



MT. VERNON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Marauder Memo - December 26th, 2020

Dear Parents & Community -

Please view an important video Message from Mr. Williams - Click [HERE](#) (Approx. 3 minutes)

Please click [HERE](#) if you are a full-time virtual student and wish to return to in-person, full-time learning on Tuesday, January 19, which is the beginning of our second semester and third grading period. The survey link deadline is Tuesday, January 5.

- Students may only transfer from full-time virtual learning to in-person learning at the beginning of a grading period
- Students wishing to transfer from in-person to full-time virtual learning must contact their school principal for consideration.
- Current full-time virtual students who do not provide notification through this survey or by contacting the school principal before Tuesday, January 5, will continue virtual learning for the entire duration of the third nine-weeks grading period.
- Per the Indiana Department of Education, all VIRTUAL and IN-PERSON students will be required to take state assessments (ILEARN, I AM, IRead3, WIDA, etc.) in person, at school. Schools will develop processes and identify times to allow for extreme social distancing for all virtual students during testing times. By signing up to be a full-time virtual

Be strong! Be courageous! Be a Marauder!

Benjamin Williams - MVMS Principal

Follow MVMS on social media at:

Twitter: [@MtVernon_MS](#)

Twitter for MVMS Sports: [@MVMS_Sports](#) is the new Twitter account for MVMS sports info

Instagram: [@Mt.Vernon_MS](#)

Facebook: [MtVernonMiddleSchool](#)

Mr. Williams YouTube Channel: Click [HERE](#)

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 Modified Black & Gold Day Schedule (beginning 11/30/20) - Click [HERE](#)

Next Week at MVMS -

Monday, 1/4 - Black Day (In-School)
Tuesday, 1/5 - Black Day (All Virtual)
Wednesday, 1/6 - Gold Day (In-School)
Thursday, 1/7 - Gold Day (All Virtual)
Friday, 1/8 - Gold Day (In-School)

Previously sent update from MVCSC

Dear Mt. Vernon Parents/Guardians:

After a thorough review of a variety of data, the Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation has made the decision to extend the current alternative schedule through February 12. There will continue to be no Early Release Wednesday during this time.

Some of the data used to make this decision include:

- ThoughtExchange comments from our parents/guardians, staff, and secondary students
- Staff survey (75% prefer to continue this alternative schedule)
- Staff absences during the end of the first semester
- Substitute fill rate first semester
- COVID spikes 2-3 weeks following holiday breaks

Please plan to move back to the same schedule for which we began the year on Tuesday, February 16. This includes every-day attendance for in-person students K-8 as well as every-day hybrid attendance for in-person students 9-12. We will continue with early release Wednesdays beginning on Wednesday, February 17.

MVCSC strives to make scheduling decisions as far in advance as possible, as well as making changes we believe are able to be maintained for longer periods of time. We recognize that school schedule changes are difficult for teachers, students, and our families.

One of our priorities is to protect and support our staff, including their physical and mental health. Please thank them for all their extra efforts this year; they truly are extraordinary with their dedication for all students to learn at high levels.

These scheduling decisions can change. Some of the criteria we would use to make changes include:

- Increase COVID positive rates in our area.
- Guidance from the Hancock County Health Department
- Transfer of the COVID virus within our schools.
- Staffing shortages (this includes having adequate numbers of bus drivers)

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- Per the Indiana Department of Education, all VIRTUAL and IN-PERSON students will be required to take state assessments (ILEARN, I AM, IRead3, WIDA, etc.) in person, at school. Schools will develop processes and identify times to allow for extreme social distancing for all virtual students during testing times. By signing up to be a full-time virtual student, parents/guardians agree to their child testing in school for these state assessments.

As part of the data that was used to make the schedule decision for the second semester and provide insight into our teaching and learning this year, we asked students and the community (separately) to answer the question through ThoughtExchange, “What is working well, and/or what is not working well, in our approach to teaching and learning during the pandemic?”

