

# Mainstream

SCHOOL SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY



## From The Supe's Desk:

Well as they say in Indiana, "April Showers bring May Flowers." I don't know how true that is, but in my lifetime, it seems like it is April and May showers. Regardless, the weather has been pretty fair, thus allowing for great progress on the MVMS renovation project.

For those of you following the financial odyssey of MVCSC, the \$10 million renovation project is being accomplished with nearly no tax impact. How, might you ask? A few factors have allowed for this to occur. First, we have had a little debt fall off of the books. Second, and probably the greatest factor, has been the refinancing of existing bonds at a much lower interest rate. We have been able to do this as our bond rating has improved. This in itself saved the school district, (our constituents), over \$8 million dollars. The third factor has been the increased assessed valuation of the property in our community. This past budget year, we worked hard to right the ship moving into the future and zero'd out \$3.7 million in existing grant liabilities that had been sitting on the books for several years, primarily due to the fragile financial state of the district.

We ended 2017 and started 2018 with a General Fund operating balance of \$2 million dollars. Our property tax based funds had an operating balance of \$0. This includes the Capital Projects Fund, Transportation Fund, and the Bus Replacement Fund. Our philosophy is if we are going to tax the community then we will use it for our students and staff. We receive tax draws twice a year. The final property tax generated fund is the Debt Service Fund and it carried a balance of \$1.026 million in an operating balance so that we could pay our bond payments for the first six months. At the end of the day, we are quite pleased that we are no longer characterized as a distressed school district.

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## Middle School Renovations

**SEE INSIDE** ➤



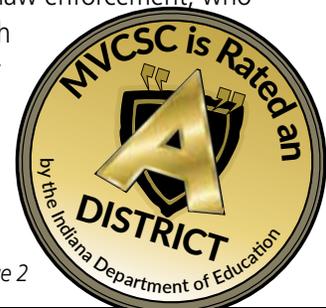
*Cameras in an Assistant Principal's office help maintain a safe school environment*

## SCHOOL SAFETY is Mt. Vernon's Number One Priority

Student and staff safety continues to be the district's number one priority. In light of the recent events in Florida, additional safety measures are occurring in each building every day. Extra perimeter sweeps are ensuring all doors are locked. The Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation (MVCSC) works closely with local law enforcement, who are completing building walks with administration and identifying any areas that may need additional safety measures.

Before the Parkland, Florida incident, Derek Shelton, Director

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**MVCSC WORKS CLOSELY  
WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIRST RESPONDERS  
AND EMERGENCY PERSONNEL AT THE LOCAL, COUNTY AND  
STATE LEVEL TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF ALL THOSE  
ON OUR CAMPUSES AND IN OUR BUILDINGS.**



**SCHOOL SAFETY** *continued from page 1*

of Operations, conducted a walkthrough in each building with a security firm and evaluated areas that might need improvement.

MVCSC works closely with law enforcement, first responders and emergency personnel at the local, county and state level to ensure the safety of all those on our campuses and in our buildings. The safety of our students, employees and visitors is a priority. We are continually learning and updating our safety plans to strengthen them.

Some of our continual safety processes include:

- The district has certified School Safety Specialists throughout each of the buildings
- MVCSC participates in a county emergency management system that would coordinate emergency situations
- Each school goes through security training and all prescribed state drills
- Local and county police train in each of our buildings, so they are familiar with the layout in an emergency
- MVCSC works closely with local police departments who helped to formulate the MVCSC crisis plans
- All school cameras are accessible via a phone app to law enforcement and administration
- Each school has a safety team that annually reviews and updates their school safety plan
- New safety measures are being reviewed for viability, including: an additional resource officer, bulletproof glass, additional cameras, delivery door access changes, and canine firearm searches

MVCSC is administered with the practice of protecting all children as if they are their own. Safety plans are continually reviewed and updated to keep all students and staff safe.

**SUPE'S DESK** *continued from page 1*

Academically, our school is once again rated an A district by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE). Just recently the IDOE and the Office of School Accountability & Accreditation notified my office that Mt. Vernon High School received the status of a Performance Qualified High School for the 2018-19 school year. The Performance Qualified High School program is a state statute. In order to be eligible for the performance qualified program, a high school must receive an A for the previous school year. A high school remains designated as a qualified high school until it either receives a C or lower for one school year, or receives a B or lower for two consecutive school years.

