

Marauder Memo - May 31, 2021

Dear Parents & Community -

I hope you and your families have enjoyed a weekend of fun and celebration. As I mentioned to our students on Friday, we live in the Land of the Free because it's the Land of the Brave - the men and women who sacrificed all for our country and her citizens. I hope we all took pause to remember and give thanks for those for whom Memorial Day is intended for us to honor.

Last week was a great one at MVMS, highlighted by NWEA testing, the FCCLA Lambswear clothing drive, and the 46th Talent Show. Thank you to Mrs. Rush and her students, who led an exceptionally well-supported philanthropic event. Mrs. Stites's class won the class competition with over 1000 points of donations. Thanks as well to Mr. Falkenberg, whose enthusiasm and efforts to give our students the Talent Show opportunity, after losing it to the pandemic last year, were off-the-charts and tireless. Thanks as well to those teachers who assisted with ticket sales, event oversight, and judging for the Show. Congratulations to all our student performers, especially Grand Champion, 7th Grader Jenna Glad, on a job very well done.

As we look to this four-day week of school, I draw your attention to several elements of our end-of-year festivities. Due to ongoing Covid protocols, restrictions, and requirements, we have had to make necessary adjustments to most of our scheduled events. Please read the following paragraphs closely so that you are aware of these changes. While cumbersome and even frustrating for some, I can assure you these final adjusted plans were made with every effort to maximize safety, the student experience, and parental engagement, especially for our 8th graders.

Here are some key amendments and reminders for the week ahead:

8th Grade End-of-Year Events - In order to be compliant with Covid restrictions and mandates, we have revised and finalized the details of each event below. Please read and be mindful of expectations detailed herein.

Faculty Basketball - 8th grade boys vs. Faculty and Staff - Wednesday morning, June 2, during UA time. Only those 8th Graders with PE class at the time of the game will be able to attend...all others will watch the competitive fun via livestream from their other UA classes.

PTO After-School Dance - Friday, June 4, after school to 5:30pm. This event, sponsored and planned by the PTO, will be outside on the track. In order to participate, the 8th Graders will follow a "Pod System" similar to what the MVHS students did for Prom. This week during lunch, 8th Graders will register for the group of 30 fellow students with whom they will engage during the dance. They will wear their masks throughout the event, unless 6 feet separated from their "Pod Peers" and others. This effort is necessary to limit the possible contact tracing we would have to follow should we have a positive test over the weekend of Monday or

Tuesday. We certainly don't want something like that to keep a student from participating in the 8th Grade Awards Ceremony. Mr. DeFord, a professional disc jockey in his spare time, will provide the music, while the PTO will handle pre-packaged refreshments from the Concession Stand. There is no rain location nor rain date - should inclement weather arise, we will need to cancel the event. We hope our 8th graders enjoy the dance and appreciate the efforts the PTO and administration have made to rekindle as many elements of this MVMS tradition as possible this year.

Field Days and Promotion Ceremony Practice - Monday, June 7. The 8th Graders will practice that morning for the next day's Promotion Ceremony to be held by Teams in the MVMS gymnasium. Lunch and locker cleanout will follow before Field Day activities, led by our Physical Education staff and conducted via assigned Pods per Teams, that afternoon. The 6th and 7th grade Field Days, also conducted via assigned Pods per Teams, are scheduled for Tuesday the 8th (7th grade in am / 6th in pm).

Awards Ceremony - For those students who qualify (remember, those with multiple Fs for the grading period will not be eligible), we will celebrate their accomplishments during 8th grade, and send them on to success in high school beginning at 9:15am with Team Eagles in the Mt. Vernon Middle School gymnasium. That ceremony will last approximately an hour, allowing those parents to exit the building and parking lots in order for the Team All-Stars ceremony to begin at 10:45am. That ceremony will also last approximately 60 minutes, allowing those parents to exit the building and parking lots in order for the Team Pride ceremony to begin at 12:15pm. Each participating student will be allowed two guests, and all attending will need to wear masks and follow social distancing guidelines (6 ft. of separation between families). Students will be allowed to leave with their parents (only) after the ceremony IF parents have signed the Google Sheet that will be sent (along with other details, including parking and entry into the building) this week.

Again, ongoing Covid protocols, restrictions, and requirements have demanded we take these approaches with our plans, and we have made them to maximize the students' experience and parental participation as much as possible. I look forward to celebrating our 8th grade students next week.

6th and 7th Grade awards presentations will be made during classes on Friday, June 4.

Summary of End-of-Year Events and Dates:

- **8th Grade boys vs. Faculty Basketball** - June 2 during UA time.
- **6th and 7th Awards** - June 4, via Teams and during regular classes.
- **8th Grade Dance** - June 4 after school, on track. No rain date.
- **8th Grade Awards Ceremony Practice** - June 7 - 9-noon
- **8th Grade Field Day** - June 7 - 1-3:30pm (inc. lockers clean-out)
- **Awards Ceremony** - June 8 - 9:15-10:15am Team Eagles

10:45-11:45am Team All-Stars

12:15-1:15pm Team Pride

- **7th Grade Field Day** - June 8 - 9:30-1130am (lockers in pm)
- **6th Grade Field Day** - June 8 - 1:15-315pm (lockers in am)

Video Favor Request from Central Office - MVCSC is asking parents and/or your students to submit a short video that begins with "Because of You...(my child passed math/my child made honor roll/my student learned life lessons,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...the deadline is tomorrow (June 1). 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 all staff members 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.

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 - 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 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 and/or email 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.

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 - We still have books that are overdue. Please guide your student to turn all books into the Media Center as soon as possible. The deadline of last Friday has been extended to this Friday, June 4, in order to give you and your student time to find seemingly lost books and get them returned to avoid replacement costs.

Cross Country

Optional summer practices will be held each Tuesday and Thursday beginning July 1st for anyone 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 or 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**](#)

Counseling Corner - Students or parents struggling with end-of-year mental challenges are encouraged to utilize The [Parent Guide to Resilience](#) from whytry.org. Remember, 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

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](#)

I look forward to the final few days of learning for our students. I hope they make every effort, with your guidance and love, to “Finish Strong” and “run through the finish line” of this ‘21-22 school year. This will be the final Marauder Memo of both the semester and my time as Interim Principal of Mt. Vernon Middle School. I have had a wonderful time supporting the positive, enthusiastic, students-centered culture of this community. Thank you for your kind welcome,

your continuous support of our collective educational efforts, and, certainly, for raising such smart, fun, generous, and spirited sons and daughters. I have developed a strong affinity for “Marauder Nation” and wish each and all of you the best in all future endeavors.

Go MV, always -

Mike Raters

Michael P. Raters

Interim Principal

Mt. Vernon Middle School

317-485-3160