

Mainstream

MVMS Renovations



From The Supe's Desk:

Greetings from MVCSC. Spring is upon us and the end of another school year is just around the corner, however we have a season of excitement before that time arrives. During my first two years at Mt. Vernon, we have worked diligently to ensure our district was on solid financial grounds. It

was a long time coming, but one that we are quite proud of, as our tax rate this year dropped nearly 17 cents. We also returned the general fund operating referendum while working hard to provide all employees with salary increases. Because of this due diligence, we can continue to focus academically on the programming that we offer our students and opportunities that will identify MVCSC as leaders in education.

Last year we expanded our high ability programming, preschool programming, and took control of our special education programs. We added alternative education to our list of opportunities and added Mandarin Chinese as we look to expand into an international academy presence. In the upcoming school year, we are dedicated to expanding STEM opportunities for students in not just the middle and high school, but the elementary schools as well. We are also focusing on returning vocational course offerings to MVHS to maintain a healthy balance of college and career preparation courses for our students.

I believe it is our responsibility to challenge the status quo so that we ensure the best experience possible for our students. It is simply what the mission of the Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation represents, MV=E3: The Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation will Engage, Educate, and Empower today's students to seize tomorrow's opportunities! As always, from the students and staff at MVCSC, we thank you for your continued support.

Shane

Dr. W. Shane Robbins, ATC, LAT

Superintendent of Schools

@Dr_ShaneRobbins

Engaging Students through Critical Thinking Projects

SEE INSIDE ►

MVMS Renovations

The Mt. Vernon Middle School (MVMS) renovations are moving forward after community surveys, a feasibility study, focus groups, a task force and now school board approval. Both the cafeteria renovation and the classroom additions will be able to accommodate grades 6-8.



In August, the School Board of Trustees approved to renovate and relocate the MVMS cafeteria to the current auxiliary gymnasium. The original cafeteria was designed to accommodate class sizes of 125 students. MVMS is now serving over 600 students with class sizes at approximately 300 students. This will provide a gain of another 30-40% in square footage and will have three serving lines, with an option of a fourth "grab and go" line. This project is being funded by the district's Capital Projects Fund.

Secondly, the larger project of expanding the middle school to accommodate grades 6, 7 and 8 is now moving forward.

RENOVATION continued on page 3



MT. VERNON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

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8TH GRADE ACADEMY

Celebrates Black History Month



Mt. Vernon Middle School 8th Graders celebrated Black History Month with an annual live concert featuring Principal Benjamin Williams on the drums and an all-star line up of local pro musicians. This event, for the 6th year in a row, is a part of the celebration of February's Black History Month.

Williams states, "Music is inclusive and brings people together. Music can change the way we think and see the world. Overall, the goal is to take kids on a historical tour of music that has changed America for the better." The performance featured many genres: blues, jazz, R&B, rock and contemporary. The 8th grade staff says this concert is always a big hit with the students, as it celebrates music performed by famous Black Americans.

The band played music by Kenny "Baby Face" Edmonds from Indianapolis, Lenny Kravitz, Stevie Wonder, Jimmy Hendrix, Duke Ellington, among others. The band includes Allen Burke on keyboards/vocals who has performed with Marvin Gaye, the Temptations, Aretha Franklin and The Spinners. Burke was also recently inducted into the Indiana Jazz Hall of Fame. The band also includes: T-Jam (Timmy Edwards - Lead Vocalist), Austin Shearer (Bass), Casey Harshbarger (Guitar) and Benjamin Williams (Drums).

MVMS Talent Show

The Mt. Vernon Middle School Talent Show has been one of the longstanding traditions at Mt. Vernon and recently hosted its 42nd annual show. The talent show experience for some students has driven them to pursue a form of entertainment for their career. The event enhances all participants' self-confidence, poise and presentation skills.

Students have to audition and be selected to perform in the talent show. In past years, the number of students auditioning

has ranged from 30 to 85 acts. Former talent show participants/students select the 20 final acts which produces approximately a two-hour show. Instrumental acts, duets, vocalists, dance acts and variety shows are all important to piece together a unique show.

