September 21-25, 2026

Good Afternoon,
I hope everyone had a nice weekend. This is a short week for our students due to Parent/Teacher Conferences with no school for students Thursday or Friday.
We invite parents to join us either Wednesday or Thursday to talk with teachers about your student's progress academically. Please see below for times and locations for both days.
Have a wonderful Sunday,
Dr. Holder

Learning Schedule for the Week:
Monday: Blue Block Day
Tuesday:Silver Block Day
Wednesday: Blue Block Day-Late Start-classes begin at 8:20, P/T Conferences from 4:00-7:30 pm
Thursday: No school for students-Parent/Teacher Conferences from 9:30-8:00
Friday: No school for students or staff

Senior Parents: Awareness Message
I want to make sure senior parents are aware that we do not promote or have built in senior skip days. These are not school sanctioned days.

Parent/Teacher Conferences:
This Wednesday and Thursday we invite parents to join us to talk with teachers about your student's academic progress.
On Wednesday evening, conferences will begin at 4 pm and conclude at 7:30 pm. We ask that parents enter through our Activity Entrance.
On Thursday, conferences begin at 9:30 am and conclude at 8 pm. We will take a dinner break from 4-5 pm. On Thursday we ask parents to enter through our main entrance.
We look forward to seeing you this week!

Freshman Parents: Fastbridge testing information
9th Grade students have recently taken the FastBridge aReading, AutoReading, and aMath exams.
"FastBridge assessments are used to measure student learning. FastBridge scores help teachers to know what kind of teaching each student needs to help them grow, both individually and as part of the whole class (Illuminate Education)."
FastBridge Family reports will be available on Wednesday and Thursday this week during Parent/Teacher Conferences. English and Math teachers will have your student's results to hand to you during your conference time. This is another data point that you will be able to discuss with teachers during this valuable conference time. If you are unable to attend conferences, the scores will be sent home with your student on Monday, September 28th, when they have English/Math again.

Homecoming 2026 is COMING SOON:
We look forward to homecoming week each year as it is a time that MV spirit and celebration shines bright! As a teaser, please see the attached document as a look ahead for this exciting week.
In addition, please consider the following:

October 10th is the Mill Valley Homecoming Dance, and now is the time to order corsages and boutonnieres! Locally owned florist, Branches & Twigs, has beautiful flowers for sale, and is giving back a percentage of all orders to the Silver Stars Dance Team. The orders will all be delivered to the Mill Valley Teacher Parking Lot (off Monticello) the morning of October 10 (10am-noon) for very easy pickup. Deadline for orders is October 7!
To order:
https://branches-twigs-home.myshopify.com/collections/mill-valley
Thanks for supporting this local business and the Silver Stars!

Class Cup:
Students-Consider attending the flag football game on Monday evening to receive credit for the Class Cup competition!

Upcoming Testing Information:
On October 6, Sophomores and juniors who have signed up and paid will have the opportunity to take the PSAT. The window to sign up for this exam has closed. ALL OTHER STUDENTS WILL HAVE A REGULAR BLOCK DAY ON OCTOBER 6.

NOTE FOR OCTOBER 13 TESTING: Due to the high number of staff it requires to administer exams to this many students, students who are not testing are welcome to attend school and we will provide a study hall during testing. Following testing/study hall students will attend their blue 4 and blue 5 classes.
On October 13, all freshmen and sophomores will take the PreACT test. Freshmen and Sophomores DO NOT need to register for this exam.
On October 13, Juniors who have signed up and paid will have the opportunity to take the ACT. The window to sign up for this exam has closed.
On October 13, Seniors who have signed up will have the opportunity to take the ACT. The window to sign up for this exam has closed.

Picture Retake Day:
Picture retakes will be held on October 22.

Counseling Message:
SAVE THE DATE!...MV Next Steps
MV Next Steps will be 10/1, 10/8, and 10/22 for 1st semester! MV Next Steps is an opportunity for your student to visit with representatives to hear about post-secondary options including trades, colleges, military, and local businesses. These events take place during Seminar, and ALL STUDENTS are invited to attend all sessions! Please see the attached “MV Next Steps” flyer to learn more.

