ISSUE 08 / APRIL 2026

THE STEAM SCENE

MV STEAM ACADEMY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Testing

May 5-6th

7th & 8th NYS CBT Math Testing

May 4-13th

AP Exams

May 12

8th NYS CBT Science Testing

May 19-20

HS Field Tests (Algebra 1, US History & English)

April Meetings

May 6th

Faculty Meeting 3-4pm

May 20th

Department Meeting 3-4pm

Fieldtrips

May 5th

ACE visiting Con Edison's Murray Hill Substation (after school)

May 13th

Senior Trip to Off-Broadway

May 20th

Her Honor Graduation at the Larchmont Shore Club

May 21st

9/11 Museum & Memorial Junior Trip

May 21st

PLTW: Operation Influx at MV Hospital

School events

May 21st

Class of 2026 Prom

May 28th

Spring Showcase

May 28th

8th Grade Dance

Upcoming Holidays

May 22nd

Half Day

May 25th

No School: Memorial Day

Spotlight

MR. RANDALL SMITH HONORED AT EDITH KAPLAN SCHOLARSHIP DINNER DANCE



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE READ ABOUT THE OTHER HORNOREES ON OUR DISTRICT WEBSITE!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE MORE PHOTOS ON OUR DISTRICT WEBSITE!

Mount Vernon STEAM Academy proudly celebrates Mr. Randall Smith, school social worker, who was honored at the annual Edith Kaplan Scholarship Dinner Dance for his outstanding contributions to the school community. The event, hosted by the Mount Vernon PTA Council, recognizes educators, administrators, and community members who have made a meaningful impact on students and the district.

Mr. Smith's recognition highlights his dedication, leadership, and commitment to supporting student success at STEAM Academy. Surrounded by fellow honorees, families, and community members, the evening served as a powerful reminder of the difference passionate educators and support staff make every day. Congratulations to Mr. Smith on this well-deserved honor!

"Your years of service as a social worker have left a lasting impact on the lives of so many students and families. You have led with compassion, integrity, and a steady sense of purpose, always guided by your faith and commitment to helping others. As you enter this next chapter, may it be filled with peace, joy, and continued blessings."
- Ms. Parchment, Supervisor of Special Education

National Days

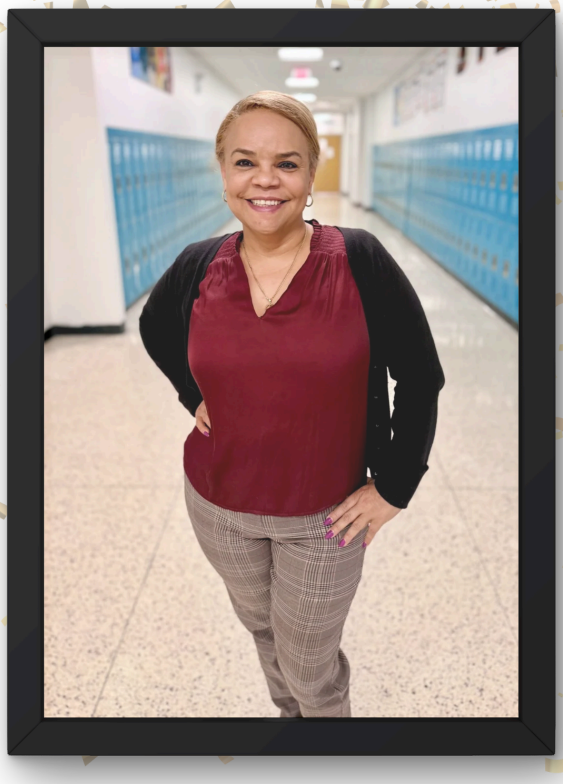
LEADING WITH HEART: CELEBRATING OUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS*

**AND MR. SIGMAN!*

During the week of April 6th, our school community proudly celebrated National Assistant Principals Week by recognizing the incredible leadership and dedication of Ms. Brown, Ms. Marte, and Mr. Wilbekin. Each of them brings a unique strength to our building, but all share a common commitment: supporting students, uplifting staff, and keeping our school running smoothly every single day. Whether they are problem-solving behind the scenes, building relationships with students and staff, or stepping in wherever they are needed, their impact is felt in every hallway and classroom. We also took a moment to recognize Mr. Sigman, our STEM Department Chair, for his leadership and continued support of our STEM programs.