This year, the Grand Champion was Shelby Session (7th Grade) who sang "Listen" by Beyonce. Additional category winners are: Aysha Bennett (musician), Gradie King (dance), Hanna Worpel (guitar), Daimon Anderson (male vocalist), Grace Marchal (8th grade vocalist), Laila Owens (7th grade vocalist) and Madison Hargrove (6th grade vocalist).

"Engage, Educate & Empower Today's Students"

MVMS RENOVATIONS *continued*



The feasibility study, survey and task force supported the forward progress to renovate the MVMS building by expanding hallways and adding classrooms to accommodate three grade levels.

This \$10 million project will be accomplished with zero impact on the district's current debt service levy. In 2016, the district refunded four of the current bonds which saved the district nearly \$8 million. These savings were used to structure future debt payments, allowing for the middle school renovations to occur with zero increase from the district's 2017 annual debt payment. Mt. Vernon's 2017 tax rate (\$1.588) is the lowest it has been since 2010; this is a \$0.17 decrease from 2016. With an increased assessed valuation and the continuation of new and improved business practices, Mt. Vernon continues to look for ways to finance projects such as this with little to no impact to our taxpayers.

The timeline is far from set in stone, as many steps need to be accomplished prior to a concrete transition period. Before MVCSC can break ground, the remaining funding will be finalized, bids will be submitted and selected, and the design details will be finalized. Stay tuned to "From the Supe's Desk" for MVMS renovation updates/timelines.

MVCSC School Board of Trustees President, Mike McCarty, stated, "The selected renovation option will allow growth at the two schools nearing capacity and we will be able to accommodate projected growth. Mt. Vernon Schools have encountered this growth due to the academic excellence that our dedicated and talented staff provides."



FEATURED MT. VERNON SCHOOL: **Mt. Vernon Middle School Snapshot**

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOUR STAR SCHOOL – 9 TIMES TOTAL

- Algebra 1 ECA Results – 2015-98% Passing, 2014-100% Passing, 2013-99% Passing, 2012-100% Passing
- 2014-2015 Attendance Rate – 98%
- Student Council Named "Honor Council" for 12 Straight Years
- All Students have their own Chromebook
- Girls Soccer Team Undefeated – 2012, 2013, 2014
- Cheerleaders Won 8th Place in National Cheer Finals – 2017
- Cheerleaders Won Junior High Annual IASP State Championships – 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016
- Science Academic Team Received Top 10 Award – 2015
- Social Studies Academic Team State Champ – 2016, Received Top 10 Award – 2015
- 7th/8th Grade Dance Team Placed 1st in Pom & Jazz Division at Invitational – 2016, 2017
- Wrestling Team Undefeated and Won Hoosier Heritage Conference – 2015-2016
- 6th Grade Boys Basketball Team Undefeated – 2016-2017
- Indiana State Geography Bee Qualifier – 2016, 2017
- Academic Competitions Available Including All Core Subjects
- 18 Clubs or Extracurricular Opportunities
- 17 Athletic Teams
- Enriching "Walk on Water" 8th Grade Science Project
- Video Surveillance and High-Tech Safety Features
- English Language Learners (ELL) Assistance Program
- Speech/Language, Special Education and Sensory Room, High Ability & Social Worker Programs

(PER THE LATEST STATISTICS FROM THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION)

BEN WILLIAMS, PRINCIPAL

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Walk On Water

How many schools give their students a challenge to defy gravity and walk on water? At Mt. Vernon Middle School, the 8th Grade Academy challenges their students' critical thinking skills by tasking them to build a piloted device that travels the length of the pool, with one team member navigating on the float.

THE PROJECT IS DESIGNED TO TEST THE STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE ON ISSUES OF PROBLEM SOLVING, THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD, PLANNING A LONG-TERM PROJECT, AND WRITING A FORMAL LAB REPORT.



The project is designed to test the students' knowledge on issues of problem solving, the scientific method, planning a long-term project, and writing a formal lab report. Students are encouraged to think outside of the box. Some of the scientific concepts the students have to consider are: propulsion, density, energy, energy transfer, Newton's Laws, and stability.

In teams of three or four, students use any materials they can obtain for one team member to cross the pool. If they sink, the team is out of the competition. Teams do not have an opportunity prior to the competition to test their floats.

Many teams get in the spirit and dress up in a theme that represents their group. A few teams were dressed



as fruits, some teams wore tutus and one group had on actual suits – including the one in the pool!

