



 Venture Academy

For a Brighter Future

A THREE-YEAR INITIATIVE FOR VENTURE ACADEMY



**Empowering Christ-centered
leaders, designers, and innovators
for a world we can't yet imagine.**

Venture





Dear Friends,

Over five years ago, a small group of community leaders began imagining how a purposely designed educational experience could transform the future for countless students and parents. Their vision was to build a school that would deliver measurable academic outcomes through embracing innovation while investing in each child's character formation. A school that would prepare students to meet the demands of a rapidly changing world, creating lasting opportunities.

Following years of research and planning, Venture Academy opened its doors to students from kindergarten to grade 6 in August 2024. After a successful first year, we began our second academic year with 166 students, a confirming **49% increase**, adding grade 7 and a second kindergarten class to meet demand. Our school has been inspired by the community's outpouring of support for an educational alternative that focuses, first and foremost, on the success of our students, parents, faculty, and staff.

Consistent with our long-term development plan, Venture is now excited to launch our **For A Brighter Future** capital campaign – a three-year initiative designed to fund a new state-of-the-art campus that, when added to our existing space, will allow the school to accommodate up to 600 students from kindergarten through grade 12. The new building will allow for additional growth within our 50-acre wooded campus, conveniently located on Highway 53 between Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls. Beyond bricks and mortar, this project represents a continued investment in learning opportunities that will help prepare students with the future-ready skills that will empower Christ-centered leaders, designers, and innovators for a world we can't yet imagine.

Together, we can educate and equip our children for a rapidly changing world. We invite you to join us as we continue building an educational legacy that will be felt in the greater Chippewa Valley for generations to come.

With excitement and sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Brian Sullivan', written over a faint architectural line drawing of a building.

Brian Sullivan
Head of School



Who We Are

Today's children will inherit a world vastly different from anything we can predict. In fact, according to statistics from the U.S. Department of Labor, 65 percent of today's 1st graders will step into jobs that do not yet exist. As Venture Academy was formed, we asked the question: **How do we prepare future learners with the skills needed not only to thrive professionally but to live lives marked by purpose, resilience, strong relationships, and the ability to build healthy families and communities?**

At Venture, we are ready to accept that challenge. We are committed to preparing our students to enter the future boldly, confident that they are equipped and ready to embrace tomorrow's challenges.

Outstanding academics will always remain a top priority, but our vision goes far beyond that. Students at Venture will be equipped with capabilities and attributes that will serve them well, no matter what the future holds. We will provide students with a future-ready skill set, including:

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE
PROBLEM SOLVING
CRITICAL THINKING
RESILIENCY
COLLABORATION
EMPATHY

FROM VISION TO VENTURE

Fall 2015

A visionary spark was lit that would grow to become Venture Academy.

7/21/2021

First meeting with a highly respected educational consulting firm, to begin designing a new, innovative school.

12/15/2021

Hired an experienced branding firm to establish the Venture brand. Contracted with Brian Sullivan as an education consultant.

1/9/2022

First Design Team meeting, a collaborative group that met monthly to shape Venture's vision and framework before the School Board was formed.



Many communities throughout the United States, including those within the greater Chippewa Valley, are experiencing declining math and reading proficiencies and a lack of student engagement. While other sectors in the Chippewa Valley are innovating, expanding, and growing, our once lauded educational system has begun to lag. Business leaders are expressing concern that it is becoming increasingly difficult to attract top talent to our community, in part due to the decline in educational quality. Students often leave schools ill-equipped and unprepared for the future.

We believe Venture has already begun to change the status quo – a positive disruption that has the power to raise the standard of education in the best sense possible. Venture’s success is challenging other schools to think differently, to raise their standards, and to serve students and families more effectively. We do not intend for Venture to be merely a step above other academic options; we expect Venture to be the benchmark others aspire to emulate regarding educational quality, character development, transparency, and partnership with students and parents.

Not every student will attend Venture; however, we hope that, due to our innovative educational practices, every school – and therefore, every student – in the Chippewa Valley will benefit from Venture’s success.

Our goals are to partner with families to teach students, who are a gift to the Chippewa Valley, grow businesses, and strengthen homes, schools, and neighborhoods for generations to come. Whether students are college-bound or preparing for meaningful careers in the trades and other industries, at Venture, they will find a home that prepares them to succeed in their lives and careers.

65%

of 1st grade students will work in a job that doesn’t yet exist.

–U.S. Labor Department

6/7/2022

First focus groups met with 72 parents, business leaders, and stakeholders in attendance.

