

Reintroducing Agriculture to Vincent High School: The Vincent Story



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Introduction

In collaboration with the UW-Madison Agricultural Outreach Specialist (AOS), the content of the following paper was gathered and documented with the overall purpose of providing a detailed account of the activities, accomplishments, and challenges faced during the five-year grant project at Harold S. Vincent High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The paper is divided into sections including the background and history of the school leading up to present day, the five-year partnership activities and accomplishments, the challenges faced, and progress and projections throughout the five years.

Brief History of Vincent High School

Long before the grounds of Harold S. Vincent High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin became the school is it today, it was the site of 320 acres of farm land lying 10 miles northwest of the city center. Beginning in the 1850s, the land was owned by New York natives George Everts and his wife. (Vincent High School Archives, n.d.). The Everts' land boundaries stretched from 91st Street on the east, Good Hope Road on the south, 107th Street on the west, and Calumet on the north" (Vincent High School Archives, n.d.). After Mr. Everts' passing in 1916, his land was split between his five children. His sons, Edward and Charles, received approximately 45 acres each. It is their portions which comprise the grounds Vincent High School today.

Due to its location, the site was selected by the district in the mid-70s when the city was in need of an additional high school. Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) began construction on September 13, 1977. Within two years, on September 4, 1979, the school opened its doors to its first 9th and 10th grade classes, publicly announcing its identity as Harold S. Vincent High School. The school was named after the 21st superintendent of Milwaukee Schools and currently sits on approximately 76.72 acres of land.

With over 70 acres of land in an agriculturally focused state, school officials wasted no time emphasizing agriculture pathways. Along with the standard general education curriculum, Vincent High School introduced their first two agricultural pathways: Agri-business and Natural Resources, and International Studies.

According to the Dedication Program pamphlet, Agri-business and Natural Resources (ANR) is a "wide-ranging area [of study] that includes everyone who works to grow, process, distribute, and store products that are used for food, clothing, shelter, or aesthetic purposes" (Vincent High School Archives, n.d.). Classes would allow students to gain knowledge of potential career opportunities within ANR ranging from "florist to farm equipment mechanic, from veterinarian to produce manager, from tree trimmer to agricultural engineer." Hands-on opportunities included student

internships with local business including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Students would also have the opportunity to gain skills through the use of on-campus resources such as a demonstration garden, a one-acre reestablished prairie, and two nurseries: one evergreen and one ornamental.

The goal of the International Studies Career Specialty Program was to prepare students for careers in multiple fields including “international imports and exports, banking and commodities, language translation and interpretation, and diplomacy” (Vincent High School Archives, n.d.). A major component of this program included a summer field experience allowing students to study abroad during their junior or senior year.

Upon completion of the first academic year in May 1980, Vincent High School officially dedicated the school grounds to agriculture. Together with the U.S. Forest Service, Vincent High School held an Environmental Learning Area site dedication event. At the event, they established the evergreen nursery with red pine and spruce and the ornamental nursery with euonymus, crabapple river birch, redbud, magnolia, and persimmon with a total of 2,500 specimen planted.

According to Don Shebesta, Program Implementer for Vincent High School’s pathway specialties, by October 1980 VHS had approximately 210 students in three classes. (Menard, 1980). Mr. Shebesta stated the purpose of these pathways was not meant to “create a flock of urban farmers” but instead “emphasize careers that support or involve agriculture, such as genetic research, horticulture, forestry, or veterinary science” (Menard, 1980).

As changes and improvements began, 1981 would shape up to be busy year for Vincent High School. In April, VHS participated in their first Arbor Day. The Northwest Milwaukee Women’s Club presented the school with a maple tree that was planted at the east end of the parking lot. In efforts to allow students more hands-on experiences, Vincent High School began different initiatives and field trips. The Prairie Reestablishment Project began in May where faculty and students began to restore and renovate unused property. For the project, students were tasked to cultivate and seed the area, transplant and replant 22 trees, and begin the maintenance program for the nurseries and prairie area. While some students begin tackling the responsibilities for the Prairie Reestablishment Project, other students in Vincent’s Fish and Game Management class were gearing up to take a field trip. Approximately 30 students visited the Daniel Boone Conservation League (DBCL) in Hubertus, Wisconsin (Dudek, 1981). The DBCL promotes nature and wildlife conservation as well as gun safety (DBCL, 2017) which was a major goal of the Fish and Game Management class as students studied gun safety, wildlife, and predator control. In June, Vincent held their first ANR field trip to

Canada. In September 1981, the first student internships occurred for two VHS students who enrolled in the VHS Animal Science course at the Medical College of Wisconsin Animal Resource Center (ARC). On September 29, VHS held their first ANR Career Information Day. The goal of the event was to expose students enrolled in ANR Career Specialty to a variety of educational and professional opportunities within the field. The ANR Career Information Day would become an annual event at Vincent High School until about 1985.

During the summer of 1982, construction officially began on the ANR facility to construct classroom space and collect tools and materials for the following year. By the start of the fall semester, VHS obtained its first tractor and occupied four classrooms, one of which was originally intended for use as a flower shop. On June 11, 1982, Vincent High School graduated its very first class of 23 students and had 250 students enrolled for the following academic year (Van Ryzin, 1982).

Collaboration Efforts between UW-Madison and Vincent High School

After the enthusiastic founding of the school's agriculture programs in the 1980's, the 1990's and 2000's saw the agricultural programming begin to fade as Vincent High School settled into more conventional curriculum for an urban high school. After years with little attention, the agricultural focus of Vincent High School was renewed in 2011, when teachers Richard DePalma and Mark Hladlick (science), and Kevin Hach (Technical Education) attended a workshop on aquaponics lead by Milwaukee-based urban agriculture nonprofit Growing Power. Upon returning to VHS, they decided to build an aquaponics unit at the school. This sparked a conversation and interest in revitalizing the agriculture program at VHS. All three teachers worked with the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) Director of Career and Technical Education (CTE), Lauren Baker, regarding the process to reintroduce agriculture. In 2012, University of Wisconsin-Madison Agronomy Professor Molly Jahn was invited to visit VHS for a public event introducing the re-opening of the agriculture program.

Purpose of Transition into School of Agriculture

In 2013, the University of Wisconsin-Madison received a large grant (Dairy Coordinated Agricultural Project, or Dairy CAP) from the USDA to study climate change adaptation and mitigation in dairy production systems of the Great Lakes region. One of the five objectives of the grant were to educate high school students who will become our future leaders, voters, and consumers. The grant elected to target the participation of one urban and minority-serving institution. Vincent High

School in Milwaukee was primed for such an opportunity, and was already involved with the Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences (CHAS) which had served as a model for schools across the country interested in adding agriculture to their curriculum. CHAS was recognized for their innovative curriculum, dropout prevention, exceptional student motivation and combination of academic learning environments with hands-on practices that maximize student success and promote college and career-readiness. CHAS quickly established a firm relationship with Vincent High School through their connection with Molly Jahn, which aided in the implementation of additional agricultural curriculum pathways back into the school's framework.

Because of the connections between CHAS, UW-Madison and Vincent High School, the grant selected Vincent High School to receive funds for five years to hire an Agricultural Outreach Coordinator. This unique opportunity would provide VHS students with hands-on learning experiences that translate into real-world skills, while providing classroom and supervised agricultural experiences that lead to meaningful high-demand and high-wage career pathways. The mission of Vincent High School's renewed agricultural focus was to prepare students to graduate with a foundation of agricultural knowledge that will equip them with the skills necessary to enter entry level agricultural job positions or prepare them for college in the agricultural and food sciences.

The goal of targeting the participation of an urban and minority-serving institution was also met at Vincent: As of the 2016-2017 academic year, Vincent High School has approximately 991 students enrolled. Of those 991 students, 91.9 percent identify as African American, 2.2 percent as White, 2.1 percent as Asian, 2.1 percent as Hispanic and 1.5 percent identify as two or more races/ethnicities. The majority of students, 78.1 percent, receive free or reduced-cost lunch.

