

Marauder Memo - January 23, 2021

Dear Parents & Community -

We are off to a good start to the 3rd Nine Weeks and 2nd Semester here at MVMS. Thank you for the efforts you have made, individually and collectively, to minimize pandemic-related disruptions and maximize (y)our students' learning. This is a caring, enthusiastic, and students-centered educational environment, and I am proud to join and serve in it.

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

**Health and Safety Protocols** - Thank you for your continual attention to the Covid safeguards for our school district. Your efforts and those of our students are clearly high and, thus, our statistics are low. Coming from the "general population" to MVCSC, I am extremely impressed with and grateful for the culture to combat the pandemic here. Kudos - and please keep up the great work guiding your sons and daughters. Our students are the greatest beneficiaries of our safety practices, and their health, safety, and learning are paramount in our collective efforts. Thanks for all you do to minimize our risk and cases by following and enforcing C-19 protocols.

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](mailto: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](http://www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/COVID) webpage.

**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 and excluded from in-person enrollment at school for all curricular, extra-curricular, and co-curricular activities. I have been very impressed with the compliance our students demonstrate to these policies and procedures. Thank you for your guidance of them and support of our efforts to keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible.

**Principal Search Process** - Dr. Parker has begun the process for selecting the next MVMS Principal. Screening of candidates began this week, with an application deadline of February 19. Please see the district’s website for further details. I will keep you updated through this weekly memo, as able.

**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](#)

**Virtual Support** - Mrs. Merica, our new Virtual Support Teacher, is off to a great start helping students navigate their online learning opportunities. 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

**MVMS Kitchen Table** - The MVMS Kitchen Table (aka the Homework Help Club), will begin after school Monday, January 25th. Students trying to recover from absences, get extra help with especially challenging concepts, or find assistance preparing for upcoming tests should report to Mr. Crouch's classroom immediately after school. Parents must pick up their students at the Main Entrance at 4:30pm.

**Employment Opportunities at MVMS** - We have job openings available for a Long-term 6th Grade Mathematics Long-term (Feb. 19-May 19) Substitute Teacher and an Instructional Assistant. If interested in the Math position, email me at [mike.raters@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:mike.raters@mvcsc.k12.in.us), and if interested in the IA position, please email Assistant Principal Crystal Cooper at [crystal.cooper@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:crystal.cooper@mvcsc.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.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).

**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](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 [kayleigh.carrier@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto: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.

**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!!

**MV Reads: News from the Library**

*A “Read-Aloud...[fosters] lifelong success for the child and a dose of deep well-being for the family.” - Pam Allyn, SVP, Innovation & Development, Scholastic Education.)*



World Read Aloud Day 2021 is February 3rd. [LitWorld](#) founded the campaign in 2010 to advocate for access to literacy and diverse stories, as well as the power of reading aloud -- an activity that has an immensely powerful impact on teen’s development. Additionally, the day is widely celebrated across social media, with the hashtag #worldreadaloud day trending annually. Check social media and help build the movement of World Read Aloud Day by sharing your participation, ideas and pictures from the day! One of our favorite read aloud sites is [Storyline Online](#).

### **Counseling Corner -**

The Parent Guide to Resilience from [whytry.org](#) is excellent, as is this resource <https://resiliencguide.org/>. Remember you can follow our counselors for other advice and tipson Instagram [@mvms\\_counselors](#).

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

#### **Tuesday, Jan 26**

7th & 8th grade girls basketball vs Shelbyville  
5:30 start, followed by the 8th grade - main gym

6th grade girls basketball @ Sand Creek  
5:30 start, followed by the B game

#### **Wednesday, Jan 27**

7th grade boys basketball vs. Pendleton  
5:30 start, followed by the B game - main gym

8th grade boys basketball @ Pendleton  
5:30 start, followed by the B game

Wrestling vs Hamilton Southeastern  
5:30 start - fieldhouse

#### **Thursday, Jan 28**

Wrestling vs New Palestine  
5:30 start - fieldhouse

6th grade girls basketball vs Maple Ridge  
5:30 start - ONE game only - main gym

7th & 8th grade girls basketball @ Franklin Central (my alma mater...but go MV!) - 5:30pm start, followed by the 8th grade game.

**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](mailto:eric.harnish@mvsc.k12.in.us) or [brandon.duerksen@mvsc.k12.in.us](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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

Again - thank you for your support of our educational efforts and your students' learning. Best wishes for a healthy, restful, and rewarding weekend -

Mike Raters

**Michael P. Raters**  
Interim Principal  
Mt. Vernon Middle School  
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