THE STEAM SCENE

MV STEAM ACADEMY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Testing

Common Assessment #2

- *Humanities (November 17 & 18)*
- *STEM (November 19 & 20)*
- *Make-up day (November 21st)*

November Meetings

November 5th

Faculty Meeting 3-4pm

November 19th

Department Meeting 3-4pm

November 24th

MVFT Building Meeting at 3:00pm

Fieldtrips

November 12th

Juniors & Seniors Hockey Field Trp

November 20th

7th & 8th Grade West Point Military Academy Field Trip

November 21st

7th & 8th Grade Mini Golf Field Trip

National Day Celebrations

November 3-7th

National School Psychologist Week

School events

November 4th

No students: Superintendents Conference Day (Staff Report)

November 7th

Marking Period 1 Ends

November 20th

Parent/Teacher Conferences 6-8pm

November 20th

Sophomore Night 5-6pm

November 21st

STEAM Day

November 21st

Blood Drive (Gym)

November 20th & 21st

9-12th Grade Picture Day during P.E.

Upcoming Holidays

November 11th

No School: Veterans Day

November 26th

Early Dismissal

November 27-28th

No School: Thanksgiving

Spotlight

FROM GRIDS TO GREATNESS: STUDENT PORTRAIT PROJECT

Students in Mr. Chambers' art classes at Mount Vernon STEAM Academy recently used the grid method to build life-like portraits of celebrities such as Drake, Keanu Reeves, and Sade. By breaking complex images into manageable segments, students improved accuracy, refined proportion, and built confidence in their artistic skills.

By mastering measurement and proportion one square at a time, students gain both technique and creative belief in their work. Alongside honing technique, this project reinforces important habits: patience in process, intentional repetition, and self-reflection as they iterate toward more lifelike results.

Thanks to Mr. Chambers' blend of structured practice and creative freedom, our young artists are not only drawing with accuracy, they're also thinking like problem-solvers and storytellers.

Scan the QR code to read the full article and see more photos of their stunning portraits!

Mr. Chambers with student, Daniel Santiago (Junior)



Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

FIESTA DE CULTURA: CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE!

On Friday, October 17th, our school proudly celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a vibrant and heartfelt program organized by the Spanish Department. Spearheaded by Ms. Russo, Ms. Barris, Dr. Cervantes, Ms. Ramirez, Ms. Palanza, and Ms. Roher, the event brought together students and staff to honor the rich traditions, voices, and artistry of Hispanic cultures.

The celebration opened with welcoming remarks from Dr. Pearce and was guided throughout by DanaMarie Galindo, who served as the Master of Ceremonies. The afternoon unfolded as a beautiful tapestry of music, dance, poetry, and performance.

One particularly moving moment was the recitation of "Hair" by Elizabeth Acevedo, performed by Emely La Paz Arias. Her delivery captured the poem's powerful message about identity, heritage, and self-expression, leaving a lasting impression on the audience.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all the organizers, performers, and attendees who made this celebration a success. ¡Gracias a todos!

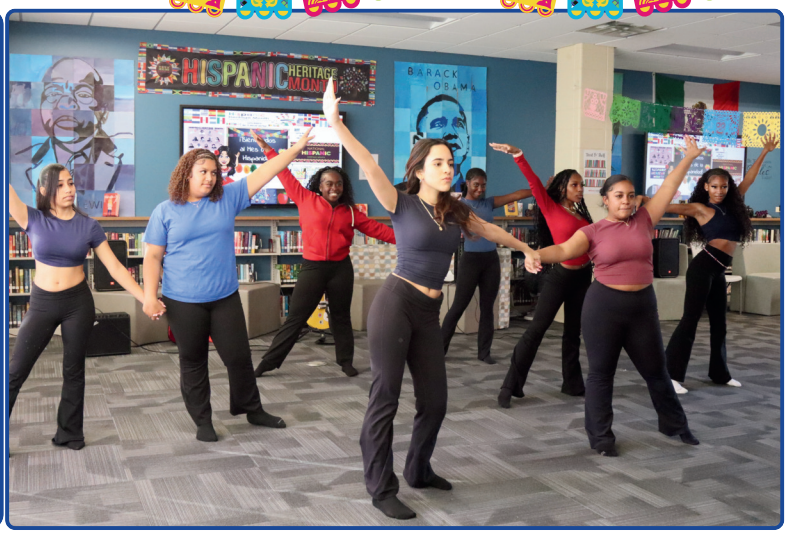
Program

Welcoming Remarks ..... Dr. Pearce
Pledge of Allegiance ..... Ms. Brown
Introduction of Events ..... DanaMarie Galindo
Dance Selection .... Latin Rhythms by STEAM Dancers
Musical Selection (Instrumental) ..... La Bamba performed by Alistair Bell
Poem ....."Hair" by Elizabeth Acevedo Performed by Emely La Paz Arias
Musical Selection ..... "Rabo de Nube" performed by Dr. Cervantes
Musical Selection (Instrumental) ..... Despacito performed by Leonard Oduro
Short Skit ..... "Celebrar" Performed by MaryLiz DeJesus & Cindy Chavez

Dancers

Isabel Ferreira
Edilisa Jimenez
Brianna Valentin
Lacey Henry
Avanna Griffith
Dameish Mitchel
Zenaida Bueno
Khalelia Heslop
Janiel Anderson
Ariel Mussington

Scan to see their beautiful dance!







