



**ONSITE ACCREDITATION
TEAM REPORT**

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School
45638 561st Avenue
New Ulm

October 29 - October 31, 2012

Mr. Brian Ragatz
MNSAA Team Chair

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The onsite accreditation visiting team would like to thank Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School for its warm welcome and gracious hospitality throughout our visit. The team gratefully acknowledges the preparation of the faculty and staff for the team's visit. The team also thanks the teaching staff, students, and parents who took time to answer our many questions. Their input provided much of the information we needed to complete the report. The team was provided a very pleasant work environment and thanks those for providing refreshments and meals.

A strong sense of community exists at MVL. The team noted this throughout the visit. The presence of the Board of Directors and the obvious caring connection of teachers to students were true indications of a loving and caring community. Futhermore, the Mission of MVL is evident throughout the daily operation of the school.

The team thanks and acknowledges the leadership of Mr. Tim Plath for providing the team with the self-study and school improvement plan many weeks in advance. Moreover, the team commends Mr. Plath for sending each member a copy of all indicators of compliance via flashdrive.

Our visit was a privilege and a valuable learning opportunity for the entire team. Our prayers are with you as you continue your school improvement process.

Many Blessings.

Brian Ragatz

Visitation Team Chairperson

STATEMENT ON THE PURPOSE, USE AND DISTRIBUTION

Purpose

It is the intent of the MNSAA Board of Directors that this report on the visit of the school be considered the official record of the findings and recommendations of the onsite visiting team.

The mission of the onsite team has been to determine and document the actual situation as it exists in the school relative to the mission and philosophy of the school. It has not been the purpose of the team to pass judgment on the mission, philosophy or individual personnel involved in the school.

The report of the onsite visit team describes the existing circumstances as they appear to trained and experienced educational professionals. The report also contains recommendations and challenges for the school to address.

Use

It is the intent that this report serve as a tool to assist the school in its ongoing process of strategic planning for improvement.

The use of this report as an assessment of any staff person's professional competency would be in violation of the professional ethics under which the accreditation process and visit is to be conducted. Therefore, such a use would be inherently unethical and invalid since at no time during the process has the visit team been concerned with the appraisal of individual school personnel.

The members of the onsite team have voluntarily placed their professional judgment in balance in arriving at the findings and recommendations in this document. They are willing to support the findings and recommendations they have made, provided the report is used appropriately. They are not to be held accountable for any injudicious or unethical use of this document.

Distribution

The Team Chair of the onsite visiting team has the responsibility to submit this report to the Executive Director of MNSAA. The Executive Director has final authority over the contents of the report published to the school administration.

Neither the Team Chair nor the members of the onsite visiting team are authorized to share any information contained in the onsite report with anyone outside those involved in the accreditation process of this school. Only the Team Chair has the authority to remove the team onsite report from the school. To assure confidentiality of the process, team members will destroy their notes taken on the visit. A copy of the Team Report is kept on file at the MNSAA office.

The school administration has the responsibility for determining the ways and means for sharing the findings and recommendations in the report with the various members and stakeholders of the school community and if required, the appropriate jurisdictional office.

STANDARDS DOCUMENTATION

Standard 1: Mission and Philosophy

The Vision and Values of a School

1.01 MISSION STATEMENT: The school will have a mission statement that concisely articulates a shared vision for the school community and establishes an overall commitment to a particular course of action.

Mission Statement

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

1.02 PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT: The school will have a philosophy statement that articulates the principles, beliefs and/or core values of the educational program.

Philosophy Statement

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

1.03 COMMUNICATION OF STATEMENTS: The school will communicate the mission and philosophy statements to the stakeholders in the school community.

Narration of Compliance

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

Comments:

- *The team concurs with the stated challenge to better communicate the philosophy statement to MVL's stakeholders.*

1.04 USE OF STATEMENTS: The school will provide evidence that the mission and philosophy statements guide the school's goals, processes, policies, and procedures.

Narration of Compliance

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

Comments:

- *The team affirms that the mission statement is evident through the words and actions of the school community.*

1.05 EVALUATION OF STATEMENTS: The school will have mission and philosophy statements that have been developed by appropriate representatives of the various stakeholders and a shared evaluation process that periodically reviews the effectiveness, relevance and quality of the statements.

