

Marauder Memo - April 5, 2021

Dear Parents & Community -

Happy Easter to you and your families! I hope you and your family have enjoyed a restful, relaxing, and joyous weekend. Here are some of the key news items and reminders for next week:

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**Transitions from Virtual to In-Person, and Vice Versa** - We have quite a number of students transitioning their mode of learning on Monday. Those returning to school from Virtual Learning will *report directly to the gym*, where their counselors will provide a copy of their schedule and guide them to their first class. I am eager to meet our returners, some of whom have not been attended MVMS in person before. I certainly also wish well to those moving to virtual learning. Our teaching staff members and support staff will do all we can to maximize student learning via the delivery system of your family's choice.

For In-Person learners, here are the key times to remember for the [MVMS daily schedule](#):

- 815am > Drop-off for those who ride with High School sibling drivers
- 825am > Building open for Students (unless earlier meeting time is set by a teacher)
- 845am > Block 1 begins
  
- 327pm > 8th Grade Car Riders Released (245pm on PLC Wednesdays)
- 330pm > 7th Grade Car Riders Released (247pm on PLC Wednesdays)
- 333pm > 6th Grade Car Riders Released (250pm on PLC Wednesdays)
  
- 345pm > 6th Grade Bus Riders Released (300pm on PLC Wednesdays)
- 346pm > 7th Grade Bus Riders Released (301pm on PLC Wednesdays)
- 347pm > 8th Grade Bus Riders Released (302pm on PLC Wednesdays)

**Covid Protocol reminders** - We will need to be especially diligent with our Covid and Mask Guidelines in the next few weeks, as the two-week incubation period from Spring Break travels and/or engagement with current NCAA basketball visitors will take us through mid-April. While Governor Holcomb has lowered the mask mandate from a State mandate, effective Tuesday, all local entities can make their own decisions and implement their own policies. 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@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 at [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.

**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 week 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 will engage those students in jeopardy after the 3rd Nine Weeks and help guide them to greater success in the 4th. Please help your students in that effort - we certainly want to see all students participate, but know they must earn that privilege. I'll update you as we clarify dates and details and, of course, final decisions nearer the events.

**Canned Food Drive** - Thank you and congratulations on a job well done by MVMS in the corporation's canned food drive. We finished with 484 items, nearly 250% of the goal set for our school. Your students' generosity, community spirit, and compassion helped in the great success of this initiative.

**MV Reads:**

"The only thing that  
you absolutely have to  
know is the location of  
the library."  
-Albert Einstein



**Happy National Library Workers Day** - Tuesday, April 6th is National Library Workers Day, a time to celebrate the contributions of our library team and all of their hard work. Thank You to Mrs. Young and Mrs. Hochstedler for their Great work in making good and full use of our library space and resources for staff and students alike! Relatedly, April 12 is Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) Day and we will participate in that celebratory activity. More to come next week...

### **Athletics - Week of April 5-10 -- NO COMPETITIONS**

**Academic Requirements for Athletics Eligibility** - Mt. Vernon Middle School has established the following policy for academic eligibility:

1. Academic eligibility will be checked at the end of each academic quarter. *Accordingly, Spring Sports eligibility will be determined when grades are submitted this week for the 3rd quarter.*

2. 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 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.

**Gala** - The Mt. Vernon Education Foundation's annual [Gala](#) will be held April 17 at the Downtown Indianapolis Marriott. You are encouraged to attend and support this organization that supports our schools' educational efforts. Teacher and Staff Members of the Year will be awarded that evening, as well. I look forward to meeting many of you there that evening.

**Positions Filled and those Available** - We still have an opening for an IA and for a front office [attendance secretary](#). Please guide anyone you know who is qualified and interested to [apply](#) for a position with our schools. MVMS is a fun and rewarding place to work! Also, Math and English Interventionist position applications have closed and the interview process for those will begin soon.

**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).

**21/22 Scheduling for High School** - Current 8th grade students completed their scheduling recently. If you have any questions please contact your student's High School counselor:

**Students with last name A-D**

Lindsay Crow

[lindsay.crow@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:lindsay.crow@mvcsc.k12.in.us)

**Students with last name E-J:**

Lee Larkins

[lee.larkins@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:lee.larkins@mvcsc.k12.in.us)

**Students with last name K-O**

Nicole Johnson

[nicole.johnson@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:nicole.johnson@mvcsc.k12.in.us)

**Students with last name P-S**

Kacie Grimm

[kacie.grimm@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:kacie.grimm@mvcsc.k12.in.us)

**Students with last name T-Z**

Jamie Beaver

[jamie.beaver@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:jamie.beaver@mvcsc.k12.in.us)

**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.

**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)

**Virtual Learners' Support** - Mrs. Merica, our Virtual Support Teacher, is 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** - 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. 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).

**Football Conditioning** - Weightlifting for all 6th-8th Grade football players not involved in a Spring Sport takes place each Tuesday and Thursday after school until 5:15pm. Students will meet in the cafe after school and walk to the high school with Coaches Harnish and Duerksen. Pick up will take place at the North entrance of the high school's main gym. Please send any questions or concerns to [eric.harnish@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:eric.harnish@mvcsc.k12.in.us) or [brandon.duerksen@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:brandon.duerksen@mvcsc.k12.in.us) .

**Athletics Physicals and forms** - Any student wishing to participate in athletics must have on file with the Athletic Office all required forms and an IHSAA Sports Physical dated on or after April 1, 2019. Please click [HERE](#) to access all required documents which are located under the MORE tab. For any questions regarding MVMS Athletics, please contact Athletic Director Dave Merica at [Dave.Merica@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:Dave.Merica@mvcsc.k12.in.us).

**Thank you** again for your support of our educational efforts, in and out of the classroom. This truly is a special community centered on student learning. Best wishes for an enjoyable, safe, and rewarding week ahead for your students and you -

Mike Raters

**Michael P. Raters**

Interim Principal

Mt. Vernon Middle School

317-485-3160