



Mount Vernon City Schools

DISTRICT NEWS

SPRING 2019

Connecting Our Community



Permanent Improvement Levy: We heard your concerns and we're acting to protect your investment!

Judy Forney, District Treasurer

Earlier this year we reached out to the community with our Thought Exchange, asking for input about our facilities. When the responses were collected and organized, we heard loud and clear that we need to continue our efforts to update and improve our facilities.

Comments such as "Many of the elementary restrooms for staff and students are in desperate need of repair and updating" and "All buildings need a secure entrance so visitors can be properly welcomed..." reflect and reinforce our current efforts and continued plans to maintain and update all of our facilities.

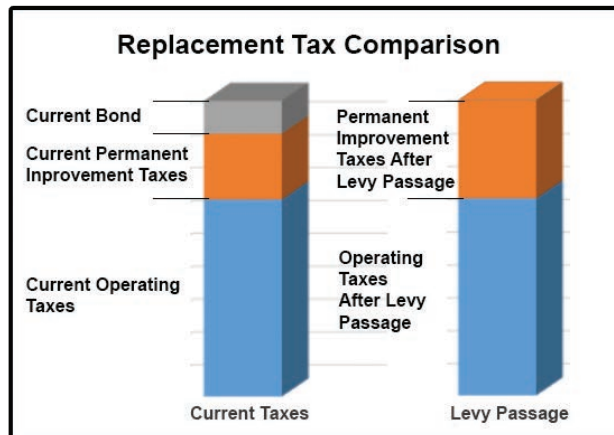
To shore up revenues necessary for this effort, we are asking Mount Vernon City School District voters for support on May 7th at the polls.

This ballot issue is a Permanent Improvement Levy that will replace the current 2 mill P.I. levy that was established in 1977 with a 2.9 mill levy. The additional .9 mills was determined to generate the amount needed as well as considering the goal to not increase taxes. The replacement will generate approximately \$725,000 in additional funds per year, which will be used to help update and maintain aging facilities and fund other allowable P.I. expenditures.

Expenditures from Permanent Improvement Funds are restricted by law to only be spent for certain capital improvement projects, maintenance and repairs of school property, and to purchase items with a lifespan of five years or more. This includes technology, textbooks, and buses. Public schools are not permitted to use P.I. funds for operational costs such as salaries, benefits, supplies or utilities.

The timing of our request for this Replacement P.I. Levy coincides with our celebration of the final payment of the 1996 Bonds that were issued for the construction of our beautiful Mount Vernon Middle School. Beginning in January 2020, we will no longer be collecting property taxes to satisfy these Bond payments.

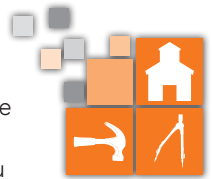
As the graph illustrates, the passage of the Replacement P.I. Levy and the final payment of the Bond Issue will result in the amount of taxes collected at approximately the same level going forward. Tax payers will be paying the same amount, or similar amount of taxes as they are currently paying.



Facilities Update

A message from Superintendent, William Seder Jr.

We have several facility initiatives going on throughout the district and we thought it important to keep you updated and informed.



Facility Master planning: We have been strategically evaluating District facilities this year through Board visits to each building, the development of a Facility Grade Card, and a facility 'ThoughtExchange' where community stakeholders shared with us their thoughts about our district facilities.

The Facility ThoughtExchange: 612 participants shared their thoughts about district facilities. The information and thoughts received were invaluable as we continue to shape future district facility plans.

Please feel free to review the exchange and all thoughts categorized by buildings on the Districts website: www.mvcsd.us under the Communications tab. Your Thoughts Matter!

The Education Gateway Project: Is an exciting project comprised of three District building initiatives working collaboratively with community partners, a new Transportation/Maintenance building; Yellow Jacket Drive extension, and a new Community Field House.