Founding Curriculum and Pathways

In 1979 the two agricultural pathways were Agri-business and Natural Resources (ANR) and International Studies. Starting in 2013, six new pathways were implemented during specific grant and academic years. The pathways consisted of Animal Science, Agribusiness, Horticulture, Food Science, Environmental Science, and Culinary Arts.

Five Year Partnership Opportunities

Throughout the five-year grant project, Vincent High School made strides with different activities and accomplishments. The following section will break down those activities and accomplishments into four groups: Academic, Industry, Facilities and Resources, and Climate. Each

accomplishment group will elaborate on activities and accomplishments starting from Year One (2013) to Year Five (2017) of the grant. For a condensed version of this information, please see Table 1 in the appendix.

Academic Reporting

The focus of the Academic reporting group is to create the Agricultural Sciences pathways at Vincent High School, determine feeder patterns and student recruitment initiatives, and develop agriculturally aligned curriculum and instruction.

Throughout the five-year grant, Vincent High School actively coordinated and completed initiatives to increase student awareness and application of agricultural studies, and engaged in professional development opportunities for faculty and staff. In this section, activities and accomplishments will be accounted for in chronological order starting from year one of the grant.

Year One: 2013-2014

Administration	Agriculture Team	Agriculture Outreach Specialist
Principal - Matthew Boswell (2009-2014) CTE Director - Eric Radomski & Hugh Herman	Kyle Slick - Agriculture Teacher Krista Moser - Agriculture Teacher Kevin Hach- Tech Ed Richard Depalma - Science Teacher Mark Hladilek - Science Teacher	Gail Kraus

The first accomplishment was acquiring 45 agriculture textbooks titled Agriscience Fundamentals and Applications. With the help of a UW-Milwaukee event organizer, four students and one agriculture teacher attended “Indoor Agriculture: Future Farming in Urban Area for Food and Recycling Resource Use: An International Seminar” which was held at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee through the School of Fresh Water Sciences. In December 2013, students had the opportunity to attend in visits from colleges. The purpose of these visits was to introduce students to the field of agriculture and to explore the potential academic and professional opportunities. At the first event, Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) Department of Food Science Technology visited VHS Food Science classes, approximately 75 students, to demonstrate a hands-on Food Laboratory. At the second event, 26 students traveled to Madison, Wisconsin for a field trip. Students visited the School of Veterinary Medicine, the Enzyme Institute, the Research Animal Resource Center, toured the Meat Science & Muscle Biology Laboratory and the Livestock Laboratory.

To help with feeder patterns and student recruitment, Gaenslen K-8 School, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, toured the Vincent High School campus. During the visit, 60 students had the chance to

tour the facilities including the greenhouse, the aquaponics and aquaculture systems, the technical education shop, animal room, and high tunnel greenhouse. Current Vincent High School students also spoke with Gaenslen students about their personal experiences and agricultural opportunities they had acquired while attending VHS. Gail Kraus made a presentation to the Kiwanis Club of Milwaukee, a volunteer organization located in Milwaukee, to introduce them to the history and the agriculture program at Vincent High School.

Luther Manor Senior Living Community visited VHS to learn about growing plants in the greenhouse. Students helped educate the resident visitors on the process of growing plants for their community's garden. The following month, VHS students paid a visit to the Luther Manor Senior Living Community. This time, students presented to the residents about composting.

In April 2014, Vincent High School was awarded 29 plants from Victory Garden Initiative-Fruity Nutty Five Contest. Students planted plants and trees: Macoun apple, Winecrisp apple, Bartlett pear, American hazelnut, peach, plum, grape, arctic kiwi, and blackberries.

In the summer months of 2014, VHS faculty and staff participated in curriculum and professional development events. A trip across the state allowed faculty and staff to visit three agriculturally-focused organizations in the Madison area. They first visited the Babcock Hall Food Application Laboratory where they toured the facility and discussed organization of classes, regulations and needs pertinent to designing food facilities for schools. Next, they visited Badger Rock Middle School, which is a school in the Madison Metropolitan School District with an urban agriculture focus. At this visit, they learned about the program including ways to incorporate field days into the curriculum, and gained information about the partnership Badger Rock has with Growing Power in Milwaukee. Lastly, the faculty and staff visited the Goodman Community Center which has a focus on Urban Agriculture and Culinary Arts. At the visit, they discussed the center's priorities and functionality and obtained the Seed to Table curriculum. The following month, the agriculture teachers attended the Wisconsin Association of Agriculture Educators Professional Development Conference to build and maintain industry connections with other agricultural educators. The conference provided workshops which were led by industry leaders, innovative instructors, and foundation supporters.

Students were also involved in different experiences in the summer of 2014. From June to July 2014, the Urban Agriculture Summer School Program was implemented at Vincent High School which allowed 60 students to gain a half-credit class which included instruction, field trips, and hands-on experiences in Animal Science, Plant Science, Food Science, Environmental Education, and

Agricultural Mechanics. In July, two volunteers with the Skills for Success Program spent a week with the VHS agriculture program. The volunteers assisted one agriculture teacher with laboratory assistance and animal care including feeding, cleaning, and socializing the school's animals. This program was designed to help students learn about a variety of animal related careers.

Year Two: 2014-2015

Administration	Agriculture Team	Agriculture Outreach Specialist
Principal - Ms. Toni Straughter CTE - Hugh Herman	Kyle Slick - Agriculture Teacher Krista Moser - Agriculture Teacher Jill Frey - Agriculture Teacher Kevin Hach - Tech Ed Richard Depalma - Science Teacher Mark Hladilek - Science Teacher	Gail Kraus

Students volunteered in their first Wisconsin State Fair in Year Two. At the 2014 State Fair, six Vincent HS FFA Chapter members spent four days volunteering in the Discovery Barnyard with responsibilities including caring for the animals, engaging with fair visitors, and leading hands-on agriculture activities.

Discovery World Science and Technology Museum held a two-part series held at the museum entitled "Food Generation." The first session, "Food Generation – Grow It!" challenged students to understand where their food comes from and to rethink what it means to grow food. One-hundred VHS students had the chance to listen and engage with various agricultural professionals and businesses including the Wisconsin Farm Bureau, Goodwill Culinary Institute, Victory Garden Initiative, Wisconsin Farmers Union, CHR Hansen, and a retired United States Navy Food Inspector.

Similar to Year One, 30 students traveled to Madison for a field trip to UW- Madison to tour the Research Animal Resource Center, the BioTech Laboratory, and the Livestock Laboratory. Again, the purpose of this visit was to introduce students to the field of agriculture and to explore the potential academic and professional opportunities.

In February 2015, the first Advisory Board Meeting was held. The advisory Board was comprised of educational and agricultural professionals representing Vincent, MPS, higher education institutions, production industry, business owners and organizations. The purpose of the Advisory Board is to support and guide the transforming Vincent High School into an Agricultural High School.

Similar to the presentation to the Kiwanis Club of Milwaukee, Gail Kraus presented to the Urban Ecology Center in Milwaukee, an environmental education organization, to introduce them to

the history and agriculture program at Vincent High School.

To round off Year Two, a Vincent High School student was selected to participate in the Research Apprenticeship Program at North Carolina Agriculture and Technology State University, one of the academic collaborators on the Dairy CAP grant. The student gained first-hand experience in research conducted under the direction of university research scientists and participated in structured activities including field trips, workshops, laboratory demonstrations, computer applications, technical and scientific writing, and public speaking.

Year Three: 2015-2016

Administration	Agriculture Team	Agriculture Outreach Specialist
Principals Dr. Zenetta Walker Mr. Jason Galien CTE - Eric Radomski	Josh Capodarco - Agriculture Teacher Monica Gahan - Agriculture Teacher Meghan Sawdy –Agriculture Teacher Richard Depalma - Science Teacher Mark Hladilek - Science Teacher	Gail Kraus

The Advisory Board held a meeting in October 2015 to meet the two new co-principals and current agriculture teachers. The meeting discussion focused on the transformation plan of Vincent High School, building curriculum, focusing on teacher pathways, and potential field trip opportunities.

