



MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2024 DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PROJECTED GRADUATION RATES

| | |
|-------|---------------|
| MVHS | 82.70% |
| STEAM | 90.70% |
| DWSA | 93.55% |
| RTA | <u>21.90%</u> |
| | 79.90% |

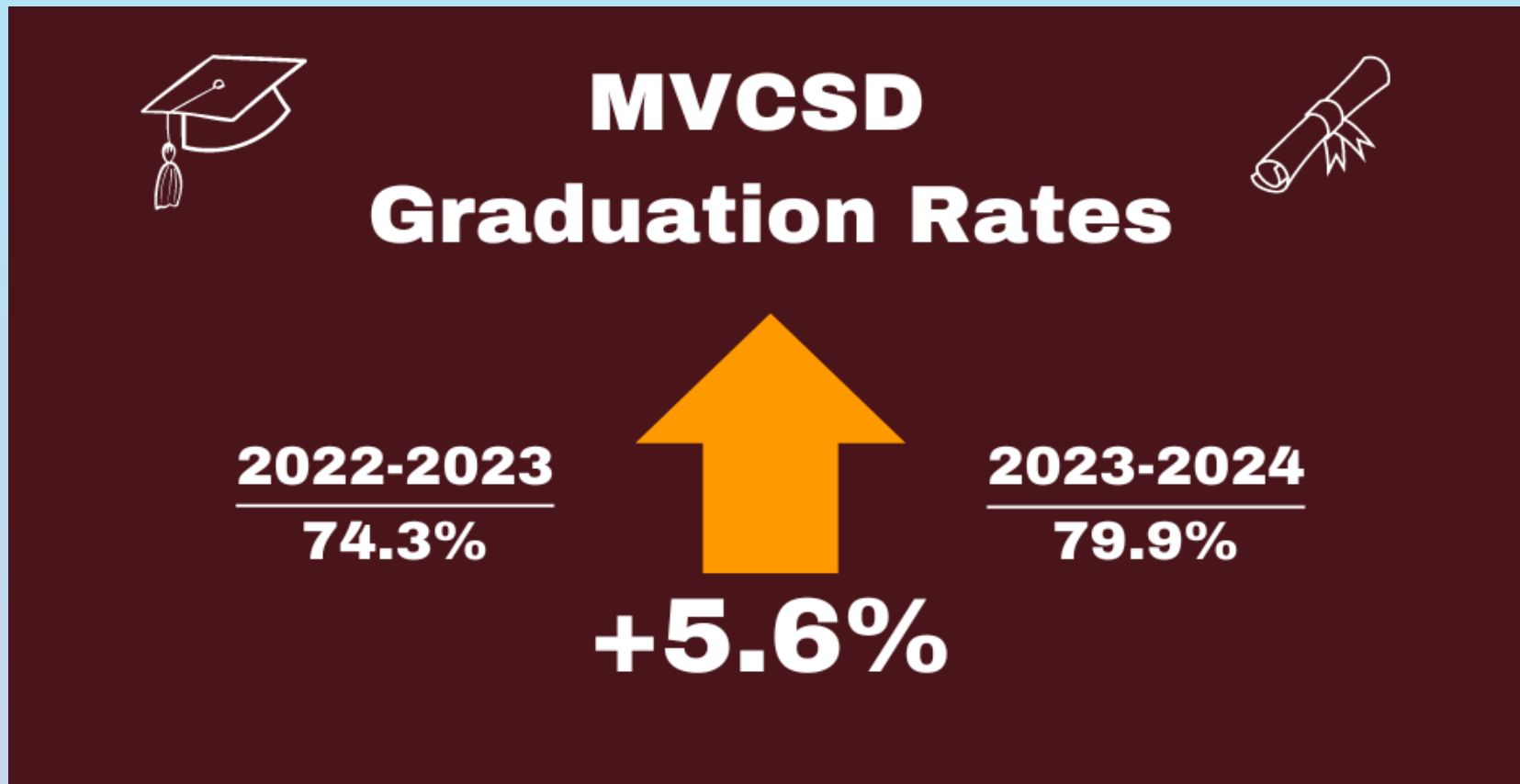
5.6% INCREASE
FROM 2023



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

GRADUATION RATE RISES TO HIGHEST IN DECADES

The MVCSD's 2023-2024 graduation rate climbed to a level not seen in more than two decades. The projected graduation rate – 79.9% – increased 5.6 percentage points over the previous year.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MVCSD PASSES 2024-2025 BUDGET TO DELIVER HIGH QUALITY PROGRAMS TO STUDENTS

Voters approved a \$271,266,317 budget for the MVCSD 2024-2025 school year. The budget increases spending by \$5,296,496, or 1.99%, from the previous year. The spending plan maintains academic and extracurricular programming and expands and continues investments in academic initiatives, including early childhood education and technology and dual language programs.