- Transportation /Maintenance building will be located adjacent the Middle School/High School campus. The size of the building

Facilities Update continued on page 8



Fun - Fellowship - Entertainment - Surprises

William Seder Jr, Superintendent

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 Thursday, April 18, 2019, from noon until 2:00 p.m.

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 Knox County Foundation).

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@mvcasd.us. Reservations are requested by Friday, April 12, 2019 - please include your name and a contact number.

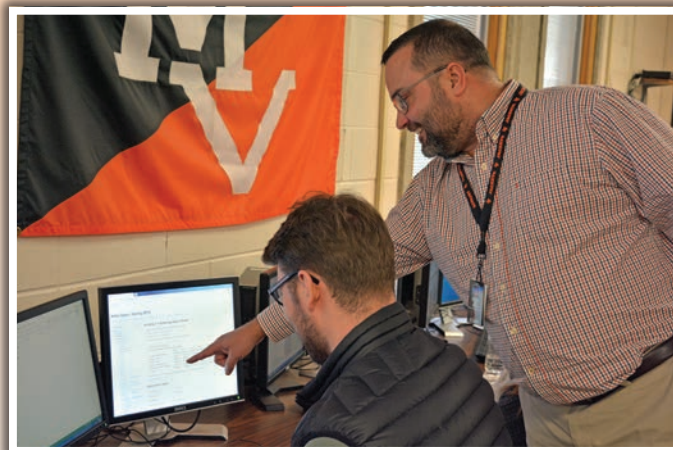
Your presence will be the highlight of our day!



Computer Science Programming Emerging at MVHS

Scott Will, Mount Vernon High School Principal

Behind the scenes at MVHS for the past year and a half, the desire to create a true Computer Science Program has been in the works. The fall of 2019 will see the desire come to fruition. MVHS is excited to add Computer Science programming in the Computer and Business Department. The desire is two fold, offering more STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) courses as well as offering some true pathway type options available for all MVHS students. This next year we will see the inception of three new courses. In our science department, Drone Technology will give students an introduction to Unmanned Aerial Systems as well as the opportunity to obtain an FAA Commercial Drone Pilot's License which would allow students to operate drones for profit freelance or as part of a corporation.



Ken Wiles instructs student during programming class

Our Computer and Business instructors will be adding curriculum from CodeHS in two initial courses; Intro to Computer Science (Java Script) and AP Computer Science Principles. Both courses will include foundations of Computer Science, coding, computing and the impacts of computing and technology on society. The courses will be hands on facilitating, idea formulation and creativity in an inquiry based environment. More Computer Science courses will be implemented over the course of the next two years, such as Python Coding, App Development, Cyber Security, Virtual Reality, and Artificial Intelligence. We are very excited to offer these course options to the MVHS student body!

Pleasant Street Circus Night

Teresa Weaver, Pleasant Street Elementary Principal



Pleasant Street staff welcomed nearly 300 guests to another family engagement event. This event was a Circus themed literacy night for our students and their families. Our goal was to provide an evening of fun activities for our students and their family members to engage in together and make lifelong memories.

The Pleasant Street staff did an amazing job of transforming our building entrance and various classrooms into a welcoming circus venue complete with brightly colored decorations and lively music.

The students participated in various literacy activities with their family members. They were able to listen to a story read to them by a clown, complete mad libs and a story starter, have a balloon animal made for them, make a puppet that resembles the main character of a story, play various games in the gymnasium and read the history of

CIRCUS

the games, get their face painted, take pictures in a photo booth, and participate in music literacy activities.

Mount Vernon High School Students who are members of National Honor Society made many young friends as they participated in face painting and games with our students and families.

Fifth grade students hosted the dinner items in the cafeteria as a fundraiser for their upcoming outdoor education trip in May, and are very thankful for the money earned. Pleasant Street's staff has enjoyed all of our family engagement events and is excited about future activities. Stay tuned for our third and final family event of the year...

We strive to continue to connect with our students and their families... making this a pleasant place to be!



