

Marauder Memo - September 19th, 2020

Dear Parents & Community -

I just to thank your support of Mt. Vernon in these challenging times. It is a joy talking with so many parents at after-school events, or at fall sports, or even at the grocery store. I am very grateful of your positive feedback when I speak with you. So much of the feedback reiterates how proud you are to send your kid to Mt. Vernon. Plus, how Mt. Vernon is working hard for the students and working diligently to keep schools safe and open as we face these current challenges. Thank you so much!

Be strong! Be courageous! Be a Marauder!

Please watch the Video Message from Mr. Williams - September 19, 2020 with information on 21st Century Scholars and College Go Week! - 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, 9/21 - Black Day

Tuesday, 9/22 - Gold Day

Wednesday, 9/23 - Black Day *Early Release Wednesday

- Car Rider Pick Up begins at 2:45 p.m.
- Bus Rider Rider Pick Up begins at 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, 9/24 - Gold Day

Friday, 9/25 -Black Day

Computer Science Courses -

For Parents and Students currently enrolled in a Computer Science course - Unfortunately at this time, we are still in the search process for a Computer Science Teacher due to a recent retirement.

We are working to find a Computer Science Teacher. 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.

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

Picture Day is scheduled for Friday, October 9th for all of our in-school students. 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.

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.

MV SPIRIT WEAR SALE!!!

<https://1stplacespiritwear.com/schools/IN/Fortville/Mt+Vernon+Middle+School>

Don't mask your school spirit! This week, when you order \$60 or more, you'll receive 20% off by entering the code B2S2020 So be sure to stock up on all of the other awesome designs they have to offer! #WeRMV

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

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.

YMCA - Please see the attachments concerning YMCA enrollment and possible employment opportunities.

Counseling Corner

College GO! Week is next week, September 21st-25th. Get ready to earn an ice cream party for your class! Virtual Students, join us if you would like by posting a picture on social media using #WeRMV

Monday: Dress Up Like Your Future Career Day.

Tuesday: Camo/Military Day

Wednesday: Money for College (Green Day)

Thursday: College Gear Day

Friday: MV Day

21st Century Scholars Parent Night, Google Meet Edition!

What would you do with \$100,000?

Join us via [Google Meets](#) on Wednesday, September 30th at 6:30 to learn how to sign your student up for Indiana's 21st Century Scholars Program.

Follow the counselors on Instagram @mvms_counselors.

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

MV Reads: News from the Library

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September 14th-18th The Indiana Department of Education celebrates Indiana Digital Citizenship Week the first full week of September following Labor Day. According to the IDOE, "The #INDigCitWeek celebration is part of an ongoing effort to teach students how to make safe, smart, and ethical decisions in the digital world." Your librarians find Common Sense Media useful for parents interested in learning more about the media their children use. Visit the "For Parents" tab at <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>. Parents can check age recommendations and reviews for games, apps, and movies as well as find resources for online safety and much more. "Building a culture of positive digital citizenship in your school is not just a goal, it is a journey," writes Susan Bearden, author of *Digital Citizenship: A Community-Based Approach*.

Parents, we still need your help. Please ask your child if they returned last year's library books. We still have **617 books** that are overdue from March. Students do not have to wait until "library day" to return books. Mailed notices go out the last week of September.

Your Librarians, Dana Hochstedler and Alyson Zelencik

Athletics

WINTER TRYOUTS

6th Grade Boys Basketball Tryouts will take place October 26th, 27th, & 29th from 4:00 - 6:00 pm. Please note that there has been a date change since last week's newsletter.

7th/8th Grade Boys Basketball Tryouts will take place October 20th, 22nd, & 23rd from 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Wrestling (November) - Details will be provided when determined.

Girls Basketball (December) - 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 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

MVMS ATHLETIC EVENT INFORMATION

Parents, we appreciate your cooperation during MVMS Athletic Events. We are so very proud and excited to launch fall sports and see the student athletes playing games. And we want to keep it that way. Again, your cooperation is essential, as we want to keep all athletes and attendees safe and healthy.

Please read below on the following guidelines for guests at MVMS Athletic Events.

MVMS SOCCER GAMES: 3 tickets, per athlete, may be purchased for MVMS soccer games. X's are marked in the bleachers and along the sidelines, indicating available seats. Bleacher space is minimal, and lawn chairs are recommended. Spectators from the first contest must clear out immediately to allow room for the spectators of the second contest. Siblings **MUST** remain seated with parents.

MVMS FOOTBALL GAMES: 250 tickets will be available for MVMS football games. 2 adult tickets per player/cheerleader may be purchased. Siblings may attend if capacity is not met, and Siblings **MUST** remain seated with parents.

MVMS VOLLEYBALL MATCHES: 3 tickets, per athlete, may be purchased for MVMS volleyball matches. X's are marked in the bleachers, indicating available seats. Spectators from the 7th-grade match must clear out immediately to allow room for the spectators of the 8th-grade match. Siblings **MUST** remain seated with parents.

MVMS will honor **NO** passes this year. All persons entering MVMS sporting events must have a ticket. Tickets will be available at the gate for \$4.00.

Guests to MVMS Athletic events will be required to wear a mask at all times when not seated, and to maintain social distancing of 6 ft or more, outside of their household unit.

YMCA - Please see the attachments concerning YMCA enrollment and possible employment opportunities.

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.

Campus Life

Campus Life will be happening this year! As you may assume, it's going to look very different than it has in the past. For those of you who are new to Campus Life, Campus Life is a ministry of Central Indiana Youth for Christ. Campus Life is a positive place where students can go to have fun with friends, talk about relevant issues and be heard without judgment. It's a place where students are challenged to make good decisions and lead in positive ways in their school.

If you are interested in getting your student involved, please fill out this link with info. Each student has to have this waiver filled out to participate. Kari Slabaugh, the director, will reach out to you from there with different opportunities to your student involved. If you have questions, please reach out to her at kslabaugh@ciyfc.org or 574.312.0315.

<https://form.jotform.com/202175013447144>