Narration of Compliance

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

Recommendations

Standard 1: Mission and Philosophy

- *The team recommends that MVL act upon their listed challenge to better communicate the philosophy statement to its stakeholders.*

STANDARDS DOCUMENTATION

Standard 2: Curriculum and Instruction

The Planning and Implementation of Learning

2.01 CURRICULUM HANDBOOK: The school will have a written comprehensive curriculum handbook that outlines the standards or criteria for students to successfully complete the prescribed educational program; the school's curriculum handbook will be sequentially organized with a demonstrated correlation between grade levels and course topics.

- Narration of Compliance*
- Written Curriculum Handbook (onsite)*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

2.02 USE OF HANDBOOK: The school will demonstrate that the written curriculum guides instructional practices.

- Narration of Compliance*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

2.03 CONTENTS OF CURRICULUM: ^{LR} The school's curriculum will provide for at least the following core subject areas: language arts, mathematics, science, social studies (including history, geography, and government); and other subject areas appropriate to the school, such as health, physical education, computer skills, fine arts, and world language, either as separate subjects or integrated in a core area.

- Narration of Compliance*
- Written Curriculum Handbook (onsite)*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

Comments:

- *The team commends MVL's curriculum maps for its correlation with Minnesota State Standards and the Common Core Standards.*
 - *The team recognizes and commends MVL for offering a variety of courses across its curriculum.*
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2.04 VARIETY OF INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES: The school will utilize a variety of instructional practices that accommodate varying learning styles and needs.

- Narration of Compliance*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

2.05 CORRELATION WITH MISSION/PHILOSOPHY: The school's curriculum and instructional practices will reflect the mission and philosophy statements of the school.

Narration of Compliance

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

2.06 AWARENESS OF RESEARCH / PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE: The school's written curriculum and instructional practices will reflect an awareness of current research and professional practices.

Narration of Compliance

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

2.07 EVALUATION OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION: The school will have an established collaborative process for the ongoing evaluation and development of the curriculum handbook, instructional practices, and educational resources.

Narration of Compliance
 Written Process of Evaluation

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

Comments:

- *Although the team recognizes the textbook rotation schedule, there is no evidence of a written process for curriculum evaluation.*

2.08 TECHNOLOGY: The school will have and support appropriate technology that both enhances the learning process and trains students in the use of technology.

Narration of Compliance

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

2.09 SPECIAL NEEDS: The school will have a written process for identifying, assessing and prescribing services for learners with special needs; in addition, the school will provide an educational program for advanced learners.

Narration of Compliance

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

Comments:

- *The team concurs with MVL's listed challenge of developing a written process to identify and assist learners with special needs.*

2.10 EFFECTIVE CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT: The school will have classroom environments that are conducive to learning.

- Narration of Compliance*
- Written Disciplinary Policy*

- Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

Recommendations

Standard 2: Curriculum and Instruction

- *The team recommends MVL develop a written process for curriculum evaluation.*
- *The team recommends MVL develop a written process for identifying, assessing and prescribing service to students with special needs, based on its current practices.*

STANDARDS DOCUMENTATION

Standard 3: Learner Performance

The Identification, Prioritization and Monitoring of Student Achievement

3.01 ASSESSMENT PROCESS: The school will provide a systematic and clearly understood process of learner assessment that includes at least one standardized testing instrument.

- Narration of Compliance*
- Standardized Testing Results (onsite)*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

3.02 ASSESSMENT AND CURRICULUM: The school will have an assessment process that evaluates whether the learners are meeting the standards or criteria to successfully complete the prescribed educational program.

- Narration of Compliance*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

3.03 ASSESSMENT DEMONSTRATES ACHIEVEMENT: The school will have an assessment process that documents student growth and achievement over time.

- Narration of Compliance*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

3.04 ASSESSMENT RESULTS EFFECT CHANGE: The school will annually evaluate the results of the learner assessment process, and if necessary, make changes in curriculum and instruction.

- Narration of Compliance*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

3.05 ASSESSMENT RESULTS COMMUNICATED: The school will communicate learner progress to parents and the school community while respecting principles of confidentiality and respect.

- Narration of Compliance*
- Report Cards/Progress Reports (onsite)*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

3.06 STUDENT RECORDS: The school will maintain student records containing assessment documentation, in addition to other information required by law and as necessary for the operation of a quality educational program.