Over the course of Year Three, the Agricultural Outreach Specialist frequently met with the Acting Director of the Milwaukee Public School (MPS) Department of Innovation Development at the MPS Central Office to discuss the Transformational Proposal. The transformational proposal was led by a central office nutrition supervisor. Due to the many transitions and changes to faculty and classroom assignments in Year Three, moving forward with academic opportunities became challenging. At the beginning of the year, co-principals were not aware of the agriculture program or the efforts to transform to an agriculture school. The agricultural outreach specialist along with agriculture teachers and members of the advisory board took time to educate the new leadership team on the management and development of agricultural programming.

Year Four: 2016-2017

Administration	Agriculture Team	Agriculture Outreach Specialist
Principal - Mr. Daryl Burns Sr. CTE - Eric Radomski	Josh Capodarco - Agriculture Teacher Monica Gahan - Agriculture Teacher Meghan Sawdy - Agriculture Teacher Kassie Franke - Agriculture Teacher Ishmael Simmons - Culinary Arts	Gail Kraus

In the fall of 2016, a partnership agreement between Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, n-gAGed Learning, LLC, and Vincent High School was established to initiate curriculum transformation and collaboration efforts between schools. Funding for this initiative was provided by the Dairy CAP grant. n-gAGed Learning is an educational consulting LLC focused on creating and implementing curriculum for schools interested in hands-on curriculum in urban agriculture and agribusiness.

Additionally, Milwaukee Public Schools officially announced the middle schools which would feed into VHS: Grantosa Drive School, Thoreau School, and River Trail School, all located in the northwestern portion of Milwaukee. The initiative would start the process of developing educational partnerships with Milwaukee Public Schools Central Office and other schools across the district. The following semester, Vincent FFA members, with Waupun FFA members, visited Grantosa Drive School to teach the students about where their food comes from. This initiative, titled the “Food for America Program,” involved approximately 400 kindergarten through-eighth grade students from Grantosa Drive School.

In May 2017, Vincent High School hosted the Wisconsin Idea Seminar consisting of 40 UW-Madison faculty and staff. The UW-Madison visitors toured the Agriculture Department to learn about VHS’ efforts to teach agriculture in an urban setting.

Vincent High School also held their 2017 Spring Showcase in May 2017. At the event, students from every agricultural pathway displayed classroom projects and science fair experiments, and sold plants they grew and products they created, including lotion and lip balm. The Culinary Arts students sold a variety of food they cooked with the help of the Culinary Arts teacher. Wisconsin’s Secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), Ben Brancel, was also in attendance to witness the progress and growth of Vincent High School.

That spring, 20 students in the Horticulture Pathway assisted in designing, building, and planting three garden beds for the Maple Tree School.

Throughout Year Four, VHS hosted educational tours and workshops for Harborside Academy, a charter school located in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Over 100 students participated in the tours and workshops.

To end Year Four of the grant, through collaborative efforts of the Agricultural Outreach Specialist, agriculture teachers, and the n-gAGed Learning consultant, these curriculums were started: Animal Science, Advanced Animal Science, Horticulture, Agribusiness, and Food Science.

Year Five: 2017-2018

Administration	Agriculture Team:	Agriculture Outreach Specialist
Principal - Mr. Daryl Burns Sr. CTE - Eric Radomski	Josh Capodarco - Agriculture Teacher Monica Gahan - Agriculture Teacher Meghan Sawdy - Agriculture Teacher Lowrysha Cheatham - Agriculture Teacher Heidi Maciejewski - Agriculture Teacher Kassie Franke - Agriculture Teacher Ishmael Simmons - Culinary Arts	Gail Kraus

Year Five of the grant was the first time that the Principal, Technology Educator, agricultural pathways teachers and the Agricultural Outreach Specialist were all carried over from the previous year, providing consistency that previously had not occurred. This was an important factor in the success of the fifth year, as the consistency in the administrative and agricultural staff allowed for continued improvement of initiatives from the previous year.

One of the major developments in Year Five was the final establishment of the six pathways students can choose to pursue: Animal Science, Agribusiness, Horticulture, Food Science, Environmental Science, and Culinary Arts. Additionally, there are six full-time agricultural pathway teachers, with one dedicated to each pathway. Additionally, all six pathways acquired textbooks and offered students online access to curriculum.

October 2017, 12 students and 2 agriculture teachers attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis where they attended convention sessions, listened to motivational speakers participated in leadership/agricultural workshops and attended the career expo. Vincent was invited to travel with the CHSAS which gave the students and teachers the opportunity to learn from each other.

Advanced Animal Science Course was offered the fall of 2017. This course was designed to be a 2-credit course giving the students the opportunity to learn by doing. Students were able to spend more time caring for the larger animals that live outdoors and in the barn. Advanced students also had the opportunity to go on more field trips to learn about the diverse job opportunities related to animal science. The advanced students toured Rosendale Dairy where they learn about the job opportunities for students outside of high school and college. Students learned about the variety of jobs on dairy employed related to animal science, environmental science, business, horticulture, food science and more.

Industry Working Group

The focus of the Industry Working Group is to identify 21st-century jobs and skills necessary for local workforce, internship, and job shadowing opportunities. Other goals included opportunities for student mock interviews, worksite tours, and hosting guest speakers in both professional and academic positions. Throughout the five years of the Dairy CAP grant, students had the opportunity to visit, tour, and participate in different businesses throughout the state of Wisconsin. During these visits, students were introduced to potential career opportunities.

In January 2014, 26 students had the opportunity to visit the Clock Shadow Creamery in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where students got the chance to learn about cheese production in an urban setting.

The State Food and Beverage Industry Cluster Organization, FaB Wisconsin, has partnered with Vincent High School to provide a significant number of career exploration opportunities. With the support of FaB Wisconsin, Vincent HS held the first and second annual “Farm to Factory to Fork: Career Exploration Fair” on April 9, 2014 and April 22, 2015, respectively. During this event, 25 Food and Beverage companies were invited to campus to speak with approximately 1,000 VHS students about potential career opportunities within the food and beverage industry. Partnership attendees included Outpost Natural Foods, Schreiber Foods, The Coca Cola Company, and Goodwill Industries of Southeast Wisconsin. Wisconsin Foodie, a television series, partnered with FaB Wisconsin and VHS to create the Farm to Factory to Fork: Career Exploration Fair Video. This professionally produced video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pL4sDtDuMP8>) was created to be used as a promotional and educational video to share with other schools in Wisconsin as well as a tool to recruit and support Food Science education within the high school sector.

On March 24, 2017, FaB Wisconsin hosted the Farm to Factory to Fork Career Discovery Day at the Milwaukee Public Museum. At this event, 50 VHS students were “offered an experience dedicated to what we eat and drink, how it gets to our tables, and who makes it happen” (FaB's Farm-Factory-Fork, 2017). Students also had the chance to engage with industry professionals and companies to learn more about career opportunities and advanced trainings.

FaB Wisconsin also hosted a program titled “My Life! My Plan!” in April 2014 and May 2015. This two-day program held workshops that exposed students to a variety of Food and Beverage Industry careers and conducted speed networking activities with local FaB CEOs and Human Resource Managers. Approximately 60 students participated in this event.

Every summer the Wisconsin FFA Convention where students have the opportunity to gain

professional skills, leadership training, and hands-on job training. In 2014 and 2015, twelve students attended the Wisconsin FFA Convention where they participated in service projects, attended convention sessions and leadership workshops, engaged with motivational speakers, and connected with agricultural professionals at the career expo. In February 2015, Vincent High School hosted the Sectional FFA Speaking Contest where over 60 FFA members, including four VHS students, from nine schools participated in seven competitions including Creed Speaking, Parliamentary Procedure, Quiz Bowl, Extemporaneous Public Speaking, Prepared Public Speaking, Employment Skills, and Discussion Meet.

