
8. Appropriately participate in the committee work of the Board.
9. Increase the diversity of the Board to include alumni and community leaders.

Mission-Driven Goals *(continued)*

Parents will:

1. Support the School.
2. Help the School identify appropriate new families for enrollment.
3. Contact teachers first, then Department Chairs, and finally the appropriate administrator if there is a question regarding a child's performance, progress, or status within the School.
4. Participate in parent education programs.
5. Reserve public criticism until consultation with the appropriate school authority.
6. Participate in the Annual Fund Program as able.
7. Volunteer at the School when possible.