7/15/2022

Surveyed 400 households, and 87% responded with “*The Chippewa Valley needs a school like Venture.*”

12/15/2022

Hired a respected architectural firm for preliminary site design.

2/9/2023

First Board of Directors meeting was held, hosting five board members using the Carver Model of Governance.

Our Goals

Developing Character

Our desire for Venture students is to think deeply about who God is, who we are in relation to Him, and what He desires of us. Through this formation, students develop a character that supports lasting well-being, growing resilience, emotional health, and a strong sense of purpose. Loving others, serving the common good, and pursuing what is good, shape students who are not only job-ready but life-ready. Empowered as Christ-centered leaders, designers, and innovators, our students are equipped to navigate a world we can't yet imagine with wisdom, joy, compassion, and the ability to build healthy relationships, strong families, and flourishing communities.

Outstanding Teachers and Staff

Our teachers are among our greatest assets. Respecting our team, their dedication, and professional experience, we pay our faculty well and continue to recruit outstanding professional educators who are committed to Venture Academy's mission and its students. They are exemplary models, utilizing proven pedagogical methods and research-based innovations to instruct and inspire while serving as a living curriculum, showing our students what it means to live with character and conviction.

3/1/2023

Brian Sullivan was hired as the Head of School.

8/9/2023

Matt Marusak was hired as the Lower School Principal.

8/11/2023

Received official 501(c)(3) nonprofit status (effective December 18, 2022).

3/27/2024

Officially announced that Venture would open as a K–6 school, expanding beyond the originally planned K–5 model, in response to overwhelming demand.

Serving the Local Community

We anticipate expanding our partnership with the local business community, inviting key leaders to our campus on a regular basis to address and interact with our students. We also expect our students to gain practical experience while interning and serving with local businesses and community organizations.

Partnering with Parents

At Venture, we are committed to transparency. We view parents as our partners, not as adversaries. We publish our curriculum, allowing parents to know exactly what their children are learning. Once a month, we host parents at our Venture Mornings, a town hall style meeting where parents can hear from school leaders and ask questions. Venture surveys parents, students, and staff annually and then publishes the results to the school community. In short, we give parents the tools they need to be fully invested in their children's education.

We believe in the school's Christ-centered mission and values. We're grateful for the focus on outdoor learning, STEAM, and the plan to grow through high school.

-Venture Parent



Our vision is for Venture to be a fully accredited, full-service school, complete with athletic teams, outdoor learning spaces, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) labs, and much more.

We are committed to building not just a school building, but an entire campus that will prepare innovative leaders across all fields while serving the needs of families and the broader community.



March 2024

The inaugural school year was fully staffed with 23 full-time staff members despite statewide teacher shortages.

Summer 2024

Teacher training and orientation took place throughout the summer.

8/26/2024

Venture's first day of school began with 104 students in grades K-6; most private schools in Wisconsin start with 35 students.

8/26/2024

AdVenture Club was launched, an after-school program, serving 27 students throughout the year.



Our Impact

Venture Academy officially launched in the fall of 2024 with 104 students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Our teachers brought a combined total of more than 100 years of experience with them into our classrooms.

Venture experienced tremendous growth as we entered our second year. Student enrollment increased 49% from the end of the first year to the beginning of the second year. Venture started its second academic year with 166 students, added an additional kindergarten classroom, expanded to 7th grade, and welcomed four new members to our teaching staff.

Preparing to accommodate students, Venture has undergone an extensive renovation of large sections of the existing building, which will serve as the long-term home for our lower school, grades K-4. While we expect part of Venture to be housed here for the foreseeable future, we are also planning to construct a new, state-of-the-art building on its new campus, which will have a transformative effect on life and education in the Chippewa Valley. When completed, this building will house grades 5-12.

Our new campus will be conveniently located between Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls, on the corner of Melby Road and 122nd Street, adjacent to the current building, on a beautiful 50-acre parcel of property gifted to Venture by Jacob's Well Church. The campus is situated alongside more than 100 additional acres of land, which are available for students as part of our outdoor education programming. The planned energy-efficient building will be designed and furnished with a focus on the needs of our students and faculty. Classrooms will be flexible to facilitate collaboration and allow for independent learning, small group or team work, shared staff planning, and outdoor learning. Ergonomic and mobile furniture accommodates students of various sizes. Our furniture features stools, standing-height desks, rolling chairs, and tables, as well as wobble seating and soft seating, all incorporated into our intentional design.

