

Mainstream

INTRODUCING SUPERINTENDENT DR. JACK PARKER



Meet Mt. Vernon's New Superintendent Dr. Jack Parker!

On the Friday following Thanksgiving, my family and I were visiting Blarney Castle in Ireland where I participated in the age-old tradition of "kissing the Blarney Stone." While it is known to provide the powers of

eloquence, for me it provided some amazing luck. Later that evening, the Mt. Vernon School Board President, Mrs. Walls, called to offer me the Superintendency position. To say I was excited by the offer would be an understatement!

Over the course of the interview process, I have met many wonderful Mt. Vernon people who have only spoken highly of this community and those who live within it. Old and new acquaintances have reached out to provide their congratulations, and to share a common theme that Mt. Vernon is a special school community. I am blessed, humbled, and extremely thankful for the opportunity to partner with the community as we continue the mission of the Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation: Engage, Educate, and Empower.

My plan to build relationships, learn, communicate, and collaborate will begin with a

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MVCSC Receives a STEM Acceleration Grant!

SEE INSIDE ►

MVCSC is Rated an "A" District Again

Mt Vernon Community School Corporation is excited to announce that we were rated as an "A District" by the Indiana Department of Education for the 2017-2018 school year.

We would like to congratulate our students, teachers, administrators, and support staff for their outstanding performance as well as their commitment to excellence.



SCHOOL	2017-2018	2016-2017
Mt. Vernon HS	A (94.7 points)	A (94.5 points)
Mt. Vernon MS	B (87.1 points)	B (87.5 points)
Fortville Elem.	B (89.8 points)	A (92.3 points)
McCordsville Elem.	A (102.3 points)	A (90.5 points)
Mt. Comfort Elem.	B (85.7 points)	C (78.6 points)
MVCSC (Overall)	A (91.4 points)	A (90.5 points)

Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation is proud of our performance and is dedicated to refining our instructional practices. We will strive for continuous improvement by providing opportunities for our students to learn and grow through engaging learning opportunities.



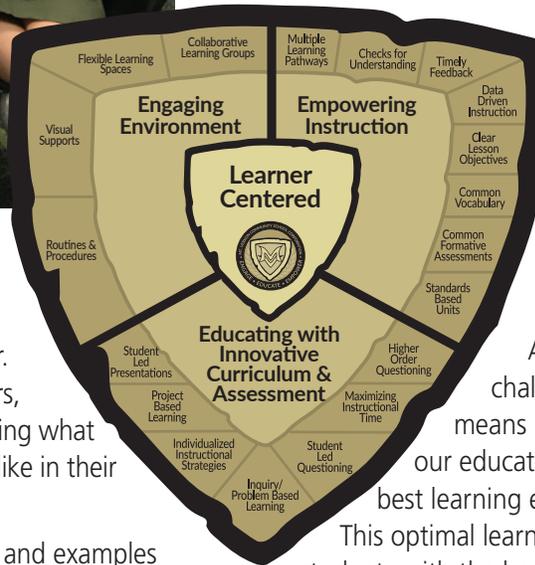
INSTRUCTIONAL MODEL

Transforming Teaching Environments – Modern Teacher



As part of this shift, an instructional model was developed for Mt. Vernon's teaching staff. The core of this instructional model is "learner centered education." The following three categories stem from the core of being learner centered: "empowering education," "educating with innovative curriculum and assessment," and "engaging environment."

Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation INSTRUCTIONAL MODEL



Teachers are learning about how to achieve these best practices in professional development opportunities during Delayed Start Wednesdays. Teachers collaborate to develop best practices in these targeted professional development sessions.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR A MT. VERNON PARENT?

All the effort into defining and challenging our teaching instruction means Mt. Vernon is continually improving our educational experience to provide the best learning environment possible for students.

This optimal learning environment will prepare students with the knowledge and skills needed for their postsecondary college or careers.

This means we continually strive for academic excellence!

#MVCHARGE

The Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation is transforming teaching environments by partnering with a program called Modern Teacher. This program has been used for the past two years, engaging leadership and teaching staff into defining what an effective modern teaching environment looks like in their Mt. Vernon classroom.

Through this model, expectations are developed and examples of effective instruction are defined. The goal for this program is to continue to invent and refine Mt. Vernon's engaging curriculum and teaching instruction.

