

THE STEAM SCENE

MV STEAM ACADEMY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Testing

- April 15th
PSAT 9th and 10th grade
- April 22-23rd
7th & 8th NYS CBT ELA Testing
- April 29th
SAT for Juniors
- May 5-6th
7th & 8th NYS CBT Math Testing
- May 12
8th NYS CBT Science Testing

April Meetings

- April 8th
Faculty Meeting 3-4pm
- April 22nd
Department Meeting 3-4pm

Fieldtrips

- April 10th
Junior Achievement Field Trip
- April 24th
Great Potential College for a Day at SUNY Purchase

School events

- April 17th
College Fair in Media Center 5, 6 & 7
- April 20th
STEAM Day
- April 24th
Marking Period 3 Ends

Upcoming Holidays

- April 5th
Easter
- April 22nd
Earth Day



Spotlight

STEAM SENIOR LEONARD ODURO REPRESENTS MOUNT VERNON AT STATE LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE



SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE ON OUR DISTRICT WEBSITE!

Mount Vernon STEAM Academy senior and Student Trustee Leonard Oduro recently took part in the New York State Legislative Conference in Albany through the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) program. During the event organized by the New York State Association of Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislators, Leonard met with influential leaders and joined discussions on student leadership and community impact.

Leonard, who joined MBK in May 2025, participates in weekly sessions led by Youth Development Specialist Brother Arthur Muhammad, where students explore leadership skills and engage with empowering literature. Through the program, he has connected with state representatives, senators, and even the NYSED Commissioner, Dr. Betty A. Rosa, to advocate on issues affecting Mount Vernon students. At STEAM Academy, the MBK chapter is facilitated by Mr. Hyman, who supports students' development and involvement.

Reflecting on the experience, Leonard shared that MBK has broadened his understanding of leadership and allowed him to make valuable political and community connections. He continues to represent STEAM Academy with pride as he grows through service, advocacy, and scholarship.

"I was kind of looking for My Brother's Keeper long before they actually came looking for me. I personally thought I was a good leader until a lot of things I heard from my brothers and through the book that we are discussing in our Zoom meetings. It made me realize that there's a lot to learn from these books that they are literally showing us."
Leonard Oduro, STEAM Senior and MBK Participant

School Showcase

A SHOWCASE OF CULTURE AND TALENT: STEAM CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

STEAM Academy recently hosted a vibrant Black History Month Showcase Assembly, celebrating the richness of Black history, culture, and artistic expression through student performances. Originally scheduled for the last Friday in February, the event was postponed due to winter weather and snow days, but students and staff finally gathered on March 6th for a powerful and memorable celebration!

The program was performed across three periods, allowing both middle school and high school students to participate. Each performance highlighted different forms of artistic expression, from music and dance to poetry and theatrical performance, creating a meaningful experience for the entire STEAM community.



Black History Month MC	Mr. Wilbekin, Ms. Brown & Mr. Hyman
"Enter Sandman" by Metallica	STEAM Rockband Members: Alistair Bell, Eliab Obando, Ms. Faust & Cesar Aguilar
African Dance, "JOHNNY" by Yemi Alade	STEAM High School Dancers: Lacey Henry, Janiel Anderson, Ariel Mussington, Isabel Ferreira, & Avanna Griffith
Skit, "Rich History"	Caiden Hylton, Zachary Cotto, Cayden Mitchell, Steven Caraballo & Selom Cudjoe
Contemporary Dance, "Questions" by Maverick City Music	STEAM High School Dancers: Lacey Henry Janiel Anderson & Ariel Mussington
Poem Reading, "Crossing" by Courtne Comrie	Roscoe Brown
Caribbean Dance, Music Medley	STEAM High School Dancers: Lacey Henry, Janiel Anderson, Ariel Mussington, Isabel Ferreira, & Avanna Griffith
Poem Reading, "Black Is The Name"	Jahri Monpointe
Vocal Presentation, "Nature Boy" by Nat King Cole	Dr. Cervantes
Hip Hop Dance, "Yeah!" by Usher, feat. Lil Jon and Ludacris	Jahri Monpointe
Modern Dance, Music Medley	STEAM Middle School Dancers: London Riley, ErynMarie Webb, Ashley Vicenty, Alexandria Douglas & Aaron McKenzie
Middle School Percussion Ensemble, "Minor Rock" by John R. Hearnese	8th Grade Percussion Ensemble



