

Marauder Memo - January 30, 2021

Dear Parents & Community -

I met with all students in Team Meetings this week. I was impressed with their attentiveness, questions, and focus on the expectations we have for them here at MVMS. Your students certainly make this a special school and community I am grateful to have joined.

Relatedly, we kicked off a focus this quarter on furthering the “Attitude of Gratitude” I’ve noticed as part of the positive culture here. We are doing this with quick reminder announcements, coupled with a spotlight on a group in the building we especially appreciate. This week’s was the Cafeteria Staff and next week’s will be our Bus Drivers. We hope you see some carryover from our school’s “Attitude of Gratitude” into your homes via our students. Please let me know examples that illustrate this. Thank you.

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

**Health and Safety Protocols** - A primary point of emphasis in our Team Meetings was our continual attention on Covid safeguards and protocols. When I asked each group what is one way they would like to see our school improve over the semester, the first answer EVERY team gave was hope for the Pandemic to go away. While we can’t make that happen, we will continue do our part for our school and community. At the time of our Meetings, Hancock County’s Covid Color dropped from Red to Orange. We are proud of the role MVMS families have played in that progress, and we are committed to continue our efforts at school to further it. Together, we really are making a difference, and the experiences and learning of our students will increase as the Covid numbers decrease. Thank you for the encouragement you give to your students to adhere to the 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

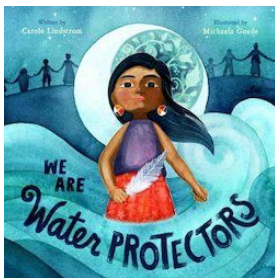
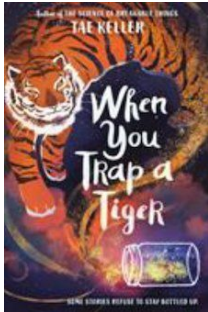
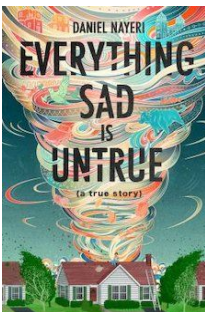
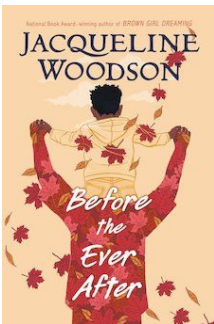
learner and excluded from in-person enrollment at school for all curricular, extra-curricular, and co-curricular activities. I have been very impressed with the compliance our students demonstrate to these policies and procedures. Thank you for your guidance of them and support of our efforts to keep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

**Post-Presidents Day Plan** - In last week’s School Board meeting, Dr. Parker emphasized that we have every intent to return to school after President’s Day on a full-time basis (Tu-Fr that week, M-F the rest). Again, let’s all continue to do our part to make that a reality. Our students are looking forward to the more conventional school schedule and in-person learning.

**MV Reads: News from the Library**

Great news from the Library: the ALA (American Library Association) announced the top books, digital media, video and audiobooks for children and young adults -- including the Caldecott, Coretta Scott King, Newbery and Printz awards (pictures below) -- at its Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits this past Monday, January 25th. See this [2021 Youth Media Awards](#) link for the comprehensive list. Congratulations to all the winning authors and illustrators! Also, we are all preparing for National Read Aloud Day this Wednesday, February 3. Teachers, Staff, Counselors, and Administrators will all be reading stories, poems, historical diaries, and other interesting literary works to our students that day. We hope you will join us at home with some family reading aloud time that day.

<https://www.scholastic.com/worldreadaloudday/> #worldreadalouddayFEB3



**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 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. *Please note that the Kitchen Table is cancelled for Monday, February 1st. It will resume February 8th.*

**Employment Opportunities at MVMS** - We have job openings available for a Long-term 6th Grade Mathematics Long-term (Feb. 19-May 19) Substitute Teacher, Instructional

Assistant, and Custodian. If interested in the Math position, email me at [mike.raters@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:mike.raters@mvcsc.k12.in.us); 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); and if interested in the Custodian opportunity, please email Assistant Principal Jeff Brandes at [jeff.brandes@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:jeff.brandes@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!!

#### **Counseling Corner -**

The Parent Guide to Resilience from [whytry.org](http://whytry.org) is excellent, as is this resourceL <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:

**Monday, Feb. 1**

7th & 8th Grade Girls Basketball vs. Benjamin Rush  
5:30 & 6:30pm

Wrestling vs. Fishers  
5:30pm

**Wednesday, Feb. 3**

7th & 8th Grade Boys Basketball vs. Eastern Hancock  
5:30 & 6:30pm

Wrestling @ Greenfield Central  
5:30pm

**Thursday, Feb. 4**

6th Grade Girls Basketball @ Shenandoah  
5:30pm

7th Grade Girls Basketball - Conference Tournament) - Home  
5:30pm

8th Grade Girls Basketball - Conference Tournament) - Home  
6:30pm

8th Grade Boys Basketball @ Heritage Christian  
6:30pm

**Saturday, Feb. 6**

7th grade Girls Basketball - Conference Tournament - Home  
8:30am

8th Grade Girls Basketball - Conference Tournament - Home  
9:45am

7th Grade Boys Basketball - County Tournament @ Greenfield Central

9am

8th Grade Girls Basketball - County Tournament @ Greenfield Central  
10:15am

**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@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).

**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>

**Upcoming Dates and Events -**

**2/5/21 - 6th Grade to see “The Royal Falconer” in the main gym.**

**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.**

Thank you for your support of our educational efforts and your students’ learning. Best wishes for a healthy, restful, and (snow-filled?) rewarding weekend -

Mike Raters

**Michael P. Raters**  
Interim Principal  
Mt. Vernon Middle School  
317-485-3160