



JANUARY 2020

MT. VERNON

# Mainstream

MV COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS



## Superintendent's Note

As we close the year and begin the next, I reflect on many celebrations for both my family and our school district. My family now lives in the Mt. Vernon School District, and we very much enjoy being a part of this great community. For the school, we celebrate the development of

a Sustainable Budget Plan as well as the establishment of many other foundational practices that will allow Mt. Vernon Schools to thrive for many years to come.

Speaking of our future, we have embarked on a collaborative process to design the best future for our school district. There were 317 Mt. Vernon Community Champions (MVC2) that came together in August, and a sub-group (MVC2 Advisory) has continued to meet to develop a plan for our future growth. We are excited to bring our ideas forward at our next MVC2 meeting in January.

## Finance Report

As mentioned in the Superintendent's Note, MVCSC is focused on our future and have developed a Sustainable Budget Plan to guide us through the years. This was initially developed in February and has been a guide for many of our financial

**WE ARE ON TARGET TO  
REMAIN FINANCIALLY  
SOLVENT AND EVEN  
BEGIN TO REBUILD A  
SMALL CASH RESERVE  
FOR FUTURE NEEDS.**

*Continued on page 2*

## Elementary STEAM Projects

**SEE INSIDE** ➤

## MV Community Champions Provide Advice for the Future Growth Plan

The Mt. Vernon Community Champion Advisory (MVC2A) committee has met a few times and provided invaluable input in the development of a Future Growth Plan. We have begun to filter through the pros and cons of various grade configurations and what the impact is for each option. The next step is matching this with funding plans and developing conservative financial options. We are grateful for their guidance and time vested in Mt. Vernon.



We are once again inviting the entire community to attend the January 21, 2020 Mt. Vernon Community Champions meeting where we will bring back a proposed Future Growth Plan and seek input from the community. **Please mark your calendars and join us for the January 21, 2020 meeting at 6 p.m. in the Mt. Vernon High School auditorium.**



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## Partner School in Taiwan Visits Mt. Vernon High School

Mt. Vernon High School (MVHS) recently welcomed a group of 16 students and two teachers from Neihu High School in Taiwan. This is the start of a full exchange as some of our MVHS students will be visiting these same students in Taiwan this summer. The group from Taiwan was immersed in American culture for a full week, while sharing aspects of their own culture with Mt. Vernon students and staff.

MVCSC administrators and host families welcomed the Taiwanese guests at a special dinner where they were introduced to their host families. Administrators and the International Exchange team shared token American Mt. Vernon gifts with the Taiwanese and started off their week with a traditional American barbeque dinner.

During their stay, the Taiwanese students stayed with host families and shadowed MVHS students during the week. This allowed them to experience the excellent programs that Mt. Vernon has to offer and get a hands-on look into the American



education system. The bonds between the Taiwan students and our host families were so strong that many tears were shed when it was time for the Taiwanese to leave.

The group from Taiwan also had a glance of what life after high school could look like here in the United States. They took a detailed tour of Ball State University and The Indiana Academy. They learned about their international exchange program and all the opportunities an American university can offer.

Not only were they given educational experience, but a fun-filled one as well. The students and their host siblings experienced more American culture as they took a trip to the Children's Museum and Bankers Life Fieldhouse to watch the

### **FINANCE** *continued from page 1*

decisions. It appears that as we close the books on 2019, we are on target to remain financially solvent and even begin to rebuild a small cash reserve for future needs. As many of you have heard, school budgets are tight. With the financial support from the state legislature not keeping up with inflation, this problem continues to grow. We are thankful that the legislature provided appropriate funding for this biennium; however, this level of support must continue in future state budgets.

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At the end of 2022, our "Increment Funds" will be removed from our Operations fund. This \$3.3 million per year has allowed us to continue the stewardship of our facilities, as well as helped to pay the plethora of maintenance, transportation, and support staff that MVCSC employs. We are fortunate for several reasons, with three being: 1) that we are a growing district, 2) that our state tuition support increases with each new student, and 3) that our Operations Fund is bolstered by the increased Assessed Valuation of the properties in our school district.

## FEATURED MT. VERNON SCHOOL: McCordsville Elementary School Snapshot



Indiana Pacers play the Oklahoma City Thunder.