The showcase featured a wide variety of performances, including African dance, Caribbean dance, contemporary dance, hip hop, poetry readings, instrumental music, and a student skit. Musical selections ranged from traditional percussion pieces to modern rock and classic vocal performances. BHM Showcase Program. Students from both middle and high school grades contributed to the program, performing pieces such as "Johnny" by Yemi Alade, "Enter Sandman" by Metallica, a dance medley performed by 8th graders, and poetry readings including "Crossing" by Roscoe Brown and "Black Is The Name" by 9th grader Jahri Monpoint.

The program also featured a powerful skit titled "Rich History," directed by Ms. Comrie and stage-assisted by Devendra Roopnarine, which explored how Black history is often taught through the lens of oppression, while reminding the audience that it is equally a story of rich culture, identity, resilience, and achievement. Additional performances included the 8th Grade Percussion Ensemble, contemporary and cultural dance pieces performed by both middle and high school students, and a special vocal presentation of "Nature Boy" by Nat King Cole performed by Dr. Cervantes.



Throughout the assembly, students demonstrated tremendous talent, creativity, and pride while honoring the legacy, resilience, and cultural contributions of Black communities. We are so proud of them!

Even for those who were unable to attend the assembly in person, the celebration can still be experienced! Scan the QR code below to watch short clips from each performance.

The Black History Month Showcase was created and organized by Assistant Principal Ms. Brown, Ms. Faust, Ms. Russo and Ms. Comrie, whose dedication helped bring together students from across grade levels for a meaningful and inspiring celebration of culture, history, and student talent. Special thanks to Dardane, our parent liaison, for the beautiful decorations. **Thank you all for such an amazing showcase!**

8th Grade Percussion Ensemble

Snare Drum

- Crismarie Peralta Montilla*
- Amelia Gonzalez*
- Kaylie Valentin*
- Sayeda Naima*

Bass Drum

- Kimberly Aguilera Valdovinos*
- Luana Benitez Torales*

Djembe (hand drum)

- Oghene Adu-Darko*
- Sydney Blake*

Kimberly Bravo-Roldan

- Brianna Brewster*
- Sophie Chambers*
- Samara Francis*
- Noah Ellison*

Alejandro Polanco Trinidad

Cymbals

- Alyha Monegro Guzman*
- Kaylee Hernandez Perez*

ZaRiah McCoy

Aaron McKenzie

Tambourine

Aaron Zheng

Xylophone

Esther DeSousa

Alexandria Douglas

Piano

Alexander Felix Flete

Carlos Murillo Yanes



SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE AND SEE MORE PHOTOS ON OUR DISTRICT WEBSITE!



Scan the QR code to watch a highlight of the showcase performances!

Field Trips

HISTORY ON DECK: STUDENTS EXPLORE THE INTREPID MUSEUM

On March 27, honor roll sophomores and AP juniors traveled to New York City for an unforgettable visit to the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum. Chaperoned by Ms. Wallace, Ms. Prince, Ms. Forson, and Security Officer Ramos, students explored history in an immersive and engaging way. During the trip, students attended a planetarium show, toured the historic aircraft carrier, and experienced a thrilling Cosmic 4D adventure. Having studied World War II this year, the visit provided a powerful opportunity to bring their learning to life beyond the classroom. One of the highlights of the day was the chance for students to interact with a naval gun and ammunition, offering a hands-on connection to the past!



Field Trips

STEAM STUDENTS CHEER ON THE WESTCHESTER KNICKS!

On March 12, eighteen STEAM Academy students spent an exciting day at the Westchester County Center cheering on the Westchester Knicks as they faced the Toronto Raptors 905. Students loved being part of the crowd, enjoyed courtside seating, grabbed a classic Nathan's lunch, and even joined in on the T-shirt toss—congratulations to Abdullah Salam for snagging a shirt!

