

MT. VERNON

Engage, Educate & Empower Today's Students

Mainstream

SUMMER 2023

Back
to School



Our Growing District

Construction on our main campus is in full swing this summer! With the opening of a new Fortville Elementary School scheduled for the fall of 2025, as well as a new transportation center and significant traffic improvements currently underway, our main campus is getting a lot of work. Our Future Growth Plan was finalized in March of 2020 providing direction for us to reinstate a grades five and six intermediate school to accommodate growth in our



WHILE GROWTH IS A BIT DIFFERENT THAN WE EXPECTED WHEN DRAFTING THIS PLAN A FEW YEARS AGO, WE

ARE ACTUALLY EXCEEDING OUR BASE PROJECTIONS FOR ELEMENTARY AGED STUDENTS. THIS RECONFIGURATION AND NEW BUILDING WILL COME JUST IN TIME FOR US.

elementary schools and our middle school. While growth is a bit different than we expected when drafting this plan a few years ago, we are actually exceeding our base projections for elementary aged students. This reconfiguration and new building will come just in time for us.

Continued on page 2

Join Our Team!

Are you looking for rewarding work with competitive pay, outstanding benefits for eligible positions and the satisfaction of making valuable contributions while being appreciated for your effort? If so, then the Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation (MVCSC) could well be the place for you. Here's what a couple of our employees have to say about Mt. Vernon.

"I love my fellow teammates. The culture at MES is very strong and positive. The parent support is amazing. I choose MV because feeling valued and appreciated by your teammates, parents, and administration is vital to the job!"

—ZACHARY BRUBAKER, 5TH GRADE TEACHER, MCCORDSVILLE ELEMENTARY

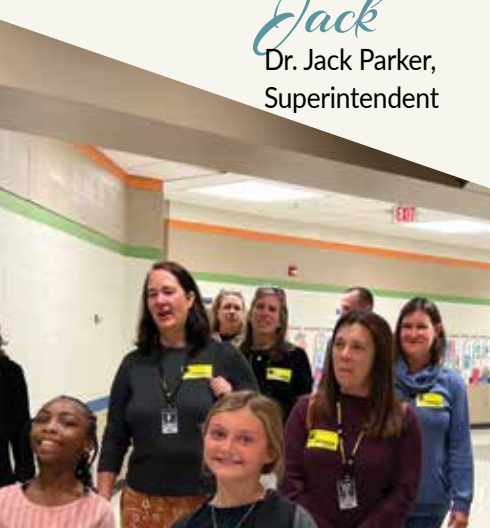
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Superintendent *continued*

The last 12 months have been significant to Mt. Vernon. While we will begin collecting revenues in July from our positive operating referendum, we know that it will allow us to operate and add an additional school in the future. Some legislative actions designed to control increased property taxes from reassessment do make our budgets tighter as we continue to lose revenue in tax caps. With the changes in caps of various tax matters, we will still see a significant drop in our overall school tax rate should our assessed valuation continue to increase in future years. Even with our belt tightening, we have been able to make up for the multiple years where Mt. Vernon teachers and staff did not receive a pay raise. We are to a point now where many of our certified and classified staff are receiving a much more competitive salary and while an early prediction, our turnover rate this year appears to be much better than in recent years.

On another note, this summer is a week longer than the last few summer breaks, and our staff is looking forward to time to relax and recharge for the 2023-2024 school year. Our team of Mt. Vernon employees work extremely hard to serve our community and our students. We are grateful for our amazing people who serve our students!

Jack
Dr. Jack Parker,
Superintendent



Join Our Team *continued*

"I love the close knit feel I get while working at MV. I love being a positive impact on students each and every day. I choose to stay at MV because of the people that I get to work with 185 days out of the year."

—DESIRAY SCALF, RESOURCE TEACHER, MT. VERNON HIGH SCHOOL

"Our team is a family that loves and cares for one another, and the same goes for my FES family. They're always so great to interact with and they're so genuine. There's so many people I can think of that are selfless and go out of their way to help in multiple areas where there is a need."

—CODY MERRITT, BUILDING TECHNICIAN, FORTVILLE ELEMENTARY

We currently have many openings for teachers, food service personnel, custodians, instructional assistants, permanent substitute teachers and more. We are a growing district that offers a supportive work environment, professional development opportunities and a genuine sense of community. Visit www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/ employment for all the opportunities!

