ISSUE 03 / NOVEMBER 2025

THE STEAM SCENE

MV STEAM ACADEMY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Testing

December 12th

CA #2 Analysis Due

December Meetings

December 3rd

Faculty Meeting 3-4pm

December 17th

Department Meeting 3-4pm

Fieldtrips

December 5th

College Instant Decision Day at SUNY Purchase sponsored by Great Potential

December 8th

Her Honor Mentees trip to Montefiore Hospital

December 16th

Westchester Knicks Game (Junior & Seniors)

School events

December 12th

Staff Holiday Party from 7:00-11:00 pm, at Juliano's, in New Rochelle

December 15th

Distribute Winter Break Packets

December 18th

STEAM DAY

December 19th

Early Dismissal

Upcoming Holidays

December 22nd - January 2nd

No School: Winter Recess



Spotlight

WINTER COAT DRIVE!



We are collecting from **December 1st - December 12th**



Help keep our community warm this winter! We are collecting new and gently used coats for those in need.



Donation Drop-Off Locations

(in holiday wrapped boxes):

Main Entrance

Cafeteria

Faculty Room



Questions?

Please contact Ms. Guziczek in Room 404.



Thank you for your generosity and for helping us spread warmth this season!

Celebrating Veterans Day

HEROES IN OUR HALLWAYS



Each year on November 11, our nation pauses to honor Veterans Day, a time dedicated to recognizing the courage, sacrifice, and unwavering service of the men and women who have defended our country. Established in 1919 to commemorate the end of World War I, Veterans Day now honors all U.S. military veterans across all branches of service. It is a reminder of the freedoms we enjoy and the individuals whose dedication has safeguarded them.

At STEAM Academy, we are proud to have several veterans among our staff: Mr. Emerson, Mr. DeHay, Mr. Johnston, and Mr. R. Smith. Their service, leadership, and lived experiences enrich our school community every day, and we are grateful for all they continue to give both in and out of uniform.

But first, can you guess who the distinguished staff member on the right is? Find out the answer on page 9!

This year, we are honored to highlight two of our veterans:

Mr. R. Smith – United States Marine Corps
Service runs deep in Mr. Smith's family. His father, younger brother, cousins, and uncles have all served with honor across multiple branches, inspiring his own path. He chose the Marine Corps because, as he puts it, "they were the toughest and I've always loved challenges." His pride in the Corps is unmistakable: *Once a Marine, always a Marine!* He continues to live by the values instilled during his service: honor, courage, and doing what is right, always.

Mr. DeHay – United States Air Force & United States Marine Corps
Mr. DeHay was inspired to serve by his father and a strong family history of military service. Over more than 20 years in the USAF and USMC, he built lifelong friendships. He experienced the deep bond and brotherhood that come from relying on one another in the most demanding circumstances. The camaraderie he developed during his years of service remains one of his most incredible memories: "It will always stay with me."

We extend our deepest gratitude to all of our STEAM Academy veterans for their service to our country and their continued service to our students. Their dedication reminds us of the strength, resilience, and integrity that define true leadership.

DID YOU KNOW?

Navy
The Navy protects the ocean and seas using battleships.

Army
The Army is the largest part of the military. Soldiers in the Army fight on land.

Air Force
The Air Force operates in the air using aircraft, including fighter planes.

Marine Corps
The Marines fight on sea or on land and are trained to be ready for battle at any time.

Coast Guard
The Coast Guard defends the U.S. borders and helps with ocean rescues.

Around the School

ACTS OF KINDNESS

WRITTEN BY: DANAMARIE GALINDO

What makes a successful school environment? Supportive staff, caring teachers, and strong resources all play a role in helping students thrive. But the most effective schools strike a balance between rigorous academics and a compassionate, connected student body.

Students tend to do their best when they feel valued and respected. When schools focus solely on academic achievement, they can unintentionally overlook students' social development—sometimes leading to isolation or negative behaviors. At Mount Vernon STEAM Academy, students in Ms. Wallace's Intro to Psychology class address this issue head-on through an assignment called "Acts of Kindness." The goal is simple: carry out one genuine act of kindness that could make someone's day a little brighter.