- Narration of Compliance*
- Aggregated Test Data (onsite)*

- Summary:** *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

3.07 ATTENDANCE / TARDINESS: ^{LR} The school will have attendance and tardiness policies and procedures that are written, published, communicated and enforced. In addition, the school will in a timely manner complete annual enrollment reports as is required by the local public school district and the state, and maintain copies of such reports.

- Narration of Compliance*
- Policy/Procedure Handbooks (onsite)*
- Enrollment Report to District and State (onsite)*

- Summary:** *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

Recommendations
Standard 3: Learner Performance

STANDARDS DOCUMENTATION

Standard 4: School Climate and Facilities

The Environment for Teaching and Learning

4.01 STUDENT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS: The school will communicate expectations for student behavior and will enforce a student discipline code that is supportive of the school's mission and philosophy, and conducive to learning.

- Narration of Compliance*
- Handbooks – Student/Parent (onsite)*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

Comments:

- *The team commends MVL for communicating its high behavioral standards to its student body and sees evidence of the students meeting these expectations.*
-

4.02 CONFLICT RESOLUTION: The school will communicate and use a process for resolving conflicts and grievances within the school community.

- Narration of Compliance*
- Handbooks – Student/Parents/Employee (onsite)*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

4.03 SPACE CONSIDERATIONS: The school and class enrollments are compatible with the capacity of the facility.

- Narration of Compliance*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

4.04 RESOURCES / FACILITIES: The school's resources, instructional materials, equipment, and facilities support the educational program.

- Narration of Compliance*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

Comments:

- *The commends MVL for its commitment to maintaining and improving classroom resources and facilities.*

4.05 LIBRARY / MEDIA: The school's library and media resources support the educational program.

Narration of Compliance

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

4.06 PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE: The school facilities are safe, sanitary, and routinely maintained to assure effective working order and compliance with all legal and code requirements.

Narration of Compliance

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

4.07 HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES: ^{LR} The school is actively addressing any health and safety issues reported to the school, or that the school is aware of or reasonably should know or should have known about.

Narration of Compliance
 Written Health and Safety Plan (onsite)

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

4.08 CRISIS MANAGEMENT: ^{LR} The school has written, published and communicated policies and procedures for addressing emergency situations and regularly conducts drills and reviews policies/procedures with school community.

Narration of Compliance
 Drill Logs (onsite)
 Crisis Management Plan (onsite)

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

4.09 RIGHT TO KNOW AND BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS: ^{LR} The school annually provides professional training to its employees on "right to know" laws regarding the handling and storage of chemicals, bloodborne pathogens, and other biohazards as required by OSHA.

Narration of Compliance
 Posted "right to know" (onsite)
 In-service documentation (onsite)

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

Recommendations

Standard 4: School Climate and Facilities

STANDARDS DOCUMENTATION

Standard 5: Community Relations

The Effort to Include All Who Have an Interest in the School

5.01 ORIENTATION: The school will provide orientation for all new staff, new/prospective families, new students in age-appropriate ways, school volunteers, and governing body members. The orientation shall include: school mission and philosophy, roles and responsibilities, school programs, and expectations for learners.

Narration of Compliance

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

5.02 REGULAR COMMUNICATION: The school will maintain regular communication between the school and home.

Narration of Compliance

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

5.03 PUBLICATIONS: The school's written communication will help to develop informed relationships between learners, their families, the school, and the civic community.

Narration of Compliance

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

5.04 PARENT INVOLVEMENT: The school will develop and promote opportunities for parents to become involved in the education of their children and help promote the school and its mission.

Narration of Compliance

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

5.05 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT / PARTNERSHIPS: The school will promote involvement in community activities and events and will develop community partnerships with local and school organizations that sponsor and support educational projects.

Narration of Compliance

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

Comments:

- *The team commends MVL for providing multiple opportunities for students to serve the greater community.*

5.06 MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT: The school will foster community relations, increase public visibility, and maintain necessary revenue and enrollment through marketing and development.

Narration of Compliance

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

5.07 ANNUAL REPORT: The school will publish and distribute annually a state-of-the-school report to parents and other stakeholders.

