



Mount Vernon City Schools DISTRICT NEWS

Spring 2018

Connecting Our Community



Heartland Fifth Grade Outdoor Camp

Twin Oak Fifth Grade Teacher, Susan Rice

"Without continuous hands-on experience, it is impossible for children to acquire a deep intuitive understanding of the natural world that is the foundation of sustainable development. ...A critical aspect of the present-day crisis in education is that children are becoming separated from daily experience of the natural world, especially in larger cities."

-Natural Learning, Creating Environments for Rediscovering Nature's Way of Teaching, Robin C. Moore and Herb H. Wong

Each year, in early May, all fifth graders in the Mount Vernon City Schools embark on a journey to Heartland Camp in Marengo, Ohio. This outdoor educational opportunity is the highlight of the fifth grade year and the culmination of their elementary education journey. Each student eagerly awaits the time when they get to spend three days and two nights away with their friends and teachers, having a variety of exciting experiences and forming new friendships with the many people that they meet. This is the initial phase of the transition that fifth graders make as they move on to middle school.

Heartland Camp is nestled in the midst of over 350 scenic acres in Morrow County, approximately 30 minutes west of Mount Vernon. It is a secure campus with modern, climate-controlled facilities and accommodations for all that attend. They provide a wide variety of delicious, nutritious meals in a buffet format and offer the students a snack during evening activities.

Heartland Camp's mission is "to encourage hands-on discovery, teamwork, personal growth and an appreciation for the environment through a fun, safe, quality program." They offer opportunities that are unique and challenging for many students. Heartland's staff members are all well-trained to guide students through a variety of classes and experiences during their stay. They offer classes such as Reptiles and Amphibians Study, XStream Creek Study, Construction Zone, Archery, Survival Training, Team Building Activities, and Mad Scientist Experiments. The most anticipated experience for most students is the zipline, which takes place on a state of the art zipline course.

Mount Vernon City Schools is committed to providing a positive experience for fifth graders and fostering their transition from six neighborhood elementary buildings to the Mount Vernon Middle School. All fifth grade



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MVCSD Announces Enhanced Community Connection

Mount Vernon City Schools is pleased to be partnering with Thoughtexchange to engage our school community in a whole new way.

Thoughtexchange provides solutions that will allow the MV community members to come together and voice their thoughts on important topics—quickly and confidentially.

Check the Mount Vernon City Schools Website www.mvcsd.us for upcoming information.



thoughtexchange



School Safety– How times have changed...

A message from Superintendent, William Seder Jr.

I can remember a time when the schoolhouse doors were left wide open in hopes of a cool breeze on a hot, late summer school day. When students would come to school with their hunting rifles secured on a rack in the back of their trucks and no one gave it a second thought.

We had the monthly fire drills and the occasional tornado drill but we never had to practice a 'lockdown' or 'reverse evacuation' drill. A rally point is where we would meet to play a game of capture the flag. Yes, times have certainly changed... Today school safety, is at the forefront of our discussions with school threats and violence on the rise.

We find ourselves asking many questions: How safe are schools?... What are we currently doing to promote safer schools?...What more can we do?... Who should be involved?

How safe are schools? While I certainly don't want to trivialize the horrific school shootings that have taken place during the past couple of years, I think it is important to share some perspective. There are over 100,000 K-12 schools nationwide with nearly 55 million students. Since 2013, Time magazine reported that 6 adults and 35 children were killed in school shootings with another 12 adults and 92 children injured. While even one school fatality is too many, I think it is important to recognize that, in general, schools are safe places.

While we wish that our students never had to think about school violence, we are committed to keeping them safe - and we are up to the task! We recognize and empathize with the concerns of the community and especially the parents of our students. You should know that we have spent many hours exploring various safety initiatives and have not ruled out any realistic options that would result in safer schools.

Our team of district administrators, school resource officer, and our facilities/maintenance director have worked together to implement the following safety and security procedures:

What have we done in Mount Vernon to make our schools safer?

- We have implemented an age-appropriate school safety program called A.L.I.C.E.



