



THE STEAM SCENE

MV STEAM ACADEMY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Testing

January 20th -23rd

Regents Testing: No HS Students

January 12th-16th

Midterms

January 20th

iReady MOY

January 30th

Common Assessment Analyses Due

January Meetings

January 7th

Faculty Meeting 3-4pm

January 21st

Department Meeting 3-4pm

Fieldtrips

None

School events

January 21st

Staff breakfast hosted by Admin team

January 29th

Tentative date for the High School Showcase Night at 6pm, at MVHS

Upcoming Holidays

January 19th

No School: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Spotlight

MAKING WAVES IN BIOLOGY: STEAM DAY WITH MR. BOYLAN

On December 18th, 9th-grade Biology students participated in an exciting STEAM Day activity led by the distinguished and incredible Mr. Boylan. Did you know he's raising trout in his room?! The class focused on New York State waterways and watersheds, enabling students to examine how water systems function in the real world.

Students engineered their own model waterways using a variety of materials, including different substrates, popsicle sticks, sand, rocks, fake trees and vegetation, and filter paper. By designing and testing their models, students learned how waterways filter water and how human and environmental factors impact watersheds.

This hands-on lab made Biology fun and interactive, allowing students to learn through creativity and experimentation. STEAM Day showcased how engaging science can be when students get to build, test, and problem-solve together. Overall, this lab proved that when science gets hands-on, learning really flows, and STEAM Day was anything but watered down!



District Celebrations

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN SUPPORT STAFF

In mid-December, the Mount Vernon City School District proudly celebrated the outstanding support staff who play a vital role in the success of our students and schools. Security guards, custodians, lunch monitors, cafeteria workers, social workers, and guidance counselors were recognized for their dedication, care, and commitment to serving our district. We were especially proud to celebrate four members of our own MV STEAM Academy staff who were selected through a schoolwide vote by members of our community. The reflections shared below, written by colleagues, highlight the meaningful impact these individuals have each day. Scan the QR code to view video and photos from the event and join us in celebrating these well-deserved honorees!

Read the full district article here!



I – Incredible.
 V – Valuable.
 E – Extraordinary.
 Y – You serve with heart.

“These words perfectly describe the kind of person Ivey is. She is always willing to go the extra mile, ensuring that every child and adult is cared for, and she does it all with a smile. We are grateful for her leadership, generosity, and the positive energy she brings to our school community each day.” – JC

“We’re proud to celebrate Ms. Iris Pogue as our District Support Staff of the Month. Ms. Pogue began her counseling internship just before the pandemic and, even after completing it, continued to selflessly dedicate her time to supporting Mount Vernon students. Through unprecedented challenges, she has served with grace, compassion, and unwavering commitment, consistently going above and beyond to ensure every student feels valued and supported. This recognition is well-deserved, and we are grateful to have her as part of our counseling team.” – Ms. Marte



“Santos is hands down one of the best security guards in the district! Her professionalism and commitment set the standard for STEAM security. She manages nearly everything that comes in and out of the building, doing so with precision and care. Her attendance record is flawless, and even while on leave, her dedication speaks volumes. Santos is always the first to arrive and the last to leave, making sure our school is safe from start to finish. I call her my boss because she truly is the heartbeat of this building, her presence keeps everything running smoothly, and we couldn’t do it without her.” – Shondy

“JC is the kind of person who makes an immediate impression – bold, energetic, and unapologetically himself. As the sign outside his office proudly reads, ‘I’m not yelling, this is just my voice!’ A voice that speaks up for others and keeps our building running smoothly. Behind the lion’s roar is a heart of gold. JC is fiercely protective of our school community, speaks with honesty, and will drop everything to help someone in need – including rescuing hungry teachers with a perfectly timed Sicilian slice. His loyalty, generosity, and pride in his work make him an invaluable member of our school family.” – Ms. Wallace

Staff Celebrations

NOVEMBER STAFF OF THE MONTH

STEAM Academy proudly honored three staff members whose dedication, talent, and quick thinking made a meaningful impact on our school community. Their achievements were celebrated at our December staff meeting with custom magazine covers and mirror ball trophies.

Ms. Pizzuti was recognized for her leadership in organizing the Fall Blood Drive, which helped save over 90 lives. Her commitment to service and community outreach made a powerful difference beyond our school walls.

Mr. Chambers was celebrated for his exceptional art instruction and innovative teaching techniques that inspire creativity and excellence in students. He was also recognized for launching the Ping Pong Club, providing students with a fun, active way to connect during lunch and after school.

Shawn was honored for his quick thinking and calm response while assisting an injured student. His life-saving knowledge as an EMT and firefighter made a critical difference. Although he was unable to attend the December staff meeting, he was proudly celebrated in spirit.

Congratulations to our November Staff of the Month, and thank you for all you do to go above and beyond for our students and school community. Don't forget to scan the QR code in this newsletter on pg. 8 to nominate colleagues whose work deserves recognition in future Staff of the Month celebrations.