The kindness bulletin board on the 2nd floor was created to offer support to students throughout the school day. It features colorful slips of paper divided into four categories, each aimed at addressing a different challenge students may face. Anyone can walk up, take what they need, and carry a small reminder that they are not alone. Each slip includes words of affirmation, advice for managing anxiety, guidance for handling mental health concerns, or "I am" statements meant to uplift and encourage. The creators wanted every message to feel genuine, approachable, and easy to understand. Students can take a slip discreetly, helping create an environment where reaching out for support feels private and free of judgment.



This bulletin board represents how students can come together to create something truly positive. It normalizes addressing emotional well-being in small, manageable ways and helps students feel more comfortable sharing their feelings and asking for help.

When speaking with the creators, Carol Valentin and Daniela Guerrero, they explained that their goal was to make emotional support more visible and accessible. They noticed many classmates struggling quietly and wanted the school to have a gentle, everyday reminder that care can appear in unexpected places. Their mission was to design something simple, encouraging, and easy for anyone to interact with on their way to class or after school.



Carol shared that designing the categories was the most important part. Each one reflects common challenges students often face, such as anxiety, loneliness, and low self-esteem. "We wanted the bulletin board to act like a friend who always knows the right thing to say at the right moment," she explained.

Daniela emphasized that kindness starts with small actions, and this board is a way to spark those actions throughout the school. She hopes students will take the slips and let the kindness ripple outward. Both creators believe the board not only provides emotional support but also strengthens the school community by reminding everyone to look out for one another. By turning compassion into action, the kindness board shows that even the smallest gestures can make a big difference in someone's day!

Around the School

1ST ANNUAL STEAMS-GIVING AND OCTOBER STAFF OF THE MONTH

On Thursday, November 20th, Mount Vernon STEAM Academy held its 1st Annual STEAMs-giving celebration, bringing staff together for an afternoon of gratitude, food, and connection. Hosted in the school's Media Center, the event blended the spirit of Thanksgiving with the innovative energy that defines the STEAM community. Attendees enjoyed music, laughter, and reflection as they celebrated a year marked by resilience, collaboration, and growth.





With DJ Lego providing upbeat music, the celebration highlighted the academy's commitment to fostering a supportive, appreciative school culture. A special moment of the afternoon was the announcement of October's Staff of the Month: Mr. Pally, who was honored with a custom TIME Magazine cover and a sparkling disco-ball trophy, with honorable mentions going to Mr. Adler and Ms. Jennifer for their contributions to the school community.



This joyful gathering was made possible thanks to Mr. Hyman, whose trusty notebook always signals something great in the works. The MV STEAM family extends heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Hyman for bringing everyone together to share love, laughter, and a few unforgettable dance moves.

Thank you to Jordan Solis, from our district's communication team, for the awesome photos! Scan the code to read the full article.

Professional Development

RAINBOW DATA: MAKING MATH DELICIOUSLY ENGAGING



On November 19, the STEAM Math Department participated in a professional development session led by Mr. Plati. The workshop focused on practical strategies for differentiation to meet the needs of diverse learners, including grouping by skill level, maintaining accommodations, and making adjustments meaningful. A highlight was a hands-on mini-lesson where teachers sorted Skittles to collect data and convert it into fractions, decimals, and percents, showing how sensory activities and real-world connections deepen understanding. The session emphasized creating engaging, individualized experiences so all students can access the content.

Senior Spotlight

KIARA HAMILTON SHINES AT JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF NEW YORK GALA

We are proud to celebrate STEAM Academy senior Kiara Hamilton, who attended the Junior Achievement of New York Annual Gala, and represented both JA and STEAM with exceptional pride and professionalism. Kiara's poise, enthusiasm, and dedication to JA's mission shone throughout the evening, embodying the qualities of a true Student Ambassador: leadership, confidence, and a passion for making a difference. This wonderful news was shared with us by Caroline Tzelios, Senior Manager of Programs at Junior Achievement of New York, who praised Kiara for her outstanding representation of our school and community.

Congrats to Kiara on this well-deserved recognition!



Caroline Tzelios & Kiara Hamilton

Field Trip

MARCHING INTO HISTORY: 7TH & 8TH GRADERS VISIT WEST POINT



Our 7th and 8th graders recently had an incredible opportunity to visit the historic West Point Military Academy! Students explored the campus, learned about its rich traditions, and gained insight into leadership and service. The trip was organized by Mr. Emerson, whose planning ensured an educational experience for all.

