

OUR MOUNT

VERNON GRADUATES

HAPPY WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



Dr. K. Veronica Smith
Acting Superintendent of Schools
MVHS Class of 1975

A wide variety of influential, impactful and exceptional women have passed through the halls of the Mount Vernon City School District throughout the years. From educators, business leaders to politicians and beyond, the women that come from this school district have done remarkable things.

Two women that have made an extreme impact but were taken from us too soon are Elise Finch and Sharon Bradley. Read more to learn about the impact these women have had on Mount Vernon and other women throughout their lives and the many women that have seen great success following their time in the Mount Vernon City School District.

Even beyond the women on these pages, Mount Vernon has seen leaders such as Janet Difiore, who served as the Chief Judge of New York, come through the school system. The women from the Mount Vernon City School District are exceptionally accomplished.

See what Women's History Month means to these women on our YouTube channel! Click the link below to view the video.

<https://youtu.be/93JS2uDsg08>



Sharon Bradley

Mount Vernon STEAM Academy Founder and Principal
MVHS Class of 1976

Sharon Bradley was a woman who left a mark wherever she went, and especially all throughout the Mount Vernon City School District and its community. Mrs. Bradley was the principal of the Mount Vernon STEAM Academy and was responsible for its opening in 2018. She was the first leader of the innovative school and its intensive STEM programs.

"She was as good as gold, and also, quite frankly, as tough as nails, and she had to be," said Rebecca Jones, Principal at Lincoln School. "Mrs. Bradley was a tireless advocate for the children of this community knowing that so many of their needs had to be met. Somebody had to fight the good fight, and she was ready and willing."

Mrs. Bradley was the first Black woman to lead a STEM school in America. She was also raised in Mount Vernon and committed her life to educating and inspiring children in her community. Following her retirement, she was awarded the Knight Light Award for her tremendous positive impact on students, other educators and the Mount Vernon community.

Sharon Bradley's impact is still felt in the Mount Vernon City School District, with so many teachers and administrators who have been shaped by and have emulated her commitment to Mount Vernon scholars.



Elise Finch Henriques

CBS Meteorologist
MVHS Class of 1989

A sister, mother, and friend to many, Elise Finch Henriques shined as a role model and leader from a very young age. Mrs. Finch Henriques was a team member at WCBS for 16 years, with previous anchor and reporter experience with FOX, CBS, and ABC. Elise, who received several awards for her work, was also proud to say she was born in Mount Vernon and that she graduated from Mount Vernon High School.

"She always was able to nurture people's best sides, and she did a really good job of making sure she explained to people how dynamic they were," said Kiya Finch-Roberts, Elise's sister and a teacher at Mount Vernon Honor Academy. "I think she got that from the women in our lives. My grandmother Connie, my grandmother Hazel, and most definitely my mom Charlotte, who was a teacher in the Mount Vernon City School District for 37 years."

Elise earned a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University, where she received the prestigious President's Award. She went on to earn a Master of Science in Broadcast Journalism from Syracuse University. She held a seal of approval from the American Meteorological Society. Elise was a proud member of the Jack and Jill Association of America and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc, the first intercollegiate historically African American sorority.





Cheryl L. Davis
Writer and Attorney
MVHS Class of 1979



Ruth Hassell-Thompson
Former State Senator
A.B. Davis Class of 1961



Lisa Copeland
President - Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce
MVHS Class of 1985



Helene Thompson-Njenga
Board Trustee
MVHS Class of 1985



Shawyn Patterson-Howard
Mayor
MVHS Class of 1986



Dr. Donna Marable
Retired Principal and New Jersey State Coordinator
MVHS Class of 1980



Adriane Saunders
Board Trustee
MVHS Class of 1974



Dr. Gayle White-Wallace
Director of Pre-K, ATLAS and Gifted and Talented
MVHS Class of 1997



Sheryll Brownlee
Retired from Westchester Senior Programs & Services
Community Outreach
MVHS Class of 1973





Dr. Melissa White
Principal - Pennington School
MVHS Class of 2003



Dr. Lynne Middleton
Board Trustee
MVHS Class of 1974



Jacqueline Green
Principal - Cecil H. Parker School
MVHS Class of 1986



Debbie Burrell-Butler
Executive Director of the Mount Vernon Youth Bureau
MVHS Class of 2001



Wanda White
Board Trustee
MVHS Class of 1969



Danielle Davis-Marrow
Principal - Mount Vernon Honor Academy
MVHS Class of 1984



Frances Lightsey
Former Principal and Senior Vice President of
Catalyst Education LLC
MVHS Class of 1974



Serapher Conn-Halevi
Mount Vernon City Marshall
MVHS Class of 1973



Sabina Kelley
Board Trustee
MVHS Class of 1979