The list of accomplishments and honors at MVCSC are long and show evidence of the hard work of our students and staff. I will end this month by saying; "it is a great time to be a Marauder!" #WeRMV

Kind Regards,

*Shane*

Dr. W. Shane Robbins, ATC, LAT  
Superintendent of Schools  
@Dr\_ShaneRobbins

**"Engage, Educate & Empower Today's Students"**

# New MVCSC Technology Instructors

**AS PART OF THE DISTRICT'S TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION INITIATIVE, TWO POSITIONS WERE ADDED THIS SCHOOL YEAR TO HELP TEACHERS IMPLEMENT VARIOUS DIGITAL TOOLS INTO CURRICULUM.**

Joe Anderson, Mt. Vernon High School (MVHS) Math Teacher, has taken on a new position as the Secondary Education Technology Integration Specialist. Although he is filling this new position at the high school, he still teaches math halftime in the MVHS math department. Misty Hall was hired as the Elementary Technology Integration Specialist and focuses on Digital Citizenship.

Anderson started the position primarily as a resource for the teachers. MVHS has staff members that help with technology in the school for issues with computers, chromebooks, and wifi issues, but there has never been anyone for the teachers to utilize with questions on implementation of tech tools in the classroom. Since Anderson exemplified a wide range of tech integration in his classroom, he was asked to fill that role to help other teachers learn how to use technology in their own classrooms.

"I got into teaching because there's nothing like seeing the expression on a student's face when they figured out how to achieve a particular problem. As a technology integration specialist, I get to witness the same expression on our staff's faces, accompanied with 'It works!'" Anderson stated.

Since Anderson is still teaching in the classroom halftime, he is



*Joe Anderson supports students with their application of math*

able to work with students in his classes everyday. Being in the classroom is a great advantage for his position. He is able to find the best ways to use technology in the classrooms by using different tech tools and receiving feedback from the students.

Misty Hall shared how her new Elementary Technology Integration Specialist position is constantly evolving. Her goal is to help teachers as they integrate technology tools into the curriculum in meaningful ways. She strives to find ways that lead to engagement, extension and enhancement of student learning.

Supporting digital citizenship education for students to be safe and responsible is a priority for Hall. She recently coordinated a successful Digital Safety Night and Showcase, open to all parents in the district. Digital citizenship is a topic she cares deeply about as life altering results can happen if this area is neglected.

Originally she supported district technology and curriculum programs such as Canvas, Everyday Math, Study Island, and Exact Path. As the year progressed, she's been able to help teachers tailor their integration to their learning goals in a more concentrated effort. Hall shared that it has been exciting to be able to code with elementary students, use a green screen, use apps like Seesaw, and much more.

Hall stated, "I have enjoyed going into the classrooms and learning from those I work with. Being able to be in all the elementary schools and seeing the differences and commonalities of them has been so rewarding."

*Misty Hall teaches young students through various technology methods*



# We Have an App for That!

**DID YOU KNOW MVCSC HAS NOT ONE, BUT TWO APPS?**

Stay connected with Mt. Vernon news, menus, athletics, have easy access to staff and receive important push notifications from MVCSC by downloading our FREE app! Just search "Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation" through the Google Play or App Store and stay connected!



Most recently, MVCSC delivered the "Don't Miss the Bus" app for students/parents to follow their bus location in real time and know when to walk to their bus stop. The user can set a customized boundary on the app and push notifications are then sent when the bus enters that boundary.

**LOAD THEM BOTH TODAY!**

# MVMS Renovation – Progress Update



The Mt. Vernon Middle School (MVMS) is in the middle of an exciting renovation which will allow the eighth graders to once again be located in the building. A new fieldhouse, many classrooms, renovated office space and a new entrance are projected to be completed in the fall of 2018. This project was prompted by a feasibility study task force that analyzed the capacity of the Mt. Vernon buildings in relation to potential enrollment growth. Best of all, the renovation will be completed with an economic price tag funded by the district's Capital Projects Fund.

The \$10 million project will be completed with zero impact on the district's debt service levy. Mt. Vernon's tax rate is the lowest it has

## Walk-on-Water

How many schools give their students a challenge to defy gravity and walk on water? At Mt. Vernon Middle School, the Eighth Grade Academy challenges their students' critical thinking skills by asking 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. They 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.