WE ARE A
GROWING DISTRICT THAT
OFFERS A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT,
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
OPPORTUNITIES AND A GENUINE
SENSE OF COMMUNITY.



MV Schools Host Unified Champions Events

Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation (MVCSC) celebrated three Unified Champions field days in May with preschool, elementary, middle and high school students participating in the fun. Unified Champions is a Special Olympics program that engages schools in creating climates of inclusion, acceptance, respect and human dignity for ALL students. Students with and without disabilities competed on the same teams to provide an inclusive environment where every student participates regardless of athletic, intellectual, ambulatory or functional abilities.

The three elementary schools hosted one Unified Champion event with many students from each elementary who were combined into mixed groups in an effort to meet new friends.

Mt. Vernon Middle School and Mt. Vernon High School also hosted their Unified Champion event collectively. Their event consisted of similar activities as the elementary school event.



2023-
2024

BACK to SCHOOL

School Office Summer Hours:

Administration Building: Monday–Friday 7:30 am–4:00 pm (all summer). The district registrar is available throughout the summer at 317-485-3100 ext. 5138.

Mt. Vernon High School (MVHS): The office is open Monday–Thursday from 8:00–noon for summer school. The office will be closed July 3–14. Office will reopen Monday–Friday beginning July 17 from 8:00 am–4:00 pm.

Mt. Vernon Middle School (MVMS): Office opens July 17 from 8:00 am– 4:00 pm

**Fortville Elementary School (FES),
Mt. Comfort Elementary School (MCE),
McCordsville Elementary School (MES):**
Offices open July 24; 7:00 am–3:00 pm

Mini-Marauder Preschool (MMP):
Opens July 31; 8:00 am–4:00 pm

Back To School Nights

- **NEW! New Principal Meet & Greet!** With three principals beginning new roles in three new buildings, MV will host a meet & greet for **Mrs. Brooke Tharp** (MVHS), **Dr. Lori Katz** (MVMS), and **Mr. Donald Turner** (MCE) on **Tuesday, July 25** from 5:00–7:00 pm. Staff, parents and the community are welcome to enjoy a punch and cookies reception in the Alumni Room at the Administrative Service Center, 1806 W. State Road 234, Fortville, IN 46040.
- **Mt. Vernon High School:** Incoming freshmen and students new to Mt. Vernon High School should save the date and register for **Freshman Orientation on Friday, July 28, 2023**. Students will have an opportunity to pick up their schedule, find their classes, try their lockers, and purchase a Mt. Vernon T-shirt. Over 100 Marauder Student Mentors will be on hand to give tours and answer questions. The details and registration form are linked on www.mvhs.mvsc.k12.in.us.
- **Mt. Vernon High School:** Open house will be **Wednesday, August 2** from 3:30–7:30 pm. Students may pick up schedules, tour the building, find their lockers, and bring school supplies.
- **Mt. Vernon Middle School:** Students may pick up schedules, tour the building, find their lockers, and bring school supplies.
Monday, July 31 – Back to School Night for 6th Grade, Last Names A-L 4:30–6:00 pm and M-Z 6:00–7:30 pm.
Tuesday, August 1 – Back to School Night for 7th & 8th Grades, Last Names A-L 4:30–6:00 pm and M-Z 6:00–7:30 pm.
- **Fortville Elementary School, Mt. Comfort Elementary School, McCordsville Elementary School:** K-5 Open Houses, **Wednesday, August 2**
3:30–4:15 pm (Suggested for last names A-L)
4:15–5:00 pm (Suggested for last names M-Z)
- **Mini-Marauder Preschool Open House: Wednesday, August 2; 4:30–6:30pm**

Early Release Wednesdays & After School

On Early Release Wednesdays, the school day is shortened by 45 minutes for staff to have collaboration and professional development time.

- The first and last Wednesday of the school year (August 9 and May 22) will be a regular release (no Early Release Wednesday).
- 2-Hour Delays that occur on a Wednesday would have a regular release (no Early Release Wednesday).
- Buses will run their regular routes 45 minutes earlier on Early Release Wednesdays.
- Mini-Marauder Preschool does not participate in Early Release Wednesdays.
- After-school care through the YMCA will be offered at all elementary schools.
- We will host after-school study tables for middle and high school students participating in athletics or other regular after-school activities. No other students will be allowed to stay in the school buildings.