Between June to August in 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017, The Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (MAWIB) implemented the Earn & Learn Program at Vincent High School. The MAWIB Earn & Learn Program is a “summer youth employment program initiated by Mayor Tom Barrett in partnership with local business, non-profit, and community-and faith-based organizations” (Earn & Learn, 2017). The purpose of the Earn & Learn program is to “assist young people from Milwaukee in making a successful transition from adolescence into adulthood through job skills and work experience” (Earn & Learn, 2017). In 2014, approximately 46 students were hired through the program and placed at Vincent High School. Four VHS Agriculture team teachers assisted in the leadership of the 2014 program. In 2015, approximately 25 students were hired and two of the VHS Agriculture Team teachers took the lead. In 2016, approximately 23 students were hired with three team teachers; and in 2017, fifteen students were hired, and three team teachers led the program. Students’ duties included working in the greenhouse and garden and tending to the care of the animals.

The Discovery World Science and Technology Museum held the second session of the series titled “Food Generation – Make It!” The session hosted 65 VHS students and gave them a behind-the-scenes look into the food and beverage industry in Milwaukee. Speakers included professionals from the Milwaukee Area Technical College’s Food and Science Technology Department, Palermo’s Pizza, and Rishi Tea.

During the summer of 2015, two VHS students participated in the Goodwill Culinary Institute’s Food Service Training Program. This hands-on program provides students with “practical, real-world training in the food service industry” (Hands-On Food Service Training Program, 2017) by allowing students to prepare and serve up to 300 meals a day at a Goodwill-owned food service location on Milwaukee’s northwest side. During this pilot program, students earned their ServSafe Certificate which trains students in sanitation, kitchen communication, knife skills, weights and

measures, and use of equipment.

Additionally, two college students were hired as interns to work with Monica Gahan, the Animal Science teacher, during the summer of 2015. The interns' responsibilities included assisting and supporting the school's Agriculture Department by organizing classroom and lesson materials, develop animal care checklists, caring for the animals, helping to set-up the labs for the Earn and Learn students, and helping to maintain the greenhouses.

In partnership with Vincent High School, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Office of Sustainability has lead efforts to support the school's transition into a school of agriculture including the Learn Earn Grow (L.E.G.) Program. L.E.G. increases access to experiential learning, healthy foods, and provides a youth development and mentor program through a 6-week summer cross-campus program. (UWM Community Engagement, 2017). Twelve Vincent High School students were paired with Crew Leaders, current University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) and Madison Area Technical College (MATC) students, "who provided sustainable food-based experiential education" through urban food production activities, including farming and composting opportunities, to increase the readiness of these students "to join the growing green jobs marketplace" (UWM Community Engagement, 2017).

In August 2017, three students had the opportunity to showcase their skills at the 2017 Wisconsin State Fair. The students spent the summer feeding, walking, and caring for their market lambs. Beside learning animal science knowledge like animal nutrition, anatomy, and basic animal handling, the students learned and worked on improving soft skills, including responsibility, communication, teamwork, empathy, and motivation. This would be the first time Vincent High School students would fully participate and compete State Fair. At the State Fair, VHS faculty and staff members attended an all-staff professional development meeting on the fairgrounds where they were exposed to Wisconsin Agriculture and were given opportunities to learn more about how agriculture connects to their everyday lives.

Facilities & Resources Working Group

The focus of the Facilities and Resources working group is to define the facility use plan and address operational issues as well as re-envision the outdoor and indoor space of the campus. Students were completely involved in the re-envisioning process. In April 2014, three students participated in the discussion regarding building pig pens on a local farm and in the fall 2015, students began to rehabilitate the inside of the high school's chicken coop. By November, five students put their plans to

action and began working on the pig pens at the Oak Ridge Farm in Dousman, WI, a property owned by the state of WI and operated by MPS for field trips by students in grades K-5. Students will reinforce walls and pour concrete for the pens.

The Compost Transfer Project, a grant-funded project, proposed by the Office of Sustainability and the Institute for Urban Agriculture and Nutrition (IUAN) at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee began in March 2015. The purpose of the project was to evaluate current compost operations at VHS by conducting waste audits during all school lunch periods in order to create a composting manual, along with curriculum and teacher engagement reports to encourage agriculture's renewed focus at the high school (UWM Community Engagement, 2017). IUAN conducted four waste audits during all three lunch periods by September 2015. Once the results of the audit were gathered, IUAN and Vincent High School met in October 2015 to discuss and review the data collected and to discuss the production of the compost manual and curriculum. They gave examples of opportunities at different levels from simple small classroom compost to large outdoor compost operations. Campus officials learned from the report that VHS produces very little organic waste but has the land and equipment to have a rather large compost operation. Until VHS connects with a large source of compostable materials, the composting program will not develop into a larger operation.

Partnerships with Feeding America and Fork Farms led to the donation of a vertical hydroponic Growing Machine to Vincent High School in the Spring of 2017. This donation gave the students in the Horticulture pathway the opportunity to grow plants through the use of hydroponics. The machine has a light source, pump to run the nutrient solutions through the machine – which can hold 144 germinated plugs. Student in Horticulture use the growing machine to plant leafy green lettuce and herbs to use in the culinary department in class, use in dishes for the café and sell in the fresh market.

Climate Working Group

The focus of the Climate Working Group is to ensure that VHS hears the voice of the students and families throughout the process of transitioning to an agricultural high school, develop climate and culture and student engagement, and to support incentives, school décor, code of conduct, signage, etc.

In May 2014 and May 2017, Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) hosted the MPS Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) Showcase where current and potential partners were invited to interact with various students and teachers from different schools in the district. The event was

designed to give students from different schools the opportunity to showcase their school's STEM activities. In May 2014, two Vincent HS students participated by providing agriculture displays. VHS also displayed various plants, animals, and the mini aquaponics unit. In May 2017, three students and one agriculture teacher displayed their science projects and displayed the school's Growing Machine for partners to observe.

In August 2014, a group comprised of agriculture teachers, administration, partners and supporters met to discuss how the climate of the school is key to making the transformation successful. The climate group was concerned with creating a constructive learning environment, both in terms of interpersonal practices, and in terms of physical infrastructure. The impression students felt from their classrooms and hallways influenced perceptions of climate, as did the level of trust and respect conveyed during events, fieldtrips, and outdoor activities. Discussion also focuses on how to build and grow relationships between the parents, students, all faculty and staff, campus partners, and community members.

On August 10, 2016, Vincent High School held a press conference on campus. Attendees included the Superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools, Dr. Darienne Driver, Secretary of DATCP Ben Brancel, Chief Operations Officer Wendell Willis, Career and Technical Education Manager Eric Radomski, Milwaukee Public Schools School Board President Mr. Mark Sain, the current principal Mr. Daryl Burns, Vincent High School teachers and students, and other MPS and campus partners. During this press conference, Dr. Driver announced that the transformation of VHS into an Agricultural High School was a focal point in her portfolio of priorities across the district. Students were present to discuss the work they were involved in and future plans influenced by their experience with agriculture at VHS.

Carolyn Betz, the Dairy CAP Research Project Manager, published an article in UW-Madison's *Grow Magazine* on July 17, 2017 highlighting the role that UW-Madison's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) had play in transforming Vincent High School into a School of Agricultural Sciences. This article allowed the community to get a first-hand look into the transformation of the high school and included quotes from current VHS students.

As of Year Five, Vincent High School officially adopted a new vision for the school: "Vincent High School of Agricultural Sciences is a nurturing, safe and professional environment that supports the educational success and social, emotional, and physical development of all. We envision a school that provides each student with challenging opportunities in a culture where lifelong learning, creativity, respect, and authentic enthusiasm for learning exist; A school where all strive to be

responsible, motivated citizens of strong character who are committed to growing to our full potential. We embrace a strong partnership with our diverse communities, and one that promotes a passionate commitment to the Agricultural Sciences.”

Challenges

No transition comes without challenges. The following section will discuss the challenges that Vincent High School as well as the Dairy CAP grant as faced in transitioning into a School of Agricultural Sciences.

Year One: 2013-2014

Access and communication were the two biggest challenges of year one. Particularly, the UW-Madison Agricultural Outreach Specialist, who was officially assigned to Vincent High School, had difficulty accessing basic campus functions, including building access, along with computer, printer, internet, and campus-wide email listserv needs. Because the Agricultural Outreach Specialist was a UW-Madison employee, and not Milwaukee Public School personnel, existing protocol were not geared toward quick on-boarding.