- We have implemented safety software for emergency preparedness (Navigate Prepared).
- We regularly practice safety and lockdown drills in dynamic settings and scenarios.
- We have installed new and/or updated security camera systems districtwide.
- We have installed a new phone system with emergency notification.
- We have modified school entrances at Pleasant Street, MVMS, and MVHS.
- We have hired a 'School Resource Officer' (SRO) to serve the MVMS/MVHS.
- We have hired additional school social workers focused on elementary student support.
- We have implemented a new social/emotional-learning curriculum K-8 (Second Steps).
- We have developed 'Positive Behavior Instructional Supports' (PBIS) districtwide.
- We have implemented 'Threat Assessment Screening' protocols and checklists.
- We have required 'Mental Health Screenings' in specific situations where appropriate.

What more can we do? This is a question we continue to ask. In the coming weeks, we will be installing new lockdown safety hardware on classroom doors. We will also be applying shatter resistant safety film on windows and doors where appropriate.

Who should be involved? The answer seems simple... **Everyone**...When our students, parents, staff, and community members take an active role in promoting safer schools, we all win. The mantra: "See something, Hear something, Say something" has been incredibly helpful in addressing safety concerns.

Dickens once said in a *Tale of Two Cities*, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Times have changed and we will change with them. We must take the worst of times and make the best of times for our children.

Heartland Fifth Grade Outdoor Camp continued from page 1

teachers, some special area teachers, and district administrators are instrumental in making this a worthwhile experience. Students are also fortunate to have the Middle School administrators and various sixth grade teachers attend, allowing fifth graders to become acquainted with their future teachers. High School seniors and juniors serve as cabin leaders and role models for the students, and



they are an integral component in making this a rewarding experience.

Mount Vernon City Schools is very fortunate to have a financial partnership with the Ariel Foundation, which pays for half of the expense for students to attend camp. Each individual building also provides financial support through fundraising and contributions from PTO's and other benefactors to ensure that no student is excluded due to expense.

When asked what they look forward to, students had a variety of responses. Dalton said, "I can't wait until I go to Heartland Camp. I really want to ride the

zipline. I also can't wait to meet new kids and make new friends." Kayden explained, "I can't wait to explore the great outdoors." Michael and Zachary both look forward to the Archery segment. Students in Mrs. Humphrey's class all agreed that they look forward to interacting with students from other schools in Mount Vernon. They feel that it will be so nice to see familiar faces when they get to the Middle School. Not surprising, most of the students expressed their excitement about ziplining for the first time.

Check out Heartland Camp's website at <https://heartlandoe.com>

Fun – Fellowship – Entertainment – Surprises

Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Terry Streby

AREA SENIOR CITIZENS – Superintendent Bill Seder requests the honor of your presence at the annual Senior Citizens Spring Luncheon, sponsored by the Mount Vernon Board of Education. The luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18, 2018, from noon until 2:00 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School.

Senior Citizens are encouraged to attend the luncheon which will be hosted by various student high school groups. Student entertainment is always a highlight as well as the fabulous lunch prepared by the District's very own Food Service Department (lunch is sponsored in part by the Community Foundation of Mount Vernon and Knox County).

If you would like to attend or have any questions regarding the luncheon, please contact Terry Streby at 740-397-7422, extension 6025, or email at tstreby@mvcsd.us. Reservations are requested by Friday, April 13, 2018 - please include your name and a contact number.

Your presence will be the highlight of our day!

Spring Luncheon



SENIOR CITIZENS

Wednesday, April 18, 2018
Noon - 2:00 p.m.
Mount Vernon High School

Please R.S.V.P. to Terry Streby at
740-397-7422, extension 6025, or
email tstreby@mvcsd.us by
Friday, April 13, 2018.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

- 9 • Twin Oak Music Program - Memorial Theater - 6:30 pm
- 18 • Senior Citizens Luncheon - 12-2 pm - MVHS
- 28 • Tops & Pops Jazz Band Concert - MVMS Commons

