

Marauder Memo - May 23, 2021

**Dear Parents & Community -**

I hope you and your families have enjoyed the warm and sunny weekend. We enter this last full week of school with positive momentum from our athletes and musical students. Our Spring Sports seasons concluded last week, and our athletes did a good job representing MVMS with pride and skill. Our Spring Choir Concert was Thursday night, followed by Friday's 7th and 8th Grade Band Concert, and our performers did a great job showing their talents through their masks. Kudos to all our coaches, Miss Stewart, Mr. Day, and their assistants from the high school and community who have helped make this Spring one of growth and success for our students.

This week we will be conducting Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) assessments, and our annual Talent Show will be Thursday evening at the high school. Add in the fact that this is the final full week of classes, and you can see our students have a big and important week ahead of them.

Here are some key reminders for the week ahead:

**Student Behavior Challenges** - Thank You for your help with your students throughout the last two weeks. Our students and staff are certainly tired from a long year, and we all need to stay mindful of high expectations, enthusiastic, and learning-focused. While we did not have one particular issue that challenged us last week, we were disappointed with behaviors related to cell phones, dress code, physical contact, and treatment of others. On the bright side, we continue to see many of your students model positive behaviors and lead their peers to do the same. As always, we VERY MUCH appreciate your support of our efforts, which manifests itself in your students' academic performance.

**8th Grade End-of-Year Events** - We have revised and finalized the following dates for key activities involving our 8th Graders (and some below which involve 6th and 7th graders, as well). Each of these events are pending Covid Protocol safeguards and approval.

**Faculty Basketball** - 8th grade boys vs. Faculty and Staff - Friday morning, June 4, during UA time. All 8th Graders will be able to attend.

**After-School Dance** - Friday, June 4, after school to 530pm. PTO is sponsoring this event and planning most details in conjunction with the MVMS administration.

**Field Day and Promotion Ceremony** - Monday, June 7. The 8th Graders will practice that morning at MVMS and MVHS for the next day's Promotion Ceremony. Lunch will follow back at school before Field Day activities that afternoon, led by our Physical Education staff. The 6th and 7th grade Field Days are scheduled for Tuesday the 8th (7th in am / 6th in pm).

**Promotion Ceremony** - For those students who qualify (remember, those with multiple Fs for the grading period will not be eligible), we will celebrate their promotion from 8th grade to high school beginning at 9:30am in the Mt. Vernon High School gymnasium. Each participating student will be allowed two guests and all attending will need to wear masks and follow social distancing guidelines. Letters have been sent home to parents of those students currently ineligible to participate. We certainly look forward to these events and hope ALL students qualify for participation.

Other Important Events and Dates:

- **NWEA Testing** - May 25 (Reading), 27(Math), 28 (Language Arts)
- **Talent Show** - May 27 at MVHS
- **8th Grade boys vs. Faculty Basketball** - June 2 during UA time
- **8th Grade Dance** - June 4 after school
- **Promotion Ceremony *Practice*** - June 7 - 9-1130am
- **8th Grade Field Day** - June 7 - 1-3:30pm (inc. lockers clean-out)
- **Promotion Ceremony** - June 8 - 9:30-noon
- **7th Grade Field Day** - June 8 - 930-1130am (lockers in pm)
- **6th Grade Field Day** - June 8 - 115-315pm (lockers in am)

**Video Favor Request from MCVSC** - Please consider responding to this request: MCVSC is asking parents to submit a short video that begins with "Because of You...(my child passed math/my child made honor roll/etc)" to thank and honor a teacher, counselor, and/or administrator who has made a positive difference in the educational life of your child.. Please email the video to [comm.intern@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:comm.intern@mvcsc.k12.in.us) during the month of May. Using your phone to record is fine, as is including your child (alone or with you) in the video. Dr. Parker and the Central Office Administrators will be playing these appreciation videos for our staff during the corporation-wide end-of-year celebration June 9. Thank you for your support!