Community Service Day

Darin Prince, Mount Vernon Middle School Principal

"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile." - Albert Einstein

Education comes in many forms. Great things have happened at Mount Vernon Middle School this year. Students have flourished inside and outside of the school day in various activities. The students will truly shine in early May in a way they have not experienced before at Mount Vernon Middle School.

On May 10, all students and staff of Mount Vernon Middle School will be headed out into the community to perform the school's first ever Service Day. Volunteering is a way for students to leave a positive impact on the community that serves us each and every day. Students will have the opportunity to select a project of interest from a list so they can leave their mark on something that they are truly passionate about. One of the main goals of this day is for students and adults alike to see the direct results of volunteerism.

The Service Day was born from feedback and experiences of Principal Darin Prince. Prince experienced service days at his previous district and felt all of the school benefits from having a service day. Prince has spearheaded a committee of staff who are organizing where the need exists in the community, the supplies needed, and how to organize a group of 900 students and staff. Groups will be spread out and covering locations like Ariel-Foundation Park, the Shade Tree Commission, and other community needs. Do you have a need that could use help or would like to offer to support Service Day? If so, please contact the Mount Vernon Middle School at (740) 392-6867.





Fifth Graders Learn Life Skills

Darcy Miller, Columbia Elementary Secretary

Six years ago, our fifth grade students walked into our building and let go of their parents' hand; some came with excitement and joy while others were scared and sad. For the past six years, we have had the joy and humbling privilege of educating and helping them to prepare to succeed.

By the time students enter their fifth grade year, many lessons are focused on developing skills that will help them beyond school. In the fall, they made a trip to Biztown to spend a day "practicing" a career. In the Spring, students participate in Career Day which allows them to speak to people in our community about different careers. By the end of the year, they will have visited Knox Career Center, Kenyon College, and Mount Vernon Nazarene University to begin thinking about life beyond High School.



While field trips and events are the highlights of fifth grade, the memories and friendships made during fifth grade

camp at Heartland Outdoor School make the other experiences pale in comparison. Mount Vernon City School Administration made a commitment to transform the camp experience into something that prepares all fifth graders to transition to the Middle School. When our fifth graders return from camp, the excitement just can't be contained, and suddenly, our fifth graders are ready to leave us!

Ariel Foundation graciously provides a grant which covers half the cost for each student. Our PTO also provides some assistance, but the parents are responsible for the remainder, which can be a hardship for families. Teachers, Nicole Justice and Amy Ferguson, came up with a way to take the skills that the students have learned while attending Columbia and apply it to real life business situations to help defray the cost of attending camp.

Just like with any business, the students developed ideas, marketed them, purchased the supplies, sold the products, and



were responsible for making change and counting the money for a deposit. Dallas Krabill shared that "the fundraisers taught me responsibility and teamwork." The fifth grade fundraisers were designed to be ones that the kids love and are easy on the parents' pocketbooks! Students have sold candy grams during the holidays, popsicles during the heat waves, sponsored Hat & Sunglass Days, PJ Day, Ice Cream Day, and Technology Day. They have promoted the events through fliers, handmade posters, and even video clips produced and aired on the morning announcements.

We are very excited to see them take their classroom lessons and apply them to a real situation. Layla DeShong was asked what it means to her to be able to help pay for camp so that her parents didn't have to pay for all of the balance. Layla's eyes sparkled as she said, "It makes my mom proud of me."