**2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR
BUDGET PASSES**

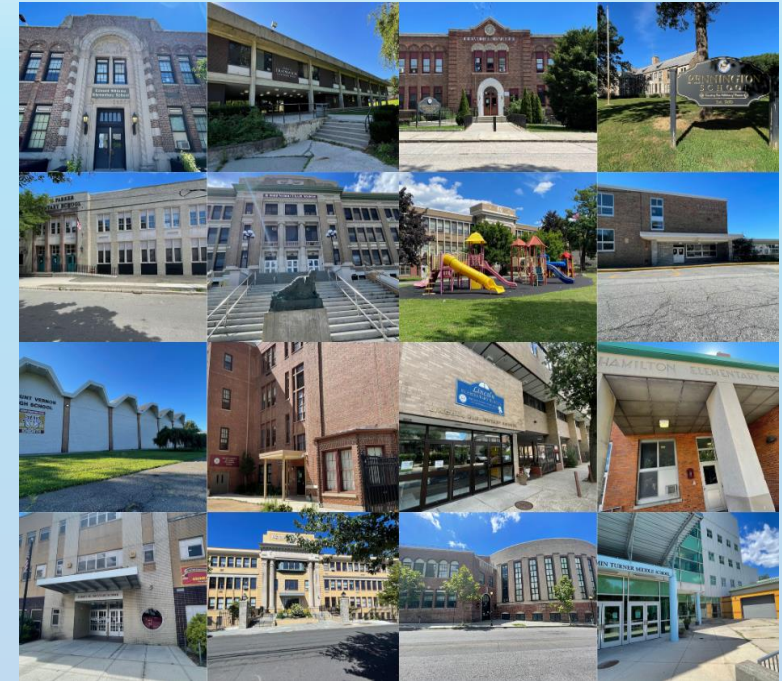
**THANK YOU, MOUNT VERNON
VOTERS!**

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NEW OPERATIONS & ACCOUNTABILITY DEPARTMENT PROJECTS IMPROVE BUILDINGS AND PERFORMANCE

The MVCSD Operations and Accountability Department successfully completed several projects to directly improve the safety and educational experience throughout the District.

- ▶ Removal and abandonment of all oil tanks in compliance with NYSED and Westchester County DOH requirements.
- ▶ Merger of Rebecca Turner Elementary School and Benjamin Turner Middle School. Provided all logistical, operational and public relations support for the entire undertaking.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OPERATIONS & ACCOUNTABILITY

- ▶ All buildings were inspected and received certificates of occupancy, a massive undertaking for a school district with 17 buildings.
- ▶ Comprehensive security camera upgrade for five schools – BTA, MVLA, MVHA, Hamilton School and Grimes School – at a significant cost savings from the previously contracted camera company and utilized remaining grant money resulting in zero cost to the District.
- ▶ Purchased four government-level X-Ray machines directly from the manufacturer for three high schools, providing security improvements.

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OPERATIONS & ACCOUNTABILITY

- ▶ Successful District-wide emergency abatement of asbestos was also completed weeks before the opening of schools in 15 classrooms at MVHS, the Pupil Personnel Services suite and bathroom at the Board of Education and a bathroom at Edward Williams School, improving the safety of all individuals in those buildings.
- ▶ Led a partnership with City Hall, Westchester Youth Shelter, the Mount Vernon Youth Bureau to create a cannabis court and find alternative disciplinary pathways to implement restorative practices for challenged youth, while offering them additional and nontraditional pathways to success.
- ▶ Negotiated costs for an affordable transportation contract to provide reliable transport to students.

