

Marauder Memo - February 6, 2021

Dear Parents & Community -

Due to Monday's E-Learning Day, we had a shortened but good week together at MVMS. Highlights for our students included Read Aloud Day on Wednesday, when teachers, staff, and administrators shared favorite books, poems, primary sources, and short stories. Student learning was enhanced not only by the materials that were read, but also by what we hope will be a boost in both their reading interest and the knowledge to be gained by that in their futures.

We also kicked off Black History Month. Each morning on the announcements a different student is reading a quote or fact related to historical figures of color. I have been impressed with and grateful for the eager approach of those asked to help thus far. My list is nearly full, but if your student would like to participate, please guide him or her to me.

Congratulations to our 7th Grade Boys Basketball team, which completed an undefeated season with the County Championship yesterday at Greenfield Central. I was impressed with their skills, teamwork, and spirit. This community certainly has a lot of pride, and it clearly shines through every team and organization that represents it.

Our "Attitude of Gratitude" initiative will this week feature our Custodial Staff. I am consistently impressed with the cleanliness of our building and classrooms. Kudos and thanks to Ginny Horton and her team, which recognizes they need and appreciate the efforts the students and staff make to keep things as neat and tidy as possible. Please let me know other examples at home that illustrate our students' sense of pride and spirit of thanksgiving. Thank you.

Here are some of this week's news items/updates/reminders:

Yearbook - Yearbook sales are underway! You can purchase your yearbook online [HERE](#). Our school code is: **54076M**. Sales will continue until March 8th. \$20 softcover or \$25 hardcover.

MVMS Spelling Bee - The 2021 Spelling Bee will be held Wednesday, February 17th at 9:00am in the Main Gym. Each student who qualified for the Spelling Bee is allowed two guests to attend the Bee. Guests will be required to wear a mask.

Dress Code and Masks - Please review with your students our [Dress Code](#) and our commitment to hold students accountable to it. While most every student is appropriately dressed for school, we had a slight uptick in the dress code violations last week. Shirts not covering the midriff and overly-hole jeans were the primary offenses. Please help us maintain an atmosphere most conducive to student learning. We also noticed a lot of students lowering their masks under their noses. Please read Friday's email message from the Central Office regarding the Governor's statement this week about updated protocols, which places even greater emphasis on masks. Like Dr. Parker's message indicates, the MVCSC community has done an EXEMPLARY job

with Covid protocols, and the data supports the excellent culture you've helped us shape from home. Please keep up the Great Work - thank you.

Health and Safety Protocols - Again, the Central Office message is clear regarding the quality of this community's work to this point and the expectations moving forward. Our students and their learning are the greatest beneficiaries of our practices, and the health and safety of each member of our MVMS community are paramount in our collective efforts. Thank you again for your continual attention to the Covid safeguards.


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 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.
- [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.

Post-Presidents Day Plan - We are full-speed ahead with a return to in-person learning beginning February 16. We will also begin again the Wednesday early release schedule. The schedule is detailed [HERE](#). Our students are looking forward to the more conventional school schedule and the increased learning opportunities that it provides. Again, we would not have the low numbers of Covid cases without your help and support at home. On behalf of your sons and daughters, and our staff and faculty, thank you.

MV Reads: News from the Library

As mentioned earlier, we had a wonderful time celebrating #worldreadaloud day at MVMS this past Wednesday. I was happy to join other administrators and faculty who took time to make reading aloud to students. To see pictures of this day's event, be sure to follow the corporation's libraries on Facebook [@MVCSCLibraries](#). They ask you to please  their page!



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 Modified Black & Gold Day Schedule Click [HERE](#)

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

Virtual Support - Mrs. Merica, our new 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. 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.

MVMS Kitchen Table - The MVMS Kitchen Table (aka Homework Help Club) is on Monday afternoons 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.

Counseling Corner -

Bored at home? Check out this list of virtual tours and activities you can do from home! <http://www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/2/Content/virtual-activities> . The Parent Guide to Resilience from whytry.org is excellent, as is this resource: <https://resiliienceguide.org/>. Remember you can follow our counselors for other advice and tips on Instagram @mvms_counselors.

Tech Support - 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

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 Kayleigh.carrier@mvcsc.k12.in.us .

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.

Principal Search Process - Dr. Parker has begun having screening conversations with candidates with an eye to Semi-finalist interviews March 3. I will keep you updated through this weekly memo, as able.

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Employment Opportunities at MVMS - We have job openings for a Long-term (Feb. 16 -May 19) 6th Grade Mathematics Substitute Teacher and a Custodian. If interested in the Math position, email me at mike.raters@mvsc.k12.in.us; if interested in the Custodian opportunity, please email Assistant Principal Jeff Brandes at jeff.brandes@mvsc.k12.in.us .

Substitute Teachers - MVCSC continues to build its pool of Substitute teachers. Those who are interested and qualify can choose to serve in their building of choice (MVMS is a great place to work!) and earn approximately \$85/day. For more information, click here: www.mvsc.k12.in.us/employment/6 or schedule a meeting with Kelly Services at rebrand.ly/substitute.

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!!

Athletics - Here is the schedule of events for next week:

Tuesday, Feb. 9

6th grade girls basketball vs Eastern Hancock 6:00pm (2 games A & B)
Wrestling @ Fall Creek 5:30pm
Swimming @ Shelbyville 6:00pm

Wednesday, Feb. 10

7th grade girls basketball @ Westfield 6:00pm (2 games A & B)
8th grade girls basketball vs Westfield 6:00pm (2 games A & B)

Thursday, Feb. 11

6th grade girls basketball @ HSE JH 5:30pm (2 games A & B)
7th grade girls basketball @ Riverside 5:30pm (2 games A & B)
8th grade girls basketball vs Riverside 5:30pm (2 games A & B)
Wrestling vs Shelbyville 5:30pm
Swimming @ Greenfield Central 5:30pm (@ Greenfield Central HS)

Winter Sports Event Attendance Policy - 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, using the three (3) vouchers he/she has received for the 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 one (1) child per family will be allowed into an MVMS Sporting Event. The vouchers are transferable amongst the athlete's family members for the various sporting events this season. 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 six (6) feet or more of social distancing with anyone outside of the household unit.
- Be seated in the bleachers in the specifically pre-marked areas (look for the seats marked with a blue X).

Football Conditioning - Weightlifting for all 6th-8th Grade football players not participating in a winter sport occurs every Monday and Wednesday 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@mvsc.k12.in.us or brandon.duerksen@mvsc.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@mvsc.k12.in.us.

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.
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. 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 any athletic competitions.

MVMS Drop Off & Pick Up Procedures - Please use this link to learn/verify our morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up procedures: <https://www.mvsc.k12.in.us/2/Content2/640>

Upcoming Dates and Events -

2/15/21 - Presidents Day - NO SCHOOL

2/16/21 - Return to Everyday In-person Learning

2/17/21 - Spelling Bee - 9am in the main gym.

2/17/21 - Early Release Wednesday Schedule Resumes
Click [HERE](#) to view dismissal procedures

3/5/21 - 6th Grade to see “The Royal Falconer” in the main gym.

3/15 - 3/26/21 - Spring Break

Thank you again for your support of our educational efforts and your students’ learning. Best wishes for an enjoyable Super Bowl Sunday and rewarding week ahead -

Mike Raters

Michael P. Raters
Interim Principal
Mt. Vernon Middle School
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