Stacy Griner, the Eighth Grade Academy Science Teacher and also "Walk-on-Water" creator stated, "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

***"Engage, Educate & Empower Today's Students"***



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

### **INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOUR STAR SCHOOL – 9 TIMES TOTAL**

been since 2010. Administrators continue to look for ways to be fiscally responsible with little to no impact to taxpayers.

A new International Cafe brought a modern environment for students. Various countries' flags provide a culturally diverse look. This innovative cafeteria will be able to serve all three grades in an efficient manner.

The renovation progress is measurable as well as visible. The new fieldhouse and front of MVMS is transforming daily. Take a drive by to watch the exciting transformation!

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.



- 2016-2017 Attendance Rate – 96%
- Algebra 1 ECA Results – 2015-98% Passing, 2014-100% Passing, 2013-99% Passing, 2012-100% Passing
- 2016-2017 Attendance Rate – 97%
- \$10 Million Renovation Featuring a New Fieldhouse, Collaborative Classrooms and Additional Classrooms for the 8th Grade
- Student Council Named "Honor Council" for 12 Straight Years
- All Students have their own Chromebook
- Girls Soccer Team Undefeated – 2014, 2013, 2012
- Cheerleaders Won 8th Place in National Cheer Finals – 2017
- Cheerleaders Won Junior High Annual IASP State Championships – 2016, 2014, 2012, 2011
- Science Academic Team Received Top 10 Award – 2015
- Social Studies Academic Team State Champ – 2016
- 7th/8th Grade Dance Team Placed 1st in Pom & Jazz Division at Invitational – 2017, 2016
- 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 Extra-Curricular Opportunities, in Addition to 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**

**1862 W. STATE ROAD 234, FORTVILLE, IN 46040**

**(317) 485-3160**

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# Black History Concert

Mt. Vernon Middle School eighth graders recently rocked the house as they celebrated Black History Month with their principal's band. This was the seventh year in a row for Principal Ben Williams and fellow musicians to celebrate Black History Month with the eighth graders. The tunes celebrated music performed by famous black Americans, such as "Baby Face" Edmonds, Lenny Kravitz, Stevie Wonder, Jimmy Hendrix and Duke Ellington.

The band featured an all-star line up of local pro musicians, who were joined by a few members of the MVMS band. The band included 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 included Lead Vocalist – T-Jam (Timmy Edwards), Bass – Austin Shearer, Guitar – Casey Harshbarger, and drums/vocals – Benjamin Williams.

In a recent interview, Principal Ben Williams stated, "I want to do something that would bring culture into the district. I have known these band members for years, and thought we could bring in the band to perform music and try to really open the perspective of young people." The interview stressed how we need to treat each other as a person and an individual, regardless of race or other differences.



*Mr. Chris Smedley*

## MVCSC's New Finance Leader

Greetings everyone! My name is Chris Smedley and I have served as Mt. Vernon's Chief Financial Officer since the end of September 2017. Previously, I worked as a business teacher, coach, and building level administrator for 21 years, prior to coming to Mt. Vernon.

In my short time here, I have been extremely impressed with many remarkable things going on within our school district: the visionary mindset of our administrative team and school board, the new construction/renovation projects taking place, the various programs that we offer to our students, and the outstanding faculty and staff we have working with our students. Adding all of that to the steady enrollment in recent years, the residential and commercial growth as well as the revitalization taking place in our communities, Mt. Vernon is a great place to be!

With the progressive mindset of the school district and my experience from the building level, it is my intention to blend these two components in my new role as chief financial officer. The MVCSC business office will manage the corporation's budget in a fiscally responsible and transparent manner that will support the needs of our students, their families, and our staff. Our goal will be to offer support to our district's leadership team and their efforts to furnish and maintain quality staffing, facilities, equipment, and supplies to our students and staff in order to provide them the best possible learning environment. As a result of this approach, we hope to maximize student achievement and prepare our students for success every step of the way as they progress through their years at Mt. Vernon and ultimately into their post-secondary endeavors.

I am both thankful and excited for this new chapter in my career and look forward to serving the corporation and our community at the district level. I am proud to be a part of the Marauder family! #WeRMV!