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OPERATIONS & ACCOUNTABILITY

Renovation work was completed in 24 rooms at Graham School to make the building safe for students and staff. The Buildings and Grounds Department completed the work quickly after a collapse in August, so Graham students could go back to school as soon as possible. The school reopened September 16, 2024.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

GRAHAM SCHOOL SUCCESSFULLY REOPENS IN- PERSON AFTER ONLINE START

Students started in-person learning at Graham School on September 16, 2024, after renovations. Students were learning remotely for the first two weeks of school. Graham School administrators, teachers and teaching assistants worked to build relationships with students and their families to make the remote start successful. Some Graham students were also transferred to provide minimal disruption to their in-person learning.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

I-READY CONNECT

The District has utilized the online learning platform i-Ready to assess students and collect data to inform instruction

PAYROLL IMPROVEMENTS

The District implemented improvements to its payroll system to ensure convenient and efficient processing for faculty and staff.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MV STEAM ACADEMY RANKED TOP 25 HIGH SCHOOL IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY

According to statistics from Public School Review, Mount Vernon STEAM Academy is one of the top 25 high schools in Westchester County, which has the highest concentration of top-ranked public high schools in New York State.

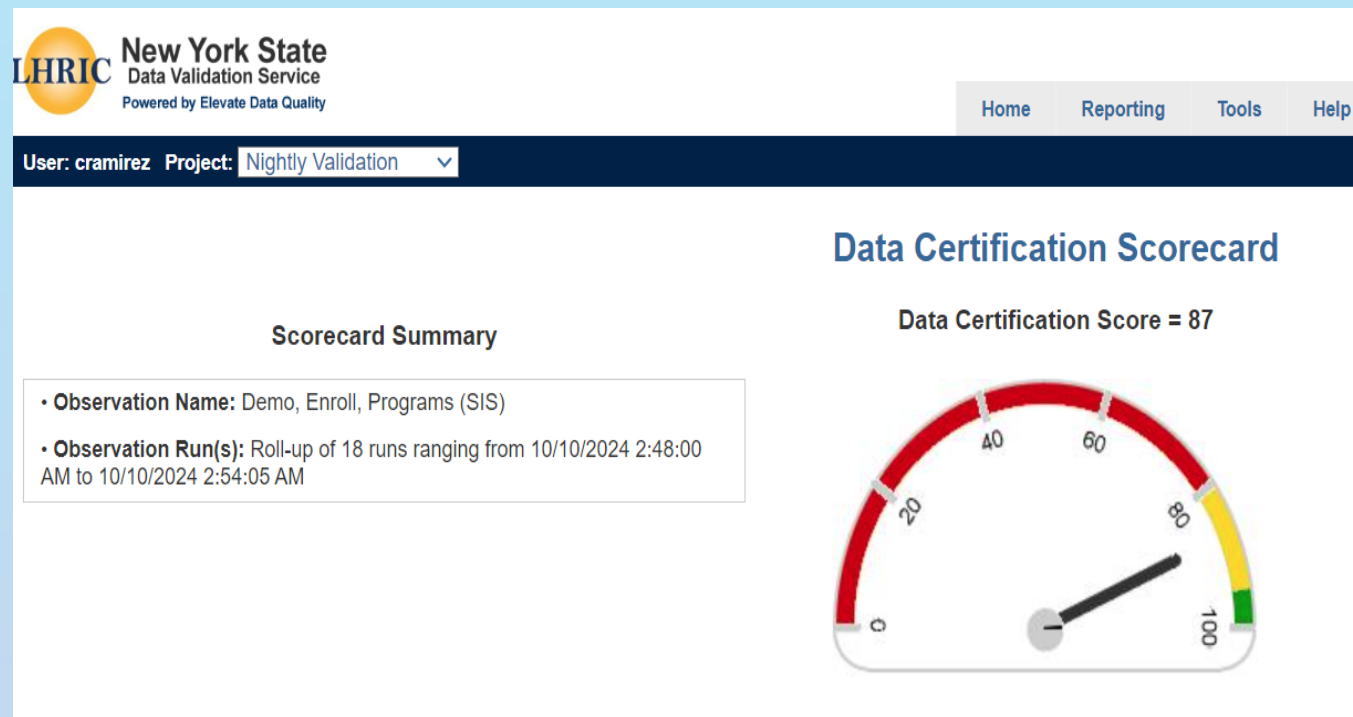


| | | | | |
|-------|---|------------------------|------|-----|
| 22. - | Mount Vernon Steam | 350 Gramatan Ave | 9-12 | 756 |
| 23. | Academy | Mount Vernon, NY 10552 | | |
| | Magnet School | (914) 665-5120 | | |
| | (Math: 85-89% Reading: 85-89%) | | | |
| | Rank: 10/10 Top 10% | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Add to Compare | | | |

