

2022-23 Annual Report VMSRAMRH Summary of Success

Vickery Meadow Students have opportunity for 10+ months annually of English Language Learning through Vickery Meadow Summer Reading Academy, and its outgrowth program, McShan Reading Homeroom

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Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015-6	2016-7	2017-8	2018-9	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	VM	VM	VM	VM	VM	VM/ MRH	VM/ MRH	VM/ MRH	VM/ MRH	VM/ MRH	VM/ MRH	VM/ MRH	VM/ MRH	VM/ MRH
Loc	VMLC	JL	McSh	JL	JL	JL	JL	JL	JL	McSh/ Virtual	Virtual	Virtual/ Hybrid	McSh InPers/ Hybrid	McSh InPers/ Hybrid
Stud's	16	61	177	139	134	189/90	175/240	182/122	159/146	134/121	83/120	88/114	88/114	90/120 est
Tut's	8	30	62	56	62	74/90	119/240	122/122	115/146	83/255	94/120	120/147	78/114	45/120 est

Our students, youth leaders and adults find deep purpose and benefit from our inter-generational and cross-cultural nature at all levels of our program.

One student summed it up for us all:

“This is the most fun school I have ever been to!”

VMSRAMRH is deeply grateful for support from:

Dallas ISD, and McShan ES Principal Henry Medaris
Marnie Wildenthal

Vickery Meadow Youth Development Foundation
Pi Beta Phi Dallas Alumnae

Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church

North Park Presbyterian Church

Temple Emanu-El

AT&T Pioneers

Trinity Christian Academy

Treasured Personal Donors

VMSRAMRH is humbled by our reputation as “stellar stewards of the charitable dollar”.

McShan ES is one of the highest poverty schools in the Dallas ISD: 98 percent of the students are economically disadvantaged; it has the largest refugee population; and 87 percent of students are English language learners. Rated “Academically Unacceptable” in her early years, McShan ES has grown to become a shining example of community-school partnership success. Vickery Meadow Sumer Reading Academy is the only summer refugee reading program in Texas.

Many students enter McShan ES having no prior English language training. Since 2010, student body demographics have continued to shift away from Spanish to “all other languages”, and early in this transition, adequate translators, teachers and course materials in various languages proved impossible. “Reading Partners” served McShan for several years but was unsuitable for the deep needs of the greater number of McShan students.

Each school year we support 550+ McShan Elementary School students (and their families). Many of these children have been identified by their teachers as reading significantly below grade level or needing enrichment that is difficult to provide in the classroom. **McShan ES students are one of the highest socioeconomically disadvantaged student populations and the most diverse in the DISD.** According to DISD, 98% of McShan ES students are economically disadvantaged and 87% are English Language Learners. The neighborhood is framed by Northwest Highway on the south, Royal Lane on the north, Greenville Avenue on the west and Abrams on the east. More than 35,000 people live in Vickery Meadow apartments and more than 40 different languages are spoken. The Dallas Observer described the neighborhood as “a dense swath of about 100 apartment complexes cradled by NorthPark Center and Whole Foods to the west and Half Price Books to the south. It’s an overlooked anthill...”

Many students enter McShan ES having no prior English language training. Since 2010, the student body make-up continues to shift away from Spanish to “all manner of other languages”. McShan families speak approximately 29 written and non-written languages plus dialects. They immigrated from 22 countries including Myanmar, Malaysia, Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Tanzania, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Liberia, Nepal, South Africa, Mozambique, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and other countries around the globe experiencing war, famine, religious persecution, terrorism and genocide. Last year, many Afghan families began settling in Vickery Meadow. Most Afghan children cannot read and many are traumatized. Some of our students’ families have lived as many as three generations in blue-tarp tent UNHCR camps, waiting in line for cups of rice. Recently, we have begun welcoming Ukrainian students and their families.

We tutor everyone from newly arrived 5th graders who do not know the English alphabet to 1st graders performing at a 4th grade English level and everyone in between. Unfortunately, due to pandemic-related learning losses, we estimate that 30% of the students we tutor across all grades are “struggling students” who are still trying to learn basic reading skills and vocabulary. Their families are unable to provide support at home as a large number of our students’ parents do not know how to read or write in their own language and are unable to either speak or read English.