9/4/2024

200+ community members attended our ribbon-cutting ceremony and school dedication, with the Eau Claire & Chippewa Falls Chambers.

9/9/2024

Student-led announcements began; grades K-6 were able to participate throughout the school year.

9/10/2024

Commenced Venture's first weekly chapel, which continued throughout the year and featured 19 guest speakers from 8 local churches.

9/18/2024

Held our first Venture Mornings event with the Head of School and Lower School Principal, a monthly meeting for school and home collaboration.



After only a couple of months at Venture, our kids had come to love the school and all the faculty. They really excelled academically and improved a lot, and would often give extra time to working on school projects simply because they liked it so much. The teachers and leadership at the school are amazing, and you can tell the leaders are very forward-thinking and experienced.

-Venture Parent

9/26/2024

First Experience Venture Day, where a student can spend the day at school to see if it is a good fit before they are officially enrolled.

10/3/2024

Launched our school-wide Personal Learning Plan for each student.

10/3/2024 – 10/4/2024

100% parent/guardian participation at our first fall Parent-Teacher Conferences compared to 53% average parent attendance in Wisconsin schools.

10/25/2024

Served 700+ pancakes at our first all-school pancake breakfast.

Venture Academy is not just a school.

It is where imagination meets purpose, where faith fuels innovation, and where students are equipped to thrive in a world that never stops changing. Venture will soon have a building to match its vision and commitment.



11/1/2024

Introduced Mini-Grants, allowing staff to apply for grants to enrich student experiences; six grants were awarded in our first year.

11/25/2024

140 guests attended our first Grandparents and Special Friends Day.

12/12/2024

500 parents, grandparents, and community members attended our first all-school Christmas concert.

1/13/2025

Conducted surveys with students, parents, and staff. They rated Venture: Students 4.5/5
Parents 4.4/5
Staff 4.3/5



1/23/2025

Hosted our first Annual Business Meeting and Kindergarten Open House.

2/11/2025

The 2025 Innovation Fest welcomed 300 students, parents, and guests for a time of exploration and creativity.

The event featured nine engaging sessions, eight guest presenters, and projects designed by students in 4th–6th grade.

2/20/2025 – 2/21/2025

100% parent/guardian participation at our winter Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Learning Reimagined

The successful completion of the **For A Brighter Future** capital campaign will provide the necessary funds to construct the new facility, offering a permanent home for Venture Academy as we grow and expand, fully enabling us to pursue our mission with energy and purpose. Our ambitious goal is to complete the building in time for incoming students in the fall of 2027.

Modern technology will be available for demonstrations, teaching, collaboration, and presentations. At the same time, the building will also feature quiet corners and private, technology-free zones during the school day. Reflecting workplace trends, the school will be designed to prepare students for the future workforce environment, with large group spaces for team activities and breakout spaces for smaller groups located around the perimeter.

Art, choir, band, STEAM, entrepreneurship, and culinary arts will be available to all students. Music labs will include an outdoor performance space and amphitheater. Classrooms will be filled with natural light, featuring flexible glass wall partitions. Outdoor learning spaces will provide opportunities for hands-on learning, fostering curiosity, emotional well-being, and a deeper understanding of nature. Coding, computer-aided design (CAD), prototyping, engineering, and robotics will be central to the STEAM innovation lab suites, providing students with the opportunity to acquire practical, transferable skills that can be applied in the marketplace.

3/14/2025

Students celebrated the completion of their maple syrup project at the spring pancake breakfast.