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DISTRICT DRAMATICALLY IMPROVES DATA COLLECTION AND ACCURACY

The District recorded significant improvements in its state data reporting by receiving a score of 87% accuracy. Accurate and consistent data ensures compliance with state reporting requirements, which can affect funding and resources allocated to schools. It also ensures that the District can implement proper individualized learning plans for students.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BUILDING REORGANIZATION SURVEYS

Three surveys have been released to assess the community's support for reorganizing the District's K-8 buildings. The proposed reconfiguration involves shifting grades seven and eight to separate areas of the three themed high schools.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CTE AUTOMOTIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH FORD EXPANDS

MVCSD partners with Ford and Rockland Community College for the Ford Automotive Career Exploration (ACE) program. The expansion of the program, which began in 2022, was announced on Thursday, November 16, 2023.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

RALLY AGAINST STATE EDUCATION CUTS HELD AT BENJAMIN TURNER ACADEMY

Over 50 community members, students, educators and local representatives lined up on the steps outside BTA to protest state education cuts on Friday, March 1, 2024. After over a month of lobbying with state and local officials, the District prevailed and will receive the \$2.9 million that was set to be removed from the budget.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

STUDENTS THRIVE IN AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Mount Vernon City School District offered a number of afterschool programs throughout the 2023-2024 school year at all its schools. The programs offered in the District include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ Academic Power Hour
- ▶ Extended Day Programs
- ▶ Extended School Year Summer Program
- ▶ Clubs at every school
- ▶ Wide array of athletic programs
- ▶ EMT after school training program at MVHS
- ▶ Weight room extracurricular club
- ▶ Mount Vernon STEAM Academy e-sports



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS (continued)

- ▶ Voluntary Income Tax Assistance training at MVHS
- ▶ Mock trial at MVHS
- ▶ DWSA robotics team
- ▶ Theater production of Beauty and the Beast at Pennington
- ▶ Drumline at Mount Vernon Leadership Academy
- ▶ DWSA middle school drumline
- ▶ DWSA theater, which put on performances of Annie Jr. this year

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS (continued)

- ▶ B.A.P.S. (Beautiful, Ambitious, Positive Sisters) Girls Club at Benjamin Turner Academy
- ▶ Mount Vernon Youth Bureau Programs: Girls Embracing Maturity (G.E.M) after school program; Safe Haven Program; Safe Place for Our Girls, and more.
- ▶ **Contact your children's school for more information on after school programs available.**

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

STEM SUMMER CLASSES AT PENNINGTON

- ▶ Congressman Jamaal Bowman visited Pennington School to sit in on a class at the Northeast STEM Starter Academy (NSSA) on Monday, July 31, 2023.

DISTRICT WELCOMES BACK STAFF AT CONVOCATION

- ▶ Unity, togetherness and collaboration were the focus for the 2023-24 school year's convocation on Tuesday, September 5, 2023.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FOOD PANTRY OPENS AT BTA

Students and parents congregated at Benjamin Turner Academy for the opening ceremony of a new food pantry located at the school on Thursday, May 2, 2024.



MVCSD HOLDS SUPER HEALTH AND WELLNESS BLOCK PARTY

Children ran around the field at MVHA playing games, as their families gathered information from various community organizations at the MVCSD's Super Health and Wellness Block Party on Saturday, June 1, 2024.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MVCSD ADMINISTRATORS SHINE DURING THEIR TIME AS SUPERINTENDENTS FOR THE DAY

Seven administrators served as superintendents for the day during the 2023-2024 school year.



**Superintendents
for the Day**



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SCHOLARS THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT PARTICIPATE IN GROW BAG INITIATIVE

Scholars from RTA, Lincoln School and Graham School were digging up soil and getting their hands dirty at the MVHS greenhouse to plant nutritious resources for the community on Thursday, May 23, 2024.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MOUNT VERNON STEAM ACADEMY STUDENTS TEACH AT GRAHAM SCHOOL

Graham School students received engaging financial literacy classes from student-teachers on Thursday, February 29, 2024, as Mount Vernon STEAM Academy students came to teach the elementary schoolers.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PENNINGTON SCHOOL CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH WITH DERBY TEA PARTY

Young ladies in stylized hats and pastel-dresses gathered at the media center at Pennington School with anticipation for the first Women's History Month Derby Tea Party Celebration on Thursday, March 14, 2024.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MVHS SENIOR TO ATTEND VAUGHN COLLEGE FOR AVIATION

Nathaniel Edwards was recently accepted into Vaughn College of Aeronautic Engineering, Aviation and Technology, where he will pursue a degree in the Aircraft Operations program.