ACT Prep Class
Power Prep, Inc. will be offering a Saturday ACT prep class at K-State Olathe on September 12th. Please click on the link below for more information.
https://powerprepinc.com/act-test-prep/p/greater-kansas-city-area-act-prep-class?utm_campaign=ACT%20Test%20Prep%20Classes&utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-_pTVp-xj9QOKyTrsn4Kzph_YNUDrKy3sc9iSXo-dUHYpQq8LIxo1WudACHj4f0dU6g2-_Ve1XXz0V8v4obLmFc6h5ucw&_hsmi=433928810&utm_content=433928810&utm_source=hs_email

Semester 1 Finals Opt Out:
**The official start of the absence count began on September 7!
There are several teachers at MV who will offer students the opportunity to Opt Out of semester finals. Teachers will notify students if their class will participate in this opportunity.
The criteria for eligibility is:
4 or fewer absences for the semester in a class of the opt out
Earning an A in the class of the opt out
Teachers will begin the (4) absence count after Labor Day. Students will be given further information on this process in November.

Congratulations to our Jags:
Cross Country:
The boys and girls cross country teams had a successful day at the Shufelberger Top City Class at Washburn Rural on Saturday. 14 teams competed, including several of the top 8 eight schools in 6A, with all of our teams placing near the top
The varsity girls finished 2nd, closely behind 3rd ranked SM East. We were led by senior Audrey Howard (2nd in a PR of 18:22), freshman Hailey Hanna (5th), and senior Kate Culbertson (15th). Freshman Addi Fulps just missed her first career medal by placing 21st!
The junior varsity girls dominated the field with a perfect score of 15. Senior Avery Johnson was the individual event champion! Other medalists included freshman Emerson Nilges (2nd), freshman Kale'a Gomes (3rd), freshman Annie Lamberson (4th), junior Leah Schmidtmann (5th), freshman Kaitlyn Forshee (6th), sophomore Kaitlyn Pringle (8th) and sophomore Addison Gile (15th).
The varsity boys placed 4th behind defending state champions Washburn Rural and top ranked 6A teams BV Northwest and SM East. We beat ranked teams from Olathe West, Gardner Edgerton, and Olathe South. The team was led by senior Graham Anderson (2nd) and sophomore Asher Yager (10th).
The JV boys placed 3rd. We were led by senior Zach Thomas (9th), sophomore Clay Unruh (10th) and sophomore John Kiene (20th). Sophomore Burke Croft missed a medal by less than a second with over a 60 second PR!!
The C team boys placed 2nd. We were led by sophomore Jack Kelly (6th- first race back from injury), sophomore Shane Devery (11th, 1st medal!), sophomore Lucas Lowry (18th) and freshman Brady Muninger (20th- 1st medal).

Womens Tennis:
Girls' Junior Varsity: had a good solid win (these were both duals and at the JV level it is hard to report scores because they literally play set upon set.)

Girls' Varsity Tennis:
1. Gardner-Edgerton Invitational: Took first as a team for the whole tournament. Then individual wins: Zavie Bierl (9) took 3rd at 1st singles; Clara Budimlija (12) took 1st at 2nd singles; Rylea Schwarz (12) / Zoe Wendel (11) took 1st at 1st doubles; and Ella Ericson (12) / Hannah Yamaashi (10) took 1st at 2nd doubles.

2. Dual vs. BVW: Won 13-2 (courts) with great singles wins from: Clara Budimlija (12), Zavie Bierl (9), Hannah Yamaashi (10), Rylea Schwarz (12), Ella Ericson (12), Logan Stafford (11), Carlye Hays (11), and Morgan Herron (12). Then we swept all five courts of doubles.

3. Annual MV Jag Invitational: Took first place at our tournament as a team with tough individual wins here: Clara Budimlija (12) took 3rd at 1st singles; Zavie Bierl (9) took 2nd at 2nd singles; Rylea Schwarz (12) / Zoe Wendel (11) took 1st at 1st doubles; and Ella Ericson (12) / Hannah Yamaashi (10) tool 3rd at 2nd doubles. Great wins by all and I am a very proud coach. We have another tough week ahead for sure!

Thank you,

Gail Holder Ed.D.
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