Additionally, communication between VHS’s Agriculture Department and other academic subjects on campus became challenging. Many faculty members were not informed about the Agricultural Outreach Specialist position and the agricultural transitions, which lead to unclear expectations on how to incorporate agriculture into their lesson plans.

Furthermore, because the agricultural plans and initiatives were new, the process of emphasizing the importance and potential of the agriculture program to administration and staff quickly became a challenge. Since Vincent High School had not been a school of agriculture for almost two decades, the shift in identity was proving to be somewhat challenging. Lastly, procedures for agriculture teachers were not yet established for important classroom functions such as ordering supplies, approving field trips, and conducting disciplinary matters.

Year Two: 2014-2015

In year two, Vincent High School welcomed a new principal who created new ideas and priorities. Therefore, the challenge was educating the new administration about agriculture and making a case to transform Vincent High School into a School of Agriculture. Considering the transformation was not a district priority, the administration did not fully buy-in to the change. (The transformation was first discussed and agreed upon between the former Superintendent, Dr. Greg

Thornton, Lauren Baker – CTE Specialist, and Dr. Molly Jahn in 2012) Over the course of year two, the agriculture teachers advocated for occupying classrooms in one hall, formerly known as Agri-Business Hall, to establish rapport as well as increase efficient collaboration and communication. Additionally, teachers began to advocate to allow animals inside the classroom and obtain access to the greenhouse and outside lab.

During this year, Vincent High School lost three agriculture teachers which led to difficulty in finding qualified candidates to replace them.

Lastly, a continued challenge included the UW-Madison Agricultural Outreach Specialist still having difficulty accessing the building and the campus-wide email listserv. This created some delays in campus communication.

Year Three: 2015-2016

In Year Three, VHS again welcomed a new principal. Like Year Two, the challenge was educating the new co-principals and administration to existing efforts and furthering a case regarding the significance and potential of the transformation.

Other continued challenges during Year Three included: the UW-Madison Agricultural Outreach Specialist was still not able to obtain access to the campus-wide email listserv, and the agriculture teachers were still advocating to occupy a single hallway where animals would be allowed in the classroom. Lastly, there were ongoing efforts to communicate the importance of the agriculture program to all members of the administration and staff.

Gathering support for the three new agriculture teachers was challenging because of the lack of systems and procedures provided by the campus and school district, including the timeliness of the hiring process. Teachers' classroom assignments were constantly changing throughout Year Three, creating difficulty with collaboration and communication between agriculture faculty and staff. The Advisory Board was led by central office staff which created uncertainty as communication between central office and Vincent agriculture teachers were almost non-existent.

Year Four: 2016-2017

Year Four of the grant continued to face many of the same challenges that occurred in Year Three. Another new principal was hired, creating the challenge, once again, of a new administration requiring information on the significance and potential of the agricultural transformation. Initiatives continued to help the Agricultural Outreach Specialist gain access to the email listserv, and agricultural

teachers continued to advocate to occupy Agriculture Hall and establish an Animal Policy. Communication of importance of the agriculture program to administration and staff, and the gathering of support for new agriculture teachers were other issues that continued.

Year Five: 2017-2018

Efforts in Year Five focused on securing the future of the program and establishing the official transformation of VHS into Vincent High School of Agricultural Sciences. Fundraising efforts continued in order to support the growth of the program by enhancing the capacity of agricultural teachers, increasing support with FFA, and developing ongoing showcase programs, media events, school visits within the district, outside tours, and hands-on projects.

Throughout the process, Vincent High School had difficulty finding qualified candidates to add two agriculture faculty positions, and struggled to provide support for the faculty without pre-existing systems in place.

Despite these challenges, this was the year in which the school finally accomplished the goal of officially becoming Vincent High School of Agricultural Sciences at the school level. Vincent principal, Daryl Burns, was also in discussion with central office staff and the MPS school board about the process the school will need to go through for an official name change.

Solutions and Support

UW-Madison Agricultural Outreach Specialist

The UW-Madison Agricultural Outreach Specialist (AOS) position was written into the grant to assist in the transformation of Vincent High School. The grant supports an Agricultural Outreach Specialist (AOS) position, occupied by Gail Kraus, located at Vincent High School. The AOS plays a central role in managing the development of K-12 curriculum in agriculture, while recognizing the potential of curricular innovations to create opportunities for students, teachers, secondary school administrators and their public-school districts. The AOS serves as a point of contact and a resource for partners, teachers, district administration and colleges and universities in their collective efforts to create an Urban Agriculture Education program at Vincent High School. Kraus provides support and direction to help grow the program by: a) assisting in curriculum development; b) supporting teachers in finding and testing curriculum resources and professional development opportunities; c) identifying business and community partners to support the development of the Urban Agricultural Education program; d) acting as a conduit between Dairy CAP personnel from across the project and Vincent High School for both students and teachers. Activities include summer development experiences,

campus visits, and student-to-student exchanges in addition to professional development activities for teachers.

The AOS has been assisting with curriculum development support for the agricultural program since year one. By the end of Year Three, the AOS had facilitated campus visits and school-to-school exchanges for students at Vincent High School. Additional goals included strengthening diverse talent pipelines for post-secondary education, providing research, education and extension experiences to undergraduate and graduate students in a secondary school environment, and inviting engagement from farm groups, community members and employers in the food and agricultural sectors.

n-gAGed Learning, LLC, a curriculum consulting firm with ties to CHSAS, was hired to give specialized assistance to VHS administrators and the AOS in curriculum development and enhancement. The consistent communication and expert services provided by the consultants from n-gAGed learning, LLC and the teachers and administrators of CHSAS allowed for the advancement of innovative experiences and opportunities provided to VHS teachers and students. The overwhelming responsibilities of the agricultural faculty and staff indicated a need for assistance in curriculum and the overall execution of the transition which led to a collaboration with n-gAGed Learning, LLC and the Chicago High School of Agricultural Science (CHSAS). Additionally, CHSAS, one of only three high schools in the nation dedicated to agriculture, has proven to be the premier agricultural high school in Illinois. The partnership with n-gAGed Learning, LLC would allow VHS faculty and staff to gain access to CHSAS support, advice, and opportunities to duplicate their successful programming.

Yearly Evaluations

Yearly evaluations of the transition of Vincent High School to Vincent High School of Agricultural Sciences:

Year One: 2013-2014

Prior to the establishment of the University of Wisconsin-Madison/Vincent High School (VHS) relationship in 2013, two agriculture teachers were placed in positions that helped spark the massive changes VHS would see over the next 5 years. After the Dairy CAP grant was received, 2013 – 2014 was an observational year for the Agricultural Outreach Specialist (AOS), administrators, teachers and staff as VHS began to reintroduce agriculture into its curriculum. Focus was placed on finalizing course offerings and developing new course sequencing for agricultural classes. The two

agriculture teachers were initially able to provide students with a broad overview of biotechnology, veterinary science, food science, horticulture and landscape design, and introductory agriculture. Keeping teachers and staff informed of the vast changes to VHS played a key role in raising involvement and support of the new programming initiatives being taken. VHS truly found its place within agricultural education during this first year.

Year Two: 2014-2015

Alterations to the foundations of agricultural programming were essential in 2014 – 2015. Staffing a third agriculture teacher allowed for the development of the Introduction to Agriculture class offered primarily to freshmen students. Throughout the school year, placement into agricultural classes occurred based on immediate vacancies in individual student's schedules. The need for a centralized location to house the various agricultural classes was labeled a priority in order to streamline the efficient allocation of all resources. Paired with a change in administration at VHS, the Agricultural Advisory Board began to rebuild and establish long-lasting community and industry partnerships.