DWSA STUDENT NAMED MOUNT VERNON YOUTH POET LAUREATE WINNER

Kaitlyn Leslie-Smith, a rising junior at Denzel Washington School of the Arts, was announced the 2024-2025 Mount Vernon Youth Poet Laureate on Thursday, June 27, 2024.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

STUDENTS IN MY BROTHER'S KEEPER PROGRAM VISIT ALBANY

Students in the My Brother's Keeper Program, along with MBK advisory Brother Arthur Muhammad, visited Albany in April 2024 and met with New York State Commissioner of Education Dr. Betty A. Rosa.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TWO MVCSD STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS AT CARROLL F. JOHNSON SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT DINNER

Two twelfth grade students from Mount Vernon High School and Mount Vernon STEAM Academy received scholarships at the Carroll F. Johnson Scholastic Achievement Dinner on Wednesday, May 22, 2024.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS - RTA

RTA STUDENTS ON ACCELERATED PATH TO GRADUATION IN FIRST YEAR OF THE ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL

In August 2023, the Mount Vernon City School relocated its alternative high school program, the Sundown Academy, to the former Rebecca Turner Elementary School location. In the wake of this decision, the school was renamed Rebecca Turner Academy (RTA) and became a location that housed the alternative high school and pre-kindergarten classes.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS - RTA (continued)

REBECCA TURNER ACADEMY STUDENT RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP AT VFW BANQUET

Rebecca Turner Academy 11th grade student Alicia Barton accepted a \$500 scholarship from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 596 at the VFW Scholarship Banquet on Tuesday, April 23, 2024. To earn the scholarship, she won the Voice of Democracy Essay Contest with an essay about the pillars of democracy.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS - RTA (continued)

CTE DEPARTMENT INTRODUCING EMT PILOT PROGRAM FOR RTA AND MVHS STUDENTS

The MVCSD CTE Department has announced that it will be offering emergency medical technician (EMT) training at Mount Vernon High School. The courses will be available for around 20 12th-grade students at MVHS and Rebecca Turner Academy (RTA).



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS - STEAM ACADEMY

APPROXIMATELY 60 PARTICIPANTS COMPETE IN THE KNIGHTS E- SPORTS CLUB

The STEAM Knights Esports Club began in October 2023, with an official ribbon cutting on December 18. By April 2024, the club had approximately 60 participants and is providing students with an engaging and competitive afterschool activity.



STEAM ACADEMY(continued)

FORD ACE PROGRAM EXPANDED TO MV STEAM ACADEMY STUDENTS

Students from the Mount Vernon STEAM Academy, Mount Vernon High School and Rebecca Turner Academy (RTA) are coming together to learn car mechanics, as the Ford Automotive Career Exploration Program has expanded to STEAM and RTA students.



STEAM ACADEMY(continued)

MV STEAM STUDENTS BEGIN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CLASS THROUGH IONA UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