Ms. Marte

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION



"Ms. Marte, we celebrate you this week,
For all that you do in your own special way.
From counselor roots to leading with grace,
You uplift this school in every space.
With love and empathy, you guide and inspire,
Lifting each student and staff member higher.
You've been in the trenches, you truly understand,
And always step in with a helping hand.
An ear that will listen, no matter the day,
Even while yelling (in the nicest way!).
With passion and humor, you help us stand tall,
Keeping us grounded and supporting us all.
With respect for all, you lead with care,
Your impact is felt everywhere.
The heart of this building, strong and true,
Ms. Marte, we're so lucky to have you."
- Ms. Caldwell, Ms. Peralta & Ms. Pogue

Ms. Brown

ASISSTANT PRINCIPAL OF STUDENT AFFAIRS



***A**lways doing all the things, & making it look effortless*
***P**ositively Powerful, with a teacher's heart & a leader's mind*

***B**eautiful & Brilliant, inside & out*
***R**adiant energy that fills every hallway*
***O**riginal in spirit, style, & leadership*
***W**onderful at wearing many hats (and rocking every one!)*
***N**ever just an assistant principal, truly a vibrant force*

Love,
STEAM English Department

Mr. Wibekin

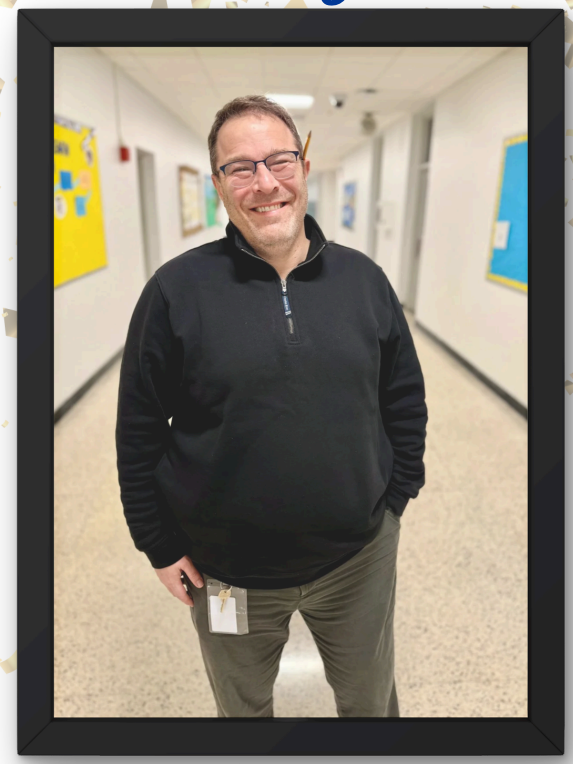
ASISSTANT PRINCIPAL OF CULTURE AND CLIMATE



"Mr. Wilbekin is an honest, committed, and willing administrator who consistently puts students and staff first. He leads with integrity, listens with intention, and never hesitates to step in wherever support is needed. His calm presence, reliability, and genuine care make him a trusted leader and an invaluable part of our school community." - Dr. Pearce

*Mr. Sigman

STEM DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATOR



"At STEAM Academy, Mr. Sigman... better known as Siggy, runs the show like a perfectly coded algorithm. Equal parts logic, innovation, and just enough cookies to keep the system from crashing... because even in science, some experiments are better left uneaten." - Mr. Boylan

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Q	Q	J	D	I	O	C	A	R	I	N	G	H	S	N

thank you

Who Runs This School? (Hint: They Do!)

Find and circle the names and words that represent the incredible leaders who keep our school running strong. Words may be hidden across, down, or diagonally! Can you find them all?

Community
Students
Respect
Caring
Inspire
STEAM
Brown
Marte
Wilbekin
Sigman
Leadership
Support

Class of 2027 Update

POPPIN' WITH PRIDE: JUNIORS MAKE IT HAPPEN

The Class of 2027 showed up and showed out during their recent fundraising event, selling gourmet popcorn through Double Good from March 25–29. In just five days, the junior class brought in nearly $700 in profit, supporting upcoming class activities and events.

Students promoted their sales online, sharing their personalized pop-up stores with friends, family, and the community. The quick, digital format made it easy for supporters to contribute!