A huge thank you to our amazing chaperones: Ms. Prince, Ms. Clarke, Ms. McIntyre, Security Officer Max, Ms. Mag, Mr. Churn, and Mr. Wilbekin. We're thankful for their dedication and support throughout the day. Their guidance helped make this trip both safe and memorable.

This visit was not only a chance to see one of the nation's most prestigious institutions, but also an inspiring reminder of the values of discipline, honor, and commitment.

Celebrations

A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR OUR TENURED TRAILBLAZERS!





STEAM Academy is thrilled to celebrate several outstanding educators and staff members who earned tenure this year: Mr. DeHay, Ms. Ciallella, Ms. Rodriguez, Mr. Adler, Mr. Poliey, and School Counselor Ms. Caldwell. Each of these professionals has made a meaningful impact on our school community, and we are proud to recognize their dedication, expertise, and commitment to our students.

This year, we're excited to shine a spotlight on two of our newly tenured teachers:

Ms. Ciallella

Now in her fifth year in the district, Ms. Ciallella serves as a Special Education Social Studies teacher. Inspired by her own high school global history teacher, she brings deep passion to her work and values the close relationships she forms with students and families. One of her most memorable moments was witnessing her 8th graders engage in a powerful, evidence-based debate on Woodrow Wilson's foreign policy, an experience she describes as respectful, informed, and truly inspiring. She also loves seeing students' joy during the annual Lake Compounce trips. Ms. Ciallella previously taught at Sleepy Hollow High School and is now tenured in both Special Education and Social Studies.

Mr. DeHay

Currently teaching U.S. History, Latin American History, Participation in Government, and Economics, Mr. DeHay is in his fourth year in the district. Inspired by his mother and his love of history and fueled by his travels around the world and his military service, he brings real-world experiences into the classroom in ways that deeply resonate with students. Before Mount Vernon, he served as an assistant principal and principal in Wappingers CSD and as an AP in Schenectady CSD, after teaching history for a decade in WCSD. He earned tenure in Social Studies.

We are incredibly proud of all of our newly tenured staff members. Their dedication helps make STEAM Academy the vibrant, supportive, and life-changing place it is for our students each and every day.

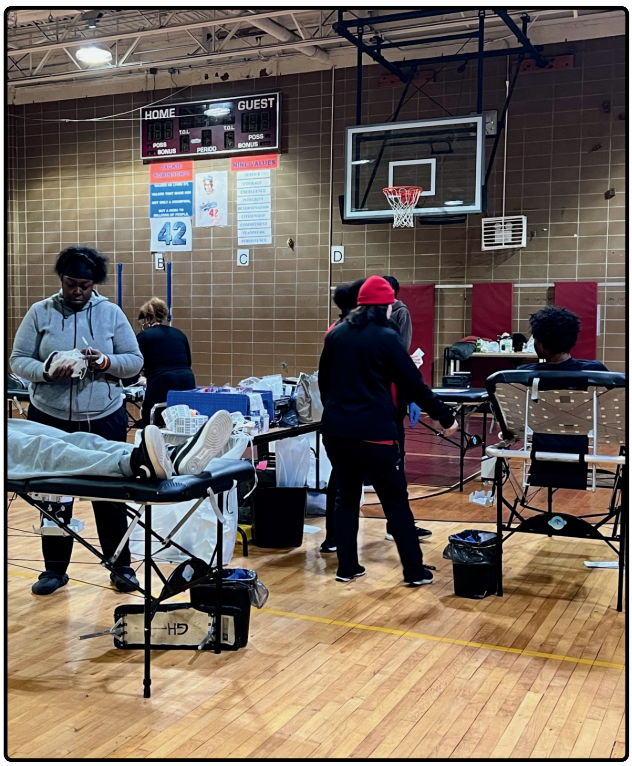
School Events

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE AT STEAM ACADEMY

On November 21, 2025, STEAM Academy hosted its 8th American Red Cross Blood Drive in the gym. The event was coordinated school-wide by Ms. Pizzuti, with senior Ariel Mussington leading the student team. Juniors Nylah Clarke and Ronnier Veras also shadowed Ariel in preparation for taking on leadership roles next year. Students aged 16 and older, along with several staff members, participated as donors.