Additionally, each summer we expand our reach to include students from throughout the Vickery Meadow area. Summer students are referred to us by their teachers because they need continuing English immersion to reduce “summer slide”. We provide literacy instruction, art, science, music and sports electives, field trips and special events, as well as bus transportation, two meals a day and snacks.

Why is elementary school tutoring vital? Because early reading is the most crucial academic skill. It is the foundation for learning. Nonreaders lag in every class, year after year because more than 85% of the curriculum is taught by reading. By the 2nd grade even math is dependent on reading to solve word problems. Research shows that our focus on the early grades can impact the future course of our students' lives. Compared to their classmates: 3rd graders who cannot read are 4 times more likely to drop out of school and 3rd graders in LOW INCOME POVERTY LEVEL schools (like McShan ES) are 13 times more likely to drop out of school.

When our VMSRA Founder first joined McShan as a classroom tutor in 2010, the school was rated “Academically Unacceptable” by TEA. She launched the VMSRA summer program in 2010 and in 2015 added McShan Reading Homeroom to tutor during the full school year. In 2021-22, McShan scored “B” in every area of their TEA School Report Card, garnering the top elementary school position in their feeder pattern.

McShan Reading Homeroom was again a leading Service Site for both Ursuline and Jesuit Senior Service during the school year 2022-23. Jesuit provided 16 tutors every Wednesday three hours, and Ursuline provided 10 tutors every Monday two hours for the school year. Additional Youth and Adult tutors volunteered with MRH from 13 Texas cities, 4 states, and 3 countries across the globe.

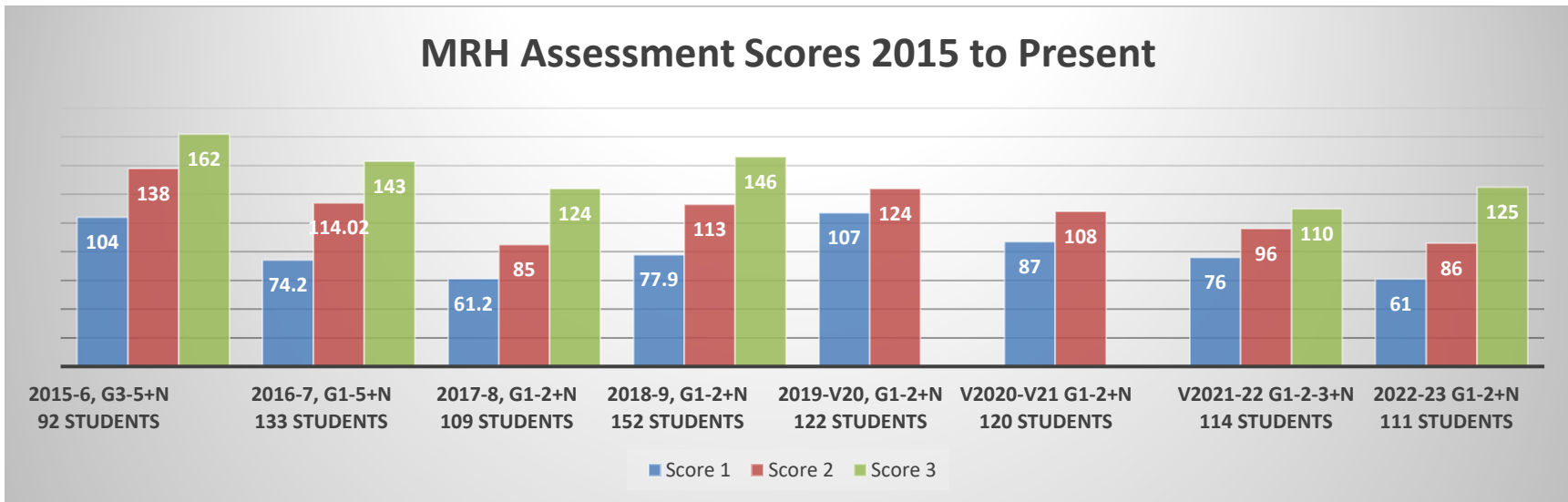
Once again, VMSRA was required to pay a DISD teacher to be on premises during the run of the Academy. **Master Administrator Margot McGuire** expertly put her talents to work for us all each day. **DISD Food Services** provided two meals each day. **DISD Bus Services** provided two runs twice each day, and provided service for our Library visits two days.