A special shoutout goes to the top student sellers: Tamia Johnson, Hawa Massaquoi, and Devendra Roopnarine, who led the way with outstanding effort and dedication throughout the fundraiser. With impressive results, the Class of 2027 continues to build momentum and school spirit, one bag of popcorn at a time.







Guidance Department

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE: STUDENTS ENGAGE WITH COLLEGES AND CAREER LEADERS







On April 17, our school proudly hosted a College Fair in the Media Center, giving students the opportunity to explore a wide range of postsecondary options and connect directly with college and career representatives. Participating institutions included St. Thomas Aquinas College, Lehman College, SUNY Purchase, Westchester Community College, Clark Atlanta University, as well as career pathway organizations such as the Mount Vernon Youth Bureau and Universal Technical Institute.

Students engaged in meaningful conversations about admissions, academic programs, campus life, financial aid, and alternative career pathways, gaining valuable insight into the many routes to success after high school. The event encouraged students to reflect on their future goals, build confidence, and recognize the importance of strong academic habits, leadership, and self-advocacy. We are proud of our students for taking advantage of this impactful experience as they begin envisioning what's possible beyond graduation.

STEAM Days

YOUR VOICE, YOUR VOTE: EMPOWERING STUDENT VOTERS

On March 27, STEAM Academy senior Leonard Oduro took the lead in organizing a powerful STEAM Day assembly to increase youth voter registration and civic engagement in Mount Vernon. The event was assisted and advised by Ms. Guziczek and supported by the My Brother's Keeper Alliance, encouraging students to think critically about their role in civic participation and the importance of making their voices heard.

During the assembly, students completed a brief, two-question survey to reflect on their awareness and involvement in the voting process, helping them consider both their current knowledge and future participation. The event also featured guest speaker Eric Crump, who inspired students with a message about leadership, responsibility, and the impact of youth engagement in shaping the future. Students were encouraged to recognize the power of their voices and the importance of participating in the democratic process, particularly at the local level where change often begins.

This meaningful assembly highlighted the power of student leadership and reinforced the importance of motivating young people to become active, informed citizens who are prepared to engage in their communities.



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

"I found this assembly interesting. I think it's very important that students learn the importance of voting at a young age. Voting cares about you, even if you don't care about it." – *Dwayne Hudgeson, Junior*

Science Department

ENGINEERING ON TRIAL: SCIENCE MEETS THE COURTROOM



On April 17, Ms. Stewart's 7th-grade science classes transformed the classroom into a courtroom for an engaging, hands-on learning experience. Centered around a real wrongful death case involving the estate of Karter Breon Smith and a Tesla Model 3, students applied their knowledge of chemistry and engineering design to analyze vehicle safety and argue their positions.

Students took on roles as lawyers, engineers, and expert witnesses, some even arriving in costume to fully embrace the experience. Throughout the activity, they used scientific concepts such as elements, molecules, and structural design to support their claims and challenge opposing arguments. One standout moment included a student presenting detailed research on the safety and hazards of Tesla vehicles, complete with exhibits and extensive evidence.

The simulation sparked high levels of engagement and critical thinking, as students debated, questioned, and defended their ideas. Ms. Stewart (in full "devil's advocate" mode) exclaimed during the proceedings, "Counselor – you are in contempt of court!!! I will disbar you and throw you in jail!" A memorable moment that captured the energy and excitement of the day!

This creative approach to learning allowed students to connect science concepts to real-world applications, proving that in Ms. Stewart's class, innovation and imagination go hand in hand.

Guidance Department

ONE POWERFUL YEAR OF JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT



Mount Vernon STEAM Academy proudly wraps up another successful year of Junior Achievement, a powerful mentorship program connecting our high school scholars with elementary students across the district. Under the guidance of Ms. Caldwell, one of our outstanding academic counselors, students in grades 9–12 stepped into leadership roles, bringing topics such as financial literacy and real-world skills into classrooms in meaningful, engaging ways.

Throughout the school year, STEAM scholars participated in three Junior Achievement trips, beginning with their first visit on November 14th at Nelson Mandela School. They also worked closely with students at Graham Elementary School and Benjamin Turner Academy, building connections and creating impactful learning experiences across multiple grade levels. During each visit, high school mentors taught lessons on money management, saving, and financial responsibility, helping younger students develop essential life skills early on.

Participation in Junior Achievement is open to all high school students who can accrue independently. In addition to making a difference in their community, students earn at least 8 hours of community service per trip and gain access to valuable scholarship opportunities. More importantly, they build confidence, strengthen communication skills, and discover the impact of mentorship firsthand.

