

Marauder Memo - April 25, 2021

## **Dear Parents & Community -**

The first three days of ILearn testing gained most of the attention last week at MVMS. Other highlights included four students who represented their peers at the School Board meeting Monday night, Art students venturing to the high school for their Art Show, the surprising snowstorm, and our 8th grade softball team finally being able to start their season. This week will begin with more ILearn testing Monday and Tuesday before settling back into our regular schedule. This week's Memo has, among other things, some important updates to previously-addressed elements, including Covid Protocols, important for our students' attention, well-being, and success.

Here are some of the key reminders:

**I-Learn Testing** - Please again make sure your students are physically and mentally ready for Monday and Tuesday ILearn tests for in-person learners. Thank you for the great job you did guiding your students to be prepared and on time for the first three days of testing last week. It is again imperative that students:

- *Keep their Chromebooks charged fully throughout testing. 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 begins at 845am each morning.*

Testing schedules and formats for both in-person and virtual learners have been shared by Ms. Cooper, who has done a terrific job leading our testing process. 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!

**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](#).

**Covid Protocol reminders (IMPORTANT UPDATE)** - While we are in the "seasonal allergies" period of any year, it is important that we all follow the guidelines below regarding symptoms. COVID symptoms can be similar to those of common allergies, so please follow the advice below, allowing the Symptoms and erring on the side of caution to govern your decision-making regarding whether or not to send your student to school. We continue to have cases impacting our school and, accordingly, remain vigilant regarding our Covid and Mask Protocols. Mt. Vernon Community Schools will continue with our approaches, which have been

highly effective, throughout the remainder of this academic year. Thank you for adhering to the following safeguards :

- 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@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:tracy.furnas@mvcsc.k12.in.us) or [christy.bastin@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:christy.bastin@mvcsc.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@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:denise.floyd@mvcsc.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.

**Cellphones** - We had a spike in the number of students who had their cellphones out during school last week. We reminded them of our policy to hold any cellphone for the day if they are out in class or the hallways. Please guide your student to adhere to this expectation...thank you.

**MVMS Talent Show** - Permission forms are available now for our annual Talent Show, which is to be held May 27 in the high school auditorium. Students should see Mr. Falkenberg in room C311 or stop by the office for more information.

**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.

**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 these 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.

**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 26**

8th Baseball vs Eastern Hancock MS - 5:30

7th Softball @ Franklin Central Jr HS - 5:30

8th Softball vs Franklin Central - 5:30

Track & Field Pendleton Relay @ Pendleton Heights MS - 5:30

### **Tuesday, April 27**

7th Baseball @ Franklin Township MS East - 5:15

7th Softball vs Lapel Jr HS - 5:00

Track & Field vs New Castle/Riverside - 5:00

### **Thursday, April 29**

7th Baseball vs Shelbyville MS - 5:30

Track & Field vs Yorktown MS - 5:00

### **Saturday, May 1**

Track & Field Conference @ Greenfield Central Jr HS - 10:00 AM

Golf @ Eastern Hancock MS - 2:00 PM

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 that 67% of children ages 6-17 find books to read for fun from libraries. No other source comes close to this percentage. (Scholastic) Twenty-three state studies, INCLUDING INDIANA, all confirm that the presence of certified librarians in schools leads to a measurable difference in student achievement. (Kachel) We love our libraries!

**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 another 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