Year Three: 2015-2016

2015 – 2016 introduced a co-principal administrative structure to VHS. The importance of course sequencing was finalized with the establishment of specific pathways. The agricultural teaching staff was revamped as three new teachers were placed in Environmental Science, Animal Science, and Food Science/Horticulture. Delegating pathway focuses to specific teachers allowed for a more focused curriculum and gave students an opportunity for hands-on learning activities. Students also benefited from an increase in field trips and agricultural-related experiences outside the classroom. VHS teachers and staff continued to become acclimated to the new agricultural programs and intentions. Relationships were established with various colleges and universities with the opportunity of further student involvement.

Year Four: 2016-2017

The 2016 – 2017 school year began with a press conference given by the superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS). This event debuted the transformation of VHS to Vincent High School of Agricultural Sciences (VHSAS) and set its development as a top priority for MPS. A change in administration was welcomed as the new principal embraced agriculture and promoted VHSAS to

grow with a new vision/mission:

“VHSAS is a nurturing, safe and professional environment that supports the educational success and social, emotional, and physical development of all. We envision a school that provides each student with challenging opportunities in a culture where lifelong learning, creativity, respect, and authentic enthusiasm for learning exist; A school where all strive to be responsible, motivated citizens of strong character who are committed to growing to our full potential. We embrace a strong partnership with our diverse communities, and one that promotes a passionate commitment to the Agricultural Sciences.”

Year Four was the first year the entire freshmen class was enrolled in that introductory course. VHSAS hosted their first Annual Agricultural Showcase allowing students to present their class activities and newfound knowledge to community schools, MPS personnel, and government officials. Year 4 focused primarily on incorporating hands-on experiences within the curriculum and finding ways to sustain the resources and needs of the agriculture department as a whole.

Year Five: 2017-2018

The 2017-2018 school year marked the second year of consistency within VHSAS administration. Pathway teachers were established for all six agricultural pathway offerings. The Introduction to Agriculture course allowed students to gain experience in each pathway before committing to more curriculum in that area. Block scheduling allowed for teachers to have ample time to perform more laboratory exercises and hands-on activities. Students started using their pathway knowledge to open student-led enterprises such as Vincent's Fresh Market and Vincent's Café which is a collaboration between advanced pathway classes. Students also showed animals at the Wisconsin State Fair for the first time. The students experienced a greater involvement in the national FFA Organization which continued to expand. Core class faculty members began to collaborate with the agricultural department staff to coordinate curriculum that enhances their teaching initiative simultaneously, such as pairing Geometry and Horticulture to focus on the geometric plotting of garden landscapes.

Projections for Vincent High School

Moving forward, all freshmen will continue to be enrolled in an introductory agriculture course allowing them to experience all six pathways. After gaining initial experience in each pathway, students have the option to select the single pathway that most interests them and continue to

advance through the various professional and educational opportunities in that field. As seniors, students have a wide selection of internships, job shadowing experiences, college tours, and scholarship opportunities to engage with. As the programs continue to develop, students will become more knowledgeable about the opportunities available to them, be more active in state and national FFA activities promoting leadership, and build a greater sense of self-purpose.

VHSAS will become a high school of choice for students based on the awareness of the community and beneficial aspects of the unique course offerings and learning experiences available. Greater accessibility to hands-on learning and leadership opportunities will remain a priority. The agriculture department staff will continue to strive to help students experience the agricultural education model of classroom instruction, FFA leadership and supervised agricultural experiences.

In the next five years, support from the agricultural community will help fund the redesigning and expansion of building infrastructure for the greenhouse, barn and lab areas. The level of involvement of the Advisory Board will increase over the upcoming years and ultimately aid in creating more funding for program enhancement. Continued education and professional development will continue for all teachers in an effort to bridge the gap between core class learning objectives and agricultural-education learning initiatives. There will be a continued relationship with the Agricultural Curriculum Consultant in order to assist VHSAS administrators in utilizing the most effective agricultural education practices. The Agricultural Outreach Specialist position will manage the agricultural program on an administrative level by focusing on intentional outcomes and purposeful execution of the programs and vision of VHSAS.

Appendix

Table 1. <i>VHSAS Timeline of Activities & Accomplishments</i>				
DATE	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	NOTES	FIVE-YEAR PARTNERSHIP CATEGORY
YEAR ONE				
October 2013	Agriculture Textbooks	Agriculture teachers received 45 Agriculture textbooks		Academic
October 2013	Resource Use: An International Seminar	Held at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee by the School of Fresh Water Sciences	4 students and 1 teacher attended	Academic
October 2013	Gaenslen K-8th Grade School visit to VHS	Students toured the greenhouse, aquaponics and aquaculture systems, tech ed. shop, animal room, and high tunnel greenhouse, Gaenslen students also spoke with VHS teachers and students about agricultural opportunities	60 8 th grade students and 4 teachers participated	Academic
November 2013	Presentation to the Kiwanis Club of Milwaukee	Introducing Kiwanis Club to the VHS Agriculture Program		Academic
December 2013	Milwaukee Area Technical College at Vincent High School	Marie Colmerauer, Instructor of Food Science Technology at MATC, visited the Food Science classes, students participated in a hands-on food lab	75 students participated	Academic
December 2013	UW-Madison Campus Visit	Students visited the School of Veterinary Medicine, Enzyme Institute, Research Animal Resource Center, Meat Science and Muscle Biology Lab Tour, and Livestock Laboratory. Tom Zinnen assisted in organization of the visit	20 students, 1 teacher, 1 Guidance Counselor participated	Academic
Spring 2014	UW-Madison Dissertation Research	Research funding pending approval. If approved, project will begin late June	Rachel Bergmans, UW-Madison Ph.D. Dissertator	Academic
January 2014	Visit Clock Shadow Creamery in Milwaukee	Students learned about cheese production in an urban setting	26 students participated	Industry
February 2014	DairyCAP All-Hands Meeting	Key stakeholders meeting in Chicago, Illinois		Academic
March 2014	Luther Manor Senior Living Community visit to VHS	12 residents of Luther Manor Senior Living Community learned about growing plants in the greenhouse and started seeds for their garden	5 students participated	Academic

April 2014	Farm to Factory to Fork: Career Exploration Fair	Businesses represented: MATC, Outpost Natural Foods, Schreiber Foods, Cargill Meat Solutions, Contract Comestibles, Hatco Corporation, Advanced Waste Services, Baptista's Bakery, Usinger's, Klement Sausage Co., Palermo's Pizza, Ocean Spray, Dept. of Workforce Development – Job Center of Wisconsin, QPS Employment Group, JumpStart Consortium – (Dorner Mf. Corp; Enercon Industries Corporation; Spee-dee Packaging Machinery Inc.; The Kondracki Group; KHS USA, Inc.), UW-Madison, Biotech/CALS/MNRRS/Center for Integrative Design, Goodwill Industries of SE Wisconsin, and Food and Beverage Milwaukee	Over 1,000 students visited the fair	Industry
April 2014	Farm to Factory to Fork: Career Exploration Fair Video	This video discusses the collaboration between Vincent High School and FaB Milwaukee. Guest speakers include: FaB Coordinator, Vincent High School students, Teachers (High School & Technical College), Principal, and Food and Beverage Business Employees	Link to video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pL4sDtDuMp8	Industry
April 2014	My Life! My Plan! Survey Program	Students participated in a two-day program consisting of workshops that exposed them to a variety of Food and Beverage Industry Careers, speed networking activity with local FaB CEO's and HR Managers. Survey report showcased how event influenced students' awareness, interest, and intent in pursuing careers related to the Food and Beverage Industry		Industry
April 2014	Institute for Urban Agriculture & Nutrition Symposium	Gail Kraus attended to document updates and brainstorm possible connections with research/ programs/partners to enhance the work being done at VHS	Madison, WI	Industry
April 2014	Farm Visit/Work Day	Students remodeled the inside of the Chicken Coop and discussed plans to build pig pen in the summer	3 student participated	Facilities and Resources
April 2014	Luther Manor Senior Living Community visit	Vincent students visited Luther Manor to give presentations on composting	2 students participated	Academic
April 2014	Victory Garden Initiative	Vincent HS was awarded 29 plants from Victory Garden Initiative – Fruity Nutty Five Contest. Students planted the following plants: Macoun Apple, Winecrisp Apple, Bartlett Pear, American Hazelnut, Peach, Plum, Grape, Arctic Kiwi, Blackberries	6 students participated	Academic
May 2014	MPS STEM Showcase	The showcase is designed to give students from different schools a chance to show off their schools STEM activities. 2 Vincent HS students provided Agriculture Display. VHS also brought plants, animals, and the mini aquaponics unit	MPS invited current and potential partners	Academic & Climate

