



Mount Vernon City Schools

DISTRICT NEWS

Spring 2016

Connecting Our Community



Tiger Up Character and Leadership Academy

Columbia Elementary, Principal Matthew J. Dill, Ed. D

At Columbia our main focus has always been to grow students academically, but it also is our goal to develop a great and well rounded student body, which will later on develop into future community members. For this reason, our "Tiger Up Character and Leadership Academy" was born this school year. The foundation of this program is based off of the power of mentorship and real world application from our community. These two elements are vital to positively impacting our community for the sustainable future.

At the beginning of the year, our team of teachers were each given a small group of students to mentor for the next 2 years. Once a month, our students "Tiger Up", starting by all wearing Columbia "Tiger Up" t-shirts. On "Tiger Up Days," two hours are dedicated to students focus on the character or leadership skill of the month. During the first hour, our students spend the entire time in a small group with their assigned mentor. This mentor is intentionally someone other than their classroom teacher. During this mentorship time, the students learn about this skill through discussions and activities. During the second hour of this Tiger Up Time, our students come together in an assembly format to meet with a local expert on the specific character or leadership skill of the month.

Over the past year, students have been taught many different topics on skills in life that will help them become the best and the brightest. These

topics have ranged from Good Character to Being Responsible and from the dangers of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs to Preparing themselves for College and/or Post Secondary Advanced Training.

This "Tiger Up" program has come to life with the support and participation of our community as we have had the following dedicated community members: Mr. Todd Hawkins (First-Knox National Bank), Mount Vernon Fire Chief Chad Christopher, Knox County Sheriff David Shaffer, Mr. Larry Hall (OSU Extension Office: 4-H Development), Officer Daniel Ruth (Columbia Elementary Parent & Westerville Police Officer), MVMS Eighth Graders, Kenyon College, and Mount Vernon Nazarene University. We cannot properly describe in words how grateful we are for all of these individuals and organizations. It is great to work in an awesome community that supports superior students!

We find it very valuable to encourage our students, staff, and community members to "Tiger Up!" As each of us Tiger Up and instill strong character and leadership skills into our children, we will find our community as a whole will improve as a new generation is formed. Let's change the world together in a positive manner and TIGER UP!!



Sheriff David Shaffer of the Knox County Sheriff's Department



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UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 2016

- 14 • Knox County Honor Bands 8am-2:30pm Memorial Theater
- 21 • Senior Citizens Spring Luncheon 12-2pm HS Auditorium
- 23 • Track Yellow Jacket Relays MVHS-Stadium
- 26 • MS Orchestra Spring Concert-MVHS Theater

MAY 2016

- 2 • MS Choir Concert MVHS-Theater
- 4 • ABC Awards Night 7-9pm Memorial Theater
- 6&7 • May Fiesta 7:30-10pm MVHS Music Wing
- 9-11 • Fifth Grade Outdoor Education Camp Heartland Conference Center
- 10 • Senior Awards Night MVHS-Theater
- 11 • MVHS Orchestra Spring Concert MVHS-Theater
- 11-14 • 8th Grade Trip to Washington D.C.
- 14 • Prom, Kenyon College-Gund Commons
- 17 • MVHS Band Spring Concert MVHS-Theater
- 22 • HS Commencement MVHS Stadium (weather permitting)
- 25 • Last Day for Students

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

Thoughts and Tweets from the Path...

A message from Superintendent William Seder

With the early onset of spring many of us are relishing the opportunity to get outdoors. Lacing up our walking shoes, tuning up our bikes, and getting our golf clubs out of the attic are sure signs that spring is in the air.

I often enjoy walks along the Heart of Ohio trail and find this time to be great for tuning out the day's events and enjoying quiet reflection. Recently my granddaughter, Leighton, and I were walking the trail when we discovered an old violin case along the side of the path. Our minds raced as we created scenarios to chronicle its journey and imagine how it ended up on our path. In the midst of this creative adventure, Leighton suddenly proclaimed, "I love music class and my teacher, Mrs. Eaton!"

And there it is – the link between the experiences we provide for our children in school and the impact on their lives. Here in Mount Vernon, our students have opportunities to perform in the choir, band and orchestra. We also provide outlets for them to express themselves artistically. Our district embraces the value of these special opportunities and celebrates that they extend learning for our students beyond the important core subjects.

