

Marauder Memo - May 16, 2021

**Dear Parents & Community -**

I hope you and your families are enjoying the weekend. We had a good week at MVMS, highlighted by Friday's "Walk on Water" event with the 8th Graders. I was very impressed with the students' creativity and spirit, which was certainly buoyed (pun intended) by their teachers' enthusiasm for the project. The teamwork displayed by our Teaching Teams, student teams, and various other entities throughout the school and district was most impressive and indicative of the student-centered nature of our school and community. Friday was also the Spring Concert by the 6th Grade band students. Our young musicians did a terrific job.

Here are some key updates, including some slight changes to the end-of-year events schedule, and reminders for the week ahead:

**Student Behavior Challenges** - Thank You for your help with your students throughout last week. We had a clear decrease in negative behavioral referrals last week, while having the most positive referrals from teachers this year. We were happy not only to have seen so many of your students step up their own conduct, but also to lead their peers to be, and do, better. We hope - and expect - them to keep up the momentum as we move into this week. Again, we VERY MUCH appreciate your support of our efforts, which certainly carry over into their academic performance and learning.

**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):

**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:

- **Choir Concert** - May 20
- **Band Concert (7th/8th)** - May 21
- **NWEA Testing** - May 25, 27, 28
- **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 - 1-330pm (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)

**Car rider safety** - For those of you who drive students to school, please beware of the system 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 run through May 26th. 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.

**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 our end-of-year celebration in an effort to make them feel extra special. Thank you for your support!

**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.

**Color Guard** - The MVHS Color Guard is offering workshops to any interested 7th and 8th grader interested in joining the team. Workouts will take place each Tuesday evening in May at the High School Cafeteria from 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm. Students should wear comfortable clothing.

#### **Percussion Workshops-**

Any 7th or 8th grade student interested in learning percussion for marching band is invited to attend workshops at the High School Band room beginning May 19th from 6:00-8:00 PM. No experience is necessary! Piano and bass players are welcome and encouraged to attend! Contact [jackie.nason@mvcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:jackie.nason@mvcsc.k12.in.us) for more information.

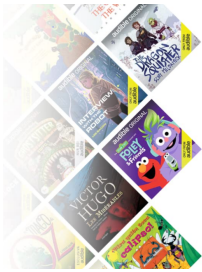
**Dr. Parker's Summer Reading Club** - Calling all Mt. Vernon parents/guardians of current K-11 graders! This summer, Superintendent Dr. Parker is partnering with the [Fortville-Vernon Township Public Library](#) to host a [\*\*Summer Book Bonanza!\*\*](#) Dr. Parker wants to share his love of reading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

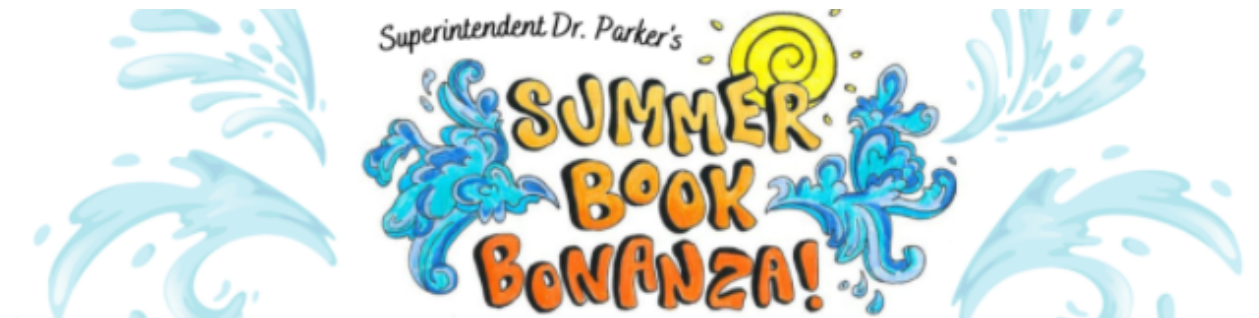
K&1 - *Rescue & Jessica a Live-changing Friendship*  
2&3 - *Bummer in the Summer!*  
4&5 - *The Best of Iggy*  
6&7 - *Tesla's Attic*  
8-11 - *Salt to the Sea*

MV Reads (from our Library Staff) -



Have you tried [Audible Stories](#)? As of right now, it is still available to the public. Audible Stories allows you to access over 200 full-length audiobooks for free. There's no log-in or registration, and it's not a free trial. All the titles in the collection are available to stream straight from the web, and there's no limit to how much people can listen. It is a great option for some family listening or extra learning during long breaks.

**\*Don't forget to sign your teen up for Dr. Parker's Summer Book Bonanza linked to the image below!**



### **Out-of-District/Transfer Application Information 2021 - 2022 School Year:**

All students who are currently attending a Mt. Vernon school and do not live within the school district boundaries are required to submit an application yearly to attend during the 2021-2022 school year between now through Monday, May 17. Those interested must please complete a separate form for each student requesting to attend Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation that currently lives outside the school district or that anticipates moving into the district before the 2021-2022 school year begins. This does not guarantee enrollment, but priority will be given to current out-of-district students, their siblings/step siblings, and employees' children who complete the application. All applicants will receive notice by June 18, 2021.

Please guide those interested to visit

<https://www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/News/1508#sthash.Y4yX1Ex3.dpbs> to complete the online enrollment application.

**Athletics** - As we continue through the 4th Nine Weeks, please remember the MVMS Athletic Department reserves the right, at any time, to conduct grade checks on student athletes to determine their academic eligibility for an athletic competition or multiple athletic competitions.

**Contest Attendance Policy** - For all contests, home and away, this spring, guests are expected to sit with their household unit only. Anyone in attendance is required to wear a mask when unable to socially distance from anyone outside of their household unit. If host schools have more restrictive policies, please observe those in order to remain in attendance at their event.

*Please click [HERE](#) for links to this week's athletic events.*

**MVMS PTO - Locker Shockers** are Back! Do you want to surprise your student with a decorated locker to celebrate a birthday, athletic event, or just because? If so, place your order [HERE](#). Please note that a 2-weeks notice is required. Any questions may be directed to [mtvernonmiddleschoolpto@gmail.com](mailto:mtvernonmiddleschoolpto@gmail.com)

**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 the coming week of another learning for our students in class and via extracurricular activities. Thank you for your continued support of our educational efforts and, especially, those of your students. As we've discussed with both our students and staff, we are seeing the Month of May as an opportunity to Finish this long Race of the School Year in Strong, Winning Fashion. By working together, we will all make it another "Great Week to be a Marauder" -

Mike Raters

**Michael P. Raters**

Interim Principal

Mt. Vernon Middle School

317-485-3160