**Car rider safety** - For those of you who drive students to school, please beware of the system, cones, and signage in place to keep our students (and staff) as safe as possible. We have had some scary near misses, especially at the cross walk from the middle school to the administration building/preschool. Please be especially careful while driving on school grounds: construction, staggered times for preschool parents, and our choir students heading over to the administration building for class/practice have added to our need to be extremely cautious. Thank you.

**FCCLA** - Our Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) club is leading a clothing drive for needy children. Members are seeking new socks and underwear, plus new or

gently used winter coats, jackets, and other clothes for kids. The drive will conclude on Wednesday, and there is a competition for the most generous class (Mr. DeFord's class currently leads). Please have your students bring in new donations to help those in need.

**Mt. Vernon Middle School Summer School '21 Information** - Mt. Vernon Community Schools is offering an in-person summer school program at no cost to families. Remediation will be provided in the content areas of reading/language arts and mathematics. MVMS summer school is for students who are currently enrolled in grades 5th, 6th, and 7th grades.

**Goal:** To remediate middle school students during the summer session.

**Who can attend:** Current 5th through 7th grade students may participate. Current 8th grade students can take summer PE through Mt. Vernon High School. Information will be shared soon.

**Where will Classes be held:** Mt. Vernon Middle School. Pickup and dropoff will be on the south side of the building (main entrance).

**What subjects will be taught:** All students will receive instruction in reading, language arts and mathematics. The summer school staff will provide instruction based on student's needs.

**When will classes be held:** Summer school will run for two weeks for a total of 8 instructional days. Classes will be held Monday through Thursday, July 12th - July 15th and July 19th - July 22nd. Classes will be held from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

**What Rules and Regulations apply:** The rules and regulations which apply during the regular school year apply during summer school. Parents and students should refer to the Student/Parent Handbook and Discipline Code as it relates to discipline matters. It is expected that all students will behave in a manner that will not be disruptive to other students. Violations of other rules which require suspension during the regular school year, will be grounds for summer school dismissal.

**Attendance:** Students should attend summer school every day and be on time. Parents should schedule appointments at other times. If your student is sick, please contact Mt. Vernon Middle at 317-485-3160 to report the absence.

**Transportation, Drop-off, and Pick-up:** Parents must provide transportation. Students may not be dropped off prior to 8:15 a.m. Student dismissal is 11:30 a.m. and should be picked up at that time. Dropoff and Pickup will be on the south side of the building (main entrance).

**How to Register:** Complete the online registration, which can be found [HERE](#) on or before *Friday, June 4, 2021*. It is very important that parents register their students as soon as possible so staff can prepare a program that meets the needs of all students.

**Covid Protocol reminders** - COVID symptoms can be similar to those of common allergies, so please follow the advice below, allowing the *symptoms* to govern decision-making. Please err on the side of caution to govern your decision-making regarding whether or not to send your student to school. We continue to have cases impacting our school and, accordingly, remain vigilant regarding our Covid and Mask Protocols. Mt. Vernon Community Schools will continue with

our approaches, which have been highly effective, throughout the remainder of this academic year. Thank you for adhering to the following safeguards :

- 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) or [christy.bastin@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto: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 and/or email [denise.floyd@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto: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](http://www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/COVID) webpage.

**Dr. Parker's Summer Reading Club** - Calling all Mt. Vernon parents/guardians of current K-11 graders! This summer, Superintendent Dr. Parker is partnering with the [Fortville-Vernon Township Public Library](#) to host a [Summer Book Bonanza!](#) Dr. Parker wants to share his love of reading with Mt. Vernon students and connect with them this summer.

Parents/guardians can sign your child up at the Fortville-Vernon Township Public Library or via this [FORM](#). Each grade grouping will have 25 students randomly selected via a lottery system to be a part of Dr. Parker's Summer Book Bonanza. Those 25 students will receive a free book, thanks to the Mt. Vernon Education Foundation. Those 25 students will also be requested to attend a book club meeting with Dr. Parker in July.