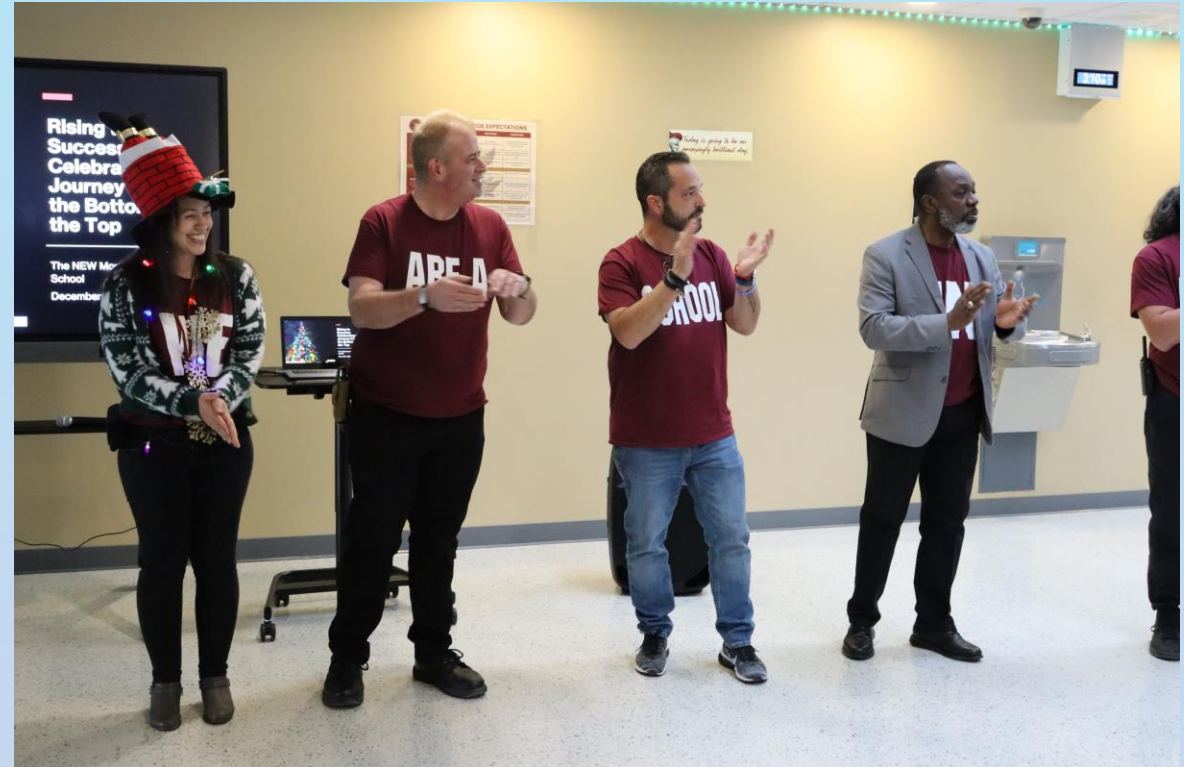
Students at Mount Vernon STEAM Academy entered their classrooms for an Artificial Intelligence class, taught by Sumaiya Chowdhury, on Wednesday, December 6, 2023. The lesson reviewed the basics of AI through a partnership with Iona University.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS - MVHS

MVHS EARNs NYS DESIGNATION AS A SCHOOL IN GOOD STANDING

On Wednesday, December 20, 2023, Dr. Pauline Pearce, Principal at MVHS, announced to staff that the school has been taken off of New York State's Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) list and is now designated as Local Support and Improvement (LSI) or also commonly known as a school in good standing with the state.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS - MVHS (continued)

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION NURSING ASSISTANT STUDENTS PASS PROMETRIC EXAMS

MVHS CTE Nursing Assistant students are now Certified Nursing Assistants after taking their Prometric exams. All 10 students passed both the written exam and practical skills, making this the second year in a row with a 100 percent pass rate.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS - MVHS (continued)

MVHS CTE DEPARTMENT HOSTS SHARK TANK COMPETITION

The auditorium of Mount Vernon High School was transformed into a contest stage for the House that Time Forgot Competition, presented by the Career and Technical Education Department, on Thursday, April 25, 2024.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS - MVHS (continued)

MVHS APPROVED FOR IB CAREER-RELATED PROGRAMME

MVHS received a letter of acceptance from the IB Programme on Monday, August 12, 2024, notifying the school of its approval to offer the Career-related Programme. MVHS currently offers several IB courses, which are international college-level classes where students can receive an IB Diploma and college credit.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS - DWSA

DWSA STUDENTS MEET STUDENTS FROM CHINA VIRTUALLY THROUGH ONE WORLD GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

After a year of communications with students from Jingling Primary School in China, Denzel Washington School of the Arts sixth graders finally met their Chinese counterparts via Zoom on Wednesday, April 17, 2024.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS - DWSA (continued)

DENZEL WASHINGTON VISITS DWSA TO SPEAK WITH STUDENTS

Denzel Washington School of the Arts students had a rare opportunity to meet and speak with Denzel Washington, the namesake of the school, on Tuesday, June 4, 2024.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS - DWSA (continued)

DAME DASH SCREENS MOVIE TRAILER AT DWSA AND ANNOUNCES YOUTH FILM FESTIVAL

Film mogul Dame Dash visited Denzel Washington School of the Arts to screen the trailer of his new film “Prince of Detroit,” and announce a film festival at DWSA on Tuesday, October 17, 2023.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ACTING SUPERINTENDENT DR. SMITH RECEIVES PROCLAMATION FROM NYS SENATOR JAMAL BAILEY

Acting Superintendent Dr. K. Veronica Smith received a proclamation from New York State Senator Jamal Bailey, recognizing her for her exemplary service to the community and the State of New York for Women's History Month on Friday, April 5, 2024.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ONLINE REGISTRATION LEADS TO LINE-FREE REGISTRATION YEARLONG

The MVCSD has offered online registration since 2021, with in person registration assistance at the Education Center. With the implementation and refinement of this process, parents and guardians face no lines when registering their children.