School Supplies

Preschool, elementary, and middle school school supply lists are linked on each school's website under the "Parents" tab on the "Parent Resources" web page. High school supplies vary per class/teacher and will be shared with students on the first day of school.



District/School Communication

Parents/guardians will receive communication through ParentSquare using the emails and phone numbers listed in Family 1 of Skyward Family Access. Parents/guardians are highly encouraged to use the ParentSquare app using their email listed in Family 1 of Skyward and personalize their notification settings.

MVCSC also has a free app that features news, a staff directory and more. Search "Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation" in Google Play or the App Store.

See mvcsc.k12.in.us/communication for details on the various methods of outreach from the district.

Student Registration & Class Schedules

Class schedules/homeroom assignments will be available in Skyward prior to each school's Back-to-School or Open House night.

Returning Students Registration: MV parents/guardians in Family 1 of Skyward need to register ALL returning students through their Skyward Family Access account starting July 10 at 10:00 am. It is important registration be completed PRIOR to the first day of school. (This includes 23-24 Kindergarten students who were enrolled at the Mini-Marauder Preschool at the end of the 22-23 school year, as well as RETURNING Out-of-District/Transfer students who received an approval letter in June.)

New Students: All students NEW to the district will need to complete the New Student Online Enrollment Application, including the new Out-of-District/Transfer students who are new to our district and have received an approval letter in June.

Meal Costs/Assistance

Daily Lunch Cost 2023-24:

Preschool:	\$3.50	Elementary:	\$3.50
Middle School:	\$3.60	High School:	\$3.60
Reduced Lunch:	\$0.40	Milk:	\$0.50
Adults:	\$4.80		

Daily Breakfast Cost 2023-24:

Students:	\$2.25	Reduced Breakfast:	\$0.30
Adults:	\$2.75		

Parents/guardians might want to familiarize themselves with e-Funds (<https://www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/eFunds>, MVCSC's online

- payment system, and consider opening an account. Cash or checks are also accepted. Please communicate with your child
- if they are to eat breakfast and/or lunch. Any child who enters the food line will be charged for their meal.

Meal Assistance: In 2023-2024, MVCSC will continue to process applications for free and reduced-price meal benefits. This application can be found after July 17 at 7:00 am through your Skyward Family Access by opening the Food Service tab and clicking on Applications. Students eligible for free or reduced lunch assistance may also qualify for textbook rental fee assistance; watch for textbook rental assistance option in the online application.

Students need to bring their student ID to the cafeteria for all meals and should wear them throughout the day. This is for security purposes as well as helps with the speed of the lunch line and gives students more time to eat.

School Fees

E-Funds (MVCSC'S Online Payment System): Parents/guardians may deposit funds into their child's lunch account. Please review the meal costs and maintain a positive account balance for your child(ren).

CHROMEBOOKS:

In the 2023-24 school year, **students in grades 5-8 will receive new Chromebooks** as part of our device refresh plan. No optional protection plan will be offered. Instead, a new MV protection plan will cover up to two accidental damages per year. Charges will apply for the third damage or in cases of loss or theft (without a police report). **Please note that intentional damage or gross negligence is not covered.**

Students in grades K-4 and 9-12 will keep their district-assigned Chromebook for the 2023-2024 school year. However, there will not be an optional protection plan offered. In case of accidental damage, students will receive a replacement device of the same age without incurring a charge. A flat fee of \$25 will be charged for a replacement device upon the second damage or in cases of loss, theft (without a police report) or intentional damage. **Please note that intentional damage or gross negligence is not covered.**

School Bus Transportation

Bus stop pick-up times: Bus routes, bus numbers, driver's name, and approximate pick-up times will be posted on the transportation webpage a few days prior to the start of school. On the first day of school, students should be waiting at their bus stop 30 minutes early. www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/transportation.

Bus GPS App: The BusRight App allows the parent/guardian to see where their child's bus is in real-time. Information on how to register will be sent at the beginning of the school year.



Out-of-District/Transfer Students' Transportation: Reminder that the child may only ride the bus they are assigned at the pickup and drop-off location identified by the school corporation. Reminder that if the child is riding the bus, a parent/guardian agrees to supervise the child before/after school at their assigned bus stop.