They also had the chance to get up close to the players, dance along to music from the DJ (who kept the energy high with hits from K-Pop to Taylor Swift), and make friends with the team mascot. Talk about March Madness spirit!

The trip was chaperoned by Ms. Jaffess, Ms. Wallace (TA), and Shondu, who helped make the day safe, fun, and memorable. Our students had an unforgettable experience and are already checking out the Westchester Knicks' schedule for their next game!



Awards

SUPERINTENDENT'S CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS STEAM STUDENT EXCELLENCE



The February Superintendent's Celebration recognized outstanding students from across the Mount Vernon City School District for their hard work, leadership, and commitment to excellence. This month's ceremony, delayed slightly due to snow days, also honored Black Excellence in celebration of Black History Month. Students were congratulated by Executive Assistant Lisa Autieri and Superintendent Dr. Demario Strickland, who praised honorees for serving as positive role models and for their active engagement in their education.

At STEAM Academy, we proudly celebrate this month's honorees: Kiara Hamilton, Leonard Oduro, and Tajahnae Waites. These students exemplify dedication, leadership, and the spirit of excellence that continues to shine across our school community!



SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE AND SEE MORE PHOTOS ON OUR DISTRICT WEBSITE!

"I am truly honored to receive this award. While I did not expect such recognition, I am grateful for the acknowledgment of my efforts. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the district for this honor."
– Kiara Hamilton, Senior

Spirit Week

SOPHOMORES HOST SAINT PATTY'S SPIRIT WEEK

The Class of 2028 brought incredible energy to STEAM Academy with a fun-filled Saint Patty's Spirit Week from March 16-20. Students enjoyed themed days, including Character Day, Green Flags Only, Battle of the Holidays, and Pajama Day, all designed to boost school pride and community spirit. The week was a great success, thanks to the creativity and leadership of our sophomores!



After School Clubs

ACE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE: LEADERSHIP & COLLABORATION IN ACTION

Students in STEAM Academy’s ACE Mentorship Program are actively working on their final projects, taking on leadership roles, and collaborating across teams. Junior Carlos Pena was recently elected Co-Project Manager and will serve as a liaison between mentors and student teams, helping guide communication and project progress.



Student teams are deeply engaged in the design process, with Felix Guevara, Eli and Leia Forman, Juan Torres, and Carlos Pena working on the exterior architecture of their project. On the construction side, Victoria Galindo is contributing to building efforts, while Elijah Cassie recently met with the architecture team to gather updates and bring important information back to the electrical team.



The program, led by Ms. Rodriguez, continues to provide students with meaningful, hands-on experiences that build leadership, collaboration, and real-world problem-solving skills.

After School Clubs

STEAM MOCK TRIAL TEAM EARNS TOP 8 FINISH IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY COMPETITION

Following their strong performance in the preliminary rounds, Mount Vernon STEAM Academy’s Mock Trial Team continued their impressive run, advancing into the Top 16 and ultimately earning a place among the Top 8 teams in Westchester County. Competing against some of the region’s most competitive programs, our students demonstrated exceptional skill, preparation, and professionalism in the courtroom.



Mock Trial Club Members

- Zachary Cotto, Defense Attorney
- Madyson Powell, Defense Attorney
- Vidhi Goel, Defense Attorney
- DanaMarie Galindo, Prosecutor
- Zior Williams, Prosecutor
- Peter Silvera, Prosecutor
- Hailey Moonah, Witness, Terry Johnson
- Charlotte Joseph, Witness, Sal Thomas
- Leia Forman, Witness, Bo Kerrick
- Isabel Nava Ferreira, Witness, Billie Stewart
- Alexia Ortega, Witness, Gale Burns
- Alana Diggs, Defendant, A. Carmen Erickson
- Janelle Robinson, Researcher
- Tatiana Santiful, Timekeeper

Advised by Ms. Wallace, the team’s success reflects the dedication, growth, and collaboration of each student involved. Their ability to analyze complex cases, think critically under pressure, and present compelling arguments speaks volumes about their hard work and commitment.