MAY

- 1 • Middle School Choir Concert - MVHS Theater
- 3 • Middle School Spring Orchestra Concert - MVMS Gymnasium
- 5, 6 • May Fiesta Choir Concert - MVHS Theater
- 8-10 • Fifth Grade Outdoor Education Camp - Heartland Conference Center
- 8 • ABC Awards Night - Memorial Theater
- 9 • Senior Awards Night - MVHS Theater
- 10-13 • Eighth Grade Trip - Washington DC
- 13 • Prom - Kenyon College
- 16 • High School Band Spring Concert - MVHS Theater
- 17 • Middle School Band Spring Concert - MVMS Gymnasium
- 25 • High School Orchestra Spring Concert - MVHS Theater - 7:00 pm
- 27 • High School Commencement - Kenyon Athletic Center 3:00 p.m.
- 30 • Last Day for Students - Early Dismissal

Call 740-397-7422 or email Terry Streby at tstreby@mvcsd.us for times and other details regarding events



We ♥ STEM!

East Elementary Principal, Karly Watterson

On Valentine's Day, kindergarten through second grade students at East Elementary enjoyed a morning of rotating classrooms and participating in STEM challenges. The U.S. Department of Education website states that,

The United States has developed as a global leader, in large part, through the genius and hard work of its scientists, engineers, and innovators. In a world that's becoming increasingly complex, where success is driven not only by what you know, but by what you can do with what you know, it's more important than ever for our youth to be equipped with the knowledge and skills to solve tough problems, gather and evaluate evidence, and make sense of information. These are the types of skills that students learn by studying science, technology, engineering, and math—subjects collectively known as STEM.

Kindergarten, first, and second grade teachers met and planned this day to provide some fun, Valentine-themed STEM experiences for their early elementary students. Each grade level designed a different activity and all student names in kindergarten through third grade were put together and randomly chosen into six groups. From these six groups teams of three were created.

In one classroom, teams of students read a quick story about a girl that had to make a basket out of paper and carry hearts to another location without dropping any. Student teams then had to design and create a basket using paper, scissors, and tape that would hold and carry the most conversation hearts. Student teams had to line up and carry their hearts down to the other side of the classroom and back, then pass the basket to the next person on their team. Discussion of how each basket was engineered and how successful each type of basket was occurred after the activity.

In another room, student teams were challenged to use toothpicks and gumdrops and create the tallest free-standing tower. "I'm really good at this," kindergarten student, Pierce Delano, tells his team. "I do this with my Legos all the time!" Towers were either built in square or circular shapes, and students enjoyed looking at other team's architectural styles.

In another classroom student teams were given a balloon, a styrofoam cup, toothpicks, pretzel sticks, and mini marshmallows. Their challenge was to use these resources to get the styrofoam cup off the table. The challenge was then increased to add pretzels for weight and count how many pretzel sticks their cup could hold while off the table.

Students buzzed with excitement about these enriching STEM activities, new friendships with teammates, and of course, Valentine's Day cards and treats!



Disney Family Game Night

Pleasant Street Elementary Principal, Teresa Weaver



"Last night was extraordinary with the mouse hats and all of the games," Jacob, fifth grade. The halls and classrooms of Pleasant Street Elementary were magically transformed for our Disney Family Game Night. This family engagement event was held March 15 from 6:00-8:00pm. Our staff, along with Paul McNeil, MVNU Coordinator of Development and 12 student-athlete volunteers from Mount Vernon Nazarene University, welcomed about 125 Pleasant Street families

or over 330 guests for this event. Students spent time with their family members rotating through Disney-themed games in each classroom. Kindergarten student, Addison, said, "I liked Mrs. Butcher's game because it was so fun. I built a castle for Cinderella." Leah, a first grade student commented, "It was awesome because of all the games, Mrs. Porter's game was my favorite."

In order to pull off an evening of this magnitude with over 20 events and activities, we were partnered with sponsors from Domino's, MVNU Cougars, Legend Hills Orchard and Country Store, and anonymous donors. Through the generosity of these sponsors and our building staff we were also able to raffle off six family game night baskets, Domino's meal cards, and MVNU athlete signed posters. The raffle baskets were complete with dinner gift cards, a game, snacks, Disney coloring items, etc... Congratulations to our raffle basket winners Jacob Moody, Izabella Evans, Carter Sowul, Lilly Rheinscheld, Drayden Staton, and Zaida Khalil.