Stacy Griner, the 8th Grade Academy Science Teacher and also "Walk-on-Water" creator states, "The project gives an exciting way for the students to engage in their learning. They have to work as a team, use critical thinking skills and scientific knowledge to choose their float and physically build the float. The kids love it and really get into the project and the secrecy of their construction."

The Walk-on-Water event creates an atmosphere of excitement and friendly competition, as well as entertainment. This unique curriculum-based event is one of the capstone activities at Mt. Vernon Middle School.

MVCSC Bus Fleet Updates

The Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation (MVCSC) is launching several new features to the bus fleet, enhancing safety and cost savings. Two features that will enhance the safety and security for Mt. Vernon students are the new external bus cameras, and a bus app that allow parents to see in real-time the bus's location. In addition, all buses will have wi-fi available for students to use during their ride by the end of this school year.

BUS CAMERAS

For the safety of Mt. Vernon students, all buses will have external bus cameras placed on the stop arm. The recording begins when the stop arm is extended. If a car passes the bus when the arm is extended, bus drivers will report the incident and the video will be pulled for the police to investigate.

This new security measure will, first and foremost, help keep Mt. Vernon students safe. Secondly, the external cameras will help enforce the law and catch perpetrators that illegally pass buses.

HERE COMES THE BUS

MVCSC is launching a new app/website program called "Here Comes the Bus." This app allows parents/guardians to see where the school bus is in real-time. Now students can stay safe and warm in their home until it is time to leave to catch the bus. Mt. Vernon students will no longer have to wait for their bus in adverse weather conditions.

Parents will receive a flyer from their bus driver once their bus has the program installed. The flyer will state the five easy steps to create an account. Additional information can be found on www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/HereComesTheBus, or under the "Parents" drop-down on www.mvcsc.k12.in.us.



WI-FI ON EVERY BUS

All buses will have wi-fi enabled on each bus within the next few months for students access to the internet during their bus ride. Each school device will remain filtered by the school filters, regardless of their location.

The Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation is pleased to provide these bus enhancements to the Mt. Vernon community. These amenities will help ensure the safety of the Mt. Vernon students, which is our first priority.

Bus Drivers Wanted | Competitive Pay \$23-30/hr

www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/employment | 317.485.3100 ext. 2 | No Experience Necessary | Various Benefits

MVMS Cheer – 8th in Nationals!

The Mt. Vernon Middle School (MVMS) Cheerleaders competed and placed eighth at the National High School Cheer Championships on February 11-12th in Orlando, Florida. They competed in the "Time Out" division, which consists of a three minute game day routine. The MVMS Cheerleaders advanced to finals after beating eight teams in semifinals and placed eighth overall in the National Finals.

In November, they won their division at the Hoosier Cheerleading Championship at Pendleton Heights High School. This earned them a bid to Nationals in Orlando. The MVMS Cheerleaders are the first Cheer Squad of MVCSC to earn a bid and attend Nationals. They are also the first middle school team from Indiana to attend Nationals. After earning the bid to Nationals, the team was invited to showcase their routine in Bloomington with the



Indiana University (IU) All-Girl Cheerleaders. This event was just prior to IU winning a Collegiate National Cheerleading title.

MVCSC is proud of the team's hard work, talent and community support for them to achieve this level of success. Congratulations!



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Time to Enroll for Kindergarten!

REGISTER AT ANY OF THE THREE SITES
FOR ANY OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Fortville Elementary
Tue, April 11, noon - 7 p.m.

Mt. Comfort Elementary
Wed, April 12, noon - 7 p.m.

McCordsville Elementary
Thu, April 13, noon - 7 p.m.

On or before September 1, 2017 students must be 5 years old to attend kindergarten (and on or before September 1, 2017 students must be 6 years old to attend first grade).

MVCSC will offer full day Kindergarten only.

**SEE WWW.MVCSC.K12.IN.US
FOR FURTHER KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT INFORMATION.**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

MVEF's



Taste of Mt. Vernon

Featuring food, drinks & sweets
from local businesses, as well as a
silent auction!

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

6:30 - 9:00 PM

ADAGGIOS BANQUET HALL
(Greenfield, IN)

**PURCHASE TICKETS AT
www.MtVernonFoundation.org**

◀ See Inside!!
MVMS Renovation Plans