



# MT. VERNON MIDDLE SCHOOL

## **Marauder Memo - January 9th, 2021**

Dear Parents & Community -

Please view an important video Message from Mr. Williams - Click [HERE](#) (Approx. 2 1/2 minutes)

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, 1/11 - Black Day (In-School)

Tuesday, 1/12- Black Day (All Virtual)

Wednesday, 1/13 - Gold Day (In-School)

Thursday, 1/4 - Gold Day (All Virtual)

Friday, 1/5 - Black Day (In-School)



### **MVCSC Announces Michael Raters will Serve as the Interim MVMS Principal**

The Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation has selected Mr. Michael Raters to serve as the Interim Mt. Vernon Middle School Principal. Raters will begin his contract at the start of the second semester on Tuesday, January 19 and serve through the remainder of the school year. This appointment is to temporarily fill the position after Mr. Benjamin Williams resigned to enter the business and consulting field.

Raters has vast leadership experience, most recently serving as an Adjunct Professor at Butler University teaching the Perspectives in Leadership course. He is also an Associate Vice President at Scott Healy & Associates, recruiting for university leadership positions and serving as leader of the Student Affairs and Athletics division.

He is also a Partner and Director of Education and Government Projects with Bridge Builder Strategies, LLC. In this role he manages research, personnel, and relationships with schools, governmental entities, and partners. He led the Engagement, Research and Recommendation effort with Faith & Action's "Break the Cycle of Poverty" initiative, as well as overseeing work with the multicultural College Interns team.

Mr. Raters shared, "I am fortunate to be joining a community of educators and staff that are exceptionally dedicated and, most importantly, student-centered. I am eager to work with them to learn how I can be supportive of their efforts, help advance their teaching, and further the leadership of the student body. Above all else, I am excited about engaging with the students, helping to ensure they can maximize their learning during these tough but critical times in their personal development. All members of the school community can expect me to be a positive presence, one that has high expectations with a focus on maximizing our human, monetary, and technological resources to provide a fun, rewarding, and successful learning environment for all students. By doing that, I will prepare a path for the next principal to find quick and sustained success for MVMS."

Raters was the Dean of Students at Wabash College from 2008-2019 and managed the Student Life division. During his tenure, he developed the Student Engagement and Success Office where they achieved their highest graduation rate. Prior to that appointment, he was the Associate Dean of Students from 2004-2008.

He previously served as a Governmental Team Leader/Teacher/Coach at Franklin Central High School from 1987-2004. His first teaching position was with Scecina Memorial High School from 1986-1987.

He received his Master of Education Administration through Butler University and his Bachelor of Science degree (History Major/Teacher Education Area of Concentration) from Wabash College.

Dr. Jack Parker, Superintendent, shares, "I have selected Mr. Raters to serve as the Interim Mt. Vernon Middle School Principal for his collaborative leadership approach and his vast track record of building success within the organizations he serves. He empowers his team to succeed individually which furthers the sense of community and collective success. We are looking forward to seeing the positive impact Mr. Raters will have with Mt. Vernon Middle School staff and students."

MVCSC is seeking candidates for the Mt. Vernon Middle School Principal position which will begin on June 9, 2021. Interested applicants should visit [mvcsc.k12.in.us/employment](http://mvcsc.k12.in.us/employment) for additional details. Applications will be accepted prior to February 19. The interview process will begin on January 18 with screening interviews. Mt. Vernon Middle School parents and staff will be able to share their thoughts on desired qualities for the candidates through a community ThoughtExchange. A committee comprised of staff and parents will help narrow the field, along with all principals. The

final candidate will be presented to the MVCSC School Board of Trustees for their approval at the April 19 meeting.

### **Virtual Support**

Hello, my name is Jackie Merica and I am the new Virtual Support Teacher here at MVMS. I will be assisting all full-time virtual students for the remainder of the school year. I am here to help students in navigating their learning while they are at home. Students will have the opportunity to connect with other students from their team via Google Meet each week, as well as, do a daily virtual check-in with me. Students, please look for an email from me next week. If you have any questions or concerns regarding technology or tips to help with virtual learning, please contact me. My email address is [jackie.merica@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:jackie.merica@mvcsc.k12.in.us), or you can call me at 317-485-3160 ext. 2151. I look forward to getting to know and work with all of our amazing virtual students!

Google Meet times for full time virtual students:

<u>6th Grade: Mondays</u>	<u>7th grade: Wednesdays</u>	<u>8th grade: Fridays</u>
Integrity: 10:15-10:45 Firebirds: 11:00-11:30 Central Stars: 11:45-12:15 Odyssey: 1:00-1:30	Spirit: 11:45-12:15 Champions: 12:25-12:55 Victory: 1:45-2:15	Eagles: 10:30-11:00 All Stars: 11:15-11:45 Pride: 2:30-3:00

### **The MVMS Kitchen Table (aka the Homework HelpClub)**

Starting Monday, January 25th, every Monday after school until 4:30pm  
The student will meet in Mr. Crouch's classroom  
Parents must pick up students at the main entrance

Students can get help with:

- Homework
- Missing work
- Study skills
- Organization skills
- Review class content from an student absences

### **We need Substitute Teachers at MV!**

MVCSC needs your help! Substitute teach in the building of your choice and earn approximately \$85/day or more!

Schedule a meeting with Kelly Services at [rebrand.ly/substitute](https://rebrand.ly/substitute)

Job details and perks are listed at [www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/employment/6](http://www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/employment/6)

**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 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](http://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](mailto: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](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 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)

**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](http://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 -**

*Welcome back!* Hopefully READING is in your 2021 New Year's Resolutions! To help motivate you, consider creating a goal through the [Goodreads](#) app/website, the world's largest site for readers and book recommendations. More than 75 million members have added more than 2.2 billion books to their shelves. It is a free service that allows you to discover books you'll love, scan books on the go, explore genres and curated lists, and even give and get book recommendations. You can organize the books you have read, want to read, and are reading. There's nothing more satisfying than marking a book as read when you've finished it! For adults, check out the new [Goodreads 2021 Reading List](#) recommendations. For younger readers, here are [three great alternatives](#) to Goodreads. Happy Reading!



## **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).***

### **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](mailto:eric.harnish@mvcsc.k12.in.us) or [brandon.duerksen@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto: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](mailto:Dave.Merica@mvcsc.k12.in.us)

All forms and questions go to Dave Merica at [Dave.Merica@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto: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 instructed 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.

#### **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>