THE MT. VERNON EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
**KALEIDOSCOPE**  
*Gala*

**In celebration of the Mt. Vernon Education Foundation's 10th Anniversary, please join in the fun at the Kaleidoscope Gala on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown.**

Tickets are \$75 a person and can be purchased at <http://www.universe.com/mvefgala2018>.

The 1st Distinguished Alumni Award will be awarded the night of the Gala. The award will recognize two distinguished MV Alumni which have made significant contributions in their respective field and community.

The MVEF has provided over \$300,000 through teacher-requested grants that enhance students' education, providing programming, experiences and opportunities.

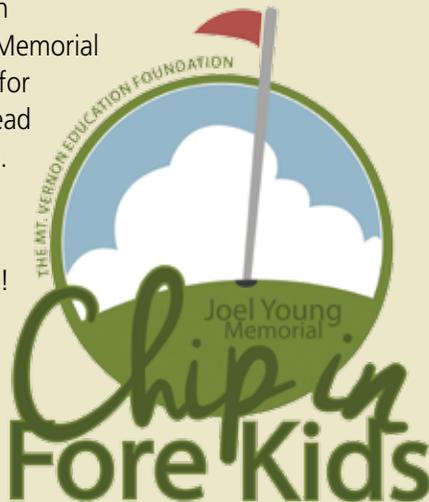
**[www.MtVernonFoundation.org](http://www.MtVernonFoundation.org)**

## MVEF Golf

### SAVE THE DATE!

The Mt. Vernon Education Foundation's Joel Young Memorial Golf Outing is scheduled for Friday, July 13 at Arrowhead Golf Course in Greenfield.

Registration is coming soon at [www.MtVernonFoundation.org](http://www.MtVernonFoundation.org)!



## Profile: Director of Secondary Education – Mr. Scott Shipley

In his role of Director of Secondary Education, Mr. Scott Shipley hopes to provide students with opportunities to enhance their educational experience and provide a necessary foundation to become lifelong learners and grow into successful adults. His job involves developing and refining programming that directly affects student instruction and opportunity. He works directly with staff and principals at the high school and middle school to develop programming, curriculum, and professional learning opportunities.

"I am most proud of bringing Promise Indiana to Hancock County," Shipley stated. The Hancock County Promise provides college savings accounts to kindergartners throughout the county. "I have also enjoyed working with our counselors to bolster our student's college and career readiness."

Some of the programs Shipley has implemented are Naviance (college and career software for students), the Governor's Work Ethic Certificate for seniors, and the career fair that provided juniors and seniors the opportunity to make direct connections with employers and businesses.

Shipley has also worked to increase the number of career and technical education (CTE) courses at MVHS. He is on the team working to bring Aerospace education CTE courses to MVHS, such as aviation flight and aviation maintenance. He was also a leader in the MVMS and MVHS committees that are working to become STEM certified by the Indiana Department of Education. In addition, he has worked with secondary teachers to implement new math curriculum last fall and is currently working with teachers to implement new science curriculum for the fall of 2018.



*Mr. Scott Shipley*

**"I HAVE ENJOYED WORKING WITH OUR COUNSELORS TO BOLSTER OUR STUDENT'S COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS."**



# MT. VERNON

COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

1806 W. State Rd 234, Fortville, IN 46040

*Facebook.com/MtVernonSchoolDistrict*

*Twitter.com/MVCSC\_District*

*www.mvcsc.k12.in.us*

## Kindergarten Registration – April 9, 10, 12



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

**FORTVILLE ELEMENTARY –  
MONDAY, APRIL 9, NOON – 7 P.M.**

**MCCORDSVILLE ELEMENTARY –  
TUESDAY, APRIL 10, NOON – 7 P.M.**

**MT. COMFORT ELEMENTARY –  
THURSDAY, APRIL 12, NOON – 7 P.M.**

On or before August 1, 2018 students must be 5 years old to attend kindergarten (and on or before August 1, 2018 students must be 6 years old to attend first grade).

MVCSC will offer full day Kindergarten only

See [www.mvcsc.k12.in.us](http://www.mvcsc.k12.in.us) for further Kindergarten Enrollment information

**See Inside!!  
MIDDLE SCHOOL RENOVATION UPDATE**