

THE STEAM SCENE

MV STEAM ACADEMY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Testing

August 18-19

Regents Testing

School events

August 27-28

Superintendent's Conference Days

September 2

Convocation (Morning)

September 3

First Day of School (Half Day)

September 3

Afternoon PD

Upcoming Holidays

July 4th

Independence Day

September 1

Labor Day

Spotlight

STEAM ACADEMY TEACHER OF THE YEAR!



MOUNT VERNON STEAM ACADEMY • CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION
2026 SPECIAL EDITION

Forbes



MORE THAN A TEACHER

Mentor.
Organizer.
Advocate.

ALWAYS THINKING OF OTHERS

The first to help,
The last to stop.

STYLE MEETS SUBSTANCE

A look that stands out.
A character that stands taller.

MR. HYMAN 2026 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The educator transforming lives through service, leadership, and community.

BEFORE THE FIRST BELL

Teaching Zero Period at 7:00 AM, dedication starts early.

THE SUNSHINE LEGACY FUND

Honoring his late brother by supporting families in times of need.

GROWING TOGETHER

The greenhouse vision that's taking root, with students leading the way.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

The man behind countless donations, drives, and celebrations that bring the STEAM family together.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

LEADING WITH HEART. SERVING WITH PURPOSE.
MAKING A DIFFERENCE THAT GOES FAR BEYOND THE CLASSROOM.



Staff of the Month

CELEBRATING THE EDUCATORS WHO INSPIRE US

The final staff meeting of the 2025–2026 school year included a special celebration as Mount Vernon STEAM Academy recognized Ms. Comrie and Mr. Glinias as Staff of the Month for April and May and announced Mr. Hyman as the school's 2026 Teacher of the Year.

April honoree Ms. Comrie was celebrated for her compassion, leadership, and dedication to students. In addition to her work as an educator and advisor, she is also the award-winning author of the *Rain Raising* series, which has earned multiple Book of the Year honors. Her commitment to helping students find their voice and reach their potential makes her a valued member of the STEAM community.

The may honoree, Mr. Glinias, was recognized for his passion for hands-on learning and his ability to bring science to life. Through projects such as beekeeping, Trout in the Classroom, and other experiential learning opportunities, he inspires students to explore, question, and discover the world around them.

The highlight of the afternoon was the announcement of Mr. Hyman as Teacher of the Year. Known for his generosity, leadership, and commitment to service, Mr. Hyman begins many days teaching Zero Period before the regular school day starts and is the driving force behind the Sunshine Legacy Fund, which supports Mount Vernon families in need. He also plays a key role in organizing schoolwide events and is helping lead the development of a student-supported greenhouse project.

Congratulations to Ms. Comrie, Mr. Glinias, and Mr. Hyman on these well-deserved honors. Their dedication and impact help make Mount Vernon STEAM Academy a place where students and staff can thrive!



Celebrations

STEAM MOCK TRIAL TEAM HONORED AT CITY HALL

On June 10, members of the Mount Vernon STEAM Academy Mock Trial Team were honored during a special recognition ceremony at Mount Vernon City Hall. Organized by Councilperson Andre Wallace, the event celebrated students for their hard work, dedication, and accomplishments throughout the 2025–2026 Mock Trial season. Students received certificates of recognition for their participation in the program, which provides hands-on experience in legal proceedings while developing skills in public speaking, critical thinking, and teamwork.

The City Council also recognized advisor Ms. Ashley Wallace and Mount Vernon City Attorney Mr. Brian Johnson, who serves as a mentor and advisor to the team. A highlight of the evening was Councilperson Wallace's presentation of a \$500 monetary gift to each graduating senior to assist with college supplies and expenses as they begin their next chapter.

The ceremony reflected the strong partnership between the Mount Vernon City School District, the City of Mount Vernon, and local legal professionals. Most importantly, it celebrated a group of students who worked tirelessly throughout the season and represented Mount Vernon with professionalism, confidence, and pride.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH THE STUDENTS AT THE CEREMONY!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE MORE PHOTOS!