A fun, memorable night was had by all who worked, volunteered, and attended.

Gifted Seminar

Gifted Intervention Specialist, Holly Trask

MVCSD children in grades three through five who are identified as superior cognitive are invited to join the seminar program. These monthly seminars are held at the District Central Office and are led by Gifted Intervention Specialists, Tracy Kanuckel, Holly Trask and Mark Bohland. The goal is to create an environment in which these students are able to develop their talents, hone their interests and sustain their passions with like-minded peers.



While last year included STEM activities focused on energy sources, the emphasis this year is social studies. The program includes four field trips to the Ohio History Center in Columbus for immersive programming, with the other four days offering instruction on topics that augment the off site experiences. We began with a study of the earliest Ohioans, which led to a Discover Archaeology Day at the museum. In November, we looked at artifacts collected for our "museum" which was followed the next month by a trip to the museum to handle items that are not usually able to be looked at "up close and personal." January and February were spent at the district office preparing for our March trip (an immersive visit to an 1898 Ohio school), and our April experience with the Underground Railroad. It is a pleasure to work with these fifty students who come from all of the six elementary schools, and to watch new relationships develop as they broaden their school experience. For more pictures and the monthly seminar updates, please visit the Gifted and Enrichment page on the district's web site.

This item found its way to our "museum". While students were able to identify all of the other 33 items, this one's use is still a mystery. If you know what it is, please contact us at htrask@mvcasd.us. Thank you!



Students Learn With Students Halfway Around The World

Dan Emmett Third Grade Teacher, Julie Fowler

Mrs. Fowler's third grade class at Dan Emmett Elementary is deeply embedded in the study of Indonesia thanks to the influence of Abbie Abendroth. Abbie is an elementary education major at Mount Vernon Nazarene University who is doing her first semester of student teaching in Mrs. Fowler's third grade



class, and the second semester is teaching halfway around the world in a fourth grade class at Mountainview Christian School in Indonesia. In order to better understand what Miss Abendroth will experience, the students have embarked on virtual field trips to the island country. They have studied the Indonesian weather, culture, cuisine, and explored what it might be like to be an elementary student in Indonesia.

Mountainview Christian School is located 10,009 miles away from Mount Vernon on the continent of Asia in Salatiga, Indonesia. Mountainview is situated on 13.5 acres and serves K-12 students. Mountainview's students come from all over the island, some having to leave their families to stay in a dorm during the school year. Approximately 230 students are served by 30 teachers and 80 Indonesian staff members. By the time Miss Abendroth leaves at the end of March, the students will have researched and discovered what it would be like to live and go to school in Indonesia. They will have compared and contrasted their lives and experiences to the fourth grade students Miss Abendroth will soon meet. As a class project, the students developed presentations about the various aspects of life in Indonesia that will be presented to the Mount Vernon Board of Education and other elementary school classes.

As part of an ongoing learning experience, Mount Vernon students will communicate with Mountainview students while Miss Abendroth is in Indonesia. Since Ohio and Indonesia are separated by a 12-hour time difference, students on either side of the world will be sleeping while the others are awake and in school, making communication difficult. Because of this time difference, the students will be asking and answering questions through recorded videos. One goal of this learning experience is to have the students interact in such a way, as to promote cultural awareness and understanding between the two schools. "I am so glad I didn't miss this opportunity to learn what the kids do at their school," stated third grade student, Landon Fisher.

Mrs. Fowler's class is presently collecting materials, notes, pictures, and treats from the Mount Vernon community, MVNU and Kenyon to send as a package to the students at Mountainview Christian School. "Our students can't wait to videotape messages to the Mountainview students and then wait to receive their reply. They are so eager to share details about our community as well as Dan Emmett Elementary," commented Mrs. Fowler.





Career Exploration At Columbia

Columbia Principal, Matt Dill

As part of Tiger Up, our character education and leadership programming, Columbia Elementary has established various programming opportunities for students to begin exploration into their futures. On March 21, our students were able to explore how each of 13 different careers use English Language Arts, Math and Science for their work. While talking to such young students about a career may seem unusual, our goal is to make sure our students are aware of all of the career options available, and to see how their current learning connects to each of these career choices.

