

Marauder Memo - October 24th, 2020

Dear Parents & Community -

I hope you are enjoying your weekend! We have wrapped up Quarter 1 and we are excited to start Quarter 2 on Monday, October 26th, 2020 for both our virtual and in-person students.

Parents and Students, please routinely check Skyward to view academic progress. Grades for Quarter 1 will be officially posted on Tuesday, October 27th, 2020, at 4 p.m. Also, please note that MVMS will not be printing and mailing home report cards. You can simply login to Skyward to view grades.

Please view an important video message from Mr. Williams - Click [HERE](#) (approx. 4 ½ minutes). The video has important information for returning students to the MVMS school building, athletic tryouts, and Red Ribbon Week.

Be strong! Be courageous! Be a Marauder!

GO MARAUDERS!

Benjamin Williams - MVMS Principal

Follow MVMS on social media at:

Twitter: @MtVernon_MS

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 Black & Gold Day Schedule - Click [HERE](#)

Next Week at MVMS -

Monday, 10/26 - Black Day

Tuesday, 10/27 - Gold Day

Wednesday, 10/28 - Black Day *Early Release Wednesday

- Car Rider Pick Up begins at 2:45 p.m.

- Bus Rider Pick Up begins at 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, 10/29 - Gold Day

Friday, 10/30 - Black Day

From Dr. Parker (sent earlier this week to MVCSC Staff & Parents)

Please be advised that Hancock County has now been elevated to a yellow status with a 1.5 factor on the [state COVID-19 dashboard](#). This means there has been an increase in weekly positive cases in our county. We are sharing this information with you for two reasons:

- As of today, we do not foresee any immediate school closures, however, we want to make sure you are prepared for this measure to be taken. We will continue to follow the guidance of the Hancock County Health Department through every step of this pandemic.
- We also ask you to continue to keep your family's health and safety measures as a priority, now and always. MVCSC will continue with requiring masks, hand-washing, and will social distance as much as possible when children are in school, and we ask you to please be vigilant outside of school hours with these same measures.
- 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.
 - 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.

For reference, please see the [Covid-19 Screening Checklist](#) and the MVCSC Health & Safety Plan on our www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/COVID webpage.

Computer Science Courses -

For Parents and Students currently enrolled in a Computer Science course - We are happy to announce that we have a Computer Science Teacher, Mrs. Christie Clements, in place to

start instruction on Monday, October 26th, 2020 at the beginning of Quarter 2. Please note that MVMS will be crediting the student fees for families of students enrolled in Semester 1 Computer Science.

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

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](tel:317-482-4112)

Technology Support 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](#).

Winter Guard Announcement -

Please see the attachment regarding Winter Guard for any 7th or 8th grade student. Any student wishing to participate must complete the [Band Winter Activities COVID-19 Information](#) and submit it in prior to participating.

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

MVMS Fall Picture Day

School Pictures were taken Friday, October 9th for all of our students in attendance that day. Our picture retake day is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1st for any student needing a new picture, all students absent 10/9/2020, and for our Virtual students. More details for our Virtual families will be provided when determined.

Inter-state Studios will email a picture proof to each family with ordering information in the coming days.

Or, go to inter-state.com/order and use order code: **52211FA**.

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.

Yearbooks

Wish you would have purchased a yearbook last year? You still can! A limited number of yearbooks are available for purchase in the main office. Hardcover \$25 and Softcover \$20. Cash or check payable to MVMS.

Book Rental Fee Statements

A final statement for the 2020/2021 book rental fees was mailed out on Monday, October 19, 2020.

Fees were due by Friday, October 2, 2020. If your payment is not received by 10/23/2020 they will be turned over to Kinum our collection agency.

Any questions please contact Kay Burdine School Treasurer @ Kay.burdine@mvcsc.k12.in.us
Or 317-485-3160 ext 2503.

Counseling Corner

Red Ribbon Week- Say no to drugs! Red Ribbon Week is Oct. 26th-30th. Educating the students about the dangers of drug use is very important. We will have many activities to engage the students in saying no to drugs. Below are the spirit days!