*Middle School Land***CLOSING OUT MIDDLE SCHOOL IN STYLE**

The Mount Vernon STEAM Academy Class of 2030 celebrated the end of middle school with two memorable events: their 8th-grade prom on May 28 and their annual class trip on June 10.

The festivities began with the 8th Grade Prom, held at Juliano's in New Rochelle. This year's theme, "Night at the Bayou," transformed the venue into a celebration filled with music, dancing, laughter, and unforgettable memories. Students arrived dressed to impress and enjoyed an evening of great food, fun, and friendship as they marked the conclusion of their middle school journey. The event was thoughtfully planned by class advisors Ms. Crystal Ingram and Ms. Monique Porter, with tremendous support from Ms. Makayla, whose efforts helped bring the evening to life. Juliano's, a longtime event venue in New Rochelle, provided the perfect setting for the special occasion



Just two weeks later, on June 10, students traveled to Holiday Hill in Prospect for their end-of-year class trip. The outing gave students an opportunity to relax, celebrate, and spend time together before moving on to high school. Throughout the day, students enjoyed outdoor activities, games, and attractions while creating lasting memories with their classmates. Holiday Hill has long been a destination for school and group outings, offering a wide variety of recreational experiences in a resort-style setting.

The trip was organized by advisors Ms. Ingram and Ms. Monique Porter and was chaperoned by Ms. Ingram, Ms. Porter, Mr. Wilbekin, Ms. McLawrence, Ms. Makayla, and Security Officer Max. Their dedication and supervision helped ensure that students had a safe, enjoyable, and successful day.

As the Class of 2030 prepares to begin high school in the fall, these two celebrations served as a fitting sendoff, honoring their accomplishments and the friendships they have built throughout their middle school years.



National Honor Society

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY WELCOMES 31 NEW MEMBERS

On June 8, 2026, our school community came together to celebrate a remarkable achievement as 31 students were inducted into the National Honor Society. The ceremony recognized these outstanding young men and women for their dedication to scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to each of our inductees. Your hard work, perseverance, and commitment to excellence have earned you this prestigious honor. We are proud of your accomplishments and excited to see all that you will achieve in the future.

Events such as these are made possible through the dedication of many individuals working behind the scenes. We would like to offer a special thank you to the National Honor Society Committee, Ms. Terry, Ms. Donoghue, and Ms. Monique Porter, for their countless hours of planning and preparation. Their commitment helped create a meaningful and memorable experience for our students and families.

One of the highlights of the celebration was the wonderful food enjoyed by all in attendance. A special shout-out goes to Mr. Gordon and Mr. Barktely for their generosity and hard work. The delicious refreshments added a warm and welcoming touch to an already special occasion.

As we celebrate our newest National Honor Society members, we also celebrate the spirit of community that made this event such a success. Congratulations once again to our 31 inductees. Your achievements inspire us all, and we look forward to watching you continue to grow, lead, and make a difference.



HAILEY PERRIER
 BRIANA VALENTIN
 MARSHAUN HUTCHINSON
 CAMILLA POLANCO
 PATRICK SINGH
 LONDON BASCIANO
 ELIAB OBANDO MIRANDO
 ALANA DIGGS
 ANNE THEOPHILE
 TYLER FINDLAY
 AARON PADILLA-DIAZ
 JOSEPHINE PADILLA
 VIDHI GOEL
 QUEEN INWANG
 PEYTON MARTIN

BLESSING KARIKARI
 RICKAYLA MCCALLA
 RUSHANE KIRLEW
 ESTHER FORSON
 ELI FORMAN
 HAWA MASSAQUOI
 JUSTIN WALKER
 ADAM MUNOZ
 FRANK FABIAN COLON
 MARISIAMEDE
 ISABEL NOVA FERREIRA
 NICOLE RAMLAGAN
 GABRIELLA DE ANDRADE
 YOLLIE-ANN MATTISON
 VERA WREH

Senior Corner

STEAM SENIORS EARN EDITH KAPLAN SCHOLARSHIPS

Mount Vernon STEAM Academy is proud to celebrate several graduating seniors who were awarded the prestigious Edith Kaplan Scholarship by the Mount Vernon PTA Council at the June 24, 2026 Board of Education meeting. In total, 16 students across the district received \$1,000 scholarships to support their college goals.

