

THE STEAM SCENE

MV STEAM ACADEMY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Testing

Common Assessment #1

- Humanities (October 6 & 7)
- STEM (October 8 & 9)
- Make-up day (October 10)
- Common Assessment #1
Analysis is due on October 24, 2025.

October 28th

SATs (Seniors)

October 29th

PSATs (Juniors)

October Meetings

October 1st

Faculty Meeting 3-4pm

October 15th

Department Meeting 3-4pm

Fieldtrips

Wednesday, October 29th

Sophomore students will be visiting the Bronx Zoo.

Thursday, October 23rd

8th Grade students will be visiting West Point Military Academy

Tuesday, October 7th

Select Seniors will attend Her Honor Mentee luncheon

October 21st

Select Seniors will attend the Her Honor Regeneron Fieldtrip

October 22nd

Select Seniors will be visiting the Manhattanville College Fair

National Day Celebrations

October 2nd

School Custodian Appreciation Day

Student Activities

October 24th

Pep Rally at Mount Vernon High School

October 25th

Homecoming Dance

School events

October 2nd

No School: Yom Kippur

October 17th

Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration 3-5pm

October 13TH

No School: Columbus Day

October 23rd

Senior/Parent Night

Spotlight

Inspiring the Next Generation: Maame Forson Returns to MV STEAM Academy



We are proud to highlight Maame Forson, a graduate of MV STEAM Academy (Class of 2021), who has gone on to achieve incredible success. Maame graduated from Harvard University in May 2025, with an AB Degree in Psychology on the Cognitive Neuroscience and Evolutionary Psychology track, a secondary in Social and Medical Anthropology, and a Citation in Twi.

Maame has returned to MV STEAM Academy to launch The INSPIRE Scholars Program, an afterschool program and mentorship initiative focused on inspiring higher education attainment through teaching the hidden curriculum and pairing students with college and graduate school-level mentors who also come from underrepresented communities. INSPIRE will encourage students to explore their interests, build confidence, and dream big about their futures. This past June, Maame also returned to MV STEAM Academy as the keynote speaker for the 2025 graduation ceremony, where she inspired graduates with her story and message of perseverance!

The INSPIRE Scholars Program

The INSPIRE Afterschool Program will begin in October on Thursdays after school. In addition, Maame is available in the media room on Wednesdays from 11:00-1:00 for individualized support, which you can sign up for with her Calendly using the QR code.

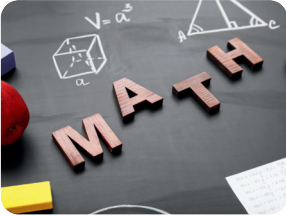
Applications for the mentorship program were due September 21st, but depending on interest, a second round may open contingent on available mentors. Students can stop by the media room on Wednesdays for more information.



New at School

MEET THE NEW STAFF AT STEAM ACADEMY!

We're excited to introduce the newest members of our school community here at STEAM. Each brings unique experiences, talents, and passions to share with our students. We asked them to share a bit about themselves, the subject they teach, where they worked previously (MT. Vernon or a different district), and their favorite food. Get to know them below!



Mr. Ettere
Math
Grimes School
Sushi



Mr. Stankiewicz (Stan-Kev-Itch)
Art
Tuxedo, NY
Poke



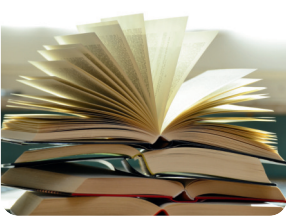
Ms. Donoghue
ELA
Mount Vernon Honor Academy
Grilled cheese with tomato soup



Mr. Emerson
Social Studies
Edward Williams School
Pizza and cheeseburgers



Ms. Palanza
Spanish
Honor Academy
Cheese fries



Ms. Ferraro
Reading
The Honor Academy
Mexican and Italian



Mr. Guignard
Math
Edward Williams School
Raw littleneck clams



Ms. Ciallella
Social Studies
Graham School
Chicken parm



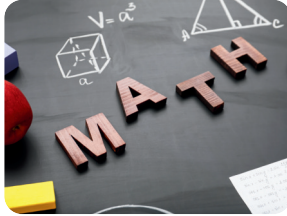
Mr. Churn
English
Edward Williams School
I am a foodie



Ms. Chappas
Social Studies
Traphagen
Mac and cheese



Ms. Silva
Teaching Assistant
Graham School
Brazilian barbecue



Ms. Campion
Math
Nelson Mandela
Reese's Peanut Butter Cups and
I also love pasta.