Senior Corner

GOLDEN BEGINNINGS: SENIOR SUNRISE

On September 22nd, the Class of 2025 gathered at the Mount Vernon STEAM Academy track for Senior Sunrise, arriving at 6:00 AM wrapped in pajamas and blankets. With breakfast, music, and games setting the tone, the morning was filled with laughter, reflection, and connection.

Landyn Howse-Lewis shared, “Senior Sunrise was nice. It was relaxing and I had so much fun with the people I love.” Giovanna Robinson echoed the sentiment, saying, “I loved Senior Sunrise and enjoyed getting to spend an early morning surrounded by laughter and my friends.”

For Moses Clementino, the event marked a meaningful milestone: “Senior Sunrise felt like the start of the end... it truly felt like a peaceful end.” Jeffrey Martinez summed it up beautifully: “A time to never be forgotten. It was peaceful seeing everyone gathered for a moment.”

Senior Sunrise was more than just an early morning, it was a celebration of community, memories, and the journey ahead. More to come from our senior class!







CELEBRATING THE KNIGHT WAY: PEP RALLY & HOMECOMING HIGHLIGHTS!



Mount Vernon High School hosted a vibrant Pep Rally on Friday, October 24th, bringing together students from across the district to kick off Homecoming weekend. The Knights’ victory on the field was the highlight of a week filled with spirit days and celebrations shared by all Mount Vernon high schools.
The excitement peaked with the crowning of Homecoming Queen Kiya Bando and Princess Zior Williams. Kiya reflected, “I was confused but excited, and the best part was keeping the crown. I’d do it again.” Zior added, “I was super excited and so happy to win with Kiya.”

The festivities wrapped up with a lively Homecoming Dance on Saturday, marking the end of a memorable week of district pride and student connection.

Field Trips

AUTUMN ADVENTURES: SOPHOMORE ZOO ADEVENTURE

On October 29th, 100 sophomore students enjoyed a fall-themed field trip to the zoo via Metro North. The grounds were beautifully decorated for autumn and Halloween, creating a festive atmosphere. Students spotted amazing animals, including a snow leopard, red panda, reptiles, Happy the elephant, and a playful sea lion that bonded with Mr. Wilbekin's group. A huge thank you to our incredible chaperones: Ms. McIntyre, Security Officer Max, Ms. Comrie, Ms. Centone, Ms. Prince, Ms. Forson, Mr. Wilbekin, Ms. Ingram, Ms. Jaffess, Ms. Wallace, and Ms. Silva for making this trip unforgettable!



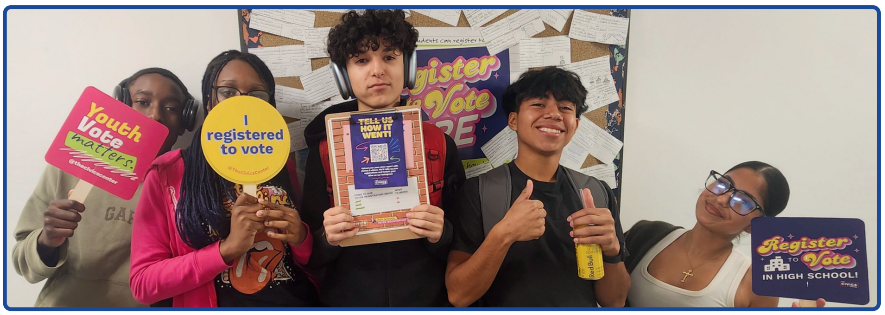
Student Activities

FUTURE VOTERS TAKE THE LEAD

As part of a school-wide civic engagement initiative and under the guidance of Ms. Guziczek, students visited several U.S. History classes to present on the importance of voting and civic responsibility. Special thanks go to Mr. DeHay, Mr. Johnston, Ms. Batkay, and Mr. Pally for welcoming the team into their classrooms and supporting this meaningful work.

The presentations were led by juniors Mia Cruz Lembo, Christian Roberts, and Alistair Bell, who completed training in advance and did a fantastic job engaging their peers. Students asked thoughtful questions and walked away with a clearer understanding of the voter registration process.