The scholarships are funded through the annual Edith Kaplan Scholarship Dinner Dance, which raised \$20,000 this year to help graduating seniors continue their education. Representing STEAM Academy, Leonard Oduro (University at Albany), Stephany Valdovinos (John Jay College of Criminal Justice), Cayden Mitchell (North Carolina A&T), Ariel Mussington (University of New Haven), Angie Gutierrez (College of Mount Saint Vincent), and Sean Souphomma-Inh (Apex Technical School) were recognized for their hard work, resilience, and commitment to their academic and personal growth.

We congratulate our STEAM scholars on this outstanding achievement and wish them continued success as they take the next steps in their educational journeys!



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



Science Department

MEDICINE IN ACTION: STUDENTS EXPERIENCE HEALTHCARE CAREERS

They say busy as a bee, and if anyone knows that saying is true, it's science teacher and resident beekeeper Mr. Glinias. When he's not caring for thousands of buzzing bees, he's hard at work creating unforgettable learning experiences for students. On June 11, arranged by Science Department Chair Mr. Sigman, Mr. Glinias hosted Mentoring in Medicine, giving students an exciting opportunity to explore healthcare careers through interactive, hands-on activities.

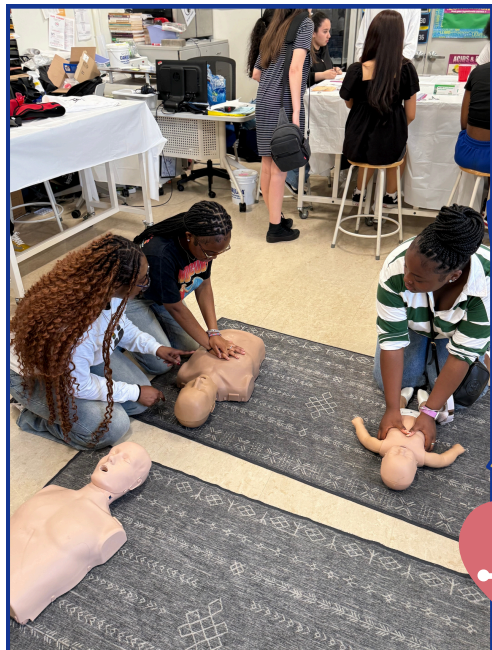
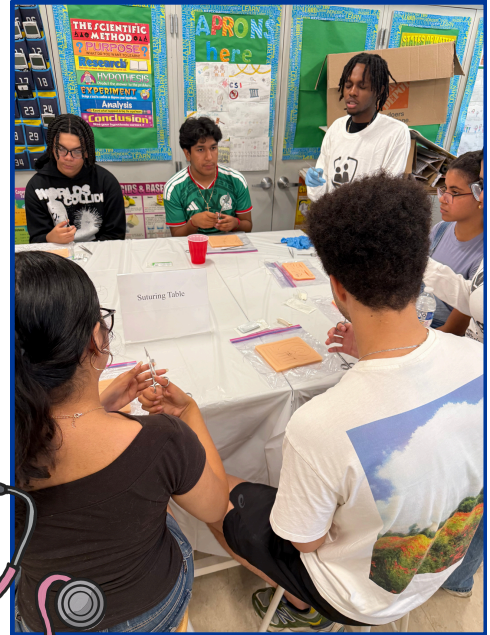
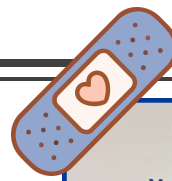
Students from Project Lead the Way (PLTW), HOSA, and high school science classes rotated through a variety of medical career stations led by healthcare professionals, college students, and volunteers. Participants practiced suturing techniques, phlebotomy, and CPR and examined real organs during anatomy demonstrations, including a popular heart station led by volunteer Jocelyn. The immersive experience allowed students to step into the role of medical professionals while learning about the many career paths available in healthcare.