On another day, I passed Columbia Elementary making my way through Foundation Park to the old CA&C train station, where the past has been preserved for future generations of students to appreciate. The revitalization of the Knox Learning Center (West Elementary) continues as we provide an improved facility for the students of Knox County who attend school there. We are excited that Pleasant Street Elementary will be getting a major and much needed facelift this summer as we are replacing all of the windows! In this process we are respecting the original design of the building while providing for better lighting and increased energy efficiencies.

We continue to update and maintain all of our facilities from the oldest - Wiggin Street built in 1904 to the newest - Twin Oak built in 2005 to ensure student safety and the most efficient environment for academic success.



We live in such a great time to use technology for sharing our thoughts and images that I often carry my phone and share ideas and observations with those who follow me on my Twitter account.

The image that I chose for my Twitter profile is a sign from the past that states: 'Building Excellent Schools for Today and the 21st Century'. When it comes to our focus on maintaining excellent schools, the Mount Vernon School District has certainly stepped up to the plate. We couldn't be more proud of the results of the recently released state report card. The district received an "A" on performance indicators and an "A" on valued added growth for all subgroups. Mount Vernon Middle School and Columbia Elementary dramatically improved academic scores earning an "A" and "B" respectively while other buildings continued their history of earning high marks.

Our students, parents and staff are all to be congratulated on our success! In fact, the entire community shares in this achievement since, without community support, we would not have the resources to provide our current high level of education for our kids.

As warmer weather arrives, I hope you are all able to take time out of your busy schedules to enjoy all that our community has to offer. We invite you to attend our Spring school activities. Our High School and Middle School Spring athletic teams are in full swing. Many students at all grade levels will participate in music or drama performances as the school year winds down. Come and watch our kids demonstrate their talents and skills. Enjoy their enthusiasm and energy. You will leave these events with great optimism about the future of our community and our country. As we reflect upon the good times of the past and the present, we must not forget to focus on the future, always striving for 'Excellence'...See you on the trail!



Excellence in Action *Curriculum Director Scott Will*

Spring is most definitely in the air! There is a certain energy and excitement that is generated knowing that the rejuvenation from the dreary wintry days is at hand. Comparably speaking, we have long anticipated the release of the State Report Card that will allow us to gauge where we have been successful as well as areas that we need to refine in our continuous push for excellence in the Mount Vernon City Schools.

As a district, Mount Vernon met 30 of 32 assessment indicators for a grade of an "A". To dive a little deeper, the following schools received an "A" for indicators met: Mount Vernon Middle School, Columbia Elementary, Twin Oak and Wiggin Street. We are very proud of ALL our schools as our students were prepared to take on the New State Assessments, and once again will be challenged with new assessments in Mathematics and English Language Arts as the state makes the full transition to AIR for all End of Course Assessments with the demise of the PARCC assessment in Ohio.

As we celebrate our success, we are also aware we must continue to work on closing the gaps in educational success between each individual student. We have taken great pride in expansion of Gifted Services with the understanding we must expand and develop frameworks to successfully serve all students. We feel confident that we are developing impacting educational choices for students, yet also understand we must continue to evolve in addressing the education needs of today and not the industrial model of a century passed.

Our ultimate desire is for a rich educational journey that will see every student graduate with the necessary skills to enter a college or chosen career. This desire is a challenge for many districts and we will work tirelessly to establish pathways for success for our district's students and their next steps into adulthood. We thank you for your continued support of the Mount Vernon City Schools!

Mount Vernon City School District Report Card	
Grading Categories	Grade
Indicators Met	A
Performance Index	B
K - 3 Literacy	B
Overall Value Added	A
Gifted Value Added	A
Lowest 20% Value Added	A
SWD Value Added	A
Gap Closing	C
4 Year Graduation	C
5 Year Graduation	B
Attendance:	
Present	48
Absent	2
Tardy	1
A = Excellent • B = Good • C = Satisfactory • N = Needs Improvement U = Unsatisfactory • I = Insufficient / Incomplete	
Student: <i>Mount Vernon City School District</i> Year: 2014-2015	

District Recognition from OSBA

Each spring the Central Region of the Ohio School Boards Association recognizes districts with programs selected for exhibition at the OSBA Capital Conference Student Achievement Fair. Two Mount Vernon programs were selected in a group of 20 out of 105 programs submitted: The Bookfast Club (a product of Mrs. Keaton's Contemporary Reading Course) and Cultures and Comparisons (Mrs. Behrensmeyer's student trips abroad) were recognized as Outstanding Programs at the OSBA Spring Conference.