4/16/2025

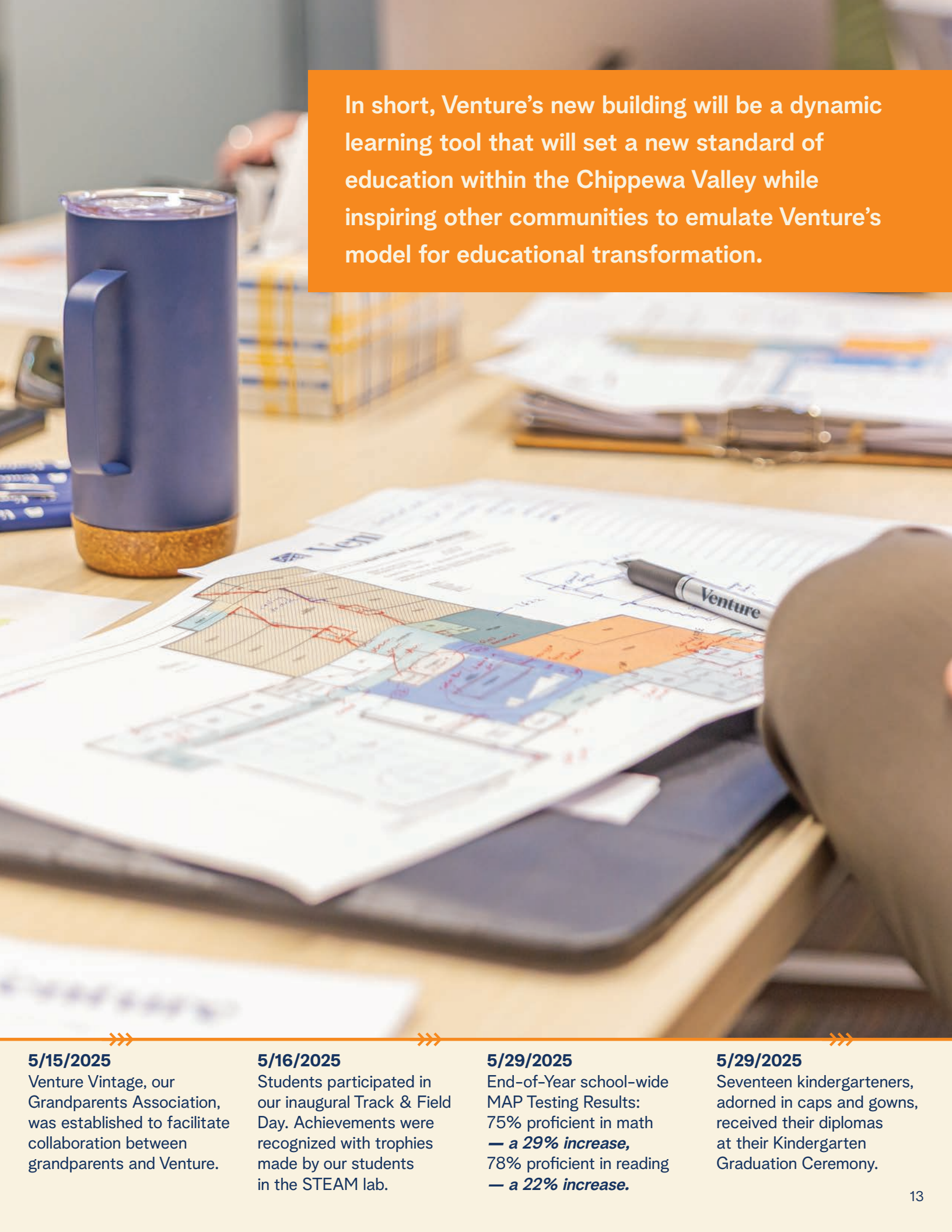
Sean Miller, a child psychologist, was a guest speaker at Venture Mornings, *"Understanding Your Child's Inner World."*

5/1/2025 – 5/2/2025

Third Parent-Teacher Conferences: 70 students in Grades 3–6 facilitated their own student-led conference.

5/13/2025

During National Police Week, our K–6 students proudly presented handmade plaques to the Lake Hallie Police Department in chapel to honor their service.

A close-up photograph of a wooden desk. On the left is a blue insulated mug with a cork base. In the center, a pen with the word 'Venture' on it lies on a large sheet of paper featuring a colorful architectural or site plan. Other papers and a binder are visible in the background.

In short, Venture's new building will be a dynamic learning tool that will set a new standard of education within the Chippewa Valley while inspiring other communities to emulate Venture's model for educational transformation.

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5/15/2025

Venture Vintage, our Grandparents Association, was established to facilitate collaboration between grandparents and Venture.

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5/16/2025

Students participated in our inaugural Track & Field Day. Achievements were recognized with trophies made by our students in the STEAM lab.

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5/29/2025

End-of-Year school-wide MAP Testing Results:
75% proficient in math
— **a 29% increase,**
78% proficient in reading
— **a 22% increase.**

➤➤➤
5/29/2025

Seventeen kindergarteners, adorned in caps and gowns, received their diplomas at their Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony.

We may not be able to imagine the technological capabilities and the innovative and creative opportunities to come, but we can dream about what our students will accomplish.

We can prepare them to be confident in their knowledge, skilled in their abilities, and rooted in their faith, enabling them to soar to unimaginable heights.