Monday	Put a lid on drugs!	Hat Day
Tuesday	Don't get messed up in drugs!	Messy Hair and Mismatch Day
Wednesday	You have the power to say no to drugs!	Super Hero Day
Thursday	Put a sock in drugs!	Crazy Sock Day
Friday	Scare those drugs away!	Halloween Themed Day (No Costumes)

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

Current Number of Book Overdues at MVMS: 443

NEW! Parents can now pay for lost library books via School Pay by accessing this [School Pay link](#) or logging into Skyward to pay. All books still overdue from last school year have been marked as lost and assessed their replacement fee. Emails to both parents and students will go out on Mondays until the book is returned or paid for. It's not too late to return books from last year! Thank you for helping us get our library books back! We're making progress, but still have hundreds overdue from last year. Exact change and/or a check made out to the school are also still accepted. Thank you for your support.

Athletics

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.

WINTER TRYOUTS

6th Grade Boys Basketball Tryouts will take place October 26th, 27th, & 29th from 4:00 - 6:00 pm.

6th Grade Girls Basketball tryouts will take place December 9, 10, and 11 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm in the main gym.

7th/8th Grade Girls Basketball will take place December 7, 8, 10 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm in the Fieldhouse.

Wrestling - Students need to sign up in the main office and pick up an informational packet. Pre-season conditioning will be held each Tuesday and Thursday beginning November 3rd at Mt. Vernon High School in the Mat room from 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Swimming (January) - Details will be provided when determined.

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.

Concerning questions of MVMS Athletics, please reply only to MVMS Athletic Director – Julie Shelton at Julie.Shelton@mvcsc.k12.in.us

All forms and questions go to JULIE SHELTON at Julie.Shelton@mvcsc.k12.in.us

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. 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.

What Communication to Expect with COVID-19 Cases

Based on recent COVID-19 cases in other school districts, the Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation is preparing for positive cases in our school buildings. MVCSC has developed many protocols to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for students and staff. Staff and parents/guardians should also be prepared for students and staff to not be in attendance, possibly for a period of time.

As of August 13, our plans for when Mt. Vernon has a case of COVID-19 include:

- Each positive case of COVID-19 or COVID-19 exposure will be addressed individually.
- Parents/guardians will receive a phone call, and/or notification from the school via ParentSquare if their child was in close contact and needs to be quarantined or is affected by the case in any way. The Indiana State Department of Health may text from 877-548-3444 or call from 833-670-0067 (displayed as “IN Health COVID”); parents/guardians are encouraged to answer calls/texts from these numbers and MVCSC.
- Parents/guardians will not receive notice if there is a COVID-19 case in their school unless it reaches the level that the school must be closed.
- The media may end up reporting on positive cases if they inquire, but they will not receive any additional details other than the number and a generalized statement.
- We ask the community to NOT make efforts to figure out who the positive case is. If you happen to learn of a positive case from someone else, you should not share that information with others.
- At times, the parent/guardian phone call may have to identify a cohort of students that is being quarantined. We ask parents/guardians and staff to keep this information to yourself and not share it with others. We are asking you to respect the privacy of others in our community who are going through a stressful time.

- Staff who need to know if a student or staff member will be absent will receive this information from their principal/supervisor. This private information is a need-to-know basis.

When COVID-19 positive cases impact our schools, rest assured that we are cognizant of the balance between the needs of all of our families and staff members and the confidentiality we need to provide through FERPA to the infected/potentially infected individual(s). Please be comforted in knowing that when someone is not at school, it could be for a myriad of reasons, and most of those are private. We have developed a system of contact tracing that is robust and detailed to ensure those who need to know will receive information and directions very quickly.

Our community has a history of rallying around the needs of our schools and we are working diligently to provide the best opportunity to keep schools in session for as long as we can. Working together by communicating well and self-screening children on a daily basis (keeping them home if they exhibit a symptom of COVID-19) is essential. Our shared efforts to ensure that we are doing our part in mitigating the spread of COVID-19, as well as maintaining a positive learning environment for our students and staff, is key to meeting the needs of our students during this historic time.

Thank you for your support and understanding. We are prepared to provide a wonderful experience for our students and look forward to supporting their learning and emotional needs as we begin the 2020-2021 school year.

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>

8th gr. Parents - Please note that when exiting the west lot both in the morning and afternoon, you will only be allowed to turn right out of the parking lot. Also, please do not make U-turns in the middle of 200 W. No U-Turn signs have been posted by the Town of Fortville and the Police will be enforcing the new traffic law.