The goal of this long-standing initiative is simple but powerful: each pint of donated blood can save up to three lives. Senior organizers also become eligible for a scholarship through their service and leadership.

This year's drive was a tremendous success. Donors received Amazon gift cards and Pac-Man socks as a thank-you, and our school community collected 31 pints of blood, potentially saving 93 lives.





Field Trips

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT: OUR SCHOLARS LEAD THE WAY

Our students had a wonderful opportunity to participate in Junior Achievement, and their involvement made a truly meaningful impact on our younger scholars. Under the guidance of Ms. Caldwell, they stepped into leadership roles with confidence, bringing energy, patience, and encouragement to every activity. Their supportive presence helped younger students feel inspired, engaged, and excited to learn. A total of 46 students attended, and they covered financial literacy as well as several other important topics, making the experience both educational and empowering.



Moments like these highlight the power of peer connections and remind us how older students can spark motivation and confidence in the next generation of learners. We are incredibly proud of their dedication and the positive example they set throughout the day.



Donations

HELP SUPPORT THIS DONORS CHOOSE PROJECT!

Designed by Ms. Vogel, seniors will read *For Everyone* and design personal "Future Mirrors" that highlight their goals and aspirations. This project empowers them to see their potential every time they look at their own reflection. **Donations should be made by January 17th!**

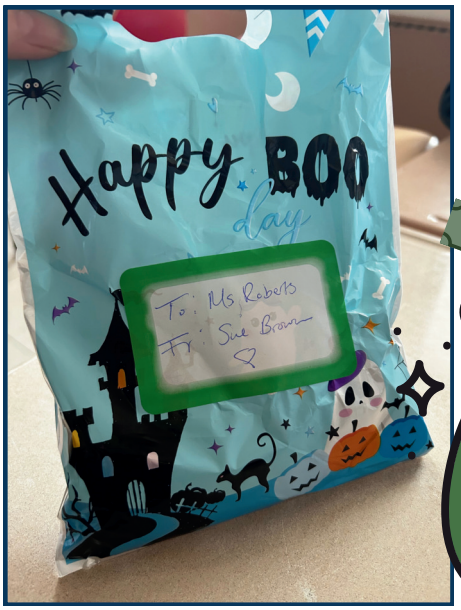
Class of 2027 Update

BOO-TIFUL FUNDRAISING: JUNIORS HIT $300 PROFIT!

A huge thank you from Ms. Roberts and Ms. Comrie to our amazing Junior Class for their dedication and hard work as fundraisers! Your efforts paid off, literally, with an impressive **$300 in PROFIT**.

We also want to thank all the staff, faculty, and students who purchased "Boo" candygrams, your support made this possible. Let's keep the momentum going!

