

June 2024

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School  
Principal's Report to WELS Minnesota District Delegates

Our Lord has graciously blessed our ministry this past year in many ways. The most obvious to visitors is our Building on the Rock addition. Perhaps the second most obvious change is the completion of Highway 14. Those changes may be pretty visible to our visitors, but there are changes that perhaps aren't so visible except to students, parents, faculty and staff. What are those changes? The ways in which our young people have grown: academically, physically, emotionally and most important of all – spiritually. We can never take for granted the blessings that result from our teachers talking about Jesus to our students each and every day. Our teachers take the time to work with our students and use God's Word as their basis for the classes that they teach and the conversations in which they engage. Thank God for these wonderful relationships and the growth that takes place each year at MVL! Read on to learn about more blessings which our Lord showered on us this past year.



· **FORGIVEN**  
· **FREE**  
· **FAITHFUL**

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School  
In Him and through faith in Him  
we may approach God with  
freedom and confidence.  
-Ephesians 3:12

We finished our year with 266 students enrolled – a significant increase from the previous school year's enrollment of 221. 90 of those students were freshmen, a new record enrollment for MVL. We do anticipate our enrollment to continue to grow

It wasn't too long ago that we had quite a few of our teachers in limbo with calls that they had received. Our prayers have been answered. We received MLC graduate Noah Ungemach as an assignment for our choir and freshmen religion courses. Noah is quite familiar with MVL since he student taught at MVL this past year year. We worked with Martin Luther College to secure Eli Dorn as an emergency teacher in our science and engineering areas for the coming year. Most recently, Rev. Stephen Kuehl has accepted the call to teach our upper level religion classes. We are blessed!

During this current school accreditation cycle with Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (MNSAA), our faculty has been working very diligently to improve the quality of education we offer to all our students and to meet their academic needs. That strategy has been an important part of our strategic plan through MNSAA. Last school year, we started a cooperative arrangement with New Ulm Public Schools to provide our students with the opportunity to attend their Career Technical Education (CTE) courses. We have worked out our students' schedules so that they can get the required courses they need and then spend time at the CTE Center in New Ulm learning skills in areas like welding, woodworking, small engine repair, auto repair, etc. We have also been working with local high schools to give our students the chance to participate in their FFA programs. That too, has worked well.

This past year, we offered Computer Science Essentials and Engineering Essentials as part of the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) program. Kirk Schauland taught the computer science class and Bradley Nehls taught the engineering course. This coming year, Eli Dorn will pick up the Engineering Essentials class and Kirk will continue in the computer science arena. Then, Evan Vant Hul is working on the Biomedical Science Pathway. Our initial plan for these pathways is to offer two classes for each pathway. We will be

discussing this coming year how we might foray into PLTW to a greater degree. It is amazing to see what our students are learning in these classes!

This year, we saw a number of blessings in our cocurricular programs: academic activities, fine arts and athletics. Participation numbers were up and it will be wonderful to see our students using our new facilities in the coming years!

We didn't host our Veterans' Recognition this year due to our own construction and the Highway 14 construction. We have begun planning for this event for this fall and are looking forward to a big crowd. We did move and expand our Grandparents' Days this year. Because of the fall construction issues, we moved it to April of this year. Because of the enrollment growth, we expanded this event to three days to better host our 300 visitors. Both grandparents and students were appreciative of the time they could spend together. We plan to host this event in the spring in the future.

We will be quite busy this summer moving into our new areas of school. I would expect that we will have some days set aside for final cleaning too. If we need additional help, we may ask the delegates and parents to assist.

We are planning Opening Service for Sunday, August 25, at 2:00 p.m. This year, we are going to include the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rollin Timm, the installation of our new teachers, and the dedication of the science wing, fieldhouse and Activity Commons area. The dedication for the Fine Arts Center will take place at a later date.

As we close another school year at MVL, we thank our Lord for so many tremendous blessings. We also thank God for the service of Jon Hermanson (9 years) who has accepted a call to serve at Martin Luther College. We thank God too, for the ministry of Jeff Koepsell who is retiring at the close of this school year. Jeff has served in the ministry for 46 years, and 18 of them at MVL.

As you can see, we have truly been blessed as we continue "training students for Christian lives on earth and for eternity."

Dr. Tim Plath  
MVLHS Principal