The following are the results of the 1,754 participants:

- ThoughtExchange Participation



- [HERE](#) is the slide presentation from the ThoughtExchange
- [HERE](#) is the detailed report generated by the ThoughtExchange
- The top five rated thoughts are all thoughts of appreciation for the hard work, positive attitude, and fortitude of teachers and staff.
- There are varying differences between the thoughts generated about the schedule (hybrid, full-time virtual, and in-person). Some people believe students need to be 100% in-person all the time. Some believe all schools and all students should be full-time virtual due to the increase in COVID cases. Others appreciate the option to allow their child to be full-time

virtual. Finally, there also is the thought that some in-person days and some virtual days provide the best option (with students in school some days instead of virtual every day).

Visual Supports for At-Home Learning - I want to encourage you to consider utilizing visual supports at home with your child to better ensure success on our Virtual Learning Days. Visual Supports such as printable calendars, daily checklists, dry erase boards, chalkboards, efficient use of the Google Calendar, digital reminders, and other posters can certainly help Middle School Students and even Adults to stay organized and more productive. Please see the attached posters for you and your child to possibly edit and print for virtual learning at home.

We also ask you to continue to keep your family's health and safety measures as a priority, now and always. MVCSC will continue with requiring masks, hand-washing, and will social distance as much as possible when children are in school, and we ask you to please be vigilant outside of school hours with these same measures.

As a reminder:

- 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.
- 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 your school's attendance office.
- If there is any doubt whether a student should attend school, please keep everyone home and call your school's health clinic for guidance.
- [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 webpage.

Employment Opportunities at MVMS - We have job openings available for a Permanent Substitute Teacher and an Instructional Assistant. If you are interested, please click [HERE](#) this link to view the job description. You may also email Assistant Principal Crystal Cooper at crystal.cooper@mvcsc.k12.in.us

Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation has recently partnered with Ninestar Connect to expand technology support to 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Students or their parents/guardians can now receive technology support for the student's device after school hours, weekends, during breaks, and anytime technology help is needed. Please use the following contact information for technology support:

Technology Support Phone Number: 317-482-4112

Technology Support Email: 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 with one of these methods:

1. Call 317-485-3160 which is available 24/7
2. Email kayleigh.carrier@mvcsc.k12.in.us

MVMS PTO - Don't forget to have your families sign up for our VIP Club to receive additional discounts and incentives throughout the year! It's easy and they are provided with a 10% off discount immediately after signing up! To sign up:

- 1) Go to <https://1stplacespiritwear.com>
- 2) Scroll to the bottom and enter an email address in the "Join the VIP Club" sign up box
- 3) Check your inbox for the savings!!

If you have any questions about this week's sale, please let me know! I am always here to help- 330.635.0103.

Counseling Corner -

The Parent Guide to Resilience from whytry.org is worth checking out! The more I've been learning about the attachment styles and the importance of building healthy relationships with my own children, the more these types of resources influence me...even with upper teen kids.