The following are the grade groupings and selected books, based on CURRENT 2020-2021 school year grades:

K&1 - *Rescue & Jessica a Live-changing Friendship*

2&3 - *Bummer in the Summer!*

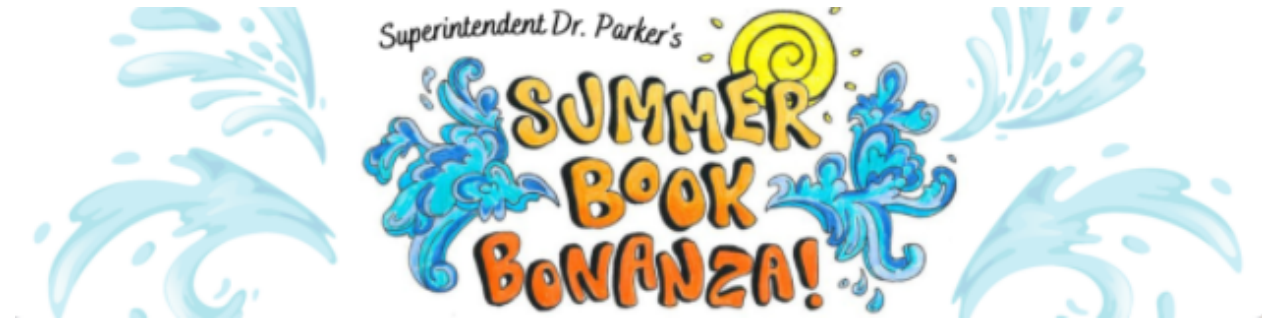
4&5 - *The Best of Iggy*

6&7 - *Tesla's Attic*

8-11 - *Salt to the Sea*

**MV Reads (from our Library Staff) -**

We hope your teen enjoyed the information presented in our school libraries on the **TWO** reading programs offered this summer: Dr. Parker's *Summer Book Bonanza* ([sign up here](#)) and [Fortville-Vernon Township Public Library](#) Summer Reading Program. Make reading fun; encourage reading for pleasure and join us in our Summer Reading events! Please read and enjoy: [Summer Reading: Why It's Important](#).



## **Athletics -**

### **Cross Country**

Optional summer practices will be held each Tuesday and Thursday beginning July 1st for anyone who is interested in running cross country next fall. Practice will be from 8:00 am - 9:00 am. Drop off and pick up will be out by the middle school track.

You must have a physical dated April 1, 2021 or after and new online forms filled out to participate. Questions can be emailed to [gwen.perkins@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:gwen.perkins@mvcsc.k12.in.us) or [amy.mozingo@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:amy.mozingo@mvcsc.k12.in.us).

***1st Day School Supplies*** - The MVMS PTO has partnered with 1st Day School Supplies so that you may shop for '21-22 school supplies from the comfort of home. All orders will be shipped directly to the school after the Summer break and a portion of proceeds is returned to the PTO. Use the link below to place your order.



**[1st Day School Supplies](#)**

**Virtual Learners' Support** - Mrs. Merica, our Virtual Support Teacher, continues to serve as 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](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

**Short Term E-Learning** - The pandemic is still upon us and we have, unfortunately, had some students contact-traced in recent weeks. 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 and meeting for class at their usual daily times. 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](http://whytry.org). Remember also, you can follow our counselors for other advice and tips on Instagram [@mvms\\_counselors](#).

**Tech Support and help needed** - Please help us monitor Chromebook use 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](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 [brigitte.bussen@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto: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](http://www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/employment/6) or schedule a meeting with Kelly Services at [rebrand.ly/substitute](http://rebrand.ly/substitute).

I look forward to this important and final week of learning for our students in class. Thank you for your continued support in our collective efforts to “Finish Strong”. My family and I wish you and your families a most joyous and blessed Memorial Day Weekend - and please know we are most grateful for the sacrifices of any of your relatives in uniform over the years.

Mike Raters

**Michael P. Raters**

Interim Principal

Mt. Vernon Middle School

317-485-3160