NEW SUPERINTENDENT *continued from page 1*

flourish of activity. I will participate in community events as well as visit our schools regularly. Through a listening tour, I look forward to meeting with you individually and in small groups to learn the hopes and dreams you have for yourself and Mt. Vernon Schools. I plan on spending time this spring semester learning all about the values, processes, and procedures employed that make this school corporation great will pervade our conversations. I am here to learn, and then build collaborative processes that will continue to improve the Mt. Vernon Schools!

I want to thank you in advance for engaging me in your conversations as we learn and grow together. Additionally, I wish to extend my appreciation to the Mt. Vernon School Board for selecting me to serve you as your Superintendent. To think that I am now a Mt. Vernon Marauder and a part of this wonderful community, brings excitement that knows no bounds. #WeRMV

Excited to be a Marauder,

Jack

Dr. Jack Parker, *Superintendent*

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"Engage, Educate & Empower Today's Students"

About Superintendent Dr. Jack Parker

Dr. Parker was in his sixth year of central office experience at Center Grove Schools as the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning. Prior to that position, he served as a Principal and Assistant Principal at Center Grove Middle School Central where his school received a Blue Ribbon Award nomination. He was named Middle School Principal of the Year in 2013 and 2009 by the Indiana Association of School Principals.

The MVCSC School Board of Trustees President, Shannon Walls, shared, "Dr. Parker is a visionary leader and his collaborative expertise will ensure that Mt. Vernon's growth will be handled in a way that benefits the whole community. Mt. Vernon is fortunate to have a candidate with his experience and collaborative nature to continue our academic excellence."

Dr. Parker stated, "Mt. Vernon is a great school district with a very engaging community. My charge from the board was to develop a collaborative plan for growth that includes facilities and staffing. I want to engage the community to provide input during this process."

Dr. Parker earned a PhD in Education Administration from Indiana State University and a Master's degree in Education Administration from

Butler University. He has also taught curriculum and school improvement as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Indianapolis for its master's program.

Dr. Parker originally began his teaching career as a Band Teacher at Center Grove Schools. He took a two-year break from teaching to become the Associate Director of the Indiana Principal Leadership Academy. He has served as a mentor for the Indiana Principal Leadership Institute and is a frequent presenter through the "Experiential Program for Preparing School Principals" at his alma mater, Butler University. He also recently helped with the strategic planning of the Indiana School Boards Association as a co-facilitator and consultant.

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– SHANNON WALLS
SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

FEATURED MT. VERNON SCHOOL: McCordsville Elementary School Snapshot

- ▶ Indiana Department of Education School Grades: 2018 – "A," 2017 – "A"
- ▶ Attendance Rate: 2017-18 – 97.3%, 2016-17 – 97.3%
- ▶ IREAD-3 Results – 2018 – 95.7%
- ▶ ISTEP+ Scores Exceeded State Average by 21% in 2018
- ▶ Indiana Department of Education Four Star School – 1 Year
- ▶ Strong Community and PTO Partnerships
- ▶ Each Student has an iPad or 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
- ▶ 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

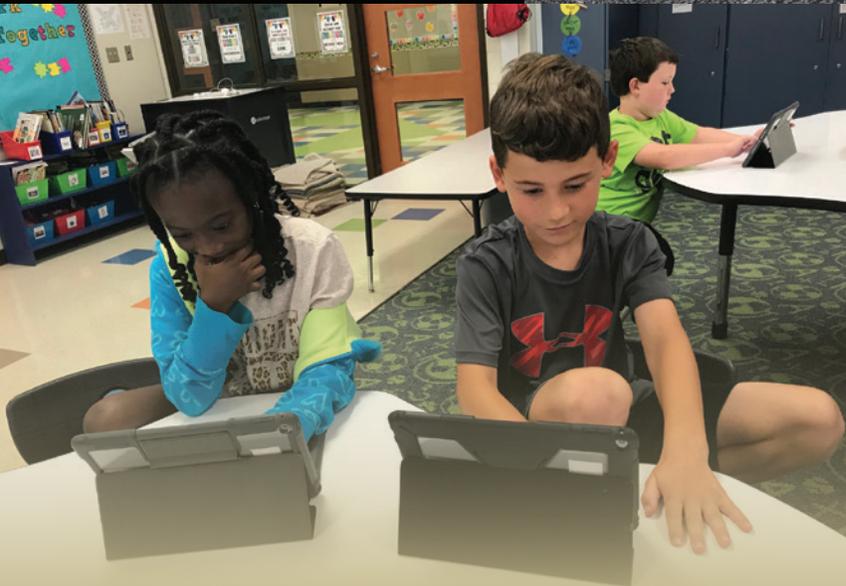


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MVCSC Receives a STEM Acceleration Grant

INCREASING STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH

**MOVING FORWARD,
MVCSC WANTS TO
CONTINUE THE SHIFT FROM
TEACHING STUDENTS HOW
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PROBLEM SOLVERS.**



Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation (MVCSC) was recently awarded with a K-6 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Acceleration Grant from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE). In recent years, both the IDOE and MVCSC have focused on a multitude of efforts to increase the STEM initiative in schools. The IDOE awarded

MVCSC nearly \$50,000 to further advance STEM education in the elementary and middle schools.