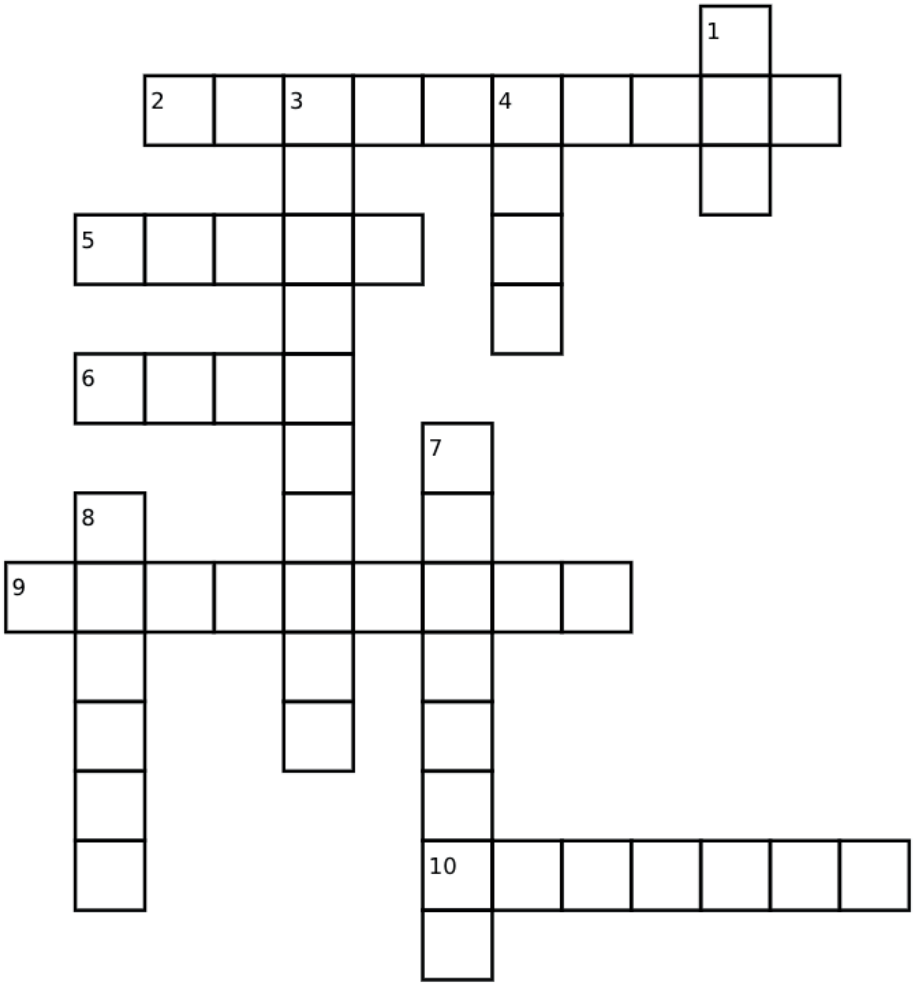
The Junior class also raises money by selling snacks after school every Thursday, so keep supporting them and grab a treat!





STEAM SCENE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(All answers are hidden somewhere in this month's newsletter!)



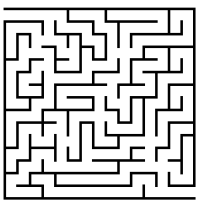
Down:

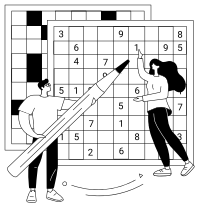
1. The title of the fundraising article where Juniors earned a $300 profit: "___-tiful Fundraising!"
3. The kindness bulletin board includes positive "I am" ____
4. One of the five military branches listed in the Veterans Day feature
7. The candy used during the math department's "Rainbow Data" workshop
8. The November 20th staff event celebrating gratitude and connection: STEAMs-__

Across:

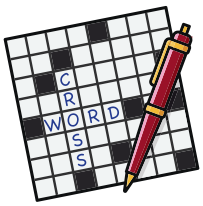
2. The senior leading this year's Red Cross Blood Drive: Ariel _____
5. The STEAM Day Chemistry lesson modeled radioactive _____ using coins
6. The amusement park visited on 8th grade trips, mentioned in Ms. Ciallella's tenure spotlight: ____ Compounce
9. Students covered this literacy topic during the Junior Achievement field trip
10. The West Point field trip was organized by Mr. _____

HAVE AN IDEA FOR A PUZZLE, OR WANT TO CREATE ONE? PLEASE SEE MS. WALLACE!









ANSWERS: Down: Boo, page 7; Statements, page 3; Navy, page 2; Skittles, page 5; Giving, page 4. Across: Mussington, page 6; Decay, page 9; Lake, page 6; Financial, page 7; Emerson, page 6.