Mentoring in Medicine is a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring and preparing students to become future health and science professionals through academic enrichment, mentorship, and hands-on learning opportunities. The organization works with students from elementary school through professional school, helping them explore careers in medicine while building the skills and confidence needed to pursue them.

One volunteer shared a particularly meaningful connection to the program. Now in her fourth year volunteering with Mentoring in Medicine, she first became involved after attending one of its events as a high school student herself. Since then, she has helped bring the program to 12 high schools across New York while studying biochemistry at Syracuse University.

"I joined because I experienced this program when I was in high school, and it opened my eyes to careers I didn't even know existed," she said. "It's such great exposure to so many different medical fields, and I love being able to give today's students the same opportunity that inspired me."

From holding a real human heart to practicing lifesaving skills, students left the event with a deeper understanding of the medical profession and the many possibilities that await them after high school. Thanks to Mr. Glinias' initiative, students had the chance to see that the path to a career in medicine begins with curiosity, hands-on learning, and a willingness to explore.



After School

STEAM ACADEMY STUDENTS GAIN REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE THROUGH ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

For six months, a group of Mount Vernon STEAM Academy students stepped beyond the traditional classroom and into the world of architecture, construction, and engineering through the ACE Mentor Program of Greater New York. The free after-school program connects students with industry professionals who serve as mentors while guiding them through a hands-on design challenge.

This year, students were tasked with designing a new arts university from the ground up. Working alongside architects, engineers, and construction professionals, they developed plans, solved real-world problems, and learned how the different fields work together to bring large-scale projects to life. Throughout the program, students gained valuable experience while exploring potential career paths. The program culminated in a final presentation where students showcased their designs and explained the decisions behind their projects. The experience provided participants with a deeper understanding of the design and construction industries while helping them build skills in collaboration, communication, problem-solving, and project planning.

For many students, ACE offered more than just a project—it provided an opportunity to explore future careers and discover new interests. As senior Eli shared, the program helps students determine whether careers in engineering, architecture, or related fields are right for them. The hands-on nature of the experience allowed participants to see firsthand what those professions involve. Programs like ACE continue to expand learning opportunities for Mount Vernon STEAM Academy students by connecting classroom knowledge with real-world applications. Through mentorship and authentic project-based experiences, students are gaining the confidence and skills needed to pursue their future goals.



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Senior Spotlight

EXCELLENCE, LEADERSHIP, AND LEGACY: CELEBRATING STEAM'S TOP SCHOLARS

As graduation approaches, Mount Vernon STEAM Academy proudly celebrates its top two students: Valedictorian Anisah Khan and Salutatorian DanaMarie Galindo. While their future paths may lead them in different directions, both students have distinguished themselves through academic excellence, leadership, and a commitment to making a difference.

This fall, Anisah will attend New York University, where she plans to study biology on a pre-med track while pursuing her goal of becoming a physician. Throughout her time at STEAM, she challenged herself academically and discovered a passion for learning that extended beyond the sciences. Anisah credits much of her success to the support of her family, friends, and STEAM educators, including Ms. Caldwell, Mr. Pally, and Mr. Glinias, who encouraged her to pursue her ambitions with confidence.