The students from Taiwan also participated in a scavenger hunt at the Viet Hua grocery store with the MVHS Mandarin students. On this same day, they helped the MVHS Mandarin students expand their cultural knowledge by teaching them how to order food at the Chuan Cai Fang Restaurant.



The students and staff of MVCSC, as well as Mt. Vernon community host families, thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to share cultures with the wonderful group of students and teachers from Neihu High School!

- Indiana Department of Education School Grades: 2018 – "A"; 2017 – "A"
- Attendance Rate: 2017-18 – 97%
- IREAD-3 Passing Rate: 2018-19 – 93%, Exceeds State Average by 6%
- ISTEP+ Scores Exceeded State Average by 21% in 2018
- Indiana Department of Education Four Star School – 2017-2018
- IDOE STEM Certified School
- Common Sense Media Certified School
- Strong Community and PTO Partnerships
- Each Student has a Touch Screen Chromebook
- Outdoor Track, Soccer/Football Field, Baseball/Softball Diamond, 2 Full Playgrounds
- 3D Printers
- Classrooms Have Whiteboards, Projectors and Apple TV's
- Resource Officer on Site Daily
- High-Tech Safety Features – Keypad Entry for Staff, Lobby Guard, Video Surveillance
- Strong Character Education Taught Throughout the School Year
- 7 Club/Extracurricular Opportunities Available
- Multiple School Programs and Activities
- Media Center – Over 13,000 Books Organized by Reading Level
- English Language Learners (ELL) Assistance Program
- Speech/Language, Special Education, High Ability & Social Worker Programs

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

## MVEF Gala 2020

APRIL 4, 2020  
INDIANAPOLIS MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN

Join other MV supporters at the **Roaring 20's MVEF Gala** on Saturday, April 4,

2020 at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown. Among the fun, fellowship and great food, the Distinguished Alumni Award will recognize two MV Alumni which have made significant contributions in their respective field and community. **For tickets, visit [www.MtVernonFoundation.org](http://www.MtVernonFoundation.org).**

*The MVEF has provided over \$400,000 through teacher requested grants that enhance students' education, providing programming, experiences and opportunities.*



**STEPHANIE MILLER, PRINCIPAL**

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## FEATURED MT. VERNON SCHOOL: Fortville Elementary School Snapshot

- Attendance Rate: 2017-18 – over 96%
- IREAD-3 Passing Rate: 2018-19 – 96%, Exceeds State Average by 9%
- Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) Four Star School – 5 Times Total
- IDOE STEM Certified School
- Common Sense Media Certified School
- Each Student in Grades K-5 has a Touch-Screen Chromebook, Classroom Sets of iPads are Available to Enhance Lessons as Needed
- Outdoor Trail, 2 Inclusive Playgrounds
- 3D Printers
- High-Tech Safety Features – Keypad Entry for Staff, Lobby Guard, High-Tech Digital Security
- Document Cameras, Interactive White Boards and Apple TV's in Every Classroom
- 9 Clubs or Extracurricular Activities
- Student Programs and School Presentations
- Media Center – Over 11,000 Books Organized by Reading Level
- English Language Learners (ELL) Assistance Program
- Speech/Language, Special Education, Guidance Counselor Services, Character Counts
- High Ability Learners Diagnostic & Enrichment Instruction
- Reading Interventions K-5 for Remediation and Enrichment
- Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports
- Trust Based Relation & Intervention (TBRI) Trained Team

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

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Thanks to the Mt. Vernon Education Foundation and the Main Street Arts at the Carnegie, Mt. Vernon High School hosted a NASA traveling exhibit called “Apollo and the Next Giant Leap.” The opening night featured an actual moon rock, in addition to the full exhibit in the Media Center.

Specifically, the “Apollo and the Next Giant Leap” exhibit featured NASA’s Apollo missions which have blazed a path to the Moon. A unique collection of exhibits and artifacts showcased the amazing achievements of Apollo. Additional exhibits showcased NASA’s new rocket, the Space Launch System, and the Orion spacecraft that power the Artemis program. NASA will land the first woman and the next man on the Moon by 2024, using innovative technologies to explore more of the lunar surface than ever before. Then, using what is learned on and around the Moon, NASA will take the next giant leap – sending astronauts to Mars.