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

12 • 7:00 p.m.
Tops & Pops Jazz Band Concert,
MVMS Commons

18 • 12:00-2:00 p.m.
Senior Citizens Luncheon, MVHS

25 • 7:00 p.m.
High School Orchestra Spring Concert, MVHS Theater

29 • 7:00 p.m.
Middle School Choir Concert, MVHS Theater

30 • 6:30 p.m.
Kiwanis Awards, MVHS Theater

MAY

3 & 4 • 7:30 p.m.
May Fiesta Choir Concert, MVHS Theater

6 – 8
Fifth Grade Outdoor Education Camp, Heartland Conference Center

11 • 8:00 p.m.
Prom, Kenyon College

14 • 7:00 p.m.
Middle School Spring Orchestra Concert, MVHS Theater

16 • 6:30 p.m.
Academic Letter Awards Night, MVNU Chapel

16 • 7:00 p.m.
Middle School Band Spring Concert, MVMS Gymnasium

21 - 24
Eighth Grade Trip, Washington DC

21 • 7:00 p.m.
High School Concert Band Spring Concert, MVHS Theater

22 • 6:30 p.m.
Senior Awards Night, MVHS Theater

26 • 3:00 p.m.
High School Commencement, Kenyon Athletic Center, Gambier

30
Last Day for Students
Two-Hour Early Release

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

DAN EMMETT GIVES BACK

Margy Arck, Dan Emmett Elementary Principal

Through our Student Leader program at Dan Emmett Elementary, students have the opportunity each year to interact and give back to their community. Student Leaders are chosen by teacher recommendation, but all students are invited and encouraged to participate in monthly community service projects. To be a Student Leader, students must exhibit ROARS behavior, meaning they are Respectful, Outstanding, Accepting, Responsible, and Safe. Student leaders, work to instill the importance of helping others and giving back to their community.

This year, students have been excited to give back in many ways. They started the year off with a fun car wash that raised over \$200.00 to help fund future projects. In the winter, they always enjoy decorating cookies and making holiday cards for the first responders around the city to say thank you for all they do throughout the year for our community. Some of our Student

Leaders, along with their parents, were able to deliver cookies to the Police, Sheriff, and Fire Departments.

New this year, students were excited to ring the Salvation Army bell at Rural King. Many times, we walk right past these volunteers ringing the bell without thinking about what they are doing and why they are doing it. By participating in this activity, our students were able to gain a better understanding of what those red buckets really stand for during the holidays. Later in the year, they took it one step further by volunteering to help serve a community meal at the Salvation Army. This allowed the students to see where the money they helped raise in the winter goes, and just how much of an impact it has on the people in our community.

In February, students were able to visit and make spring wreaths with the residents of The Laurels. This was the second time we have had the pleasure of volunteering at The Laurels and through this experience, students learned the importance of building relationships with one another.



One of our biggest projects will happen this April when students head to Faith Lutheran Church where they will work alongside members to clean the Rock Garden. They do this each year to show their thanks for all of the support their school receives from the church year after year. Students get their hands in the dirt and help rake, pick up sticks, and pull weeds. After all of their hard work, they get to sit down to a delicious lunch provided by the church members. Students appreciate Faith Lutheran donating school supplies, clothing, and their generous assistance to help pay for fifth grade camp. It also helps our young leaders to see adults continuing to give back to their community, just as they are helping them to do as students.

The Dan Emmett Student Leaders are always looking for new and creative ideas on how to give back to our Dan Emmett community. If you have any ideas or service projects they can participate in, please let us know. School and community must work together to build strong future leaders.





The New Twin Oak Foundation

Sue Miller, Twin Oak Elementary School Principal

Our Mission Statement: *The Twin Oak Foundation grants the wishes of students and meets the needs they see in their community.*



Through the years, the Twin Oak third graders have studied economics through a unit that included making items and manning a booth at the annual Twin Oak Holiday Shop. The third graders researched and selected items to make and sell. The students considered data from previous sales and then chose what they thought would be their biggest money makers. They decided on the products they would produce, kept track of expenses, and created

spreadsheets to display and graph their progress.

With their profits, the third graders voted on ways they could spend their money for different activities. In the past, they have had a pizza party, rented a bounce house, and have even funded a field trip to The Works. After the 2017-2018 Holiday Shop, the third graders found they had made an even larger profit. They wondered if there were different ways to use their funds. Through their learning in the Social/Emotional Second Step Curriculum, they had focused on kindness and helping others. Since they had learned about the Community Foundation from Sam Barone on their Mount Vernon Walking Field Trip, they began thinking of

ways they could share the funds with the Twin Oak community. Instead of doing just one act of kindness, the students decided to use the money and create the Twin Oak Foundation which could help many in our school.