May 2014	Madison WI Information and Resource Visit	<p>Visits opened up conversations regarding Education, Research, Outreach, and Partnerships. Visits included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Babcock Hall Food Application Laboratory tour. Discussed organization of classes & regulations and needs when designing food facilities for schools. Badger Rock Middle School. New school with Urban Ag focus. Learned about program, how they incorporate field day, and the relationship with Growing Power. Goodman Community Center. Focus on Urban Ag and Culinary Arts with 10 students enrolled. Gained Seed to Table Curriculum 	<p>Babcock Hall Food Application Lab – Beth Button</p> <p>Goodman Community Center – Keith, Coordinator Alternative High School Program</p>	Academic
June 2014	Professional Development Conference	Wisconsin Association of Agriculture Educators	Madison, WI	Academic
June 2014	Wisconsin FFA Convention	Students participated in the service project of packing meals. They also attended a convention session, listened to a motivational speaker, participated in leadership workshops, and attend the career expo	6 students participated Madison, WI	Academics & Industry
June to July 2014	Urban Agriculture Summer School Program	The program allows students to gain ½ credit class which includes instruction and hands-on experiences in Animal Science, Plant Science, Food Science, Environmental Ed., and Ag. Mechanics. Field trip to Oakridge Farm	Approximately 60 students attended, approximately 12-20 special education students participated in hands-on activities	Academic
June to August 2014	The Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (MAWIB) Earn and Learn Program	Approximately 46 students were hired and placed at Vincent High School. The 4 Agriculture team teachers lead the program: Depalma/Hladlick/Moser/Slick		Industry
July 2014	YWCA - Skills for Success Program	Two volunteers with the Skills for Success Program spent the week with the VHS Agriculture Program. Volunteers assisted Ms. Moser with caring for animals and spending time in the animal lab: feeding, cleaning, socializing the school's animals. Learned about a variety of animal related careers		Academic

YEAR TWO				
August 2014	Wisconsin State Fair	Vincent FFA Chapter spent 4 days volunteering in the Discovery Barnyard at the Wisconsin State Fair. Students cared for the animals, visited with fair goers, and led hands-on agriculture activities.	6 students participated	Academic
August 2014	Advisory Board Meeting	Media Committee	Madison, WI	Climate
September 2014	Vincent HS Agriculture Presentation	Milwaukee Ecology Center		Academic
November 2014	Oak Ridge Farm Visit	Students worked to build a new Hog Pen	5 students participated	Facilities & Resources
November 2014	Food Generation - Grow It! Discovery World	This session challenged students to understand where their food comes from and rethink what it means to grow food. Speakers included: Wendy Kannel – Wisconsin Farm Bureau, Derek Small – Goodwill Culinary Institute & Retired US Navy Food Inspector, Gretchen Mead – Victory Garden Initiative, Pamela Moreno – Wisconsin Farmers Union, Arie Brenner – CHR Hansen Microbiologist	100 students participated	Academic
December 2014	UW-Madison Campus Visit	Students visited the Research Animal Resource Center, BioTech Laboratory, and Livestock Laboratory, Tom Zinnen assisted in organization of the visit	30 students participated	Academic
January 2015	Food Generation - Make It! Discovery World	This session took a behind the scenes look into the food and beverage industry in Milwaukee, WI. Speakers included: • Marie Colmerauer- Instructor, MATC Food Science Technology • Palermo's Pizza – Research and development • Rishi Tea – Science	65 students participated	Industry
February 2015	Advisory Board Meeting	First Growing Vincent Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting at Vincent High School		Academic
February 2015	Sectional FFA Speaking Contest	Hosted by Vincent High School. Over 60 FFA members from 9 schools participated in the following contest: Job interview, Creed Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, Prepared Speaking, Parliamentary Procedure, and Discussion	4 VHS students participated	Industry
March 2015	DairyCAP All- Hands Meeting	Key stakeholders meeting in Chicago, Illinois		Academic
March 2015	Compost Transfer Project Meeting	<i>Institute for Urban Agriculture and Nutrition (IUAN) at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee will evaluate current compost operation, research compost opportunities, and conduct waste audits during lunch at VHS</i>	<i>Project will continue through December 2015</i>	<i>Facilities and Resources</i>
April 2015	Farm to Factory to Fork: Career Exploration Fair	Keynote Speaker: Maya Warren, UW-Madison PhD Student. Businesses represented: Milwaukee Area Technical College, Outpost Natural Foods, Schreiber Foods, Cargill Meat Solutions, Baptista's Bakery, Usinger's, Klement Sausage Co., Palermo's Pizza, Ocean Spray, Dept. of Workforce Development – Job Center of Wisconsin, QPS Employment Group, UW-Madison CALS, UW-Madison Food Science Club, Goodwill Industries of SE Wisconsin, CHR Hansen, The Coca-Cola Co., Cousins Subs, Foran Spices, Kerry, Seda International Packaging Group, Sprecher Brewery, United National Foods Inc. and FaB Milwaukee	Over 150 students participated, Ms. Warren (Winner of The Amazing Race) is researching the microstructure, behavioral and sensorial qualities of ice cream at UW-Madison CALS	Industry

May 2015	My Life! My Plan! Survey Program	Students participated in a two-day program consisting of workshops that exposed them to a variety of Food and Beverage Industry Careers, speed networking activity with local FaB CEO's and HR Managers. Survey report showcased how event influenced students' awareness, interest, and intent in pursuing careers related to the Food and Beverage Industry		Industry
Summer 2015	MATC College Credit	Students earned MATC college credit towards the Food Science & Manufacturing Certificate (Fast Forward Grant)	5 students participated	Academic
Summer 2015	Food Service Pilot Program	Students participated in a Food Service pilot program where students earned their ServSafe Certificate	2 students participated– Goodwill Industries	Industry
June 2015	Wisconsin FFA Convention	Students participated in the service project of packing meals, and attended convention sessions, listened to a motivational speaker, participated in leadership workshops, and attended the career expo	6 students participated – Madison, WI	Academic & Industry
June to July 2015	Research Apprenticeship Program for High School Students	Charmeeze “MeMe” Cooper, a Vincent High School student, was selected to participate in the program. The student would gain first-hand experience in research conducted under the direction of university research scientists and exposure to structured activities including field trips, workshops, lab demonstrations, computer applications, technical and scientific writing, and public speaking	North Carolina Agricultural & Technology State University	Academic
June to August 2015	The Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (MAWIB) Earn and Learn Program	Approximately 25 students hired and placed at Vincent High School. Two Agriculture team teachers lead the program	VHS Grounds, Milwaukee, WI	Industry

YEAR THREE				
Fall 2015	Hands-on Animal Visits	Goats, sheep, pony, hatch chicks	VHS Grounds, Milwaukee, WI	Academic
September 2015	Compost Transfer Project	Institute for Urban Agriculture and Nutrition (IUAN) at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee conducted four waste audits at Vincent High School during all three lunch periods	VHS, Milwaukee, WI	Facilities & Resources
October 2015	Compost Transfer Project Meeting	Institute for Urban Agriculture and Nutrition (IUAN) at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee waste audit data review and discussion	VHS, Milwaukee, WI	Facilities & Resources
October 2015	Advisory Board Meeting	Growing Vincent Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting at Vincent High School. Members met with new Principal and Ag Teachers. Discussion focused on Transformation Plan	VHS, Milwaukee, WI	Academic
Spring 2016	Started Chicken Flock	Students, along with agricultural teachers acquired chickens to start a chicken flock.	VHS Grounds, Milwaukee, WI	Academic
Spring 2016	Vet & Cow Demonstration	Students attended a demonstration by a veterinarian, on animal health and management	VHS Grounds, Milwaukee, WI	Academic
Spring 2016	Bull, calf, piglets	More animals—a bull, calf, and piglets—were introduced to the VHS campus.	VHS Grounds, Milwaukee, WI	Academic
March 2016	Zoo Field Trips	Environmental Science and Animal Science students visit the Zoo		Academic
April 2016	Dr. Driver Transformation	Superintendent of MPS, Dr. Darienne Driver participates in plans to transform VHS to VHSAS	VHS, Milwaukee, WI	Climate
April 2016	Paulus Dairy visit	Students heard from members of Paulus Dairy, LLC, a family dairy farm in Ozaukee County		Industry
April 2016	Educational Speakers	Milwaukee Area Technical College, DNR, VET	VHS, Milwaukee, WI	Academic