MVCSC is thankful to host this unique NASA exhibit and appreciates our partners that made this educational opportunity possible: Mt. Vernon Education Foundation and the Main Street Arts at the Carnegie in Fortville.

Photo Courtesy of: Benjamin C. Stout, [www.benjaminstout.com](http://www.benjaminstout.com)

## FES Gingerbread Town

The Fortville Elementary School (FES) fourth grade students utilized a number of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) applications to create a gingerbread replica of the Town of Fortville. Students were placed into groups and assigned a business to research and create. All buildings were then connected to create a delicious replica of Main Street in Fortville.



*“Engage, Educate & Empower Today’s Students”*

# MES Shark Tank

McCordsville Elementary School (MES) recently hosted their fifth annual "Shark Tank." This event gives fourth grade students the opportunity to create their own business ideas and present them to four fourth grade teachers who are posing as "sharks." The Shark Tank event began the event with a video clip of the "Little After Noon" talk show, hosted by MES Art Teacher, Terry Trowbridge, in which he interviewed the world famous band "Sonny and the Samsonites," (also known as the MES fourth grade teachers).

The members, Cash (Mr. Keeler), Tiffany (Mrs. Hartley), Ruby (Ms. Norton), and Sonny Samson himself (Mr. Wimmenauer), informed Mr. Trowbridge that it was time for them to move on from their band life and pursue a new career hosting "Shark Tank" at MES. When Sonny Samson was unable to attend, fifth grade teacher Mrs. Kern won the chance to be a guest host for the show.

Five groups of fourth graders presented their business ideas to the teachers in front of the entire elementary school in the main gym. Each group's business came with a promotional video created on iMovie which put the students' technological skills to the test.

The students were unknowingly engaging their entrepreneurial and economic knowledge as they created a product that was cost-effective and relevant to the daily life of a consumer. The groups were also learning real-world skills such as: creating a business plan, managing their time of a strict timeline, and following guidelines given to them.

The business ideas that students presented included: Pets Unlimited- an all inclusive pet box that carries food, water, toys, and leashes to avoid a mess in the house; Sweet Kingdom- a 3D game board that takes you through a challenge with your friends; The Dreamers- a customizable chapstick holder that can be attached to anything; Magnet Movers- a magnetic version of the classic game of checkers; and WC beanbags- a comfortable bean bag that can seat up to three kids with a cupholder on the side.

Mr. Keeler, Mrs. Hartley, Ms. Norton, and Mrs. Kern all enjoyed being "sharks" and giving the fourth grade students the chance to show off their creative and innovative skills. Congratulations to the fourth graders on their terrific inventions!



Haley Childers, FES Fourth Grade Teacher, shared that the essential question for the students is, "What goods and services are found in our thriving community?"

The students first learned about the economy, goods and services, and studying and locating features on a map. This project was a fun way for the students to expand their knowledge in social studies, language arts, science, math, and art.

Students enjoyed a visit from Elizabeth (Libby) Wyatt, owner



of Libby's Ice Cream and Gifts, who chatted with the fourth graders about the history of Fortville, her business management experience, and what her position as a member of the Fortville Town Council will entail.

Each group used their STEAM skills to replicate their assigned building and create circuit boards that are used to create street lights. The finished town will have a QR code for each building that will link to the student-made report and turn on that group's street light.

Several Fortville business owners visited the Gingerbread Town and met with the students who created the replica of their business. The STEAM project was deemed a success for everyone involved.



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*Mark your calendars!*

# MV Community Champions Meeting

January 21, 2020 | 7:00 pm | MVHS Auditorium



Attention ALL MV parents, in-district residents, businesses and community members! Mark your calendars to attend the MV Community Champions meeting on January 21, 2020.

At this meeting, attendees will see the framework of a **proposed Future Growth Plan** that was developed from data gleaned from the MV Community Champions Advisory group. Attendees will also be able to give their input on the proposed Future Growth Plan and share their opinion on whether it meets the needs and expectations of the community.

Additional Mt. Vernon Community Champions information can be found on the [mvcsc.k12.in.us](http://mvcsc.k12.in.us) website under the "Community" tab.



◀ See Inside!!  
Elementary STEAM Projects