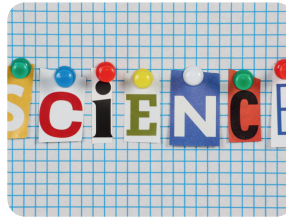
Ms. Goire-Peralta
HS School Counselor
Rebecca Turner Academy
Pizza



Ms. Ingram
School Social Worker
Lincoln School, Edward
Williams, Nelson Mandela
Seafood, mango, coconut drop



Mr. DeHay
Social Studies
Cecil H. Parker
Chicken Fried Steak and
Mexican food



Mr. Anselmo
Science
MVHS
Italian, Indian, Chinese,
Japanese, and Thai



Mr. Durante
Social Studies
Leadership Academy
Pizza



Mr. Wilbekin
Assistant Principal of School
Climate/Culture
Leadership Academy
Callaloo



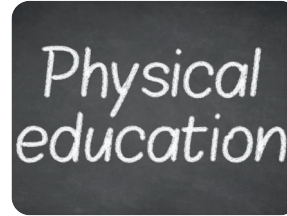
Ms. Mag
ELA and AIS
Lincoln School
Donuts



Ms. Matos
Teaching Assistant
Leadership Academy
Chocolate



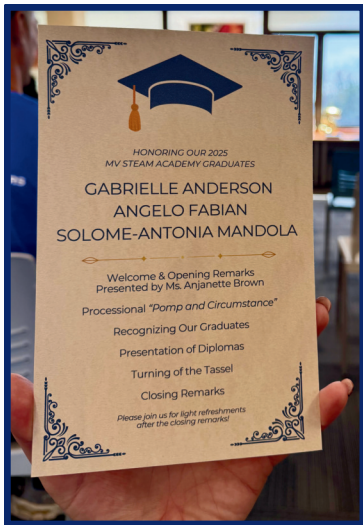
Mr. Cucurullo
MS School Counselor
Edward Williams
Italian



Coach Wall (Mr. Cornwall)
P.E
Graham
Chocolate cheesecake



Please note: We know not all new staff members are here. They only contributed if they wanted to.



Scan here to see
a fun video of
our graduates!



Celebrations

SEPTEMBER 2025 GRADUATES



On Friday, September 19, MV STEAM Academy held its first-ever graduation ceremony in the Library Media Center, celebrating three members of the Class of 2025: Gabrielle Anderson, Angelo Fabian, and Solome-Antonia Mandola. Family and staff joined together for this special milestone. The program was guided with warmth and encouragement by Ms. Brown, Assistant Principal of MV STEAM Academy, who recognized each graduate's accomplishments.

"Graduation is more than a ceremony; it's a powerful symbol of growth, perseverance, and achievement."
—Ms. Brown, Assistant Principal

Following the ceremony, staff and families enjoyed light refreshments in honor of the graduates, and the students marked the occasion with photos in front of the school!

School Board

STEAM ACADEMY SENIOR JOINS BOARD OF EDUCATION

At the July Board of Education meeting, Dr. Demario A. Strickland was officially sworn in as Superintendent of Schools for the Mount Vernon City School District, alongside three new board trustees and a student trustee.

We are especially proud to recognize Leonard Oduro, who was sworn in as the new student trustee. In this role, Leonard will bring valuable student voice and perspective to the Board while serving as a leader and representative of his peers. His achievement is both an honor and an inspiration to the entire school community.



I'm looking forward to helping make real changes here in our district."

— Leonard Oduro

When asked how he was nominated, Leonard was quick to explain that it wasn't something he applied for. "My principal already knew me as one of the hardest-working students in STEAM," Leonard said. "They saw me as capable and dedicated, so they chose me for this opportunity."



Leonard says he hopes to use the position to push for meaningful improvements. "I want to make big changes," he explained. "The school and district need a lot of work, especially considering the money being spent. Students deserve better."

After attending his first board meetings Leonard sees value in the experience. "It was insightful," he admitted. "I know they matter, and I'm learning how things work and how I can help make a difference!"

Read the full article by scanning the QR code!



Summer School Programs

SUMMER SCHOOL EARNS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COLLEGE CREDITS

This summer, Mount Vernon STEAM Academy's Lehman Scholars students had the exciting opportunity to enroll in a Quantitative Reasoning course through our partnership with Lehman College.

Over the course of fifteen instructional days, students met in the library at the Denzel Washington School of the Arts and worked diligently to master college-level content. Their efforts were rewarded as they successfully earned 3 college credits for passing the course, an important step toward their academic and college readiness goals.