Junior and senior students in Contemporary Reading, a semester elective course at Mount Vernon High School, read and analyzed six novels. Each student created his/her curriculum based on objectives designed by the instructor. As a culminating activity, key community members were formally invited to The Bookfast Club at Paragraphs, our local independent bookstore, where each student presented his/her final digital project (webpages and blogs) that analyzed a contemporary novel and its classic counterpart. Additionally, students and community members talked casually over a light breakfast about other books read over the semester, and oftentimes, an adult left challenged to read a new author or a new genre. As a final showcase, students in the class designed, created and assembled the storefront window, a display that lasted into the month of June. Breakfast donations for the event came from Sips and Kroger of Mount Vernon.

Mount Vernon and Ancient Rome is an intersection of civilizations. Mrs. Behrensmeyer annually takes students overseas to Italy. Because Mount Vernon is a colonial town and the classics are most evident in our architecture, statuary, and even a quote from the poet Horace on our public square, Mount Vernon students draw culture, comparisons and commonalities with Ancient Rome and Mount Vernon, e.g. the Farmer's Market with the Roman Forum, local churches with ancient temples, Roman baths and the local YMCA, ancient arenas with our football field, Roman roads and our brick streets, and even the Rastin Tower with the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Students then share those comparisons and commonalities upon their return home. Such activities provide a bridge to the PAST, relevancy for the PRESENT, and justification for the FUTURE pursuit of Classical Studies. A generous donation from the Ariel Foundation assisted with funding this project.





Little Cheer

Mount Vernon City Schools believes that co-curricular and extracurricular activities are paramount in the growth of our students in their social and academic journey. Education of the whole child involves more than the core academic principles. While the core principles establish the foundation for success, the outside the normal brick and mortar activities can truly tap into the skill set of the individual student and provide greater purpose and relevance to their personal journey. We would like to highlight our cheerleading program as they look to tap into the interest and energy of younger children in our district. The Mount Vernon Cheerleaders welcomed Little Cheer participants to share in the spotlight in support of Yellow Jacket sports this year. This fall over 100 girls ages kindergarten to sixth grade took part in the two day clinic. The young cheerleaders were paired up with a high school or middle school cheerleader in order to learn the moves and cheers that would be performed at a home varsity football game. The Little Cheerleaders enjoyed learning the dance and cheers with the older girls. On the night of the big



game against Franklin Heights, the Little Cheerleaders along with their high school and middle school mentors, filled the sidelines and performed to an overwhelming number of fans who packed the stands in support of our school. The older girls greatly enjoyed the Little Cheerleaders and learned a valuable lesson in "giving back" to their younger counterparts by sharing experiences, building relationships and providing solid role models. Based upon the success of the fall clinic, a second clinic was held during the basketball season. Over 40 girls participated in the winter clinic to learn routines that would be the halftime performance at the boy's basketball game against Worthington Kilbourne. Again the Yellow Jacket community filled our gym in support of the basketball team and the Little Cheerleaders. The Mount Vernon coaches and cheerleaders would like to thank all those that participated and they look forward to hosting additional clinics for the 2016-2017 seasons.

Wiggin Street Elementary Participates in Annual Global School Play Day

This February, students at Wiggin Street Elementary School had the opportunity to participate in the Second Annual Global School Play Day. This International Day began in February, 2015, with 65,000 students from 6 continents, and 13 countries registered to participate. This one day event is designed to highlight the importance and benefits of play and unstructured time to allow students to problem solve, create, process, discover, internalize experiences, challenge themselves, learn to work together in groups, and learn to lead, laugh, and have fun.

Students from all grade levels at Wiggin Street participated. They had many items at school to use which included science materials/ equipment, play money, games, structures such as tents, foldable items such as a small scale bus and house, play kitchen appliances, shells, rocks, books, and much more. Students could also bring in items from home, with the exception of electronic and battery operated devices, such as favorite board games, legos, blocks, racetracks, playing cards, chess and checker boards, empty cardboard boxes, markers, jigsaw puzzles, many social games such as Charades and Pictionary, and games that involved math skills. Conversations and strategies were shared in groups as students tried their skill at various games and play activities.

Imagination, creativity, individuality, positive social interactions, and a lot of fun were in motion throughout the building. Students were teaching each other how to play games of strategy such as chess. Small groups were building models, planning projects, and working in multi-age groups as they created and designed. These activities definitely support the development of "community".

Fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Crowell, shared, "I learned so much about my students' understanding of the laws of reflection when a group chose to design a maze with three mirrors and a flashlight. This day of play provided time which led to further investigation of the properties of light. With further experimentation the students successfully discussed and demonstrated their understanding of the behavior of light. If I hadn't participated in the International Day of Play, I would have assumed that the students had a deeper understanding of light than they truly did."



Parents shared with teachers many positive comments regarding their children's responses to this day. One parent told a teacher, "My child came home with the biggest smile on his face talking about the toy person he made, called Freddy". Another parent who observed the day said, "I saw the children were so excited yet calm, if that's possible. They were so engaged!"

The Third Global Day of Play has already been scheduled for February 1, 2017.

JIFF - Jump Into Foods and Fitness

"Why are there kids in the school so early?", "What is going on in the gym?", "Where is all that noise coming from?", "Is this for anyone?", "How can I start coming?", "Wow, how many kids are in there?" These are just a few of the comments heard on Friday mornings at Pleasant Street elementary school where students of all ages come to kick off their day.

The JIFF program was initiated in 2003 through a partnership between Brock Evans, Mount Vernon City Schools physical education instructor, Larry Hall from OSU Extension and Caree Varughese of the Knox County Health Department. Based on a Michigan State University curriculum focusing on diet and exercise education, the program has morphed into a weekly before-school program involving up to sixty students, grades K through 5 each Friday at Pleasant Street Elementary School. Students arrive 45 minutes before school starts (8:15 to 9:00 a.m.) , experience a short discussion of healthy life choices and nutrition, and are guided through aerobic activities, directed by Evans. Activities change each week (dancing, games, gymnastics, etc.) – all set to upbeat music .

Brock came up with the concept thirteen years ago and has followed through with providing purposeful activities to allow students to experience different ways to stay healthy through good nutrition and exercise. Larry Hall, 4-H Youth Development Educator, utilizes research-based information suggesting that students who wake up in the morning and have a nutritious breakfast followed by aerobic activity are better prepared for the task of learning in the classroom. Both Larry and Brock are extremely passionate about the program and feel that every Friday morning they have an opportunity to make a positive influence on the students and future community members.



MVMS Student Council members serving families at the Ronald McDonald House in Columbus.

MVMS Students Paying-It-Forward

Education goes beyond the books and walls of the middle school. Last year, the middle school student council chose a few community organizations that were youth centered as a focus for philanthropic projects. Organizations that have benefitted from the charitable efforts of MVMS have included the Byron Saunders Foundation, Winter Sanctuary, Food for the Hungry and the Ronald McDonald House of Central Ohio. Projects this year have ranged from collecting socks, change, pop tabs and food. Each of these drives involved cooperation between the school and the community.

After raising over 100 pounds of pop tabs in the OSU v. Team Up North Annual Pop Tab Drive, MVMS Student Council members and community adult volunteers went to the Ronald McDonald House in Columbus to provide lunch for the families utilizing the house. The Ronald McDonald House's mission is to be a home away from home. Students and adults alike found this to be true. A sense of home was found around each corner from the staff and volunteers. Families at the house come from all over the world. At our visit, a family from Australia was utilizing the house while a child received treatment at Nationwide Children's Hospital. Sixth grader Addison Christopher stated "I learned more about what happens to families and their kids when they are far away from home. Making the food was fun, and I hope we can do it again soon." Seventh grader Maddie Henricksen added "it felt good to help families when they were going through hard times. It was cool touring the house, and an interesting experience."

Items for the lunch were donated by members of the middle school community, and the menu was selected by student council members. Students prepped, cooked and cleaned the kitchen areas, and even prepped the dinner meal as a group was not coming in on that day. After cooking and serving the meal, students visited with families, and toured the house. Seventh grader Jordyn Laslo expressed "it was a little sad to see some of the kids, but I know our help can make the difference. The house was huge, and had a treehouse stairwell sponsored by the Columbus Blue Jackets. If I could do it again I would." Although student council was paying it forward, there was no doubt that each volunteer benefitted from this experience.



STEM at East Elementary

East Elementary School has embraced the STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) approach like many of the schools across the nation. We believe STEM education is important to prepare our students for their future, their educational and career options, and their guide to wise decisions. This learning approach encourages an active and student-centered environment where students engage in problem solving and collaborative activities that are connected to real life issues. Teachers guide students through the problem-solving process and plan projects that lead to the mastery of content.



