

Marauder Memo - March 27, 2021

Dear Parents & Community -

I hope you and your family have enjoyed a restful, relaxing, and rejuvenating Spring Break. I very much look forward to seeing your students and their teachers on Monday.

Here are some of the key news items and reminders for next week:

New Principal - The School Board, in its March meeting over the Break, formally named Brooke Tharp as the next [Principal](#) of Mt. Vernon Middle School. She will be a terrific asset for this school and all its constituencies. I look forward to helping in the transition process, which has already begun and will be complete June 9.

Teacher and Staff Member of the Year - Kittie Masters and Lisa Lindman have been elected by their peers as the MVMS Teacher and Staff Member of the Year. Each is a leader of students and staff. They will be honored at the Education Foundation's [Gala](#), April 17.

8th Graders and 4th Nine Weeks - As we near the completion of the 3rd Nine Weeks, we are already making plans (Covid-dependent, of course) for the end of the school year. Most of that attention is on celebrating 8th Graders with as “normal” a conclusion to their experience as possible. Plans are underway for an after-school dance, field day, and Promotion Ceremony the last week of school. For students to be able to participate in the Promotion Ceremony, they will need to have passed the same number of classes for them to be academically eligible for high school activities (no more than one failing grade). We will engage those students in jeopardy after the 3rd Nine Weeks and help guide them to greater success in the 4th. Please help your students in that effort - we certainly want to see all students participate, but know they must earn that privilege.

Also, the new Nine Weeks will be a time of transition for some students going from Virtual to In-person Learning and vice versa. If you have a student changing status, please communicate **this week** with any administrator or Mr. Cole, 8th Grade Counselor, at carey.cole@mvcsc.k12.in.us .

LMS - Mt. Vernon Community Schools will move to one Learning Management System, Canvas, over the next academic year. All Virtual learning will be conducted via Canvas next year, while in-person instruction will transition over the year. This decision was made after months of analysis and deliberation with, certainly, the best interest of students and their learning in mind.

Construction - Two weeks can mean a lot in the construction world, and that has certainly been the case at MVMS over the Break. While all classroom moves were made prior to vacation, the only real impacts to your students or you may be in regard to seeing newer walls in the old music and art areas and some parking restrictions in the northwest lot.

Spirit Days this Week - The number one local news topic for those of you who stayed in Indiana over the Break was the NCAA Basketball tournament. And, with the advent of spring, comes Opening Day of the Major League Baseball season. To celebrate those and, of course, the return to school, we will have Spirit Days Wednesday (Favorite Baseball Team) and Friday (Favorite College). I hope that also serves to rally us one final time for....

Canned Food Drive - The canned food drive finishes this week. Please help guide and lead this important initiative with your students. MVMS had contributed the most donations heading into the Break. Let's keep up the great generosity and spirit. Thank you for any support you and your students can give to help us help those in the community who can really use canned and boxed food supplies.

Textbook Adoption - Mr. Scott Shipley, Director of Curriculum, announced that a committee of teachers has come to consensus on the following Textbook Adoption resources for next school year:

8th - 11th grade *My Perspectives* by Savvas Learning

HS speech - McGraw Hill's text

HS Etymology - *Vocabulary for the College Bound Student*

6th and 7th grade will keep the novel fee and adopt *Scholastic Scope*, a literary magazine.

Parents and community members are welcome to preview the selected materials in the administrative building board room Monday through Friday, April 5 - 19, between 8am - 3:30pm. Please direct any questions or concerns to Mr. Shipley at scott.shipley@mvcsc.k12.in.us. Relatedly,

21/22 Scheduling for High School - Current 8th grade students completed their scheduling recently. If you have any questions please contact your student's High School counselor:

Students with last name A-D

Lindsay Crow

lindsay.crow@mvcsc.k12.in.us

Students with last name E-J:

Lee Larkins

lee.larkins@mvcsc.k12.in.us

Students with last name K-O

Nicole Johnson

nicole.johnson@mvcsc.k12.in.us

Students with last name P-S

Kacie Grimm

kacie.grimm@mvcsc.k12.in.us

Students with last name T-Z

Jamie Beaver

jamie.beaver@mvcsc.k12.in.us

MVMS Kitchen Table - The MVMS Kitchen Table (aka Homework Help Club) will meet Monday afternoon 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.