Up-To-Date Immunizations

Indiana law requires each child enrolled in school to be completely immunized against communicable diseases. Required vaccinations for the 2023-2024 school year can be found on the MVCSC Health Services website page at www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/healthservices.

All records must be on file before the child can attend classes. If your child has received vaccinations over the summer, please submit a copy to your school of attendance or to the Corporation Nurse via fax# (317) 482-4113 or email tracy.furnas@mvcsc.k12.in.us.

Last Call for 2023-2024 Ambassadors



Last call! Community members still have a little time to apply for the role of a Mt. Vernon Ambassador for the 2023-24 school year. Now entering its third year, this program offers behind-the-scenes information about MVCSC and empowers Ambassadors with knowledge and understanding about every department.

This group of approximately 25 people will:

- Attend eight Tuesday-morning meetings through the school year (1 per month August - April, excluding December. All meetings are from 7:50 to 9:30 am).
- Learn details about transportation, finance, special education, technology and more.
- Meet other spirited Mt. Vernon community members.
- Visit and learn more about the programs at the Mini-Marauder Preschool, an elementary school, Mt. Vernon Middle School and Mt. Vernon High School.
- Be a resource of detailed MV knowledge for friends and our community.
- Be a resource for MVCSC leadership.

Interested? Learn more and apply through the MVCSC website. www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/Ambassadors

Teacher & Staff of the Year

Congratulations to the 2022-2023 district winners for Teacher of the Year (TOY), Karen Riesterer, Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher at Mt. Vernon High School, and Staff of the Year (SOY) Wendy Mayo, Instructional Assistant at Mt. Comfort Elementary.

Mrs. Riesterer, who has been with Mt. Vernon Schools for 18 years, says, "I enjoy the day-to-day interaction with students and staff. It is a wonderful moment in teaching when students apply what they have learned in the classroom to their life."

Mrs. Mayo, in her first year at Mt. Vernon, said "I was shocked! I have been in this position for such a short time and it was hard to wrap my mind around how I could deserve such an honor. There are so many other deserving people. It's truly an honor to work for Mt. Vernon."

At the MVEF's Black and Gold Gala, both district winners received a \$2,500 stipend through the Ryan Fry Excellence in Education Award, thanks to the generosity of MVEF donors, Jill and Kevin Prefontaine.



Staff Honored at End-of-School Year Breakfast Celebration

Several Mt. Vernon staff were honored and recognized at the inaugural end-of-year staff breakfast for five year increments of service. Retirees were also honored and recognized for their commitment to Mt. Vernon.

5 YEARS

Michelle Anderson
Lucinda Blair
Brian Boudouris
Gerri Burge
Nicholas CLarkson
Haley Emmert
Jessica Gowin
Kacie Grimm
Cary Hargis
Tracy Hoyt
Camille Hull
Michelle Martin
Jay Matthews
Argelyn McNutt
Jaclyn Nason
Christi Poske

Nicole Rehm
Benjamin Rhoades
Lee Ann Sherman
Erin Siefker
Byron Simpson
Jennifer Sims
Emily Snider
Emily Tucker
Debra Wilkison
John Wilkison
Laura Wilson

10 YEARS

Leigh Anderson
Lindsey Crow
Rodney Fite

Ashley Gronganz
Mathew Hankley
Elizabeth Jenkins
Shanda Jouppi
Stephanie Miller
Amy Nichols
Desiray Scalf
Jordan Sell
Jaime Wilson

15 YEARS

Jeff Crague
20 YEARS
Mary Hopper
Lori Barnett
Jill Chastain

Jenny David
Deborah Griffey
Jacqueline Hutslar
Nicole Johnson
Kyle Miller
Kristina Monagle
Lisa Tappy
Stacy Webber

25 YEARS

Kathy Reed
Rita Osborn

30 YEARS

Teresa Cook
Delinda Deckard

RETIREES

Karen Cochran – 42 years, *MVHS Business Teacher*

Lisa Long – 27 years, *Food Service*

Rita Osborn – 26 years, *Transportation*

Dana Hochstedler – 21 years, *District Librarian*

Susan Diane Rafert – 18 years, *MES*

Julie Cole – 12 years, *FES*

Dawn Guthrie – 11 years, *MVHS Cafe*

James Cochran – 10 years, *MVHS*



The Cutest Spectacle in Racing

Fortville Elementary School (FES) and McCordsville Elementary School (MES) recently celebrated the month of racing by hosting "Kindy 500," also known as the cutest spectacle in racing. Kindergarteners decorated a cardboard box as a race car, paraded through their school and ran with each other in front of an audience of parents. The festivities ended with medals, milk and lots of smiles.