<https://resiliencguide.org/>

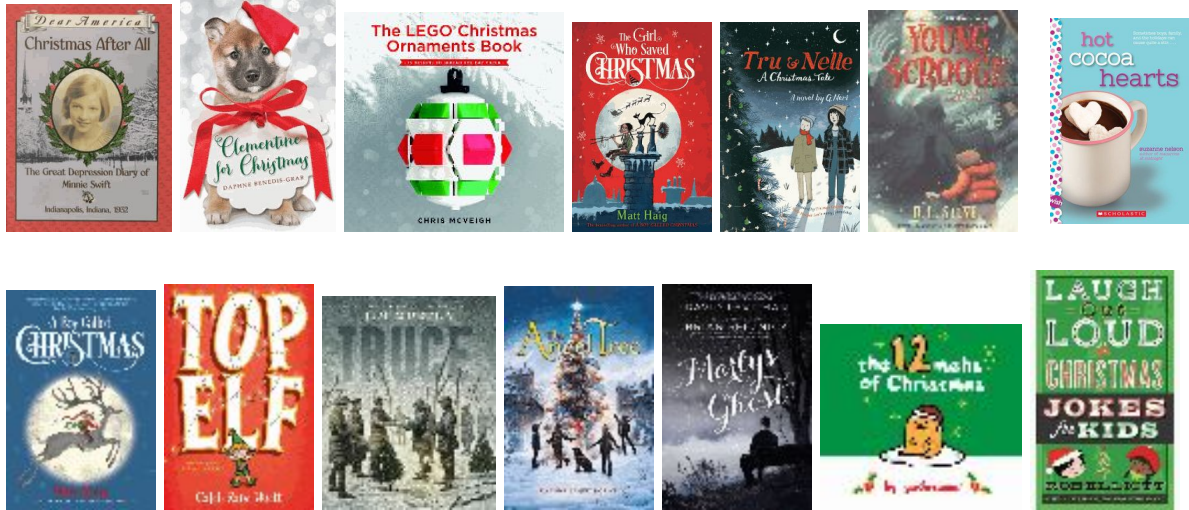
Follow the counselors on Instagram [@mvms_counselors](#).

Feeling stressed? Check out the resources available in the [Virtual Calming Room](#). Great for parents too!

MVCSC Gleaners Food Pantry - Please see the attachment for more information.

MV Reads: News from the Library -

Thank you for your support of the Scholastic Book Fair. Through your support we were able to add books to our school library. We hope you are preparing to have a relaxing holiday full of time to spend with your loved ones and of course, books! Here are some of our favorite Christmas reads at MVMS:



Students receive notice when they have an overdue library book. Once that book is more than 60 days overdue, it is considered lost and an email is sent each Monday to the parent/guardian.

If the student returns the book, the lost fee will be deleted. We prefer to have our books back rather than be paid the lost book replacement fee because it saves us from ordering and processing new books and gets the books in the hands of the students who want them faster.

So if your student knows where the book is, please have them return it ASAP. If they haven't finished reading it, they can renew it in the library and keep it longer.

If a book is truly lost, please pay the price listed in the email on School Pay by going to this website: <https://www.schoolpay.com/pay/for/LostDamaged-Library-Books/SctmWBH?p=yes>
 OR send a check made out to MVMS to the library or front office. Please write the student's name and title of the book in the memo line.

Once books are returned, they are quarantined prior to checking them in. If you know a book has been returned, but still receive a lost book email notice, please disregard. If you receive a second email for a book you are certain was returned, please communicate with the library staff.

Thank you!

Athletics -

See the NFHS Flyer (attached) to learn more about LIVE streaming Mt Vernon High School Athletics.

Winter Sports Event Attendance Policy -

Parents, due to the current pandemic, we are limiting the number of guests at MVMS sporting events this winter season. Each winter athlete may have up to 3 guests per sporting event In advance, each

winter athlete will receive 3 vouchers for the entire season. A voucher must be shown at the gate in order to purchase ticket admittance into each home event in which the athlete participates. Tickets are \$4 each for adults and children Kindergarten and up. A child under the age of kindergarten will be allowed for free. Please note that only 1 child per family will be allowed into a MVMS Sporting Event. The vouchers are transferable amongst the athlete's family members for the various sporting events this season. Important, please note that tickets will NOT be sold to those without a voucher.

During MVMS Sporting Events -

Guests are expected to . . .

- ***Wear masks or other PPE at all times while inside the MVMS school building.***
- ***Maintain 6 feet or more of social distancing with anyone outside of the household unit.***
- ***Be seated in the bleachers in a specifically pre-marked area. (i.e. look for the seats marked with a blue x).***

WINTER TRYOUT INFO -

Swimming (January) - A call-out meeting is planned for the end of the week at school for interested students. Students will be notified of the details in their daily announcements.