In total, the presentations reached over 140 students. The enthusiasm and interest shown were inspiring, and we hope this initiative sparks continued civic participation among our student body.





STEAM STUDENTS TAKE A SWING AT GOLF!

On October 15th, select STEAM students visited Dunwoodie Golf Course in Yonkers for a hands-on introduction to golf. They learned the fundamentals of putting, chipping, and driving, and for many, it was their first time on the green! Students quickly picked up the mechanics of the golf swing and showed impressive determination and enthusiasm. Special shoutouts to Devandra Roopnarine, Jayziah Servonres, and Anisah Khan, who demonstrated both joy and skill throughout the day. Kudos to all our STEAM students for their drive to succeed! This enriching experience was chaperoned by Ms. Jaffess and Mr. Oldis, whose planning helped make the day a success!







I had a lot of fun, especially on the free range. I was surprised how easy it got after I learned the technique and how far I hit the golf ball."
- Blessing Karikari, Sophomore

Check out this video of her taking a swing!

Student Activities

WHO'S GOT SPIRIT?



From October 20–25, students across Mount Vernon High School, STEAM Academy, and DWSA celebrated Homecoming Spirit Week with themed dress-up days, a senior pep rally, and the exciting homecoming dance. The week showcased school pride, creativity, and community spirit, leading up to the big homecoming game at Memorial Field, where they won 18-14!



STEAM ACADEMY SENIORS EXPLORE COLLEGE OPPORTUNITIES



On October 27th, seniors from Mount Vernon STEAM Academy attended the Manhattanville College Fair, where they engaged with representatives from a wide range of colleges and universities. Chaperoned by high school counselors Ms. Pogue, Ms. Goire-Peralta, and Ms. Caldwell, students gained valuable insights into academic programs, campus life, and admissions processes, taking meaningful steps toward their post-secondary goals.





I liked the trip! I found a lot of new schools that offer programs I needed for college. It opened doors to scholarships I am eligible for.

— Senior, Ariel Mussington

Guidance Department

HER HONOR LUNCHON

WRITTEN BY: DANAMARIE GALINDO



The HER Honor Luncheon was a truly inspiring and empowering event, offering students a meaningful opportunity to connect with mentors committed to uplifting young women and guiding them toward future success. Through engaging conversations and shared experiences, students explored a wide range of fields and career pathways, hearing directly from mentors who shared their expertise and experiences. Exposure to accomplished women leaders encouraged students to envision themselves as future changemakers in their own careers. We are deeply grateful for the HER Honor program and the dedicated mentors who generously invest their time and passion to help young women pursue their dreams.



Attended by STEAM seniors Emely La Paz Arias, Adamaris Martinez, Miriam Mullings, and Danamarie Galindo attended.

HER HONOR MENTEES EXPLORE INNOVATION AT REGENERON

WRITTEN BY: DANAMARIE GALINDO

Mentees in the HER Honor program visited Regeneron for an exciting, behind-the-scenes look at the world of research, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical innovation. During the visit, participants toured cutting-edge laboratories and engaged in thoughtful conversations with professionals working across multiple areas of scientific research.

The experience inspired students to consider future careers in science, technology, and medicine, while also revealing the business and decision-making side of research, where budgeting and resource management play essential roles in bringing discoveries to life.



GUIDANCE EXPO HIGHLIGHTS COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

On October 22nd, Ms. Pogue and Ms. Goire-Peralta represented Mount Vernon STEAM Academy at the Guidance Expo held at the Westchester County Center. The event featured workshops led by SUNY, BOCES, and mental health professionals, focusing on student support and post-secondary planning. School counselors from Rockland and Westchester counties participated in the sessions, and during breaks, college representatives were available to share information about their institutions and academic programs.

Physical Education Department

STUDENTS RISE TO THE CHALLENGE ON ARMY FITNESS DAY





On October 30, the U.S. Army joined STEAM Academy for a high-energy Army Fitness Day organized by Coach Smith and supported by Ms. Jaffess, Mr. Bricker, Mr. Oldis, and Mr. Cornwall. All B-day classes participated, with 50–80 students rotating through various fitness stations, including deadlifting, sprints, wheelbarrows, and relays.

Students learned about the importance of physical fitness, teamwork, and longevity as they engaged directly with the visiting soldiers. The Army representatives also discussed career opportunities, trade training, and college funding programs, sparking thoughtful questions from students about pursuing a career in the military.

The day ran "like a well-organized ship," with students showing enthusiasm, cooperation, and curiosity throughout. It was a fantastic blend of learning, leadership, and physical activity, a big success for STEAM Academy!

Around the School

HALLOWEEN AT STEAM!

Question: My teacher said, "Pick a number between 1 and 100 that's cool, smart, and funny."