During the 2018-2019 school year, the members of the Twin Oak Foundation have been focused on creating a mission statement and by-laws to govern their new organization. Currently, they are working on developing grant applications that students can use to apply for funds for different projects to benefit the school. Soon posters will be seen around the school advertising the new Twin Oak Foundation and the steps that can be taken by students who would like their wishes granted. William, a third



grader says, "I enjoy being on the Foundation Council. I think it's important because if someone thinks the school needs an improvement, or they want something fun for their classroom, they can ask the Foundation." A fifth grade Foundation member, Leah, shares, "I think the Foundation is great for the whole school. It feels good to play a part in helping students think of ways to get grants to help Twin Oak." Teachers, Tiffeny Miller and Mandy Peterson, add, "We love that students have an opportunity to make a difference in their own community and will benefit from the impact. Many times, kids are told 'No' or 'they are too young to participate', but here they are doing it now. We can't wait to see where the students will lead us!"

Real World Experiences at the Frackman/Kanuckel Diner

Karly Watterson, East Elementary School Principal

An enrichment project that required Ms. Frackman and Mrs. Kanuckel's fourth grade students to synthesize their learning, then research and create a diner menu, came to life March 15th. Students were challenged to create a menu that would include diner style foods and be cost effective for a family of four. Student menus were chosen to be recreated and invitations were sent out to parents and staff. One menu consisted of the main dishes, sides, and beverages, while the other menu was modified to only

include desserts. Students decorated the classroom to look like a diner with a sports theme, then donned plastic aprons and Steak and Shake server hats to officially open their diner.

Parents and staff began arriving in the afternoon and students rose to the occasion being hosts, servers, bussers, and cashiers. Their teachers stood back, beaming with pride at how much effort their students took in making the diner come to life! Landon, a student in Ms. Frackman

and Mrs. Kanuckel's class, said, "I really enjoyed serving people. My favorite part was selling the bags of chips!"

Patrons ordered items like cheeseburgers, hot dogs, mac & cheese, salad, chips, cheesecake, pie, cookies, root beer floats, water, and lemonade provided by our Mount Vernon Food Services. Customers then paid their bills with cash, giving students the opportunity to practice making change.



One student, Amanda, said, "I thought the diner was a good experience to learn how to use money. We were handling real money-not just fake money!" Another student, Jocelyn, said, "It was actually really hard work, but it gave us a dose of how hard adults work." These reactions are exactly what their teachers were hoping for!

Math-A-Thon

Heather Waugh, Wiggin Street Elementary Teacher

This past January, the students of Wiggin Street Elementary began their annual Math-A-Thon. The goal of this year's Math-A-Thon was for students to use their math skills to generate funds that will be used to improve our Bookroom and indoor and outdoor recess equipment. With the amazing hard work and support of our students and the great support of our community, the 2019 Math-A-Thon was a tremendous success. Amanda Filler, parent and PTO President stated, "I think the Math-A-Thon is a great fundraiser for the school. It allows kids to put their math skills to work while raising money at the same time. I love that it encourages them to do their best so they can raise as much money as they can."

Our objective for the Math-A-Thon was to incorporate academics to get the students directly involved and to offer prizes that would motivate and excite our students. Students first collected flat donations or pledge amounts per math problem that they would complete. Each class then completed a grade-appropriate MATH MEDLEY to earn their donations. Everyone that participated earned a prize. Students had a blast during the other reward experiences which included sledding, a movie in the gym, breakfast in the teacher's lounge, and a glow party. New this year was the Mr. Game Room Game Truck for top earners. Here are some insights from some students' perspective about their experiences:

Maddie Hellman (Second Grade) shared, "I liked the game truck the best. I wanted to help make money for the school to buy books for the Bookroom because I love picking out new books to read."

Madison Filler (Third Grade) expressed, "I liked all the rewards but I loved being Mrs. Stetler for the day the best because I got to read to all the kids. Plus, I liked raising money for the school."