Senior Spotlight

FINDING STRENGTH THROUGH ADVERSITY: SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

The MV STEAM Academy community is proud to recognize senior Eric Rodrigues, whose resilience and determination continue to inspire us all. Despite facing significant personal challenges, including the loss of his mother, Eric has remained focused on his goals and committed to his growth both academically and personally.

A three-sport athlete, Eric has excelled in football, wrestling, and track, earning All-League honors and recognition for his leadership and work ethic. Beyond athletics, he serves as an assistant director of Mount Vernon's Step Up! Program, where he mentors younger students and leads a fitness initiative focused on confidence and discipline.

Eric has been accepted to the University of New Haven and Mercy University with scholarships and plans to pursue a career in sports management or kinesiology. His perseverance, compassion, and leadership reflect the very best of MV STEAM Academy, and we are incredibly proud of all he has accomplished.

Read the full district article here!





Staff Celebrations

SAY HELLO TO OUR NEW EDUCATORS!

We're thrilled to welcome Ms. Stewart and Ms. Faust to the STEAM family! Their energy and expertise will make this year even more exciting for our students and staff. Get to know them below!



Ms. Faust joins our school as our new music teacher. She brings her experience from Gwynn Park Middle School in Prince George's County Public Schools in Maryland and is excited to share her love of music with students. Fun fact: her favorite food is sushi!



Ms. Stewart joins us as our new Biology teacher, bringing her experience from the Bronx. She's passionate about science and loves sharing her enthusiasm with students. Fun fact: her favorite meal is turkey wings, or really, any wings!



Around the School

SCIENCE IN SPARKLE: CRYSTAL CREATIONS FOR STEAM DAY

Under the guidance of Mr. Glinias, students explored the science behind solubility and crystallization by creating stunning crystal structures on pipe cleaners using borax. This hands-on lab combined chemistry with creativity as students designed unique ornaments to showcase during STEAM Day before winter break.

Through this experiment, students observed how temperature and saturation affect crystal growth, reinforcing key concepts in physical science. The activity not only highlighted the beauty of science but also encouraged problem-solving and precision as students measured, mixed, and monitored their solutions. It was a perfect blend of art and STEM learning that brought science to life in an engaging and festive way.



Guidance Department

COLLEGE DREAMS REALIZED AT INSTANT DECISION DAY

Several of our students were accepted on the spot during SUNY Purchase’s Instant College Decision Day!

They had the opportunity to meet directly with admissions representatives, tour the beautiful campus, and enjoy lunch in the dining hall. Our students were truly impressed, with both the environment and the warm welcome they received, and they had a fantastic experience exploring what SUNY Purchase has to offer!



Field Trips

WESTCHESTER KNICKS GAME BRINGS EXCITEMENT TO STEAM STUDENTS

“It’s the Westchester Knicks!” The excitement was palpable as students poured out of the train, tickets in hand, buzzing with anticipation. Inside the Westchester County Center, the court was bright and loud, music blasting while players warmed up just feet away. Seeing the Knicks in person was surreal; their passes were sharp, their shots smooth, and everything moved faster than it ever looks on TV. Every time the team scored, our section erupted in cheers.

Although the final score didn’t favor the Knicks, the experience was unforgettable. Twenty-five juniors and seniors had the chance to witness the energy of a live professional basketball game up close, even marveling at the players’ sheer size and athleticism. The group left with smiles and stories, already looking forward to the next game. Coach Smith organized and led the trip, with chaperones Ms. Grosso, Shondu, Ms. Clarke, and Ms. Wallace ensuring everything ran smoothly.



Guidance Department

MONTEFIORE HER HONOR FIELD TRIP: A HANDS-ON HEALTHCARE EXPERIENCE

Written by: DanaMarie Galindo



The Montefiore HER Honor field trip gave students an incredible opportunity to explore the inner workings of a hospital. Throughout the day, participants rotated through five interactive stations, including a CPR crash course, nutrition information sessions, and a mock interview station.

This experience emphasized hands-on learning as students engaged directly with professionals in fields ranging from EMTs to nutritionists. They practiced performing CPR on mannequins, gaining a life-saving skill, and discovered how public health experts, researchers, and nurses collaborate to provide quality care.

The trip offered a unique glimpse into healthcare careers and highlighted the importance of teamwork in the medical field.

