

Marauder Memo - April 17, 2021

Dear Parents & Community -

The beginning of Spring Sports competitions, 4th quarter “Team Talks”, and final preparations for I-Learn testing were among the many highlights of our week at MVMS. I hope your students had a good one and are gearing up for another busy and productive one beginning Monday. Please read this note and the areas of discussion to put your child in the best position to be successful this coming week.

Here are some of the key reminders:

**I-Learn Testing** - Please make sure your students are physically and mentally ready for this week’s I-Learn tests for in-person learners. Students took practice exams this week ahead of next week’s official tests. *It is imperative that students:*

- *Keep their Chromebooks charged fully throughout this week. They can also bring headphones and ear buds, though some can be provided if they don’t have them.*
- *Arrive to school on-time each day. Testing will begin at 845am each morning.*

Testing schedules and formats for both in-person and virtual learners have been shared by Ms. Cooper, whom we should all thank for her excellent work in leading our testing process. And while [this link](#) is focused on older SAT test takers, it provides good advice nonetheless for your student’s test preparation. Good luck to all our students - I am hopeful and confident they will do well...

**ILearn Virtual Student Testing** - Emails have been sent via Parent Square to all Virtual Parents regarding ILearn testing. Virtual Students will test In-Person on May 3rd, 4th, and 6th from 1pm to 5pm. Busing is available for in-district students and can be requested using this [FORM](#).

**Team Meetings and Key Points of Emphasis** - Counselors and Administrators engaged each Team of students last week in discussions previewing the 4th quarter. The theme of our remarks was “Finish Strong” and focused on ten elements for students’ attention in and out of the classroom. Special emphasis was placed on the need for all students to demonstrate better respect for each other, their teachers and staff, and themselves, in order to be as successful as possible. Please ask your students to review with you the topics of our discussions. We have had an especially challenging time with some students’ behaviors related to the lack of respect for other students’ space, property, and feelings. The overall majority of our students are meeting our expectations quite well. I am proud of those students who have stepped up to address inappropriate behaviors personally, whether that be to sincerely pledge to do better, to look out for themselves and others, and to help lead improvement.

As Ms. Cooper, Mr. Brandes, and I have shared with each young man or lady with whom we've met on these matters, the learning environment for each and every student is of utmost importance to us. We will do what we can to maximize students' learning, and you and they can expect us to continue to make great efforts to do that. Thank you for the ways you support those efforts - it absolutely makes a positive difference.

**MVMS Kitchen Table** - The MVMS Kitchen Table (aka Homework Help Club) will meet Monday afternoon for any student trying to recover from absences, get extra help with challenging concepts, or find assistance preparing for upcoming tests. Students report to Mr. Crouch's classroom immediately after school and work through 4:30pm. They can be picked up then at the Main Entrance to MVMS.

**Principal Transition** - Mrs. Tharp, next year's Principal, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Brandes, and I have begun the transition process for administrative leadership of the '21-22 school year. Please continue to guide all matters relating to the current year to me, respecting Mrs. Tharp's current position at MVHS. Any elements that need decisions for next year will certainly include her thoughts and decisions. We are off to a good start with the transition, with a clear focus on providing the best education for our students throughout the rest of this year and the next.

**Covid Protocol reminders** - We continue to be diligent with our Covid and Mask Guidelines. I know some of you are concerned and/or confused regarding the "Masks Optional" stance of Governor Holcomb and its impact on our protocol at MVMS. I will again emphasize: Mt. Vernon Community Schools will continue with our safeguards, which have been highly effective. Thank you for supporting our high expectations of our students and staff regarding masks, social distancing, and other safety protocols, which include:

- If your child has COVID-19 like symptoms, please keep your student home from school and consider keeping siblings home too.
- If your child tests positive for COVID-19, please inform your school's health clinic immediately. If you learn that your child has tested positive outside of school hours, please immediately contact the school principal or the corporation nurse at [tracy.furnas@mvsc.k12.in.us](mailto:tracy.furnas@mvsc.k12.in.us) or [christy.bastin@mvsc.k12.in.us](mailto:christy.bastin@mvsc.k12.in.us).
- If anyone in your household is being tested for COVID-19, please keep ALL students at home from school until results are received.
- When your child stays home, or your virtual student is unable to do schoolwork, please call the school's attendance office.
- If there is any doubt whether a student should attend school, please keep everyone home and call our health clinic for guidance and/or email [denise.floyd@mvsc.k12.in.us](mailto:denise.floyd@mvsc.k12.in.us).
- [Indiana State COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

For reference, please see the [Covid-19 Screening Checklist](#) and the MVCSC Health & Safety Plan on our [www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/COVID](http://www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/COVID) webpage.

**8th Graders and 4th Nine Weeks** - We continue to make plans - which will be Covid-dependent, of course - for the end of the school year. Most of that attention is on celebrating 8th Graders with as “normal” a conclusion to their experience as possible. An after-school dance, field day, staff-vs-students basketball game, and Promotion Ceremony are all in the works for the last weeks of school. For students to participate in the Promotion Ceremony, they will need to have passed the same number of classes for them to be academically eligible for high school activities (no more than one failing grade). We currently have over 50 students whose grades after the 3rd Nine Weeks have them currently ineligible to participate in these end-of-year festivities. We have begun to meet individually with them, not only emphasizing this policy but also indicating our intense desire to see them succeed and qualify for these privileges. We are discussing strategies and motivators for them to do better. The overwhelming majority of young men and ladies with whom we’ve met indicate that effort - or the lack thereof - has been their personal downfall to this point. Again, we are seeking specific ways to improve that, and certainly ask your help in reigniting fires inside them to do their best and succeed. I cannot emphasize this enough: we want to see ALL students do well and be able to participate in these end-of-year festivities. As emphasized in both Team Talks and One-on-one conversations, they know they must earn that privilege...and I certainly hope they feel and recognize our passion for them to turn it around and do better. As we finalize end of year plans, all of which are Covid-dependent, of course, we will communicate those with you.

**Out-of-District/Transfer Application Information 2021 - 2022 School Year:**

All students who are currently attending a Mt. Vernon school and do not live within the school district boundaries are required to submit an application yearly during either of these selected windows to attend during the 2021-2022 school year:

Window 1 - Friday, April 16 at 5 p.m. through Monday, April 26 at 8 a.m.

Window 2 - Friday, May 7 at 5 p.m. through Monday, May 17 at 8 a.m.

Please complete a separate form for each student requesting to attend Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation that currently lives outside the school district or that anticipates moving out of district before the 2021-2022 school year begins. By completing this form you are entering the student into the out-of-district/transfer pool and requesting to attend Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation during the 2021-2022 school year. This does not guarantee enrollment, but priority will be given to current out-of-district students, their siblings/step siblings, and employees’ children. All applicants will receive notice by June 18, 2021.

Please visit <https://www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/News/1508#sthash.Y4yX1Ex3.dpbs> to complete the online enrollment application.

### **Dance Team Tryouts**

Any current 5th, 6th, or 7th grade student interested in being a part of the Gold Intensity Dance Team next year should plan to attend a Parent & Student Informational meeting Thursday, April 22nd at 7:00 pm in the Middle School Cafeteria.

Any 8th grade student interested in auditioning for the Mt. Vernon HS Dance team will need to pick up a packet in the office if they were unable to attend the meeting held earlier this week.

**Athletics** - Eligibility of Spring Sport athletes was verified this week after a check of 3rd Nine Weeks grades. Fortunately, almost every one of our students remained eligible to participate. I hope you recognize, therefore, the significance of extracurricular activities, whether those be sports, the arts, or other clubs, to strong academic success. "A busy student is most often a successful one".