This year's program not only supported elementary students' understanding of subjects like financial literacy but also empowered our STEAM scholars to grow as leaders, role models, and changemakers. Programs like Junior Achievement continue to highlight the strength of our school community, where students uplift one another and learn that leadership starts with service.



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

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE A GALLERY OF PHOTOS!

Guidance Department

COLLEGE FOR A DAY: GREAT POTENTIAL STUDENTS VISIT SUNY PURCHASE



On April 24, 2026, students in grades 9–12 participated in the Great Potential Annual Field Trip, "College for a Day," at SUNY Purchase. The trip was arranged by high school Academic Counselor, Ms. Pogue, to give students meaningful exposure to college life. Students engaged in a panel discussion that offered honest insights into academics, dorm and social life, networking, and taking ownership of the college experience.

The visit also included a mini campus tour and the opportunity to dine in the residential dining hall. A highlight of the day was meeting the President of SUNY Purchase College; students asked thoughtful questions and captured memorable photos of the experience.

Testing

AP TESTING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, May 5, 2026	Chemistry	8:00 A.M.
Tuesday, May 5, 2026	United States Government & Politics	12:00 P.M.
Wednesday, May 6, 2026	English Literature & Composition	8:00 A.M.
Thursday, May 7, 2026	World History: Modern	8:00 A.M.
Friday, May 8, 2026	United State History	8:00 A.M.
Monday, May 11, 2026	Calculus AB	8:00 A.M.
Tuesday, May 12, 2026	Psychology	12:00 P.M.
Wednesday, May 13, 2026	English Language & Composition	8:00 A.M.

Field Trips

FROM CLASSROOM TO HARBOR: STUDENTS VISIT LADY LIBERTY

On April 30, juniors and seniors participated in an unforgettable educational experience with a field trip to the Statue of Liberty. Students traveled to Liberty Island, where they toured the grounds and learned about the monument's powerful history and its role as a lasting symbol of freedom, democracy, and immigration in the United States. As part of the visit, students also had the unique opportunity to enter the museum, allowing them to explore the structure up close and take in stunning views of New York Harbor.

This engaging, hands-on learning experience was thoughtfully planned by Junior Advisors Ms. Comrie and Ms. Roberts, with chaperone assistance from Ms. Prince, Ms. Clarke, and Security Officer Santos.



Clubs

LEADERS IN THE COURTROOM: STEAM MOCK TRIAL TEAM CELEBRATED



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

Students at Mount Vernon STEAM Academy recently had the opportunity to explore the world of law through the school's Mock Trial program, gaining firsthand experience in what it takes to build and argue a case. Through this hands-on learning experience, students developed skills in critical thinking, public speaking, and teamwork while preparing for real courtroom-style competitions.

The Mock Trial program allows students to take on roles such as attorneys, witnesses, and timekeepers, helping them better understand how the legal system works. Students also have the chance to compete against other schools in Westchester County, putting their knowledge and preparation into action.

Beyond competition, the experience gives students a deeper appreciation for the justice system and exposes them to potential careers in law. By working through real-world scenarios, STEAM scholars continue to build confidence and practical skills that will benefit them both in and out of the classroom.

In recognition of their hard work and achievement, students will also be honored by City Councilman Andre Wallace on June 7th at City Hall, celebrating their dedication and success in the program.

My Brother's Keeper

EMPOWERING YOUNG MEN THROUGH LEADERSHIP AND GROWTH

On Tuesday, April 21, Mount Vernon STEAM Academy students attended the Hudson Valley My Brother's Keeper (MBK) 2026 Youth Leadership Symposium at the Westchester County Center. Fourteen young men proudly represented STEAM Academy, accompanied by MBK Coordinator Arthur Muhammed and Ms. Monique Porter, highlighting the school's strong commitment to leadership development, student engagement, and community empowerment. The symposium served as a powerful platform for meaningful engagement, thoughtful dialogue, and transformative learning. Students from across Westchester County participated in a full day of activities, including eight interactive workshops focused on leadership, personal growth, and social awareness. Workshops attended included Hip Hop Therapy, Teen Dating, Emotional Resilience, Leveling the Playing Field, Brotherhood, and four additional sessions designed to promote reflection, collaboration, and self-awareness.