MES hosted their "Kindy 500" with Indy 500 Broadcaster Paul Page announcing each race and 500 princesses helping to award each winner. The kindergarten students raced each other on a stretch on the track after they paraded through the hallways, high-fiving older students. Several heats revealed a class winner, and they competed to have the fastest overall winner. Three 500 Princesses gave the fastest racer a jug of milk and a trophy to commemorate the event.

Academic Wall of Fame

WE ARE SO PROUD
OF THE MVHS
CLASS OF 2023



MCCORDSVILLE ELEMENTARY

Spelling Bee Champion: Violet Perry
Addition T-Race Champion: Cora Helm
Multiplication T-Race Champion:
Braylon Stewart

MT. VERNON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Spelling Bee Champion: Ethan Lear
Geography Bee Champion: Justin Green

MT. VERNON HIGH SCHOOL

Valedictorian: Ella Hubbell
Salutatorian: Erica Conley

SCHOOL BOARD SCHOLAR FIVE TIMES OR MORE

Dawson Anderson (6) Lillianna Fronck (6)
Lukas Hummel (6) Victoria Jensen (5)

FORTVILLE ELEMENTARY

Spelling Bee Champion: Callie Floyd
Addition T-Race Champion: Kinley Webber
Multiplication T-Race Champion: Evelyn Keljo

MT. COMFORT ELEMENTARY

Spelling Bee Champion: Zoey Rodgers
Addition T-Race Champion: Moira Statler
Multiplication T-Race Champion:
Keagan Rauch



Save the Dates!

Please mark your calendars for two Mt. Vernon Education Foundation events and help the Foundation with its great work in supporting opportunities for students that simply cannot be otherwise funded by the MVCSC.

Get ready for **"CHIP IN FORE KIDS" TOPGOLF, Thursday, September 14, 2 to 5 p.m.** Thanks to the title sponsors: Ratio and AECOM Hunt.

And it's never too early to save the date for the annual **BLACK AND GOLD GALA**, set for **April 6, 2024**, once again in the Indiana Rooftop Ballroom. Learn more about the Foundation's work at MtVernonFoundation.org

Graduation

Mt. Vernon High School's Top 15!



Ella Hubbell
Erica Conley
Ethan Murphy
Xander Allen

Griffin Ruminer
Dawson Anderson
Dawson Wagner
Gabriel Bell

Daylon King
Ava Crouch
Julie Nicklin
Joseph Wilson

Lillianna Fronck
Abby Flick
John Kroemer

CUTEST SPECTACLE *continued*

FES's "Kindy 500" started with all students cheering them on as they walked through the school with their race car. The ceremony began with the art teacher, Mr. Reiffel, leading the first pace lap outside. The students then raced a lap, followed by the students celebrating with their families.

Congratulations to all of the kindergarteners for their creativity and visually crafting their personality into their Kindy 500 cars. It was a beautiful and enjoyable day for all.



Board Earns Award

Congratulations to the Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation Board of Trustees for receiving the Exemplary Governance Award from the Indiana School Board Association (ISBA). They received this award at the Commendable level, for boards that have a majority of members with Commendable individual status. Individual status is obtained by earning points through attendance at ISBA events and activities



MT. VERNON

COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

1806 W. State Rd 234, Fortville, IN 46040

Enjoy Free MVCSC Events via 65+ Club



Are you 65 or older and living within Mt. Vernon school district?

If so, you can enjoy free admission to most Mt. Vernon Middle School and High School events by obtaining a Mt. Vernon “65+ Club” event pass.

To receive a multi-year “Mt. Vernon 65+ Club” event pass, take your identification (drivers license or state-issued identification card) and proof of in-district residency (utility bill, mortgage statement, HUD statement or a lease agreement) to the MVCSC Administrative Service Center at 1806 W. State Road 234. The office is open from 7:30 am - 4:00 pm Monday through Friday.

There are a few exclusions, detailed on www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/65club, but this pass will open the door for free admission to a host of entertaining school events throughout the year.



MT. VERNON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
65+ CLUB
EVENT PASS

www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/65club