Narration of Compliance

Written Annual Report (onsite)

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

Comments:

- *The team finds the annual report very professionally displayed.*

Recommendations
Standard 5: Community Relations

STANDARDS DOCUMENTATION

Standard 6: Personnel

The Qualifications, Evaluations, and Development of the Staff

6.01 ADMINISTRATOR QUALIFICATIONS: The school will have principals/administrators who have Minnesota administrative licensure; or at a minimum, have a masters degree in education from an accredited institution or are enrolled in such a program leading to a qualified degree within a five-year period.

- Narration of Compliance*
- Verification of Compliance for all Administrators*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

6.02 ELEMENTARY TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS: The elementary school's grade level teachers and those teaching math, science, social studies, or language arts will have Minnesota teacher licensure; or at a minimum have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution.

- Narration of Compliance*
- Verification of Compliance for all Teachers*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

6.03 ELEMENTARY SPECIALTY TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS: The elementary school's specialists (world language, fine arts, technology, library, physical education, religion, etc.) will have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution; or at a minimum be able to demonstrate proficiency in the teaching area.

- Narration of Compliance*
- Verification of Compliance for all Specialty Teachers*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

6.04 SECONDARY TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS: The secondary school's teachers and specialists will have Minnesota teacher licensure; or at a minimum have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution.

- Narration of Compliance*
- Verification of Compliance for all Teachers*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance
 Not Applicable to Elementary Schools

6.05 CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS: ^{LR} The school will conduct appropriate criminal history background checks on all individuals who are offered employment in the school.

- Narration of Compliance*
- Criminal Background Report*
- Personnel Records (onsite)*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

6.06 STAFF CODE OF ETHICS: The school will publish and maintain a professional code of ethics for all staff persons.

- Narration of Compliance*
- Handbooks – Faculty (onsite)*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

6.07 EVALUATION PROCESS: The school will have an evaluation process for all school personnel that includes job descriptions, annual written reviews, clear expectations, formative feedback on performance, a clear relationship between evaluation and employment decisions, and suggested courses of action to improve performance.

- Narration of Compliance*
- Personnel Records (onsite)*
- Evaluation Forms (onsite)*
- Job Descriptions (onsite)*
- Handbooks – faculty/staff (onsite)*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

6.08 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR STAFF: The school will have all teaching staff and administrators annually participate in professional development opportunities that are related to student achievement, specific job responsibilities, and goals of the school.

- Narration of Compliance*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

6.09 BUDGETING FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: The school will provide resources in the budget for all staff to participate in annual professional development.

- Narration of Compliance*
- Budget Reports (onsite)*

- Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

Comments:

- *The team commends MVL's commitment to providing the resources necessary for all staff to continue their education.*

6.10 PERSONNEL RECORDS: The school will have accurate, confidential, and complete personnel records as required by law and as necessary for its effective operations, including professional qualifications and credentials.

- Narration of Compliance*
 Personnel Records (onsite)

- Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

Recommendations
Standard 6: Personnel

STANDARDS DOCUMENTATION

Standard 7: Leadership and Governance

The Responsibility for the Educational and Organizational Effectiveness of the School

7.01 ADMINISTRATOR: The school will have an onsite administrator who is responsible for the day-to-day administrative leadership and management of the school.

Narration of Compliance

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

7.02 JOB DESCRIPTIONS: The school will provide written position descriptions for all administrative staff, which include roles, responsibilities, and accountability.

Narration of Compliance
 Job Descriptions (onsite)

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

Comments:

- *The team concurs with MVL's listed challenge of continuing to update teachers' job descriptions.*

7.03 GOVERNANCE: The school will have a governing body or authority to which the administrator is accountable.

Narration of Compliance

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

7.04 GOVERNANCE OPERATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT: The school has established written roles and responsibilities for members of the governing body, authority, or advisory committee and provides opportunities for orientation, ongoing development and training.

Narration of Compliance

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

Comments:

- *The team commends MVL for its comprehensive Board of Director's Handbook.*

7.05 BUDGET: The school will have an annual budgetary process and budget that is consistent with the achievement of its goals; in addition, the school will produce an annual budget and financial report, and will make it available to stakeholders.

- Narration of Compliance*
- Previous Year's Budget (onsite)*
- Current Budget (onsite)*
- Current Financial Reports (onsite)*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

7.06 TUITION AND FEE SCHEDULE: The school will develop and communicate a tuition and fee schedule.

- Narration of Compliance*
- Tuition/Fee Schedule (onsite)*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

7.07 COMPENSATION STRUCTURE: The school uses a communicated compensation structure for determining staff salaries and benefits.