Cooper Curry (Fifth Grade) explained "all the rewards were so much fun. I really liked eating breakfast in the teacher's lounge. There was a lot of good food. It was way better than just getting stuff."

"I got to be the Principal for the day. I got to walk around and make sure that everyone was being good. I got to do all the things Dr. Dill does everyday. I want to raise the most money again next year so I can do this again!" conveyed Levi Sanders (Second Grade).

We are very proud of our students' efforts and incredibly grateful for everyone that helped out in any way, encouraging our students to achieve their best! Mrs. Fanning (Fifth Grade Teacher) concluded, "it was an overall positive experience for everyone."



Levi Sanders, principal for a day with Dr. Dill



RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Not Your Normal Help Center

Scott Will, Mount Vernon High School Principal

"Please press one for parts." "Please press two for service." "Please press three for customer service." "Thank you, your estimated wait time is thirty-five minutes." If you have heard these phrases before, you have experienced the frustrations of having to wait for service. At MVHS, we are working so the wait is over. During the past two years we have seen four students take the initial steps in eliminating the wait time on service to repair Chromebooks that are part of the MVHS 1:1 device initiative. Nolan Meier, Cory Berg, Tyler Pryjda, and Steven Schisler have been manning the charge in our HelpDesk room to make sure student and teacher devices are repaired and in working order each and every day. From repairing broken keys to replacing dead batteries, broken screens, and motherboards, these four students have created shorter wait times and top notch repair service for their peers and building faculty. Nolan Meier reflects on his role in working HelpDesk, "People now come up to me in the hallway or in class with Chromebook issues and I can either fix it there or take it up and work on it if I need other tools. I feel like I have a part in helping

out the school and taking some of the workload off of others so they can do other things that are needed." It is through their hard work and experiences to this point that MVHS will pilot a technology integration course known as Generation Yes.

The mission of Generation YES is to overcome technology integration challenges by preparing students to join educators in the school transformation process. The philosophy of the program is that people, not necessarily more or newer technologies, are the solution to educational technology challenges. Our generation of learners, growing up in a technology driven society, have the knowledge and passion to be engaged in the process of technology integration in their education journey. The GenYes program will provide the educational platform as well as the hands on experience to create Student Technology Leaders.

Students and staff will have the opportunity to enjoy an intensive training this summer to prepare for the program roll-out in the fall, and as MVHS pilots this program over the next year with a select grouping of students, the energy and interest will fuel a thriving program in the years to come. Once again, the ability to create and implement relevant programming into our schools comes from the resources provided by our community. Thank you for supporting MVHS and our growing program relative to technology and Computer Science.



Facilities Update continued from page 1

Strong public schools equal stronger communities. In order to attract new businesses and families we need buildings which reflect that our community values public education

4.1 ★★★★★
Ranked #4 of 598

will double the current space and include four (4) bus bays, a wash bay, maintenance workshop, storage, offices and a break room. The new location will provide substantial savings and efficiencies.

- Yellow Jacket Drive Extension - Safety and access are the primary reasons why this extension is so important. During arrival and dismissal times, nearly 2,800 students and parents currently rely on just two access points to the MVHS/MVMS campus. The extension of Yellow Jacket Drive to Cougar Drive will provide a third access point that would greatly improve school safety and the traffic flow around the campus.
- Community Field House - is a collaborative project that will provide locker rooms, wrestling room, weight room, community meeting rooms, a six (6) lane 200-meter track with 3-4 full size courts for Basketball, Volleyball, Tennis and Pickleball.

Construction of the Community Field House is being funded exclusively through funds raised by the Yellow Jacket Booster club and donations from supportive community partners. If you would like to be a part of this exciting community project please contact Bob Tiell, Treasure of the Yellow Jacket Boosters at bjtiell@gmail.com or 614-679-6509 or contact Justin Sanford, Athletic Director at jsanford@mvcisd.us or 614-580-0900.