Let us accomplish this vision together and watch in expectation as God responds through our prayers, diligence, generosity, and faithfulness.

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5/30/2025

Launched the all-school Summer Reading Program for students and staff. Students read a total of 132,600 minutes over break.

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5/30/2025

111 students celebrated the last day of school at the Kick-Off to Summer Bash, hosted by our Parent Association.

»»»
Summer 2025

168 students participated in 65 enrichment camps that were offered through the Summer Academy Program.

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8/22/2025

The Summer Academy survey went out to families who attended. Results: 4.56/5.0



8/25/2025

Began the 25-26 school year with 166 students in Grades K-7. **Enrollment grew by 49% from the end of the 24/25 school year.**

Some new additions for the year: a second Kindergarten class, 7th grade, Spanish, Choir, Band, Micro-Classes, Cross Country, and more.

9/2/2025

Held our first Cross-Country practice, marking the start of our athletic program.

9/5/2025

The foundation was poured for our Outdoor Learning Center through a generous donor.

Donor Impact

A Path to Our Goal

Number of Gifts	Gift Amount	Subtotal	Cumulative Total
1	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
1	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$5,000,000
2	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$7,000,000
3	\$500,000	\$1,500,000	\$8,500,000
4	\$250,000	\$1,000,000	\$9,500,000
5	\$100,000	\$500,000	\$10,000,000
4	\$50,000	\$200,000	\$10,200,000
10	\$25,000	\$250,000	\$10,450,000
10	\$20,000	\$200,000	\$10,650,000
10	\$10,000	\$100,000	\$10,750,000
Many	<\$10,000	\$250,000	\$11,000,000

Exclusive naming opportunities are available for this landmark building, offering donors a lasting legacy, and recognition of their generosity.

Venture Academy has been diligently raising funds for the launch of the school. Over the past four years, \$27 million has already been raised to support Venture. These funds and the gift of land have been used to remodel the current facility, purchase furniture and equipment, hire and train staff, provide generous scholarships for students, pay for school operations, and operational expenses connected with establishing a new school.

The remaining funds needed for Venture's new building are \$11 million. This new building, in conjunction with the existing campus, will allow Venture to house close to 600 students from grades K-12.

How To Achieve This Goal

"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain." – Psalm 127:1

This initiative will depend on the support, prayers, and generosity of the Venture community, new partners, and friends who believe in our mission and are prepared to step forward with leadership gifts, not only from current income, but also from stored assets. While we firmly believe the Lord can provide these necessary resources in any way of His choosing, history and experience tell us that it will require supporters to make commitments along the lines listed in the chart above.

9/15/2025

A 13-member Capital Campaign Committee was formed to establish campaign priorities, schedule, and timeline.

9/16/2025

Introduced after-school Help Sessions for Grades 4-7, which give students access to teachers for homework and school project help.

9/17/2025

Invited Lake Hallie Chief of Police to discuss school safety with our parents during Venture Mornings.

12/2/2025

Received approval to apply for accreditation through Cognia, which is up to a three-year process.

Strategic Priorities:

- 1 Provide outstanding learning spaces for students to learn and thrive.
- 2 Attract and retain highly qualified staff that model a living curriculum through example.
- 3 Enrich and broaden learning through STEAM, outdoor education, and extracurricular opportunities.



The **For A Brighter Future** capital campaign will allow Venture to cross the finish line. The wheels for Venture's future have been set in motion.

Now is the time to take the next step toward meeting our goal of raising the \$11 million necessary to complete the next phase of our development plan.



12/11/2025

First Intermediate School Band and Choir showcased at Venture's second annual Christmas program.

Winter 2025-2026

Partnered with Liberty Christian School to launch boys' and girls' basketball teams.



Join us as we continue to build, grow, and venture forward.

The Chippewa Valley is a great place to live and work, and outstanding schools like Venture Academy only serve to make it even better. We believe our innovative educational approach will attract new businesses, enhance the quality of life, foster a vibrant workforce, and empower the well-being of faith-based individuals. The work of Venture will serve the common good of everyone who calls the Chippewa Valley home.

Will you join us to become a part of the future of education?



Your investment in Venture Academy will impact students, parents, businesses, and the greater Chippewa Valley community for decades to come.







Venture Academy

The future of Venture is bright. The promise of Venture's presence in the Chippewa Valley is profound and encouraging. The Venture story has just begun, but we look forward with enthusiasm as we watch where it will take us and to witness the impact young men and women of character will have in the Chippewa Valley and beyond for generations.

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