YEAR FOUR				
Fall 2016	Harborside Academy	Vincent High School hosted students for educational tour and workshops	100 students participated	Academic
Fall 2016	Business Plan for Fresh Market	Students in advanced Animal Science pathway announce business plan for Vincent's Fresh Market		Industry
Fall 2016	Feeder Schools Announced	Developing educational partnerships with MPS Central Office and other schools	Schools involved: Grantosa, Thoreau, River Trail	Academic
Fall 2016	CHSAS-VHSAS Partnership	A partnership agreement was established with n-gAged Learning, LLC and CHSAS to initiate curriculum transformation and collaboration efforts between schools		Academic
August 2016	Vincent Press Conference	Superintendent Dr. Driver, Secretary of Ag. Ben Brancel, MPS COO Willis, Students, Teachers, Principal Burns, CTE Eric Radomski, President Sain. Announcement that Dr. Driver has put the transformation of VHS into an Agricultural High School in her portfolio of priorities	See Press Release, MPS article, Wisconsin State Farmer article, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article, and The Country Today article	Climate
Spring 2017	Food for America Program	Vincent FFA and Waupun FFA visited Grantosa Middle school and taught them about where their food comes from	See Article – Wisconsin State Farmer Involved 400 K-8	Academic
Spring 2017	Maple Tree School Garden Beds	Horticulture class designed, built & planted 3 garden beds for Maple Tree School	Involved 20 Horticulture Pathway students	Academic
Spring 2017	Growing Machine	Donation of hydroponic Growing Machine for Horticulture Class to grow plants vertically	Partners involved: Feeding America and	Facilities & Resources
March 2017	Farm to Factory to Fork Career Discovery Day	50 VHS students attended the career fair and museum tour of World Food Tour	FaB Wisconsin Milwaukee Museum	Industry
May 2017	MPS STEM Showcase	3 students and 1 teacher showed off their science connection to MPS supporters. Growing Machine was displayed		Academic & Climate
May 2017	Spring Showcase	Showcase Classroom Projects, Science Fair, Food Trucks, Fresh Market. Speaker: Ben Brancel, Secretary of WI DATCP	Vincent Ag classes contributed to showcase	Academic
May 2017	WI Idea Seminar	40 UW-Madison Staff visited the Agricultural Dept. to learn about what we are doing with Agriculture in an Urban setting	UW-Madison	Academic
Summer 2017	Student Internships	Animal Science Ag. teacher, Monica Gahan, supervised two interns		Industry

June to August 2017	Earn and Learn Program	15 students were hired to work at Vincent High School. They worked in the greenhouse, garden, and took care of the animals	Earn & Learn – Governor’s Workforce Development Programing	Industry
July 2017	Grow Magazine Article	Article published by Carolyn Betz to highlight UW-Madison College of AG & Life Sciences and their support in the rebirth of VHSAS	See published article: https://grow.cals.wisc.edu/deprecated/agriculture/a-big-city-ag-high-school-blossoms	Climate
July 2017	Learn Earn and Grow (L.E.G.)	12 Vincent Students were hired as summer interns to work in urban agriculture settings. Students were paired with Crew Leaders who provided sustainable food-based experiential education	Collaboration between UW – Milwaukee & VHSAS	Industry
Summer 2017	Course Syllabus	Creation of the following curriculum: Animal Science Advanced Animal Science Horticulture Agribusiness Food Science	Collaborative efforts of Agricultural outreach specialist, agricultural teachers and n-gAGed learning consultant	Academic

YEAR FIVE				
Fall 2017	New VHS Vision	VHS officially adopts new Vision for the school.	VHS, Milwaukee, WI	Climate
August 2017	WI State Fair	Three students had the opportunity to showcase their market lambs at the 2017 State Fair.	State Fair Grounds, Milwaukee, WI	Industry
August 2017	State Fair All-Staff Professional Development	VHS faculty and staff members attended an all-staff professional development meeting to learn more about how agriculture connects to daily life	State Fair Grounds, Milwaukee, WI	Academic
August 2017	Milwaukee Zoo Visit	Animal Bodies Inside out - BodyWorks Field Trip	200 students	Academic
August 2017	Youth Impact Award	Award presented to Animal Science teacher Monica Gahan		Climate
August 2017-present	Fresh Market Café	Student-run café project opened to students and staff each Friday	VHS, Milwaukee, WI	Industry
September 2017	Harborside Academy	Vincent High School hosted students for educational tour and workshops	100 students participated	Academic
September 2017	Pathway textbooks	All six pathways acquired textbooks and online student access		Academic
September 2017	Rosendale Dairy Tour	Students toured a large scale dairy operation at Rosendale Dairy—one of the state's largest and most productive dairy farms	Pickett, WI	Academic
September 2017	Vision/Progress Meeting	Meeting with Innovation Office—MPS Central Office		Climate
October 2017	HBCU College Fair @ VHS	College fair featuring Historically Black Colleges and Universities from across the country	VHS, Milwaukee, WI	Academic
October 2017	School AgFall Festival	VHS faculty, staff, and students participate in school-wide festival focusing on agriculture at Vincent and in the state	VHS, Milwaukee, WI	Academic
October 2017	Community AgFall Festival	AgFall Festival opened up to community participation, with activities lead and created by students, faculty and staff	VHS, Milwaukee, WI	Academic
October 2017	Salvation Army Dinner Hosts	Ag. students made food and delivered meals to community members		Industry
October 2017	National FFA Convention	12 students and 2 agriculture teachers attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis where they attended convention sessions, listened to motivational speakers, participated in leadership/agricultural workshops and attended the career expo.	Indiana	Academic & Industry
October 2017	Senator Baldwin Rep Visit	A representative from Senator Baldwin's offices visited VHS.	VHS, Milwaukee, WI	Climate
November 2017	MANRR Youth	Visit with MANRR Youth programs in Madison, WI	Madison, WI	
November 2017	Turkey and Lamb Sale	Fundraising sale/activity of turkey and lamb	VHS, Milwaukee, WI	Industry
November 2017	Café Remodel	Remodeled Fresh Market Café	VHS, Milwaukee, WI	Facilities & Resources

December 2017	Dr. Driver Visit	MPS Superintendent Dr. Driver, Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin Rebecca Kleefisch, and Legislators visit VHS	VHS, Milwaukee, WI	Climate
December 2017	WI Coalition Meeting	Connecting with Farm Bureau at state level. Vincent presentation at Wisconsin Coalition Meeting of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau	Madison, WI	Climate
December to January 2017	Freshman Star	Star program, oriented toward freshman, first introduced.	VHS, Milwaukee, WI	Climate
January 2018	YES Presentation/ Workshop	Visit from Milwaukee's YES program for a presentation and workshop	VHS, Milwaukee, WI	Academic
January 2018	UW-Stevens Point School Garden Workshop	Collaboration between UW-Stevens Point and VHS students on the management of the school garden	VHS Grounds, Milwaukee, WI	Academic
December 2017	GSCM Grant Meeting	Meeting to prepare for a grant from Green Schools Consortium of Milwaukee	VHS, Milwaukee, WI	Climate

PHOTO GALLERY









All gallery photos courtesy of Vincent High School Agricultural Department.

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