Each student chose seven career centers to visit from the following career options:

AEP Lineman, Pharmacy, Veterinary Services, Cosmetology, Dietician, Culinary/Chef, Military, Police, Education, Technology, Engineer, Judicial, or Health.

Evidence of the power behind these presentations would be the direct actions of third grader, Hailey Waibel. The day following Career Exploration, Hailey shared a paper that showed what she had studied that evening, after she attended a session from Pharmacist, Denise Conway. Hailey said "I want to be a Pharmacist, so I thought that if I start studying hard now, I'd be good at it when I get old."

We believe that it is never too early for children to be aware of their choices, and this event was entertaining as well as informational. We sincerely appreciate the presentations of the following businesses/individuals: Pharmacist Denise Conway with Fosters Pharmacy, Judge Thatcher with Mount Vernon Municipal Court, Chef Bruce Kreidler with the Career Center, Beauticians Ashley McPeck and Aly Calkins with Salon 361, Veterinarian Techs Jen Rousch and Rebecca Hopkins with Mount Vernon Animal Hospital, teacher Lori Luna representing Columbia Elementary, AEP Lineman Eric McMahon and his wife Katie, Engineer Steve Miller with ODOT, Mechanical Engineer Kevin Conway with Ariel Corporation, IT Specialist Mark Miller with Ohio EPA, Kelly Bailey with Knox Community Hospital, the Mount Vernon Police Department and Charlotte Velasquez with the United States Air Force.



Community Connections

Wiggin Street Elementary Principal, Dee Lowers

Come into Wiggin Street Elementary on any day of the year and you will see an amazing connection between the elementary students and our local college students. Everyday Kenyon College students volunteer their time, expertise and service to the elementary school.

In the fall, Kenyon students sign up to volunteer to tutor students and help teachers. They give time away from their studies to walk to our school where they can be seen daily helping students practice reading, math facts, using the computer, and writing and revising stories. They assist teachers by running copies, cutting out materials, making and playing educational games, and reshelving books and materials. This assistance is a huge help because it frees up time for teachers to create interventions for students. Our students see these older volunteers as role models for a service-learning environment.

In addition to tutoring, students give their time to assist in the things that make Wiggin Street a fun and positive school environment as well. Thanks to Kenyon volunteers, our third grade students are able to participate in a robotics club on a weekly basis. In fifth grade, students spend the year learning chess and playing in competitions during their recess. Also, we have Kenyon support in running a dance and movement club for 3-5 grade students. These fun clubs help students learn new skills and make friends with those who have interests similar to their own. They also assist on the playground to make a GAGA BALL pit a fun and safe environment. And, they volunteer to run all sorts of games for our

annual FUN FESTIVAL. Kenyon students also help us run our after school homework club providing additional homework help to students twice each week. We have a group of Kenyon volunteers who also work specifically to help us to connect with parents of students whose families may not be native English speaking. They assist in translating information to send home, help in making phone calls, and assist parents in sharing their thoughts or concerns with the classroom teachers. According to fourth grade student, Ruben Cisneros, "Chess Club is fun! It is like learning how to move the pieces around and you get to play against other people. I like learning about chess."

Each of these volunteer opportunities helps to provide Wiggin Street students with engaging activities that either assist them academically or provide for extracurricular and social growth opportunities. At Wiggin Street, the connection with our college community is a strong reason for student success.



MV March Madness

MVHS Athletic Director, Justin Sanford

Entering the 2018 Central District Basketball Tournament, the Mount Vernon Yellow Jackets had already secured a share of the Ohio Cardinal Conference title, claimed the 16th seed for the post-season. Feeling a bit uneasy after having dropped their last two regular season contests, the Jackets realized that if the team advances, they would eventually face the highly-touted and top-seeded favorite, Pickerington North.

However, the Jackets 16th seed earned the rights to host their first two sectional contests defeating Dublin Scioto in the sectional semi-final and Teays Valley in the sectional final at home at the HIVE. Along with a huge home-advantage HIVE crowd, the Jackets grew in confidence with their sectional victories. That confidence boost would be needed if they planned to upset the #1 Panthers of Pickerington North.