As part of the program's closing week, students participated in a field trip to Lehman College, where they toured the campus, engaged with faculty, and met members of the Mathematics Department. This experience allowed students to connect with the college environment and see themselves as future undergraduates.

We are proud of our students' achievements and grateful for the continued support of Lehman College. We look forward to strengthening this partnership as we help our students earn college credits while still in high school.

Happening Around the District

NO PLACE FOR HATE AT STEAM ACADEMY



Following a successful Gold Star year, our *No Place for Hate* team is looking forward to continuing our antibias education, encouraging all students to take and uphold the new *No Place for Hate* pledge.

Please see Ms. Brown, Ms. Vogel, or Ms. Wallace with any questions.

NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. The Mount Vernon City School District continues its commitment to deterring violence in schools, online, and in our community. We want to encourage students, parents, and staff to participate in raising awareness about the harmful effects of bullying and how together we can support prevention, intervention, and reduce incidents.

On Monday, October 6, 2025, we are asking the Mount Vernon City School District (teachers, staff, students, and families) to join us for "World Day of Bullying Prevention," as we unite to take a stand against hate, bias, bullying, and unkind acts of intolerance. We are asking everyone to wear a BLUE shirt. Schools are encouraged to use this day to educate their students, staff, and families about bullying.

Wednesday, October 22, 2025, is "Unity Day." We are asking staff, students, and families to wear an ORANGE shirt on this day to send a visible message that no child or adult should ever experience bullying.

MVCSD will recognize "Mix it Up at Lunch Day" on Wednesday, October 29, 2025. We are asking students and staff to cross social boundaries, move out of their comfort zones, and connect with someone new over lunch. Studies have shown cafeterias are prime locations to promote positive interactions, inclusion, and appreciation of differences.

If a child or someone you know is being bullied, please contact his/her school immediately. You can also contact your school's Dignity for All Students Act Coordinator (DASA), which is listed on our district website. Let's work together to create a safe and inclusive school community that fosters positive learning, respect, and mutual understanding.

THE NO PLACE FOR HATE® PLEDGE
MIDDLE / HIGH SCHOOL

I WILL SEEK TO GAIN UNDERSTANDING of those who are different from myself.

I WILL SPEAK OUT against prejudice and discrimination.

I WILL REACH OUT to support those who are targets of hate.

I WILL PROMOTE RESPECT for people and help foster a prejudice-free school.

I BELIEVE that one person can make a difference - no person can be an "innocent" bystander when it comes to opposing hate.

I RECOGNIZE that respecting individual dignity and promoting inter-group harmony are the responsibilities of all students.

ADL
Have You Signed the No Place for Hate® Pledge Yet?
Find out how from your school's No Place for Hate® committee

FIGHTING HATE FOR GOOD



Clubs & Afterschool

PEER MENTORING PROGRAM LAUNCHING SOON!

Ms. Roher is excited to introduce the Peer Mentoring Program, where middle school students will be paired with high school mentors to read and discuss engaging texts together. From graphic novels and realistic fiction to science fiction, magazines, newspapers, and eBooks—there’s something for everyone!

The program will meet on Tuesdays from 7:20–7:50 a.m., with the start date to be announced. Stay tuned for more details on this exciting opportunity for students to connect and grow through reading!

Around the School

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



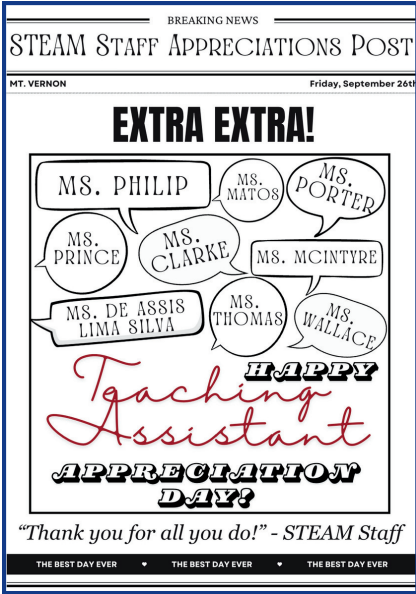
Message from the Principal

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

SEPTEMBER “NATIONAL” DAYS



On September 26th, we celebrated National Teaching Assistant Day with our amazing TAs! Their dedication and support make a huge difference in our classrooms each day. We are so grateful for all they do for our students and school community.

Around the School

SEPTEMBER ATTENDANCE

- 7th Grade - 87.95%
- 8th Grade - 91.19%
- 9th Grade - 89.98%
- 10th Grade - 88.85%
- 11th Grade - 86.1%
- 12th Grade - 88.64%

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 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!