With this STEM approach our students are presented with challenging problems, work together, and share ideas with one another. The joy of our students is apparent while they participate in these activities. For example, this year students in Michelle Kramp's kindergarten class made the study of the Arctic fun and exciting. The students researched animals and their habitats. They then changed their classroom into their own version of the Arctic. The entire school participated in the project as students from different grades visited the room and learned about this cold environment and the animals that live there.

The "T" in STEM stands for technology and our students are exposed to lots of technology such as chromebooks, ipads, document cameras, and interactive whiteboards. The integration of technology into daily instruction is an important part of our school's science and mathematics programs. Each classroom is equipped with audio systems, interactive whiteboards, as well as access to chromebooks. Our students acquire content via these technologies and they are also taught how to use these technologies with real-world concepts.

In the fall, our staff conducted a technology survey with our families. What we found was that although most of our families had access to technology many were unaware of the online applications that our school makes available to them. To help address this problem, Hollie Frackman and her 4th grade class, developed informational videos. In the videos, students explain the different computer applications available to our school

community. These applications vary but a few of the prominent ones are Progressbook, Successmaker and ThinkCentral. These videos have been added to our school's website so families can access them.

This March the school will place a focus on mathematics. Our students will be challenged while participating in a PTO sponsored Math-A-Thon during the month. The Math-A-Thon is an activity that allows our students to improve their math skills and to raise money to support our school and it's STEM initiative at the same time. Students collect pledges and then solve as many math problems as possible during the time period.

We intend to continue our school's STEM initiative and eventually expand it to a STEAM initiative by including the Arts. Our school now plans to establish a STEAM student leadership team thanks to a grant from the Ariel Foundation. A few of our teachers will be also attending the STEM Conference in Cleveland this spring to learn more about STEM best practices and ways to enhance our attempts to implement this approach throughout our school

Check out the East School website at www.mvcsd.us to follow our school's STEM initiative. On our website you can view our videos and also find links to our social media sites, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, where our STEM activities are regularly posted.

Free Developmental Screening

Mount Vernon City School District, in conjunction with Knox Head Start, Knox County ESC, and Knox CountyCareer Center is offering FREE developmental screenings for preschoolers who will be turning three or four by August 1, 2016.

Children who are currently in one of the programs listed above already receive a screening every year, but if your child has never been in a preschool program, we welcome you to bring him/her to the New Hope Early Childhood Education Center on Upper Gilchrist Road on April 11 for a FREE developmental screening. We will look at how your child compares with others his/her same age in concepts, language development, gross and fine motor skills, vision, and hearing. To register for this FREE event, call Christi at 740-393-6980 - screening is by appointment only. Once your child is screened, you will have the opportunity to register for any of the four programs offered. To register and save a space in a preschool program for the fall, you will need to bring: child birth certificate, child shot record, \$25 registration fee, and, if you believe you might qualify for free or reduced tuition, you will also need to bring proof of income, like W2 or pay stubs.



Sharing a Passion for Choral Music

On Mondays after school you will find MVCSD music specialists Laura Ackert and Sarah Reyes, working with groups of boisterous, enthusiastic young singers. Ackert is the director of The Choraliers, a group of 2nd through 5th grade beginning singers and Reyes directs The Ensemble, a group of 5th through 8th grade advanced singers seeking a musical challenge. Both choirs are part of the Knox Youth Choir founded by Diane Dingler in 1997. The organization came under the leadership of Ackert and Reyes in 2011 when Mrs. Dingler retired.

The Knox Youth Choirs aim to provide an enriching and challenging introduction to the world of classical choral music. Ackert and Reyes focus on teaching healthy vocal technique and musical literacy. The

Knox Youth Choirs present three concerts a year, one in December, another in May and each August at the Dan Emmett Festival.

Recently, Ackert and Reyes took their passion for choral music all the way to Carnegie Hall in New York City! They are members of the Capital University Choral Union which together with the C.U. Chapel Choir, spent several months preparing music for a concert at Carnegie Hall. Both teachers are alumni of Capital having received their bachelor's and master's degrees there.

"Preparing for the Carnegie Hall concert was quite a challenge," said Ackert. "The rehearsals were all on Monday nights so we would finish with the Knox Youth Choirs at 6:00 p.m., hop in the car and drive an hour and 15 minutes to Capital, rehearse until 9:30 p.m. then head back to MV. "Not to mention," added Reyes, "that the music we prepared for the Carnegie Hall concert, including the Chichester Psalms by Leonard Bernstein, was very challenging and required a lot of extra practice outside of our regular rehearsals."