As we continue through the 4th Nine Weeks, please remember the following policy for academic eligibility of MVMS students:

- A student who receives two or more failing grades on their quarterly report card will be ineligible from any athletic competition for the entire next quarter. *1st quarter academic eligibility will be determined by the previous 4th quarter report card for 7th and 8th grade (current 7th and 6th grade) student-athletes.* The athlete will become eligible at the end of the next academic quarter if there are not two or more failing grades on their quarterly report card.
- The MVMS Athletic Department reserves the right, at any time, to conduct grade checks on student athletes to determine the academic eligibility for an athletic competition or multiple athletic competitions.

### ***MVHS Boys Soccer***

Any 8th grade boy looking to play next school year is welcome to attend Open Play at the high school after school until 5:30pm Friday, April 23rd and 30th.

**Contest Attendance Policy** - For all contests, home and away, this spring, guests are expected to sit with their household unit only. Anyone in attendance is required to wear a mask when unable to socially distance from anyone outside of their household unit. If host schools have more restrictive policies, please observe those in order to remain in attendance at their event.

**Monday, April 19**

Golf vs New Palestine 4:30

Track @ Shelbyville MS 5:15pm

**Tuesday, April 20**

8th Softball vs Shelbyville MS 5:30pm

Golf vs Fishers/Lapel @ Fishers JH 4:30pm

**Wednesday, April 21**

7th Baseball vs Noblesville East MS 5:00pm

8th Baseball @ Noblesville East MS 5:00pm

7th Softball vs Greenfield JH 5:30pm

8th Softball @ Greenfield Central HS 5:30pm

**Thursday, April 22**

7th Softball vs Eastern Hancock MS 5:15pm

Golf vs Pendleton Heights MS 4:30pm

**MVMS PTO - *Locker Shockers*** are Back! Do you want to surprise your student with a decorated locker to celebrate a birthday, athletic event, or just because? If so, place your order [HERE](#). Please note that a 2-weeks notice is required. Any questions may be directed to [mtvernonmiddleschoolpto@gmail.com](mailto:mtvernonmiddleschoolpto@gmail.com)

***1st Day School Supplies*** - The MVMS PTO has partnered with 1st Day School Supplies so that you may shop for '21-22 school supplies from the comfort of home. All orders will be shipped directly to the school after the Summer break, and a portion of proceeds is returned to the PTO. Use the link below to place your order when the time comes this summer.

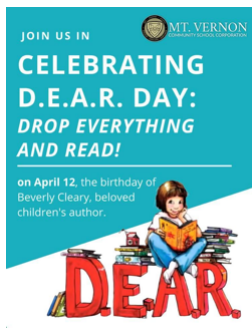


**[1st Day School Supplies](#)**

**MV Reads (from our Library Staff):**

Did you know? School Library Month was first celebrated in 1985. The theme that year was, “Where Learning Never Ends: The School Library Media Center.” This idea is still very true today as we continue to build strong connections for students. Coming soon, look for information about our partnership with the [Fortville-Vernon Township Public Library](#) and its Summer Reading Program.

Thank you to all who celebrated **National D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) Day** in the classrooms with a special shout out to Dr. Parker for reading to students! Check out these “comfortable” students enjoying the 30 minutes of restful reading. I wish I knew why they like the floor so much!



**Textbook Adoption** - Mr. Scott Shipley, Director of Curriculum, has announced the following Textbook Adoption resources for next school year:

8th - 11th grade *My Perspectives* by Savvas Learning

HS speech - McGraw Hill's text

HS Etymology - *Vocabulary for the College Bound Student*

6th and 7th grade will keep the novel fee and adopt *Scholastic Scope*, a literary magazine.

Parents and community members are welcome to preview the selected materials in the administrative building board room Monday through Friday, April 5 - 19, between 8am - 3:30pm. Please direct any questions or concerns to Mr. Shipley at [scott.shipley@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:scott.shipley@mvcsc.k12.in.us).