Mt. Vernon schools are dedicated to the implementation of STEM efforts, demonstrated by the district's K-12 STEM certification and 1:1 technology program. Additionally, MVCSC has a STEM teacher in each elementary school, a STEM business teacher at the middle school, and a Technology Integration Specialist in both the elementary and secondary levels.

Moving forward, MVCSC wants to continue the shift from teaching students how to be consumers of technology, to teaching students how to become creators and innovative problem solvers.

MVCSC plans to use the funding from the grant to improve curriculum, programming, community outreach and professional development for educators.

Furthermore, the district wants to incorporate more computer science education for students in grades K-6. Through this grant, MVCSC is committed to attending

"Engage, Educate & Empower Today's Students"

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!

MVCSC has also 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!



a District SCRIPTS Computer Science Strategic Planning Workshop in order to continue improving the computer science education implemented throughout the schools.

Students attend STEM classes each week and use a computer science pathway with their devices. In addition to this, MVCSC plans to use the grant to implement a Makerspace that can be used by K-6 students, such as 3D printers, VR glasses, and Merge Cubes.

The Director of Elementary Education, Mrs. Heather Noesges, shared, "Our goal is to provide support and resources for our teachers to be able to integrate STEM throughout the curriculum. We are appreciative of the IDOE's STEM leadership, and are proud of our accomplishments and the impact it has on enhancing our learners' education."

The goal of the district as a whole is to raise the overall student participation of STEM. Teachers will go through continuous training in order to effectively implement STEM into their daily lessons.

FEATURED MT. VERNON SCHOOL: Mt. Comfort Elementary School Snapshot

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOUR STAR SCHOOL – 18 YEARS TOTAL

- 2016-2017 Attendance Rate – 97%
- IREAD-3 Results – 2017-96%, 2016-99%, 2015-96%, 2014-98%, 2013-99%
- Indiana Department of Education School Grades – 2015 "A", 2014 "A", 2013 "A"
- ISTEP+ Scores – In 2017 Exceeded State Average by 8%, Consistently Exceeded State Average in Prior Years
- Strong Community, PTO and Outreach Partnerships
- Each Student has an iPad or a Chromebook
- IDOE Stem-Certified
- 2 Playgrounds, 3 Softball/Baseball Fields, Outdoor Track
- Classrooms Have Interactive Whiteboards, Document Cameras, Projectors and Apple TV's
- Resource Officer On-Site Daily
- 10 Club Opportunities
- Frequent Programs and Guest Presentations
- Media Center – Over 16,500 Books Organized by Reading Level and Partnership with Hancock County Library
- 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)

CASEY DODD, PRINCIPAL

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Mt. Vernon Student Community Service (SEPT 2018 & JAN 2019)



"I'VE BEEN INCREDIBLY IMPRESSED WITH THE MT. VERNON STUDENTS' VOLUNTEERISM, WORK ETHIC, AND EXCITEMENT TO ENGAGE WITH OUR COMMUNITY."

— LACEY WILLARD WITH FORTVILLE ACTION INC.

Approximately 85 Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation (MVCSC) students chose to serve their community on the district's scheduled eLearning Day in September. Mt. Vernon is constantly demonstrating to students the importance of serving others and building quality character traits. Plans are in place to offer this community service to students on the **JANUARY 30 eLEARNING DAY** if there is enough community project needs.

Students in grades 6-12 were given the opportunity to participate in a community service project on the district's scheduled eLearning Day in September. For most students, an eLearning day consists of doing school assignments at home and getting a break from the traditional school week. For this group of highly motivated students, the eLearning day meant not only completing their assigned work, but also serving the community for a portion of their day.

Lacey Willard with Fortville Action Inc. shared, "I've been incredibly impressed with the Mt. Vernon students' volunteerism, work ethic,

and excitement to engage with our community. This is the second year we've hosted students to partner with us on prominent projects in Fortville—painting the gazebo, building a park bridge, preparing an art gallery space, building outdoor signs, visiting the elderly in nursing homes, and reading to toddlers in the library. We are appreciative of the students, administration, and supportive parents who have made this important community connection possible."