- Narration of Compliance*
- Written Salary Schedule (onsite)*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

7.08 EMPLOYEE HANDBOOKS: The school has written, updated employee handbooks or published and communicated policies and procedures that affect school faculty and staff.

- Narration of Compliance*
- Handbook - Employee (onsite) (See performance indicators for content essentials of handbook)*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

Comments:

- *The team commends MVL's comprehensive Faculty Handbook.*

7.09 PARENT AND STUDENT HANDBOOKS: The school will provide parents and students an updated, comprehensive school handbook that includes policies and procedures.

- Narration of Compliance*
- Handbooks – Parent/Student (onsite)*

- Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

7.10 ADMISSIONS POLICY: The school will implement admissions policies and procedures in accordance with legal, ethical, and professional acceptable practices, including a statement of nondiscrimination.

- Narration of Compliance*

- Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

7.11 IMMUNIZATION RECORDS: ^{LR} The school annually obtains and maintains records of state-required immunizations on its students; the school enforces state immunization requirements.

- Narration of Compliance*
 Immunization Records (onsite)

- Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

Recommendations
Standard 7: Leadership and Governance

STANDARDS DOCUMENTATION

Standard 8: School Strategic Plan

The Strategies and Tools for Improving the School

8.01 SCHOOL STRATEGIC PLAN: The school has developed a written School Strategic Plan for improvement that identifies measurable, end-result objectives, strategies for achieving the objectives, and time-specific action steps for fulfilling the strategies.

- School Strategic Plan*
- Narrative description of process used to create plan*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

8.02 QUALITY OF PLAN: The school has developed a written School Strategic Plan for improvement in conformity with the Quality Expectations of MNSAA.

- Narration of Compliance*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

Comments:

- *The team did not find the MVL Strategic Plan to be meet the MNSAA quality expectation for focus on student achievement.*

8.03 COMMUNICATION OF PLAN: The school will have a process for communicating the School Strategic Plan for improvement, in addition to regular updates on progress, to the various stakeholders of the school community.

- Narration of Compliance*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

8.04 EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN: The school has a process for regularly evaluating and further developing its School Strategic Plan.

- Narration of Compliance*

Summary: *Sufficient Indication of Compliance*
 Compliance with Concerns
 Insufficient Indication of Compliance

Recommendations
Standard 8: School Strategic Plan

- *The team recommends that MVL revisit how the Strategic Plan focuses on student achievement.*

SUMMARY OF VISIT – *Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School, New Ulm*

Most Significant Areas of Strength

- 1. The team affirms that the MVL mission statement is evident through the words and actions of the school community.*
- 2. The team commends MVL for communicating its high behavioral standards to its student body and sees evidence of the students meeting these expectations.*
- 3. The team commends MVL for offering a variety of courses across its curriculum and its commitment to maintaining and improving classroom resources and facilities.*
- 4. The team commends MVL's commitment to providing the resources necessary for all staff to continue their education.*
- 5. The team commends MVL for providing multiple opportunities for students to serve the greater community.*

Most Significant Areas of Challenge

- 1. The team recommends that MVL revisit how the Strategic Plan focuses on student achievement.*
- 2. The team recommends that MVL act upon their listed challenge to better communicate its philosophy statement to its stakeholders.*
- 3. The team recommends MVL develop a written process for curriculum evaluation.*
- 4. The team recommends MVL develop a written process for identifying, assessing and prescribing services to students with special needs, based on its current practices.*

VISIT TEAM MEMBERS

Name	School / Organization, City
<i>Stephen Merten</i>	<i>West Lutheran High School, Plymouth, Minnesota</i>
<i>Don Jirak</i>	<i>Cathedral High School, New Ulm, Minnesota</i>
<i>Rhonda Slagter</i>	<i>Central MN Christian School, Prinsburg, Minnesota</i>
<i>Amber Dell-Green</i>	<i>St. Mary's High School, Sleepy Eye, MN</i>
<i>Ellen Kuznicki</i>	<i>St. Croix Lutheran High School, West St. Paul, Minnesota</i>

VISIT TEAM CHAIRPERSON(S)

Name	School / Organization, City
<i>Mr. Brian Ragatz</i>	<i>St. Thomas More, St. Paul</i>

Signature of Team Chairperson



Brian Ragatz

Date: November 8, 2012