"Our experience in New York was fantastic" added Ackert. "We were part of a 250 voice choir under the leadership of the amazing Dr. Lynda Hasseler of Capital University. "Working with her provided us with outstanding professional development." It has helped us further develop our own conducting, vocal pedagogy and leadership," said Reyes. "We can't wait to share the things we learned with our own singers and are grateful that MVCSD allowed us to take this opportunity."

Dr. Bennett Honored by OSBA

Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) recognized and honored Dr. Margie Bennett, President MVCSD Board of Education, with Ohio School Board Association Award of Achievement for service as a board member. Dr. Bennett has faithfully served the students of Mount Vernon City Schools for years and has been an OSBA trustee for 3 years.

She has served the Mount Vernon community through extensive volunteer work: Knox County Distinguished Young Women of the Year (formerly Knox County Junior Miss), Chair of the Academic Judges; Rolls Royce Scholarship Award, Chair of the Judge ; OSOC-Our Schools Our Community, Steering Committee Member; the Mount Vernon Academic Booster Club, Charter Member; Mount Vernon City Schools Educational Advisory Council; Instruction and Technology Committee; Financial Advisory Council; Joint Mount Vernon Schools and City Council Community Service Committee, Co-Chair.

In her spare time, Margie enjoys reading, music, travel, gardening, and her wonderful grandchildren.





RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Saludos a todos! Greetings everyone!

Would you give up a Friday recess to learn Spanish? Twin Oak fifth grade teacher, Trina Sims, decided to find that out specifically as she reached out and formed an elementary Spanish Club. Sims spoke with High School Spanish teacher, Guinn Bandy, to find out what basic skills students needed to learn Spanish. Guinn took the club a step further by offering to have high school Spanish Club students volunteer to come to Twin Oak to work alongside the students in the club. Each week, two different high school students arrive to assist Sims with this new program. The elementary students are excited to interact with their high school counterparts and Mrs. Sims was thrilled that her students would have such great role models to help in establishing this opportunity.

Twin Oak Spanish Club meets every Friday during recess. Twenty-five Twin Oak students are learning many common Spanish greetings, family names, some common phrases, days of the week, colors, numbers 1-30, and names of foods. After each weekly meeting, the fourth and fifth grade students add a page to a comic strip book featuring that week's lesson. At the end of the 6-week Spanish Club, the elementary students will have completed a comic strip book written in Spanish! Twin Oak students are having a great time learning and will have a great base in their future opportunities with formal Spanish classes at the middle and high school. Spanish Club is one of several different "recess clubs" that teachers are offering for student enrichment at Twin Oak this year.



Spring Senior Citizens Luncheon

Senior Citizens Spring Luncheon

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Noon - 2:00 p.m.



*Mount Vernon High School
Auditorium*

Convenient parking available between the High School and Middle School

Please R.S.V.P. to Terry Strey by 740-397-7422 ext. 6025 or email: tstrey@mvcsd.us by Friday, April 15, 2016

In the Know



The MVHS In The Know academic quiz bowl team has had an exciting year so far. The matches we play against other schools are like Jeopardy, but with a four-player team against another four-player team. Like any sports team, our practice can be intense at times and students typically practice all year long, every Friday after school until 4 pm. Students participate as they are able, and most students take at least one season off while they are participating in a sports program or other activity; typically we will have about a dozen students at each Friday practice, but who those students are often varies.

In the WOSU TV 34 In The Know single-elimination tournament this year, MV beat Cardington-Lincoln 540 to 210, Tree of Life 640 to 345, but lost to Fisher Catholic in the third round. Out of 64 teams, MV made it to the round of 16, finishing in the top 25%.

The team went undefeated in our Licking County League (7-0), beating Northridge, Utica, Johnstown, Licking Valley, Centerburg, Licking Heights, and Millersport. In the final match of the Licking County league the Jackets defeated Licking Heights and will advance to the Ohio Academic Competition State Regional Tournament. For the last six years Mount Vernon has been a Licking County Division Winner or Tournament Winner and gone on to compete at the state regionals.

You can watch our upcoming events as our team competes at the Mount Vernon Public Library on April 13th at 6 pm. Mount Vernon appears on WBNS 10TV's Brain Game taking on Olentangy Liberty on May 7th at 7:30 pm, or on WMFD TV Mansfield's Scholastic Showdown.