A special thank you goes to attorney mentor Brian G. Johnson, Corporation Counsel for the City of Mount Vernon, who generously supported and coached our students throughout the competition. With extensive experience in municipal law and public service, Mr. Johnson served as the team’s representing attorney, guiding students through case strategy, courtroom procedures, and legal reasoning. His mentorship provided students with invaluable real-world insight into the legal profession and helped elevate their confidence and performance throughout the competition.

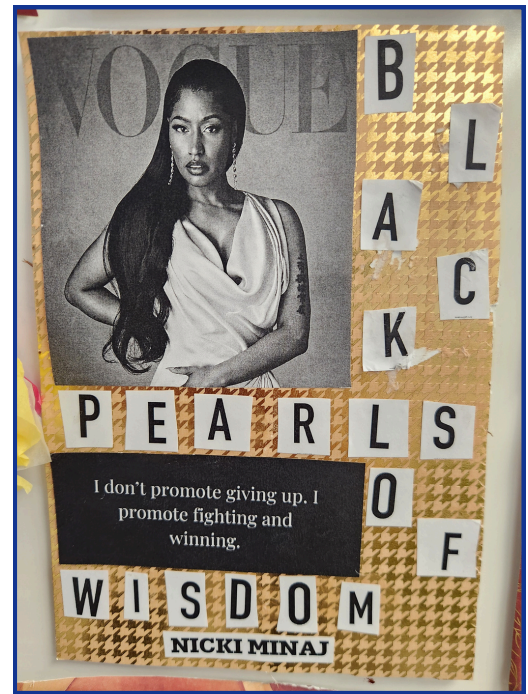
We are incredibly proud of our Mock Trial team for representing STEAM with excellence and look forward to building on this momentum in future competitions next year!

Social Studies Department

BLACK HISTORY COMES TO LIFE IN "BLACK PEARLS OF WISDOM" COLLAGES

Students in Ms. Guziczek’s African American Studies class recently completed a powerful mixed-media project titled “Black Pearls of Wisdom.” In celebration of Black History Month, students selected a notable Black figure, ranging from artists and activists to writers and cultural icons, and paired a black-and-white portrait with a meaningful quote that reflected themes such as wisdom, perseverance, leadership, and cultural pride. Using materials like patterned paper, magazine clippings, stamps, and tissue paper, students designed creative background boards and constructed collages that visually captured the impact of their chosen figure.

To complete the project, each student also wrote an artist statement explaining why they selected their figure, what their quote represented, and the message behind their artistic choices. The final pieces showcased students’ research, creativity, and thoughtful reflection while honoring the powerful voices that continue to inspire generations.



"Through researching Nicki Minaj for the 'Black Pearls of Wisdom' project, I learned how perseverance and self-expression can lead to success. Despite facing obstacles, she used her talent and voice to build a powerful career and inspire others to embrace their individuality." - Gabrielle Elmore-Brown

STEM Department

MARCH STEAM DAY: POWERING UP THE FUTURE

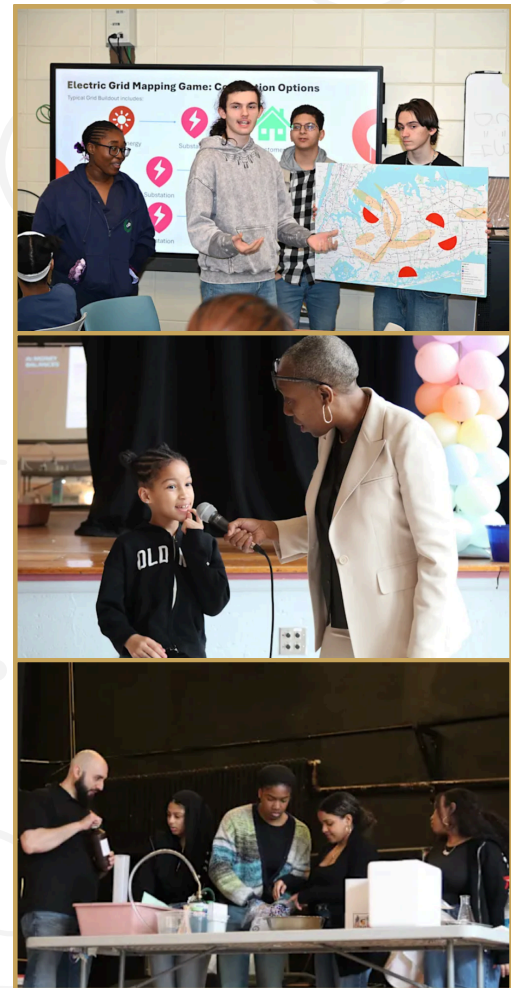
Students at Mount Vernon STEAM Academy celebrated March STEAM Day with two dynamic, hands-on learning experiences that brought innovation and real-world applications to life. Led by Mr. Glinias and Ms. Stewart, the day highlighted the power of collaboration, exploration, and career-connected learning. Ms. Stewart also led a presentation on artificial intelligence, creatively breaking down each letter of STEM to show how AI is used across the field. This approach helped students better understand how AI connects to the subjects they study every day.