Forty-five tutors celebrated each day with 90 students, completing **4,605 hours** of education, with twenty students achieving **Perfect Attendance**, and 30 more missing only one day. **Marnie Wildenthal** facilitated the opportunity for five **UTD McDermott Scholars** to tutor during their summer classes. Subsequently, **Sneha Sharma** is pursuing a tutoring partnership for scholars in the **UTD Hobson Wildenthal Honors College** to tutor with McShan Reading Homeroom during the school year.

In addition to basic English phonics, reading, writing, manuscript/cursive practice, and reading comprehension, students enjoyed gardening, science, music, dance and art. Through generous support of **Pi Beta Phi Dallas Alumnae Chapter**, **Aditya Shivaswamy** lead 68 students and six chaperones on our first-ever out of Vickery Meadow field trip to **Dallas Museum of Art**. All students also visited the **Vickery Branch of Dallas Public Library** again this summer. Our finale featured Perfect Attendance awards, performances by each class, and Ritchy Flo performed magic and amusement with audience participation.

The link to **VMSRA2023 photo album** is: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/s79fZuvLEH1C1ii88>

Achievement results from the 2022-23 school year MRH program guided placement of students in five summer class levels.



McShan scored “B” in every area of their TEA School Report Card in 2021-22, garnering the top elementary school position in their feeder pattern. **State Accountability Ratings for Schools in 2022-23 are due to be released September 2023.**

Our volunteers are drawn to, and benefit from, our cross-culturalism at all levels. We take pride in leadership development of our youth, including those who emerge as students to blossom as leaders, become Youth Leaders of the Year themselves, and graduate to continue their education in college and military.

Shaina Starr, Alyson Lee and Camila Hanson each received VMSRA2023’s Youth Leader of the Year scholarships, the first summer we have honored so many Youth Leaders.

Due to the pandemic, we have seen a rise in the level of poverty in our student population. For the past two years, we have seen many families leave VM, but a large influx of Afghan and Pakistani immigrant/refugee families coming to Vickery Meadow has greatly renewed need for VMSRAMRH. New refugee families most often are just getting their legs under them, and their students need VMSRAMRH to help them acclimate, gain confidence, and begin to read. “Summer slide” and no school during the pandemic has taken a significant toll on our population. A great number of our new refugee families of all ages have had little or no formal education. Parents are unable to read to their children, minimizing the degree of English vocabulary depth that preschool children learn before entering school. Further, nearly all VM children fail to hear and learn English during the time they are not in school.

VMSRAMRH22-23 is blessed to benefit from the most compassionate and devoted volunteers available to any program.

Following are tutors and volunteers who supported VMSRA2023:

(#) indicates returning tutor (@) indicates former VMSRA/MRH student *Blue* indicates Executive Committee

Red indicates returning YLOTY

Aanya Khatri	Eleanor Song	John Buhl	Philip Balis#
Abby Rogers#	Ella Diamond	Julia Rogers	Roger Parks#
Aditya Shivaswamy (Music)#	Ellis Hidalgo	Justin Collins#	Rukiah Fayas@
Aiden Rogers	Francesca "LuLu" Carrillo	Kaley Padilla#	Ruth Whelan#
Aiswarya Saravanan	Gisele Rogers	Karen Lee#	Samia Blaik#
Alekya Tanikella	Grace Kirchof	Leah Sullivan	Sandra Balis#
Alyson Lee	Halle Wolde	Lena Godat (Garden)#	Sarah Song
Ayushi Seneviratne	Ismael Hussain	Lilly McClendon	Shaina Starr (Science)#
Barbara Franklin (Art)#	Jacob Rogers	Liz Hurt#	Sheila Stieglitz (Art)#
Barbara Neill#	Jahan Syed	Luis Lopez#	Sneha Sharma
Camila Hanson#	Janie Hughes#	<i>Margot McGuire#</i>	Sue Roman#
Chance Hawas@	Jannatunnaim Alam@	Mariana Cano	Tatiana Lefeld#
Cindy Bunnett#	Jaycee Padilla@	<i>Marisol Galvez@</i>	Toni Dowd#
<i>Dalene Buhl#</i>	<i>Jessica Schwarz-Zik</i>	<i>Nancy Britton#</i>	Upeksha Seneviratne
Laura Leavell (Dance)	Joan Gremont#	Nancy Lubar#	<i>Victor Sanchez#</i>
	Joan Poole#	Parfaite Mitamba@	