MVMS PTO - Locker Shockers are Back! Do you want to surprise your student with a decorated locker to celebrate a birthday, athletic event, or just because? If so, place your order [HERE](#). Please note that a 2-weeks notice is required. Any questions may be directed to mtvernonmiddleschoolpto@gmail.com

Referrals - With the return of full-time in-person learning, we have seen an increase in referrals for student behavior. Remember that those can be both negative and positive. One of the highlights of the last couple weeks has been rewarding those students with positive referrals at week's end. Their change of expression from "Why am I in trouble?" to "Oh...thanks!" has been fun and powerful. Thank you for your guidance of your students to meet our high expectation for student behavior. We anticipate some challenges to the [Dress Code](#) as temperatures increase, and we again thank you for your support of our efforts to maximize learning via appropriate school attire and behavior.

Restrooms - We got a little better in the week before Spring Break in terms of lowering the amount of inappropriate use of our restrooms. I saw many students taking pride in the school

and monitoring the behavior of their peers. Again, thank you for any help you provide in guiding your students to make responsible use of the restrooms.

Health and Safety Protocols - As we return to school with our population having been to a variety of locations with different mandates and Covid numbers, we need to be especially mindful of managing and modeling appropriate mask wearing and social distancing this week. I'm especially concerned that the Governor's announcement of eliminating the mask mandate AFTER the NCAA Tournament will create some confusion with our students and families. To this point, in other words, nothing has changed yet, and we will remain diligent in our efforts to mitigate the impact of the virus on our schools. Thank you again for your continual attention to the Covid safeguards, including:

- 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 or christy.bastin@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 at denise.floyd@mvcsc.k12.in.us.
- [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.

MV Reads: News from the Library

As Spring Break ends, longer days with sunlight are here, and encouraging outdoors, recreational reading is always good for young people. Check out the list below of some favorite recommended school reads, or visit the online catalogs and calendars of your local libraries to help combat spring break boredom with fun and engaging books and programs for kids, teens and families! [HCPL Catalog](#) / [HCPL Calendar](#) // [FVTPL Catalog](#) / [FVTPL Calendar](#)



Virtual Learners' Support - Mrs. Merica, our 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.

Counseling Corner - Students or parents struggling with Pandemic-related challenges are encouraged to utilize The [Parent Guide to Resilience](#) from whytry.org. Remember also, you can follow our counselors for other advice and tips on Instagram [@mvms_counselors](#).

Tech Support and help needed - Mr. Meyer, our lead Technology Assistant, has noticed a recent spike in Chromebook damage, especially keys removed from keyboards. Please help us monitor that and guide your students to take good care of their technology. Thank you. Also, 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 brigitte.bussen@mvcsc.k12.in.us
3. 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.

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

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

Athletics - Spring Tryouts

7th/8th Softball Tryouts- March 30th - April 1st 4:00 - 6:00 pm weather permitting

7th/8th Baseball Tryouts- March 30th - April 1st 4:00 - 6:00 pm weather permitting

Golf - March 29th, 31st & April 1st, 2nd at Arrowhead Golf Course

Track - March 29th - April 1st 4:00 - 5:30 pm

March 29th - 100M Dash, 200M Dash, Shot Put

March 30th - Hurdles, 400M Run, Long Jump, Discus

March 31st - 800M Run, 1600 M Run, High Jump

April 1st - All girls, All events

April 2nd - All boys, All events

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 will take place each Tuesday and Thursday 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 or 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.

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. 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.

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 -

3/29 - School Resumes

4/2 - Last day of Quarter 3

Thank you again for your support of our educational efforts and your students' learning. Best wishes for an enjoyable, safe, and positive return to school for your students and you -

Mike Raters

Michael P. Raters

Interim Principal

Mt. Vernon Middle School

317-485-3160