DanaMarie leaves behind a legacy of leadership and service. As a key leader in STEAM's Mock Trial Club, she helped the team earn a Top 8 finish in Westchester County and inspired younger students to get involved. This fall, she will attend Vassar College, where she plans to continue pursuing her academic and professional goals. DanaMarie credits much of her success to the guidance of Mr. Pally, former teacher Mr. Bendlin, and Mock Trial advisor Ms. Wallace, whose mentorship helped shape her into the leader and scholar she is today.

Together, Anisah and DanaMarie represent the very best of the STEAM community. Through their hard work, determination, and dedication to excellence, they have left a lasting impact on their classmates, teachers, and school. We congratulate both students on their remarkable achievements and look forward to seeing all they accomplish in the years ahead.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE FOR ANISAH KHAN

SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE FOR DANAMARIE GALINDO



Science Department

STEAM ACADEMY GRADUATES ENCOURAGED TO INNOVATE, LEAD, & SHINE BRIGHT

The Mount Vernon STEAM Academy community proudly celebrated the Class of 2025 as 173 graduates crossed the stage and officially became alumni. Surrounded by family, friends, faculty, and district leaders, students reflected on their accomplishments while looking ahead to exciting new opportunities in college, careers, military service, and beyond.

The ceremony featured inspiring addresses from Valedictorian Anisah Khan and Salutatorian DanaMarie Galindo, whose journeys exemplify the academic excellence, leadership, and determination that define the graduating class. Their heartfelt speeches encouraged classmates to embrace new opportunities, lead with confidence, and continue making a positive impact on the world.

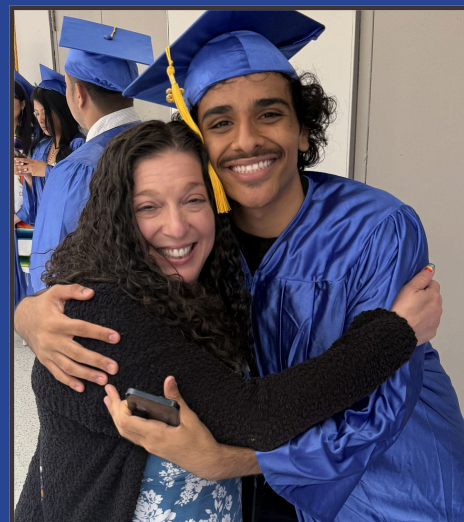
The afternoon was expertly guided by Assistant Principal Ms. Brown, who served as Master of Ceremonies. Her warmth, professionalism, and heartfelt words helped make the celebration both seamless and memorable, keeping the focus where it belonged, on honoring the incredible accomplishments of the Class of 2025.

Behind every memorable graduation is a team of dedicated educators, and this year's ceremony was no exception. Special recognition goes to Class Advisor Ms. Ann Stanton, whose unwavering commitment and countless hours of planning helped make senior year a meaningful and memorable experience. From organizing class events to guiding students through every milestone, Ms. Stanton's dedication ensured the Class of 2025 had a celebration worthy of their accomplishments.

The ceremony was also beautifully enhanced through the incredible work of Music Teacher Ms. Faust, whose leadership and direction created a truly unforgettable atmosphere. The talented student musicians and vocalists delivered moving performances that added joy, reflection, and celebration to the ceremony, making the occasion even more meaningful for graduates and their families.

As the tassels were turned and caps filled the air, the Class of 2025 closed one chapter and began another. Their time at STEAM Academy has prepared them not only with knowledge and skills but also with the resilience, creativity, and compassion to succeed wherever life takes them.

Congratulations to the Mount Vernon STEAM Academy Class of 2025. Your STEAM family is incredibly proud of all you have accomplished and can't wait to see the remarkable impact you will make in the years ahead. We wish each graduate the very best as you continue to innovate, lead, and shine bright.



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SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ THE PHOTO GALLERY ON OUR DISTRICT WEBSITE!



School Culture

A GARDEN WITH A PURPOSE

This spring, students at Mount Vernon STEAM Academy got their hands dirty for a good cause as they helped create a school garden designed to provide fresh vegetables for the community.

