

Marauder Memo - October 3rd, 2020

Dear Parents & Community -

I hope you are enjoying your weekend. We have 2 weeks left of Quarter 1. Due to our modified MVCSC Calendar, please be advised that Fall Breaks begins after school on Friday, October 9th. School will resume on Monday, October 19th. It is also important to note that Quarter 1 ends on October 23rd, 2020 with grades being finalized by the Teachers the following week. Please follow this link for the **MVCSC 20-21 School Calendar** - Click [HERE](#).

MVMS Fall Picture Day

Picture Day is scheduled for Friday, October 9th for all of our in-school students. Please see the attached flyer for order details. Or, go to inter-state.com/order and use order code: **52211FA**. Paper order forms will not be distributed this year.

Our Virtual students should plan to have their picture taken Tuesday, December 1st at Mt. Vernon Middle School during school hours. More details will be provided at a later date.

Be strong! Be courageous! Be a Marauder!

Please watch the Video Message from Mr. Williams - October 3rd, 2020 with important information on the Picture Day and Athletics. - Click [HERE](#) (2 min).

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](#)

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, 10/5 - Black Day

Tuesday, 10/6 - Gold Day

Wednesday, 10/7 - 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, 10/8 -Gold Day

Friday, 10/9 -Black Day

Computer Science Courses -

For Parents and Students currently enrolled in a Computer Science course - I am pleased to announce that we have had recent candidates emerge for our Computer Science opening. I anticipate that we will have a Computer Science Teacher ready to start at the beginning of Quarter 2 on Monday, October 26th, 2020.

We will be crediting each student account in full the Course Fees in Computer Science for the entirety of Semester 1 of 20-21.

Right now, for our in-person students, they are in an adult supervised classroom, utilizing their time as a study hall to stay on top of their other class. For our virtual students, my recommendation is for our virtual students to focus on their other 5 classes. My apologies for this, I realize that this is not optimal. It is our desire to find a high quality teacher as soon as possible.

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

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

Virtual MVMS PTO Meeting

Parents, please attend our 1st ever Virtual MVMS PTO Meeting on Wednesday, October 7th, at 6 p.m. A Zoom link will be sent in Parent Square in the days prior to the meeting. The amazing people of the MVMS PTO need your help. Please attend, learn more and volunteer if you can.

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.

Field Trip T-Shirts

Parents, field trip t-shirts are available from the Chicago and Louisville trips from last year. If your student did not pick up their shirt, please have them stop by the main office. Current VIRTUAL STUDENTS - you may stop by the main office to pick up your shirt between the hours of 9am and 3pm.

Book Rental Fee Statements

Statements for 2020/2021 book rental will be mailed out on Friday, August 28th. Fees are due by Friday, October 2, 2020. Fees can be paid on school pay. If you need to set up a payment plan please visit our website at mvcsc.k12.in.us under the parents tab select forms and resources/ Mt Vernon Middle School/ MVCSC payment plan agreement. Any questions please contact Kay Burdine School Treasurer @ Kay.burdine@mvcsc.k12.in.us Or 317-485-3160 ext 2503.

Counseling Corner

Follow the counselors on Instagram @mvms_counselors.

Feeling stressed? Check out the resources available in the [Virtual Calming Room](#). Great for parents too!

21st Century Scholars

Are you the parent of a 7th or 8th grader? Hoping they can get their college tuition paid for? Sign them up today for 21st Century Scholars! This is Indiana's scholarship program. Students must apply by June 30th of their 8th grade year. Find out all you need to know [here](#).

MVCSC Gleaners Food Pantry - Please see the attachment for more information.

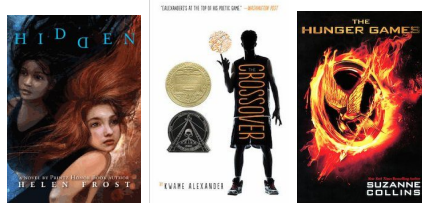
MVCSC Community Food Drive - Please see the attachment for more information.

MV Reads: News from the Library

(Current number of overdue books at MVMS: 552)

Both student and parent emails regarding overdue/lost books are still being sent out. Please help your teens find their overdue book. It is not too late to return overdue books.

Thank you to Mrs. Young for the lessons on: *Banned Books Week*, *How to do a Title, Author, Keyword or Series search* on Destiny and the favorite, *How to put a book on hold*. I think the students got the concept! As of today, we have over 200 student hold requests. Here are our top titles this month: *Hidden*, *The Crossover* and *The Hunger Games*



#MVreads From your librarians: Dana Hochstedler and Alyson Zelencik

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.

7th/8th Grade Boys Basketball Tryouts will take place October 20th, 22nd, & 23rd 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 (November) - Details will be provided when determined.

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 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 – 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.