MVCSD OFFERS EXTENDED TAX COLLECTION HOURS

The MVCSD offered extended hours for tax collection from 3 to 6 p.m. from July 29 to 31 to ensure that all residents had ample time to prepare and pay their taxes without waiting in long lines. The District began collecting its own taxes in 2021 and has refined the process to ensure a smooth tax collection process.

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PARTNERSHIPS THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT FOSTER ACADEMIC GROWTH

In the past 10 years, the MVCSD has introduced and grown partnerships with a number of organizations, colleges and universities to deliver exceptional academic programming to students. The District has also increased its offering of trade programs during this time, expanding possibilities for all scholars.

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR AND KNIGHT LIGHT AWARDS GIVEN AT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Two MVCSD administrators, Pennington Principal Dr. Melissa White and Director of Humanities Marybeth Rhodes, were honored at the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, June 4, 2024. Acting Superintendent Dr. K. Veronica Smith and Board of Education President Lorna Kirwan presented the awards.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

STUDENTS SHARE SUGGESTIONS AT SUPERINTENDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Elementary and secondary school students worked with MVCSD administration throughout the year in Superintendent's Advisory Council meetings. They proposed improvements at their schools and worked with admin to make improvements throughout the District.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PRE-K STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES LEARN ABOUT NUTRITION WITH FEEDING WESTCHESTER

Elementary students and their parents learned about the importance of nutrition on Thursday, October 26, 2023. In collaboration with Feeding Westchester, families learned how to make various dishes, such as sweet potato fries, pear quesadillas and pumpkin cookies.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SCHOLARS IN MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT WEAR BLUE FOR WORLD DAY OF BULLYING PREVENTION

Students and staff wore blue to commemorate the start of National Bullying Prevention Month and World Day of Bullying Prevention on October 2, 2023. The District's No Place for Hate (NPFH) coordinators planned this event to raise awareness about bullying.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MVCSD HOLDS CONVOCATION FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

MVCSD administrators, teachers, teaching assistants and support staff congregated at their respective schools on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, for a District-wide convocation to prepare for and celebrate the upcoming school year.

MOUNT VERNON YOUTH ATTEND PUBLIC SAFETY SUMMIT

MVCSD Associate Superintendent for Operations and Accountability Mark Raimondi and students partook in discussions about public safety in Mount Vernon on Thursday, February 29, 2024, at the City of Mount Vernon's Youth Public Safety Summit.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FOURTH-GRADE STUDENTS AT GRAHAM SCHOOL START BAND LESSONS

Fourth-grade band students at Graham School unwrapped their new instruments during music class to play trombones and trumpets on Thursday, April 4, 2024. These new instruments came after the school received a grant from the Guitar Center Music Foundation for musical instruments and mouthpieces.



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OVER 500 ATTEND MVCSD'S SECOND ANNUAL AUTISM ACCEPTANCE DAY

Over 500 community members, students and parents attended the MVCSD's second annual Autism Acceptance Day on Monday, April 29, 2024.





Congratulations CLASS OF 2024

MVCSD VALEDICTORIANS AND
SALUTATORIANS EARN
SCHOLARSHIPS AND ACCEPTANCES TO
PREMIER UNIVERSITIES



In its first year as an alternative high school, RTA announced two hardworking individuals as the valedictorian and salutatorian for the Class of 2024: **Marlene Coronado**, the valedictorian, and **Blessin Allen**, the salutatorian.



Eric Lu was the valedictorian of the MVHS Class of 2024 with a GPA of 104.



Damaris Ferrer was valedictorian for Mount Vernon STEAM Academy with a GPA of 101



Britaney "British" Sinclair was salutatorian for the MVHS Class of 2024 with a GPA of 96.65.



Margaret Djamongue was Class of 2024 salutatorian at the Mount Vernon STEAM Academy with a GPA of 100.



Chanel Baxter has been named was DWSA's valedictorian for the Class of 2024.



Brielle Henderson was the 2024 DWSA salutatorian after achieving a GPA of 4.0 or 100.