And that's exactly what they did! Behind Jeffrey Rucker's career-high 23 points and a balanced performance on both ends of the floor by the Jackets, the #1 seeded Pickerington North Panthers fell to the Jackets in what is being described as the biggest upset in the past decade of Central Ohio Basketball.

So after a 25-year absence, the Jackets found themselves playing for the Division I District Championship. The last time the Jackets found themselves in this situation, Head Coach Nick Coon and Assistant Coach Anthony Savage were merely 6 years old, and ironically the ball boys for that 1993 Jackets basketball team.

Although the 2018 Jackets couldn't muster the magic of the 1993 team, they finished the 2017-18 campaign as OCC Champions, Sectional Champions, and District Runners-up. Given the near capacity crowd that Mount Vernon traveled with to Ohio Dominican University for the District final, I think it's safe to say that Mount Vernon is proud of our Jackets. **Go Jackets!**



MVHS Art Students Recognized

MVHS Art Students, Hannah Dowalter and Nick Ries

MVHS has had a growing art program throughout the years. The art teachers, Mrs. Badger and Mrs. Hoff, have pushed their students to the best of their ability, dedicated multiple hours to the kids in the program, and have seen the results that they aspired to have. As of now, the 2018 MVHS Advanced Art Seniors have earned a collective total of over \$500,000 in scholarship money to several different art colleges. This is a huge achievement for a school the size of Mount Vernon!

Every year the art teachers encourage students to submit their artwork for the Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition which is a juried show. The exhibition is a non-profit organization established in 1970 to promote the arts and to reward the youth of Ohio for their achievements in the visual arts. MVHS students, Nick Ries and Logan Wade, placed in the Top 25 out of 11,500 pieces that were entered into the exhibition. Nick's piece of art was a hand cut paper light box, and Logan's was an oil painting on a wood canvas. Three additional MVHS students, Angelina Fuscaldo, Jacklyn Heaton, and Michaela Hunter had artwork selected in the Top 350.



When asked about his light box titled "Hangman," Nick Ries stated that this idea was inspired by his magic realism project from the KAP Digital Imaging class. Nick explained that he attempts to show the viewer the everyday world in a new and unfamiliar way. Logan Wade said that this was his first oil painting and described it as a trial painting that he improved throughout this past year. By adding more to his piece, Logan gave the artwork, "Flying Fish," a new meaning.

MVHS students Youran Chen, Angelina Fuscaldo, Cierra Goeppinger, Joy Henry, Caden Henthorn, Chase Holdener, Olivia Matulich, Katelyn McKinley, Scott Presley, Nick Ries, Mia Tracey, Randall Wellman, and Sarah Ziegler all had artwork accepted at the regional level of the Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition.



MVHS Legacy

MVHS Principal, Scott Will

What does it mean to leave a legacy? I had a former coach and teacher that consistently would discuss the importance of what you leave behind. He instilled the idea that what you did in that moment would pave the way for others to walk a similar path. I believe, wholeheartedly, what coach said was true. Our students, both past and present, have left and are leaving behind a legacy for future Yellow Jackets.

The idea that pride is contagious is evidenced through the support of our student body at various contests through the year. The continued success of our Debate Team and in the Know groups showcase the knowledge and resolve of our students and their ongoing studies. Competition success

by our Fine Arts programs as students are recognized across the state for their musical and artistic talents. Our students taking the time to address the current concerns of students in today's society through participation on committees looking at safety, diversity, and addressing the challenges of social media.

The idea of giving back was evidenced through our former students coming and sharing their journey that began at MVHS and transitioned to the world beyond. Bankers, scientists, teachers and doctors by occupation, Yellow Jackets at heart. Our alumni shared what high school had provided and gave a glimpse of the success that can come from a vision and a journey. The legacy of their impact yet to be seen, an opportunity of a lifetime for our young people to witness.

There are no guarantees of success, no fast track to greatness. Each individual has the choice and challenge of making life their own. We are fortunate to have moments at MVHS where we can see, firsthand, the legacy that is being established for the future.



RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

1 To 1 At MVMS

MVMS Principal, Gary Hankins

An article written in February of this year for Education Week states:

"Efforts by K-12 schools to give every student a laptop computer increased student achievement and gave a modest boost to their '21st-century skills,' concludes a first-of-its-kind meta-analysis of 15 years' worth of research studies." The same article also stated, "1-to-1 laptop programs, on average, had a statistically significant positive impact on student test scores in English/ language arts, writing, math, and science."

Mount Vernon Middle School began a 1-to-1 initiative in September of this school year. Although there have been challenges, overall students, and teachers have enjoyed the increased access to technology.

When interviewing students I was told:

"The chromebooks are nice because you don't need phones for research anymore. Also the ability to share documents and work collaboratively has been nice. Sharing Google Documents in English has been very helpful." - Hannah Hofferberth (6th grade)

When Hannah mentions "sharing a document" she is referring to a feature Google Docs offers which allows multiple individuals to work on the same document from different devices. Students can share their work with a faculty member and the teacher can make corrections, put comments in the margin, etc.... According to Jordan Goodin (eighth grade), this "helps you be more organized because there are less papers to keep track of day to day."

Prior to the 2017-2018 school year, Mount Vernon Middle School used Chromebook carts which had to be shared among the teachers. Bo Brian Bridges is glad this practice is a thing of the past, "1-to-1 Chromebooks are really helpful because teachers don't have to worry about changing their plans due to sharing technology."

The biggest problem these students have noticed regarding Chromebooks, "Students need to remember to charge them!"

Our teachers have also found the 1-to-1 initiative helpful as well.

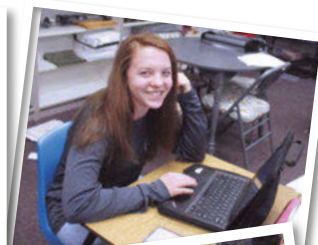
The 1:1 chromebook initiative has been really helpful with Google Classroom. Students are able to access class materials and resources easily from home and submit their work without it getting lost. "Communication with students via email has also been helpful especially with students that are more introverted, or those

that are absent." - Britney Sivewright (Seventh Social Studies/Social Studies Department Head)

"Google Classroom allows me to create individualized assignments and learning materials to best meet a student's needs. I can easily modify an assignment to allow a student to learn at his/her level and be successful. I'm also able to check in with what a student has accomplished on an assignment at any time. I can then meet with a student and provide feedback based on where he/she needs to go next." - Mindy Essex (Music Plus Stem Teacher /Unified Arts Department Head)

"1:1 Chromebooks allow us to make more connections to the 'real world' as we have instant access to data-sets and information that make learning more meaningful." - Meghan Durbin (Seventh Math Teachers/Math Department Head)

The Mount Vernon Middle School mission is to **inspire** and **empower** students to excel both academically and socially. The increased access to technology is helping us meet our mission as students are taught to navigate both the educational and social ramifications of 1-to-1 access to chromebooks.



We're Nearing The Final Stretch

MVCSD Transportation Supervisor, Todd Conant

Spring is right around the corner, and with that comes an extra surge of energy from our students! Some of that energy is exerted productively. Students are enjoying spring sports, taking a walk on the bike path, spending more time outside, and simply hanging out with friends, and enjoying the slightly warmer temperatures. Unfortunately, sometimes that energy can be misdirected. This time of year the Transportation Department sees an increase in disciplinary issues. We are asking parents to take an active role in reinforcing good behavior on our school buses.

Safely transporting Mount Vernon students is our top priority. We're all excited that the final stretch is before us and soon we'll be enjoying the lazy days of summer, but it seems that now might be a good time to review the Safety Requirements, as set forth by the state of Ohio, for riding on a school bus:

"Don't Lose Your Riding Privilege!"

Follow These Rules:

- 1) Observe same conduct as in the classroom.
- 2) Be courteous, use no profane language.
- 3) Do not eat or drink on the bus.
- 4) Keep the bus clean.
- 5) Cooperate with the driver.
- 6) Do not smoke.
- 7) Do not be destructive.
- 8) Stay in your seat.
- 9) Keep head, hands and feet inside the bus.
- 10) The bus driver is authorized to assign seats.

Let's all continue to stay safe during our last few months of school!