Following are dedicated MRH Tutors during the school year 2022-23:

Abhinav Vinod	Camila Hanson	Jake Morgan	Melanie Barton	Ruth Whelan#
Abigail Rogers	Caryline Bradford	Jamie Fox	Mercer Fernandes	Sam Bargrizan
Adelle Jia	C. Bliss Rutonesha II#	Janie Hughes#	Mercer Lee	Samia Blaik
Aisha Saeed	C. Michael Nwalozie	<i>Jessica Schwarz-Zik#</i>	Monique Asleson	Sandra Balis#
Alana Houston	Cindy Bunnett#	Joan Gremont#	Nadia Shaaf	Sanya Syed Ahmed
Alex Nii-Blebo Andrews	Cole Frutos	Joseph Amador	Nancy Britton#	Sarah White
Alexandra Sauvage	Cole Hines	Karen Lee#	Paola O'Rourke#	Stephanie Kessler

Alyssa Simone Jackson	Conall Flanagan	Katherine Weeks	Pat Nobles#	Sue Roman
Ana Eva Benitez	Connor Ehinger	Katia Vazquez	Patricia Coil#	Susan Andrews
Ana Maria Cordero	Crystal Crosby	Kokora Assemien Martial	Paul Neubach#	Susan Swinson#
Angel Herrera	Curtis Swinson#	Lene Godat	Philip Balis	Toni Dowd#
Anna Kahl	Dalene Buhl#	Lisa O'Neil#	Preston Payne	Vaishali Parikh
Astrid Quiroga	David Alcalá-Frederick	Liz Hurt	Rawabi Alanazi	Vinay Jayanti
Barbara Franklin#	Gisele Rogers	Margot McGuire#	Richard Stern#	William Sellers
Barbara Mohl#	Harsha Tummalapalli	Marie Jacko#	Roger Parks#	William Sahadevan
Benson Higgins	Helen Feldman	Rev. Mark Brainerd	Rolene Berk#	Zachary Asche
Beth Eaton#	Houston Walker	Martin D Longo	Ronda Criss#	
Bruno Blankenburg	Hudson Ellison	Mary Beth Dayton#	Ruth Kinyua	

For at least the foreseeable future, we anticipate the continued need for VMSRAMRH for McShan and VM refugee/immigrant students. After that time, we anticipate providing English language learning expertise for needy students of all national origins attending elementary schools beyond the DISD Conrad feeder pattern. We are frequently being asked to share our program plan with refugee parents and charitable agencies in other areas.

Publicity:

CBSDFW January 13, 2021 <https://youtu.be/um8sONBwWT0>
<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/education/2021/07/29/tutoring-is-key-to-texas-covid-19-recovery-plans-heres-how-one-dallas-school-maximized-it/>
<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/education/2017/12/21/nothing-short-of-a-miracle-how-a-dallas-isd-elementary-with-80-english-language-learners-rose-to-the-top/>
<https://youtu.be/um8sONBwWT0>
<https://www.ursulinedallas.org/home-page-news/~board/announcements/post/senior-service-spotlight-mcshan-elementary>

McShan Reading Homeroom/VMSRA received Dallas Morning News front page attention December 2016 [<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/education/2016/12/26/at-this-dallas-school-it-takes-a-village-to-help-refugee-kids-learn-to-read/>], and were prominently featured in a 2014 cover story by the Dallas Morning News.
[neighborsgo.com/Lake Highlands/Richardson](http://neighborsgo.com/Lake_Highlands/Richardson) August 1, 2014, [<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/2014/08/01/reading-program-targets-vickery-meadow-students/>]
complete with a two-page spread of 4 photos and a great story of our history and learning objectives.