In one session, students partnered with peers from Pennington School to engage in interactive STEM activities focused on power grids, robotics, and engineering design. This collaboration encouraged teamwork, problem-solving, and the sharing of ideas across schools.

In a separate experience, students worked with the New York Power Authority to explore how electricity is generated, transmitted, and delivered to communities. Through hands-on learning and discussions with industry professionals, students gained valuable insight into energy systems and the wide range of careers within the field.

Together, these experiences made March STEAM Day an exciting and meaningful opportunity for students to connect classroom learning with the real world, inspiring them to see themselves as future innovators and leaders in STEM.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE AND SEE MORE PHOTOS ON OUR DISTRICT WEBSITE!



*Field Trips***A POWERFUL JOURNEY: 9TH GRADERS REFLECT ON THE BREADWINNER AT JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER***Written by: Ms. Terry*

On Wednesday, March 18th Ms. Terry's 9th grade students attended the viewing of *The Breadwinner* at the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville, NY. Ms. Comrie chaperoned this trip to the Jacob Burns Film Center.

The primary goal of viewing *The Breadwinner* at the Jacob Burns Film Center was to engage students with complex humanitarian issues, global rights, and the Afghan experience through the lens of a powerful animated narrative. As part of the Film Center's educational mission, the screening served as a tool for empathy-building and critical thinking by encouraging students to explore human rights—specifically gender inequality, the Taliban regime, and the denial of basic freedoms such as education for girls. It also supported visual literacy by helping students analyze storytelling techniques and consider how media shapes our understanding of world events. In addition, the film highlighted themes of resilience through Parvana's journey of self-sacrifice and courage, demonstrating how storytelling can be a means of survival and empowerment in the face of adversity.

The post-viewing Q&A, led by Charlotte Exton, the Manager of Education Programs at JBFC, highlighted the deep thought and critical reflection our students had after viewing *The Breadwinner*. Their deep, voluntary responses moved me. It demonstrated the emotional depth my students experienced during the viewing. Many expressed how emotional they felt after viewing the film. My students noted the impact of war on families and how demoralizing, disruptive, and damaging gender-based discrimination can be. One student, Jharri Mompoinde, stated, "I thought the movie was very heartwarming while heartbreaking at the same time. I also felt it was very educational to see what is happening to the women of Afghanistan and how the war impacts many of the people in Afghanistan."

Field trips are key to a healthy learning experience by exposing students to varied experiences in different environments. It is truly the icing on the cake!



*This summary of *The Breadwinner* is based on information published by the Jacob Burns Film Center's website.*

Guidance Department

JUNIORS GEAR UP FOR SENIOR YEAR AT COLLEGE EXPLORATION EVENT



Students from MV STEAM Academy spent the day exploring postsecondary opportunities at the Manhattanville University College Fair. Throughout the visit, students engaged with representatives from a wide range of institutions—including Manhattanville University, Lehman College, Purchase University, and the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD)—gaining valuable insight into academic programs, campus life, and admissions expectations.