One group of students traveled to Traditions at Brookside Senior Living to socialize with the residents. Another group helped employees file papers and organize various items at an office building. Other groups volunteered at Outlook Church, Fortville Library, and even helped the township's aesthetics by painting sidewalks.

Junior Victoria Bulmahn describes a positive experience while volunteering at the Traditions at Brookside Senior Living, saying, "The people were really welcoming. They were eager to show us how they do things."

The dedication and hard work ethic of the Mt. Vernon students helped to complete various necessary tasks that might not have been finalized without their valuable help. Mt. Vernon continues to foster positive character traits and motivate students to be the best they can be!

"Engage, Educate & Empower Today's Students"



SAVE THE DATES!



MVEF Gala – April 13, 2019

The Mt. Vernon Education Foundation Gala will take place on Saturday, April 13, 2018 from 7 – 11 p.m. at the Indianapolis Downtown Marriott. Join us to celebrate the success of this past year and ensure that the tradition of enhancing public education in Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation continues! Enjoy entertainment, drinks, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, a silent auction, and more at this semi-formal event.

Our goal is to raise \$50,000 to support MVEF grants, programs and initiatives, but we can't do it without your help! We hope you will

join us at this fun event! If you are interested in volunteering for this event please contact Renee at the MVEF office (contact information is listed below).

At this year's Gala we will also be presenting the 2019 Mt. Vernon Education Foundation Distinguished Alumni Awards. Nomination forms are available at MtVernonFoundation.org.

Interested in becoming a corporate sponsor, table sponsor and or providing a door prize for this event? Contact Renee Oldham, Executive Director at Renee@MtVernonFoundation.org for more information. Tickets will go on sale in January 2019.



Geist Half Marathon | May 18, 2019

Mark your calendars to participate with Mt. Vernon Schools in the next Geist Half Marathon on May 18, 2019 as a fundraiser for the Mt. Vernon Education Foundation.

Watch for more information to come!

Discontinue Transfer/Out-of-District Students

At the October Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation's Board of Trustees meeting, a resolution was passed to not accept new transfer/out-of-district students. This resolution is effective October 1, 2018 through June 1, 2019 for students in preschool through grade 12. The Board of Trustees passed this resolution due to the in-district housing growth that is impacting the Mt. Vernon schools.

Currently enrolled transfer/out-of-district students and their siblings, foreign exchange students attending through a contractual relationship, and employees' children, are exempt from this resolution and may attend school at Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation (MVCSC).

The transfer/out-of-district student resolution will be reevaluated each spring. Out-of-district parents/guardians who are interested in having their child(ren) attend Mt. Vernon should contact the school after April 2019 to see if the MVCSC School Board of Trustees has chosen to modify or keep this resolution the same for the following year.

MVCSC administration meets quarterly with economic development representatives from the county and all three towns in our district to assess housing growth and developments. This information helps Mt. Vernon evaluate data and prepare for future growth.



MT. VERNON

COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

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Facebook.com/MtVernonSchoolDistrict

Twitter.com/MVCSC_District

www.mvcsc.k12.in.us

Food Pantry / MV Cooperative Closet

As the seasons get colder, we are reminded that we have many Mt. Vernon families with food or clothing insecurities. Here are a few ways the MVCSC district can help those in need:

GLEANERS/ MT. VERNON HIGH SCHOOL PANTRY

MVCSC hosts a Gleaners / Mt. Vernon High School (MVHS) Food Pantry once per month for our food insecure families. On specific Thursdays from 4:00-5:30 p.m., the Food Pantry will be open at MVHS, Door #12 for Mt. Vernon families with a voucher. The voucher simply verifies that the family has a student enrolled in a Mt. Vernon school and can be picked up in the Main Office of any school. The monthly food pantry dates can also be found on the website page under the "community" tab.



MT. VERNON COOPERATIVE CLOSET

If your child is in need of new or gently used clothing, please let your school counselor know of their specific clothing need. The district has a Mt. Vernon Cooperative Closet that is filled with clothes (including pants, shirts, coats, hats and gloves) specifically to help those students in need.



MVHS FOOD

PANTRY

2019 DATES

THURSDAYS

4:00-5:30 PM

JANUARY 10

FEBRUARY 7

MARCH 7

APRIL 4

MAY 2

See Inside!!
MVCSC RECEIVES STEM ACCELERATION GRANT