ANSWER:











Around the School

SENIOR PARENT NIGHT AT STEAM: A NIGHT OF INSIGHT

Senior Parent Night on October 23rd was a big success! Families heard directly from college admissions leaders, including Mr. DePey, Vice President of Undergraduate Admissions at IONA University; Ms. Caitlin Read, Dean of Enrollment Management at SUNY Purchase; and Mr. Matt Curtis, Vice President of Enrollment Management at the College of Westchester. They shared helpful tips on FAFSA, the SUNY Application, and the Match Program, and gave insight into what colleges look for in transcripts and essays. The speakers also encouraged students to stay proactive and reach out with questions during the application process. It was a great night of learning and support for our seniors and their families.

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

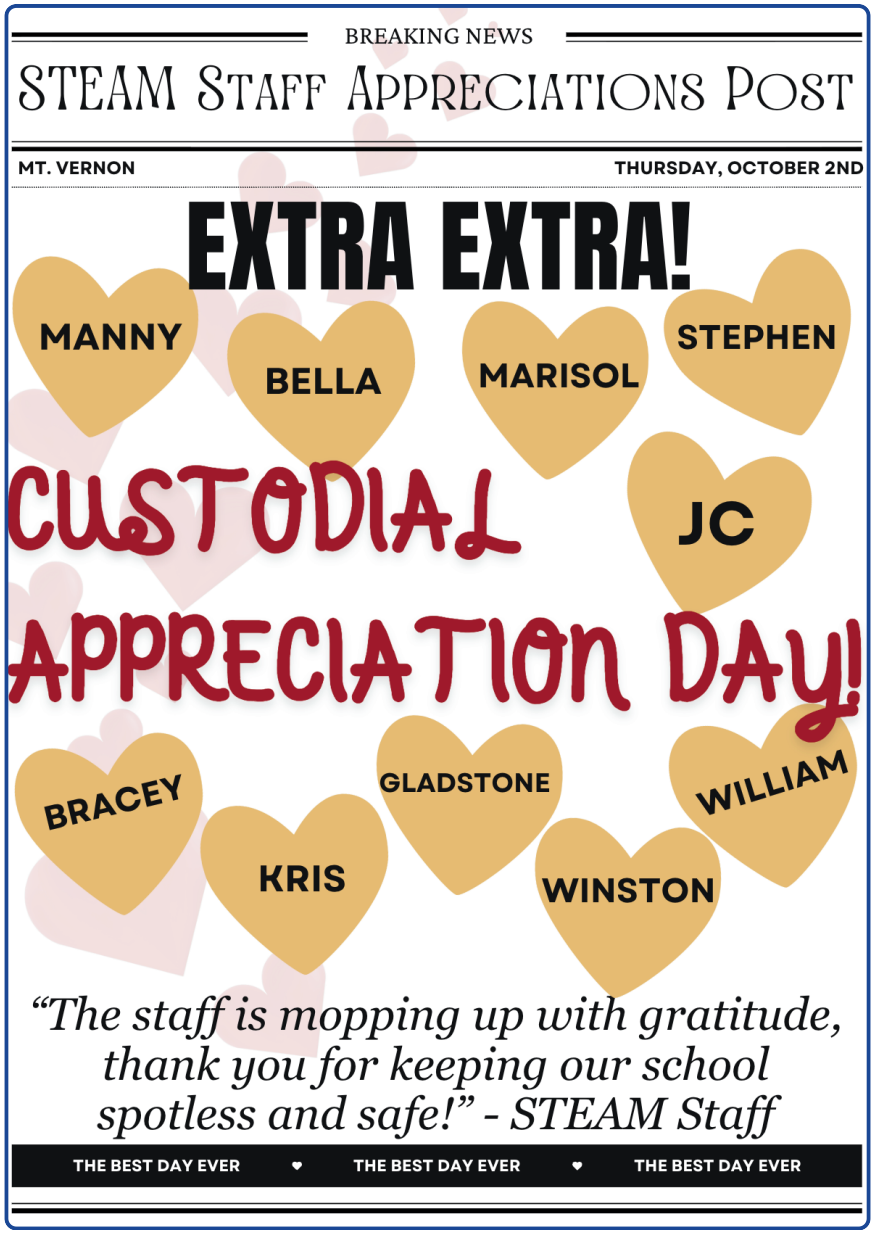
Message from the Principal

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!



Celebrations

OCTOBER "NATIONAL" DAYS



COMING SOON

National School Psychologist Week, November 3–7

Around the School

OCTOBER ATTENDANCE

7th Grade - 88.22%

8th Grade - 92.93%

9th Grade - 91.69%

10th Grade - 87.54%

11th Grade - 86.98%

12th Grade - 87.66%

CLASS ADVISORS

Class of 2026
Ms. Stanton & Ms. Centone

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 any 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!