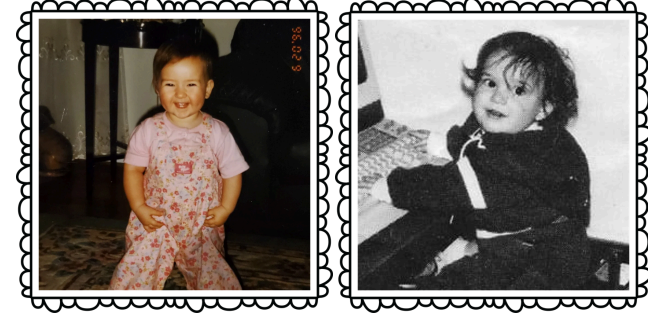
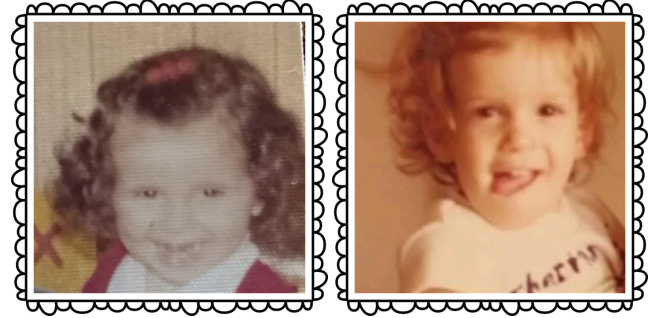
Guided by Mrs. Caldwell and the counseling team, students navigated the fair with enthusiasm and curiosity. They asked thoughtful questions, collected informational materials, and participated in conversations that will help shape their future college and career planning. The event offered students an inspiring glimpse into the possibilities that await them after graduation.

“The college fair was a really informative and valuable experience. Every representative we spoke to was kind, approachable, and very knowledgeable about their school. They took the time to answer questions and share important information, which made it easier to understand what each college has to offer. We were able to take in a lot of new knowledge and gain a better idea of what we might be looking for in our future college.”
— Valeria Martinez and Emily Ramos, Juniors

School Fun

WHO’S THAT GIRL? A WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH CHALLENGE

In celebration of Women’s History Month, we’re highlighting the incredible women who help make our school such a special place, starting from the very beginning! Take a look at these adorable baby photos of our staff and see if you can guess who’s who. From tiny trailblazers to the inspiring educators and leaders they are today, each of these women has grown into someone who makes a difference in our school community every day. Think you can name them all? Submit your guesses; anyone who correctly identifies every staff member will win a special prize from Ms. Wallace and, of course, bragging rights!



ANSWERS IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!

Celebrations

UPCOMING NATIONAL DAYS

APRIL

- April 6-10th: Assistant Principals' Week
- April 20th: National School Librarian Day
- April 22nd: Administrative Professionals' Day
- April 28th: National School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

MAY

- May 1st: National Principals' Day
- May 1st: National Lunch Hero Day
- May 4-8th: Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 6th: School Nurse Day
- May 18th: Speech Pathologist Day

Donations

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!



Middle School

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY: STAFF MEMBERS NEEDED

Ms. Ingram, our dedicated middle school Social Worker, is seeking staff leaders to help re-establish the National Honor Society this year. She is seeking at least five committed members ready to support service initiatives and promote academic excellence.



Interested staff should see Ms. Ingram in G11 for more information!

Social Studies Department

STEAM STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP

After recently leading engaging classroom presentations on the importance of voting and civic responsibility under the guidance of Ms. Guziczek, Mount Vernon STEAM Academy students are now being recognized beyond our school community. The Civics Center featured STEAM in a recent social media post, congratulating students on their successful voter registration drive and highlighting the impact of their work. This recognition reinforces what we already know: our students are not only learning about civic engagement, but actively leading it and inspiring others to make their voices heard.



Around the School

FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE

7 th Grade	- 85.78%
8 th Grade	- 90.92%
9 th Grade	- 86.28%
10 th Grade	- 87.38%
11 th Grade	- 84.71%
12 th Grade	- 84.75%

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

Class of 2030 & 2031
Ms. Ingram & Ms. Porter

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!