Led by Mr. Hyman, STEAM Academy’s 2026 Teacher of the Year, the gardening project gave students the opportunity to learn valuable gardening skills while helping grow nutritious food. The garden features a variety of fruits and vegetables, including watermelon, squash, beans, strawberries, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, and several types of lettuce.

Students participated in every step of the process, from preparing the garden beds to planting the crops. They worked together to clear rocks, rake and level the soil, and prepare the planting area. Under Mr. Hyman's guidance, students learned how to add fertilizer, dig properly sized holes, and space plants correctly to help them thrive.

Beyond teaching gardening techniques, the project provided lessons in teamwork, responsibility, and the importance of healthy food production. Students gained hands-on experience while helping create a resource that will benefit both the school and the wider community.

The project was made possible through the support of several dedicated faculty and staff members. Special thanks go to Mr. Hyman, Mr. Batkay, and Mr. Glinias for their assistance with tilling the garden, and to Ms. Skirelli and Ms. Guziczek for volunteering their time to help students remove rocks and prepare the soil for planting.

As the garden continues to grow throughout the season, it stands as a testament to what students can accomplish when they work together to make a positive impact on their community.



Celebrations

STEAM EDUCATORS EARN TENURE RECOGNITION

Mount Vernon STEAM Academy is proud to celebrate several educators who were recently awarded tenure at the Board of Education meeting on June 24, 2026. Across the district, 36 educators earned this important milestone after more than four years of dedicated service, commitment, and excellence in supporting students and colleagues.

Among those recognized were our very own STEAM staff members: Ms. Marte, Mr. Wilbekin, Mr. Adler, Ms. Benjamin, Mr. Ettere, Ms. Herran, Ms. Duprey, Ms. Clarke, and Ms. Pogue. Each of these individuals has

demonstrated unwavering dedication to student success and has made a lasting impact on the STEAM community. Earning tenure represents a significant professional achievement, recognizing years of growth, reflection, and commitment to educational excellence. We congratulate our STEAM educators on this well-deserved honor and thank them for their continued dedication to our scholars.



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“THIS SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE REFLECTS YOUR DEDICATION, PROFESSIONALISM, AND UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR STUDENTS AND SCHOOL COMMUNITY. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE PASSION, EXPERTISE, AND EXCELLENCE YOU BRING TO MOUNT VERNON STEAM ACADEMY EACH DAY. WE ARE PROUD OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. CONGRATULATIONS ON THIS WELL-DESERVED ACHIEVEMENT!” – DR. PEARCE, PRINCIPAL



“Huge congratulations to Ms. Anjanette Brown on her well-deserved appointment as **Principal of DWSA!** This remarkable achievement is a testament to your dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the students, families, and staff of Mount Vernon. We are incredibly proud of you and all that you have accomplished. As you begin this exciting new chapter, may you continue to shine your light, inspire excellence, and positively impact the lives of countless scholars. Your passion for education and commitment to student success will undoubtedly leave a lasting legacy. Congratulations, Principal Brown! We wish you continued success and many blessings in this new role. Big Up!” – Dr. Pearce, Principal



YOU DID IT!



enjoy
SUMMER
vacation

YOU DID IT!

CLASS ADVISORS

Class of 2027
Ms. Comrie & Ms. Roberts

Class of 2027 Instagram!



Class of 2028
Ms. Wallace

Class of 2028 Instagram!



Class of 2029
Mr. Claro & Mr. Glinias

Class of 2029
TBD!

Class of 2027 & 2028
(Middle School)
Ms. Ingram & Ms. Porter

STEAM INSTAGRAM

Want to see what's happening at Mount Vernon STEAM Academy? Follow Mount Vernon STEAM Academy on Instagram for school and staff videos, student spotlights, school events, and celebrations happening throughout the year. It's the best place to see our students, staff, and community in action and to stay connected with everything happening at STEAM. **Follow @mtvernon_steamacademy**



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.