Afterschool Programs

ACE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM: BUILDING FUTURES ONE TUESDAY AT A TIME

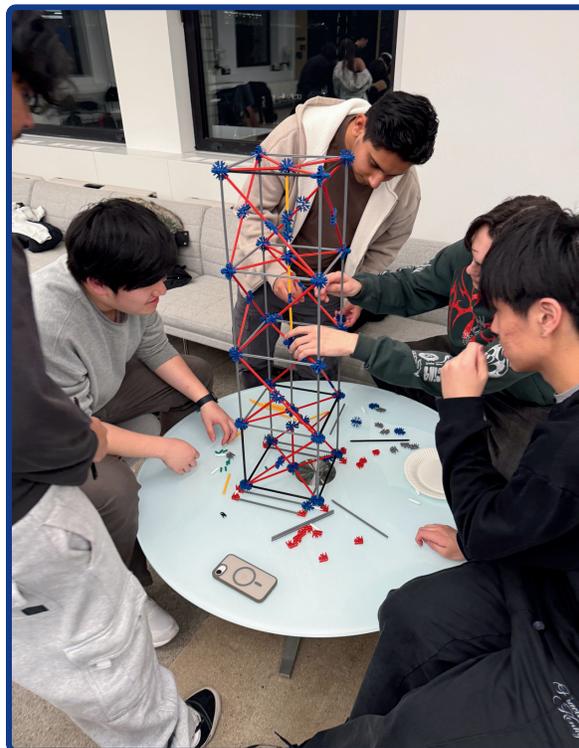
Students in grades 9–12 continue to gain real-world experience through our school’s ACE (Architecture, Construction, and Engineering) Mentorship Program. ACE connects students with professionals in architecture, construction management, and engineering, providing meaningful exposure to career pathways while strengthening presentation, collaboration, and problem-solving skills.

The program meets after school every Tuesday, allowing students to extend their learning beyond the classroom. Before winter break, ACE students took a special trip to Thornton Tomasetti’s office, expanding their experience beyond their usual visits to Con Edison in Manhattan. Traveling by bus from school, students explored structural engineering and architectural design through an engaging professional presentation.

Afterwards, students participated in a friendly engineering challenge, using K’NEX to design and build the tallest towers capable of holding the most weight. This design challenge encouraged creativity, teamwork, and the practical application of engineering concepts.

ACE students typically visit Con Edison in Manhattan to further explore how large-scale engineering and construction projects operate in professional settings. The program is led by Ms. Rodriguez and Mr. Glinias, whose commitment ensures students are supported, challenged, and inspired each week.

As student Leia Forman shared, “I like how it teaches about presentations and the activities are engaging and let us learn through experience.” Her reflection captures the heart of the ACE program, learning through real-world practice.



Around the School

HOLIDAY SPIRIT WEEK



Straight from the 'Gram!

mountvernoncityschoolsdistrict

mountvernoncityschoolsdistrict Caiden Hylton, a senior at Mount Vernon STEAM Academy, was nominated for LoHud's Wrestler of the Week for his outstanding 6-0 performance at Nyack's Red and Black Duals meet. He defeated the #10 wrestler in the state in the first period and improved his overall record to an undefeated 13-0! Vote for Caiden: tinyurl.com/mvz9mb83

Student Celebrations

HONOR ROLL BRILLIANCE SERVED FRESH

Read the full district article here!



On December 18, the MV STEAM Academy community came together to celebrate academic excellence at our First Marking Period Honor Roll Breakfast. Students, families, and staff gathered for a special morning to recognize scholars in grades 9-12 for their dedication and hard work.

The ceremony was led by our dynamic Assistant Principal, Ms. Brown, who welcomed families and highlighted the importance of perseverance, commitment, and strong support systems in student success. More than 300 students were on the Honor Roll, High Honor Roll, and Principal's Honor Roll, reflecting the strong culture of achievement at STEAM Academy.

We are incredibly proud of our honor roll students and grateful to the families who support them every step of the way. Congratulations to all of our scholars on this well-deserved recognition!

puzzle time!

DONATE TO THE SUNSHINE FUND!

Donate to our faculty-supported program that is used to acknowledge and support staff members during significant life events, both positive and challenging. See Ms. Grosso with any questions!

DONATE HERE:
Venmo
@Laura-Grosso-1



Message from the Principal

Thanks for your commitment to Academic Rigor, High Expectations, the 4Cs, RAW (Reading, Analyzing, and Writing in all subjects), PBL (Project-Based Learning), Explicit Direct Instruction, Collaborative Progress Monitoring, Excellence, and Professionalism at the MV STEAM Academy!



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*Around the School***DECEMBER ATTENDANCE**

7th Grade - 83.12%
 8th Grade - 87.69%
 9th Grade - 86.41%
 10th Grade - 81.22%
 11th Grade - 80.25%
 12th Grade - 80.33%

CLASS ADVISORS

Class of 2026
 Ms. Stanton

Class of 2027
 Ms. Comrie & Ms. Roberts

Class of 2028
 Ms. Wallace

Class of 2029
 Mr. Claro & Mr. Glinias

*About MV STEAM Academy***MISSION AND VISION**

The vision of the Mount Vernon STEAM Academy is to prepare students for success in the 21st century by providing equitable, rigorous, and innovative learning opportunities across all content areas through a STEAM lens.

We will promote active learning and challenge our students to take full ownership of their education, centered around the 4Cs (critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity) and 5Es (engage, explore, explain, elaborate, and evaluate). We encourage our students to identify and recognize their skills, talents, and passions.

*Important Information***CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!**

Help us showcase the amazing things happening at MV STEAM Academy! Share a classroom celebration, student achievement, or event you'd like featured in our monthly newsletter.

**STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH NOMINATION FORM**

Every role in our school makes a difference. Help us recognize a colleague who goes above and beyond! Nominations are open to all staff members, teachers, security, support staff, office, custodial, cafeteria, TAs, and more!