SCIENCE BROUGHT TO LIFE ON NATIONAL STEAM DAY

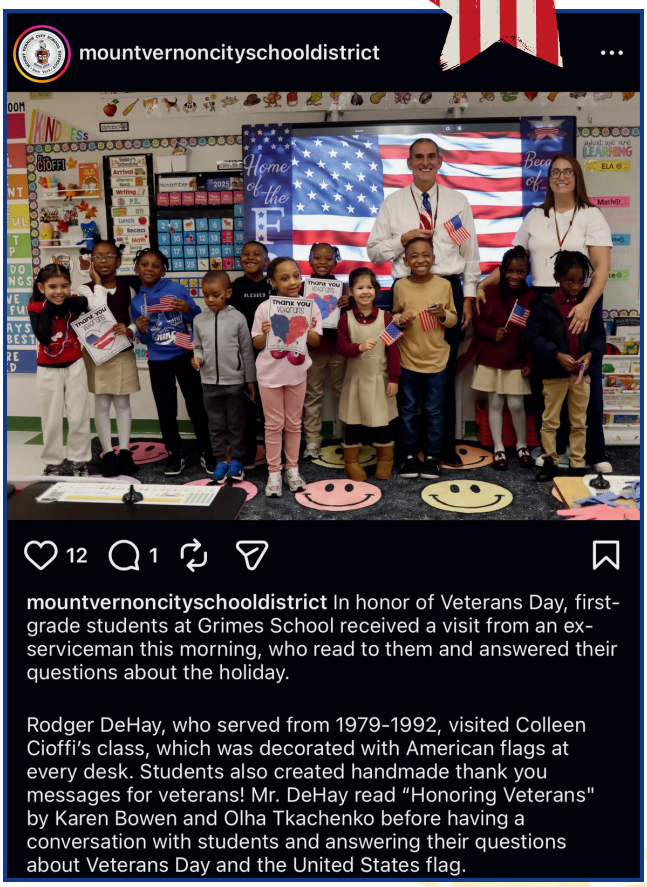
On November 8th students at Mount Vernon STEAM Academy celebrated National STEAM Day with hands-on experiments that connected classroom learning to real-world applications. In Regents Chemistry, students modeled radioactive decay using coins to visualize half-lives, while Physics students launched marbles to explore projectile motion. These interactive lessons, led by Mr. Glinias and Mr. Adler, help students deepen their understanding through practical experiences.



"A lot of students may not be able to very easily visualize what is going on when we're doing the calculations," said Frank Fabian, a 10th-grade student at STEAM. "With this, they can always have this image in their head, which will allow them to be able to more confidently solve these equations."

Check out the full article here!

Straight from the 'Gram



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!



Supporting STEAM Families

TOGETHER FOR STEAM FAMILIES: FIRE RELIEF EFFORT

Many students in our district have been deeply affected by the recent devastating building fire, and two STEAM families have lost everything. As a school community, we are committed to coming together to support them during this challenging time.

If you would like to help, donations can be made through their GoFundMe pages.

Steven & Tatiana Caraballo
https://gofund.me/fa357b727

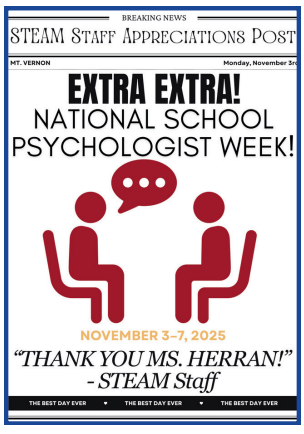




Wayne and Aaron Martinez
https://gofund.me/9c6505505

Celebrations

NOVEMBER "NATIONAL" DAYS



COMING SOON

More National Day celebrations will be coming in early 2026!

Around the School

NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE

7th Grade - 89.31%

8th Grade - 91.81%

9th Grade - 88.81%

10th Grade - 87.68

11th Grade - 84.28%

12th Grade - 86.46%

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!

About MV STEAM Academy

STEAM CREED

STEAM rises! I'm all the way up!
Nothing can stop me! I'll rise all the way up.
Nothing can stop me! I'll go all the way up.
Nothing can stop me! I'll press all the way up.
Nothing can stop me! I'll stay all the way up.
Nothing can stop me! I will never give up!
Nothing can stop me! I'll dream all the way up.

We are the **STEAM Academy**, thriving in an advanced **global economy**. Together, we will believe and achieve. We will study hard and succeed.

We will lead by example through our actions, decisions, and interactions. We will **collaborate** and investigate. We will conduct research and **innovate**.

We will ask questions and find **solutions.** We will develop and utilize our talents in every opportunity to better ourselves, our school, and our community.

We will give our best and nothing less. We will resist complacency, use all our **energy**, and move full steam ahead towards our destiny.

We are **MV STEAM**, and we're all the way up!



OCTOBER STAFF OF THE MONTH!