Football Conditioning

Weightlifting for all 6th - 8th Grade football players not participating in a winter sport. Students will meet in the cafe after school and walk to the high school with Coaches Harnish and Duerksen. Weights will be every Monday and Wednesday until 5:15 pm. Pick up will take place at the North entrance of the main gym at the high school. Any questions can be directed to eric.harnish@mvcsc.k12.in.us or brandon.duerksen@mvcsc.k12.in.us

Any student wishing to participate in athletics must have on file with the Athletic Office all required forms and an IHSA Sports Physical dated on or after April 1, 2019. Please click [HERE](#) to access all required documents which are located under the MORE tab.

Concerning questions of MVMS Athletics, please reply only to MVMS Athletic Director –Dave Merica at Dave.Merica@mvcsc.k12.in.us

All forms and questions go to Dave Merica at Dave.Merica@mvcsc.k12.in.us

Parents & Students - Please note the MVMS Student Handbook (p. 45-46) on Academic Eligibility for MVMS Athletics. -

Academic 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. 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.

Student Handbook Guidelines for Mask Compliance - Noncompliance with Safety and Health Procedures. Upon first offense, the student will be given a warning, and will be reinstructed by the teacher or staff member/administration regarding safety policy and regulations and a phone call will be made to a parent/guardian documenting the warning. A second offense will result in parent/guardian contact by a school administrator notifying the parent/guardian that the next offense will result in the student being designated as a virtual learner. A third offense shall be documented and the parent/guardian will be notified of the student being designated as a virtual learner and excluded from in-person enrollment at school for all curricular, extra-curricular, and co-curricular activities.

MVHS Trip to Greece in 2022

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Your student is invited to join us on a once-in-a-lifetime international travel experience with their peers to Italy and Greece in Summer 2022!!

Please come to hear all the details including the itinerary, activities, academic opportunities, and affordable payment options as well as the official opening of enrollment!

This meeting will be held on **December 2nd 2020 at 7:00pm on Zoom**. There are limited spots on this tour, and we would love to have you attend this meeting to learn more about this exciting opportunity! One parent must be in attendance.

RSVP using this link by **December 1st** to confirm your spot at the meeting:

<https://bit.ly/32Po4gt>

Can't make the meeting but want more information? RSVP and select "No but send info."

Thanks,

Shannon Schiller and Danielle Stindle - MVHS English teachers

Short Term E-Learning -

Parents, if you have a student that has been asked by school Health Officials to be quarantined for a certain number of days please be sure your student is completing their classroom assignments. This short term e-learning should occur by having your student check email, Google Classroom, and Canvas daily. 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.

At-Home Internet Information -

- **EXTENDING 60-DAYS OF FREE INTERNET SERVICE TO NEW INTERNET ESSENTIALS CUSTOMERS.** School districts across the country are announcing plans for when school starts again in the fall. To help provide additional support to students and families, Comcast will continue to provide 60 days of free Internet service to new, eligible Internet Essentials customers through the end of this year. In addition, Comcast will continue to waive, through the end of the year, the requirement that customers not have a past due balance with Comcast to qualify for the free offer. [Learn more here.](#)
- **EXTENDING FREE PUBLIC WIFI ACCESS TO EVERYONE FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2020.** To continue to help keep people connected, we are extending free access to the 1.5 million public Xfinity WiFi hotspots to anyone who needs them, including non-customers, through the end of 2020. [Learn more here.](#)
- **EXTENDING XFINITY OFFERING TO HELP UNIVERSITY STUDENTS STAY CONNECTED AS THEY PREPARE FOR THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR.** We are continuing to help college students stay connected to the Internet over the Summer and through the Fall back-to-school rush by extending an Xfinity Internet offering that provides \$150 Visa prepaid card to students who sign up for service by September 30; more than enough to pay for two months of Internet service. [Learn more here.](#)

MVMS Drop Off & Pick Up Procedures

<https://www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/2/Content2/640>