The day was anchored by a keynote address from nationally recognized speaker Brad Butter II, whose message emphasized perseverance, self-discipline, and the importance of making positive choices. One of the most impactful moments of his speech focused on the concept of L.E.G.A.C.Y., challenging students to reflect on whether their actions are **Legendary**, if they are giving their goals their full **Energy**, whether they can **Guarantee** success through commitment, remain **Aware** of how they are building their future, contribute to a positive **Culture**, and ultimately consider if the world will remember **You**.



Overall, the experience proved empowering and inspirational, reinforcing the importance of investing in young leaders and equipping them with the confidence, insight, and motivation to create lasting change in their communities.

Earth Day Events

EARTH DAY COLLABORATION PROMOTES COMMUNITY PRIDE

On Earth Day, April 22nd, students from grades 7–12 came together for a meaningful afternoon of service and community collaboration during the “Blue Meets Green” event. Organized in partnership with Dr. Pearce, Mr. Nifontoff, and his after-school Eco Action Club, as well as the Mount Vernon Police Department, the event brought together approximately 20 students committed to making a difference.

Students worked together to clean up Hartley Park and sections of Gramatan Avenue, taking pride in improving their local environment. The Mount Vernon Police Department supported the effort by providing green safety vests, gloves, and trash bags, ensuring students were well-equipped for the task.

This hands-on experience not only promoted environmental responsibility, but also strengthened connections between students and community partners. It was a great example of how collaboration and student leadership can create a positive impact, proving that when “Blue Meets Green,” great things happen for our community.



Earth Day Events

MOTHER EARTH VISITS STEAM



Ms. Stewart brought Earth Day to life by dressing as Mother Earth, inspiring students to care for the planet while adding a little creativity and fun to the celebration!

In the Land of Middle School

8TH GRADE WWII LEARNING COMES TO LIFE WITH MOVIE DAY

On April 24, 2026, our 8th-grade students gathered in the auditorium for a special movie day that brought their World War II studies to life. As a culminating experience following their recent WWII unit, students watched Netflix’s *The Six Triple Eight*, a powerful film highlighting the contributions of the all-Black, all-female 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion during the war.

The event was hosted by the Middle School Social Studies team, Mr. Emerson, Mr. Durante, and Ms. Wallace, with planning support from Mr. Batkay. The film allowed students to deepen their understanding of the diversity of experiences during WWII and to reflect on themes of service, perseverance, and overlooked history.

Special thanks to Ms. Silva for her support in managing the auditorium, and to all the 8th-grade teachers for allowing this engaging experience for our students. It was a memorable way to reinforce historical learning beyond the textbook!

Celebrations

UPCOMING NATIONAL DAYS

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

PROM PHOTOS NEEDED!

HELP NEEDED

Calling all staff! We need your high school prom photos for our next school video! Please text or email a photo to Ms. Wallace by **May 15th**.

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!



After School Clubs

FULL STEAM AHEAD: MVSA'S FIRST OFFICIAL BAND TAKES THE STAGE



Mount Vernon STEAM Academy is proud to introduce its first official school band, Overcast. What began as simply "the school band" has grown into a dedicated and passionate group of student musicians who are ready to make their mark.

The band features Alistar Bell, Eliab Obando Miranda, Cesar Aguilar, Carlos Garcia Pena, and Ms. Faust, who rehearse together after school on the fourth floor. Overcast has been hard at work practicing a variety of songs, with a current favorite being "Smells Like Teen Spirit" by Nirvana. Their energy and commitment are sure to shine through in their upcoming performance.

Be sure to catch Overcast live at the Spring Concert; they're excited to perform for the STEAM community! You can also follow their musical journey on Instagram at @overcast_mvsa. Full STEAM ahead!



FOLLOW THEM ON INSTAGRAM BY SCANNING THE QR CODE!

School Fun

WHO'S THAT GIRL? *THE ANSWERS!*



Ms. Stewart



Ms. Carroll



Ms. Roberts



Ms. Guziczek



Ms. Shkreli



Ms. Vogel



Ms. Jaffess



Ms. Brown

Around the School

MARCH ATTENDANCE

7th Grade - 87.41%
8th Grade - 89.08%
9th Grade - 86.15%
10th Grade - 85.21%
11th Grade - 84.07%
12th Grade - 82.83%

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 2026 & 2027 *(Middle School)*
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!

FEBRUARY STAFF OF THE MONTH!

