September 20- October 2, 2026

Good Afternoon,

I hope everyone had a nice long weekend. Looking forward to a great week ahead.

Dr. Holder

Learning Schedule for the Week:

Monday: Silver Block Day

Tuesday: Blue Block Day

Wednesday: Silver Block Day-Late Start-classes begin at 8:20

Thursday: Blue Block Day

Friday: Silver Block Day

Upcoming Testing Information:

PSAT:

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.

PSAT Digital Readiness Check: This past week, students who are taking the PSAT on October 6th, completed the digital readiness check. Some students experienced difficulty due to needing to update their MacOS software. Any students who still need to register will be called down to the Counseling Office this week to complete the digital check before the PSAT on October 6th. If your student is taking the PSAT, please ask your student if they were able to complete the readiness check, and if they were not, please help them to update their OS software this weekend.

PreACT/ACT:

NOTE On October 8 a Google link will be sent to PARENTS to excuse their student AFTER testing OR for the whole day if students are not testing and do not want to participate in the full day study hall.

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.

PreACT/ACT Room Numbers are posted for students outside of the Counseling Office. They will also be posted in grade level English classrooms this week. All 9th and 10th graders will take the PreACT and 11th/12th graders, who elected to test, will be taking the ACT. Please review the list to know where you will test on October 13th.

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.

Homecoming 2026 is NEXT WEEK:

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!

Parent Square:

Attached you will find a document available to support parents and students with Parent Square.

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-dUHYpQg8LIxo1WudACHj4f0dU6g2-_Ve1XXz0V8v4obLmFc6h5ucw&_hsmi=433928810&utm_content=433928810&utm_source=hs_email

Semester 1 Finals Opt Out: Students may opt out of TWO (2) final exams.

**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:

Band:

Congratulations to the Marching Jaguars for earning a Superior "One" rating at the Central States Marching Festival. The Jaguars took home top ratings in all 3 categories: Music Performance, Marching Performance and General Effect. In addition the Color Guard received a Superior "One" rating for their performance.

Tennis:
A.) Varsity Quad at Lawrence High School and placed 2nd overall. We had some great wins by:
-Carlye Hays taking 2nd at 1st singles
-Noelle Mohn taking 2nd at 2nd singles
-Logan Stafford and Morgan Herron taking 1st at 1st doubles
-Sophie Stewart and Josie Reed taking 2nd at 2nd doubles.
B.) Olathe North Dual and won 13-2 on overall courts.

C.) Olathe Statewide Tournament by OS at CBAC and placed 3rd overall as a team. This tournament had top teams from all over the state that the girls will see at Regionals and State this year, so it was a great showing by the Jaguars. Some great individual wins included:
-Zavie Bierl taking 6th at singles (out of 16)
-Clara Budimlija taking 7th at singles (out of 16)
-Rylea Schwarz/Zoe Wendel taking 8th at doubles (also out of 16 teams)
-Ella Ericson/Hannah Yamaashi taking 7th at doubles (out of 16 teams)
The JV Girls took on:
A.) ONW at home and won 10-1 on overall courts.
B.) DeSoto Quad held at Basehor-Lindwood and took 2nd overall. We had some great individual wins by:
-Eleanor Engstrom going 2-1 at 1st singles
-Samantha Fuhrken going 2-0 at 2nd singles
-Victoria Guess/Brooklyn Walker going 2-1 at 1st doubles
-Ainsly Leithead/Addison Jurczak going 1-2 at 2nd doubles.
C.) JV Sunflower League Conference Tournament……Mill Valley JV Girls' Tennis took 1st place overall for 2 years in a row now!
Some great individual wins:
-Carlye Hays taking 2nd at 1st singles
-Noelle Mohn taking 1st at 2nd singles
-Logan Stafford/Morgan Herron taking 1st at 1st doubles
-Sophie Stewart/Josie Reed taking 4th at 2nd doubles
Great Job ladies! Please come out this week and cheer on these awesome ladies as the JV finishes up their season with 5 big matches this week including our last home match against OW where we will have the Kona Ice Truck available (limited tickets available, otherwise just $5 for purchase)! Thank you to our sponsors: Fountain City Financial (Corey and Molly Bierl, parents of Calton (11th) and Zavie (9th)).

Cross Country:

The boys and girls JV/C team cross country teams competed at the Midseason Hootenanny at Frontier Trail Middle School. We had an awesome meet with a lot of PRs!!

Our JV/C girls won the meet in a close race against Manhattan High School! We were led by event champion freshman Kaitlyn Forshee (in a PR!). Other medalists included junior Leah Schmidtmann (3rd), sophomore Kaitlyn Pringle (6th), senior Adelyn Randall (9th), junior Addi Richter (13th), and sophomore Addison Gile (20th). PRs were run by freshman Alea Cozad (three minute PR!), freshman Noelle Franke, freshman Avery Maier. Season bests were run by senior Adelyn Riley and junior Riley Baggett!

The boys JV/C placed 5th at the Midseason Hootenanny. We were led by sophomore John Kiene (11th, PR). PRs were run by sophomore Jack Kelly, sophomore Josh Newman, sophomore Shane Devery, freshman Brady Muninger, senior Jordan Shaw, sophomore Garrett Judd, sophomore Lucas Lowry, junior Garrett Hansen, junior Will Crawford. Season bests were run by Makai Carter, Sage Lewis-Jones, JD Kamau, Jacob Lowry, Ivan Bernal, and Nick Jenkins.

The varsity cross country teams competed at the Oklahoma State Jamboree on Saturday. The teams did incredibly well against teams from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, and Kansas.

Our girls team placed 5th out of 36 teams. We were projected to finish 8-10 in the meet. We were led by senior Audrey Howard, who placed 4th out of 325 athletes. Freshman Hailey Hanna just missed a medal, placing 23rd. The rest of the scoring members were Addi Fulps, Kate Culbertson, Anna Schmidtmann, Lexi Lamberson, and Taylor Parks. Freshman Emerson Nilges ran a huge PR as well!!

Our boys team placed 15th out of 39 teams. We were projected to finish between 23-25th. We were led by senior Graham Anderson, who placed 5th out of 450+ athletes. Our scoring members were Asher Yager, Jake Thomas, Xavier DeHaven, Zach Spandet, Gabe Muttai, Zach Thomas.

Looking Ahead:

October 16-No school for students. Teacher PD day. End of Quarter 1.

October 19- No school for students. Teacher PD day.

October 20-Start of Quarter 2

November 23-27-Thanksgiving Break

Thank you,

Gail Holder Ed.D.
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