



# Educational Excellence - Go for the Gold

*A message from Superintendent William Seder*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### DECEMBER 2016

**COLUMBIA ELEMENTARY**  
13 • 6:30pm Holiday Program  
Faith Baptist Church

**DAN EMMETT ELEMENTARY**  
16 • 7pm Holiday Program • MVNU Chapel

**EAST ELEMENTARY**  
15 • 7pm Holiday Program • MVNU Chapel

**PLEASANT ST. ELEMENTARY**  
6 • 7:30pm Holiday Program • MVNU Chapel

**TWIN OAK ELEMENTARY**  
14 • 7pm Holiday Program • MVNU Chapel

**WIGGIN ST. ELEMENTARY**  
13 • 6pm Kindergarten Gingerbread Man Program  
WS Gymnasium  
19 • 7pm Grades 1-5 Holiday Program • Rosse Hall, Kenyon

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
8 • 7pm Orchestra Concert  
HS Theater  
12 • 7pm Choir Concert  
MVNU Chapel  
15 • 7pm Band Concert  
HS Theater

**HIGH SCHOOL**  
12 • 7pm Choir Concert  
MVNU Chapel  
13 • 7:30pm Orchestra Concert • HS Theater  
19 • 7pm Band Concert  
HS Theater

Call 740-397-7422 or email Terry Strebby at [tstrebby@mvcsd.us](mailto:tstrebby@mvcsd.us) for times and other details regarding events



Whenever we observe individuals who go above and beyond normal efforts and preparation to achieve a goal, we are inspired. Examples of such efforts are certainly those athletes who participated in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil last summer. We enjoyed watching for several weeks as the world's finest athletes displayed the results of years, often decades, of sacrifice, training and endurance to compete for Olympic Gold.

Only a few days before the culmination of the '16 Summer Olympics, our staff and students returned to school for the 16-17 school year – perfect timing - which presented us all with some great inspiration for our own goals. Drawing on this inspiration, we chose a "Go for the Gold" theme for the new school year.

Our opening day ceremony was an imitation of the Parade of Nations as representatives from each building carried banners into the auditorium. Individuals carried the torch in a relay that ended with our Mount Vernon Yellow Jacket Mascot lighting our version of the Olympic cauldron. The remainder of the morning events mimicked Olympic events. Employees participated in balance beam, Frisbee discus, noodle fencing, foam ball archery and other activities – competing with opposing teams for district honors.

When the collegial activities were completed, our focus turned to the serious business of education and became even more sharply centered on the inspiration required to do whatever it takes to make a positive impact on the lives of our students.

This isn't about being athletic. This isn't even about winning a medal or an award. "Going for the Gold" in the Mount Vernon School District is really about each of us – teachers, cooks, bus drivers, secretaries, administrators and custodians – every group – looking at the faces of the children who come through our doors every morning and realizing the potential impact we have on their lives.

Those faces and those lives will inspire us – even when we're tired or worn out – even when we've had a troubling day or just don't feel well. Kind words, encouragement, extra help or perhaps just a smile may lift the spirit of someone who is struggling at the moment. We never know what significance these actions might have on a student, or a colleague for that matter.

Like Olympic athletes, we know that the inspiration to keep doing our best in spite of the hurdles and the tough times is what will make winners out of all of us. Most importantly it will make winners of our students!

At the conclusion of our Olympic morning, each staff member was given a gold medal. They were encouraged to identify a student each month, who exemplifies the qualities of an Olympian and present them with a gold medal. Let's "Go for the Gold" together in pursuit of educational excellence.