**Virtual Learners' Support** - Mrs. Merica, our Virtual Support Teacher, continues to serve as a terrific resource for students struggling to maximize their online learning. If your student could benefit from tips to help with virtual learning, please contact her at [jackie.merica@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:jackie.merica@mvcsc.k12.in.us). Relatedly, the Google Meet times for full time virtual students to have collective learning opportunities with peers are:

**6th Grade: Mondays**

Integrity: 10:15-10:45

Firebirds: 11:00-11:30

Central Stars: 11:45-12:15

Odyssey: 1:00-1:30

**7th grade: Wednesdays**

Spirit: 11:45-12:15

Champions: 12:25-12:55

Victory: 1:45-2:15

**8th grade: Fridays**

Eagles: 10:30-11:00

All Stars: 11:15-11:45

Pride: 2:30-3:00

**Short Term E-Learning** - The pandemic is still upon us and we have, unfortunately, had some students contact traced in recent weeks. Students who have been asked by school Health Officials to be quarantined for a certain number of days need to still be completing their classroom assignments and meeting for class at their usual daily times. Short term e-learning students should check their email, Google Classroom, and Canvas daily (at minimum). Teachers will utilize these three platforms to communicate student work. It would also be helpful to have your student reach out to their teachers via email to verify assignments and remain as fully engaged in the learning process as possible.

**Counseling Corner** - Students or parents struggling with Pandemic-related challenges are encouraged to utilize The [Parent Guide to Resilience](#) from [whytry.org](http://whytry.org). Remember also, you can follow our counselors for other advice and tips on Instagram [@mvms\\_counselors](#).

**Tech Support and help needed** - Please help us monitor Chromebook use and guide your students to take good care of their technology. Thank you. Also, Please remember that MVCSC partners with Ninestar Connect to provide 24-7 technology support to students and parents/guardians assisting their children. Please use the following contact information for help:

Technology Support Phone Number: 317-482-4112

Email: [techsupport@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:techsupport@mvcsc.k12.in.us)

NineStar Connect will assist with the technology issue, and if needed, pass the request to the appropriate Mt. Vernon technology assistant to resolve the problem during school hours. Additional information can be found on the [1:1 Technology Program webpage](#).

**Attendance** - If your student will be absent, please notify us via with one of these methods:

1. Call 317-485-3160 which is available 24/7.
2. Email [brigitte.bussen@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:brigitte.bussen@mvcsc.k12.in.us)
3. Once students are at school, they should not be contacting a parent for pickup during the school day. This type of communication needs to proceed from the MVMS School Nurse or Office Staff directly to the Parent. Thank you.

**Social Media and Platforms** - You can follow MVMS via:

Twitter: @MtVernon\_MS

Twitter for MVMS Sports: @MVMS\_Sports

Instagram: @Mt.Vernon\_MS

Facebook: MtVernonMiddleSchool

Skyward - Click [HERE](#)

MVMS News - Click [HERE](#)

MVMS Counselor Webpage - Click [HERE](#) \*full of many resources for Students & Parents

MVCSC 20-21 School Calendar - Click [HERE](#)

20-21 MVMS Black & Gold Calendar (beginning 2/16/2021) Click [HERE](#)

**Substitute Teachers** - MVCSC continues to build its pool of Substitute teachers. With our return to the conventional schedule, we anticipate a need for more subs. Those who are interested and qualify can choose to serve in their building of choice (hint, hint, MVMS is a great and fun place to work!) and earn approximately \$85/day. For more information, click here: [www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/employment/6](http://www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/employment/6) or schedule a meeting with Kelly Services at [rebrand.ly/substitute](http://rebrand.ly/substitute).

I look forward to a great week of engagement with our students in the hallways, classrooms, and extracurricular activities. We all wish them well in their I-Learning testing and efforts to improve (or sustain, if they are doing exceptionally well) their academic performance. Thank you for your support of our educational efforts and, especially, those of your students, in and out of the classroom. Let's all work together to make it another Great Week to be a Marauder -

Mike Raters

**Michael P. Raters**

Interim Principal

Mt. Vernon Middle School

317-485-3160