

Mainstream

FUTURE GROWTH PLAN



Superintendent's Note

Although it is a very exciting time for Mt. Vernon with the significant growth in our community, we are charting unprecedented waters with the challenges the coronavirus is placing on our nation. As our staff strives to provide the best eLearning possible, we know this time can be difficult for our

students and families and we ask everyone to practice patience over perfection.

I wanted to share with you that before spring break, our teachers made great strides with their Professional Learning Communities (PLC). Their collaborative academic efforts became more intentional as we work to increase student learning through our PLC. Teachers have been working in teams to help all students learn at high levels, and many have expressed great gains already! We are thankful for the hard work of our staff and their ownership of the learning each of our students achieves.

We also want to take the time to say thank you to our Mt. Vernon community. In this unprecedented time, we are making difficult decisions in the best interest of our students, staff, and community. The support and positive comments we have received are greatly appreciated. It takes all of us working together to protect those most vulnerable to the coronavirus, and if ever there was a time for us to think of others, now is that time. The sacrifices and efforts will make a difference! We thank you for your trust in us, as we continue to make decisions in the best interest of our students and staff that ultimately impact our larger community. I continue to be amazed with the incredible staff and families in the Mt. Vernon community, and I consider myself fortunate to serve as your superintendent.

Stewardship Projects

SEE INSIDE ➤



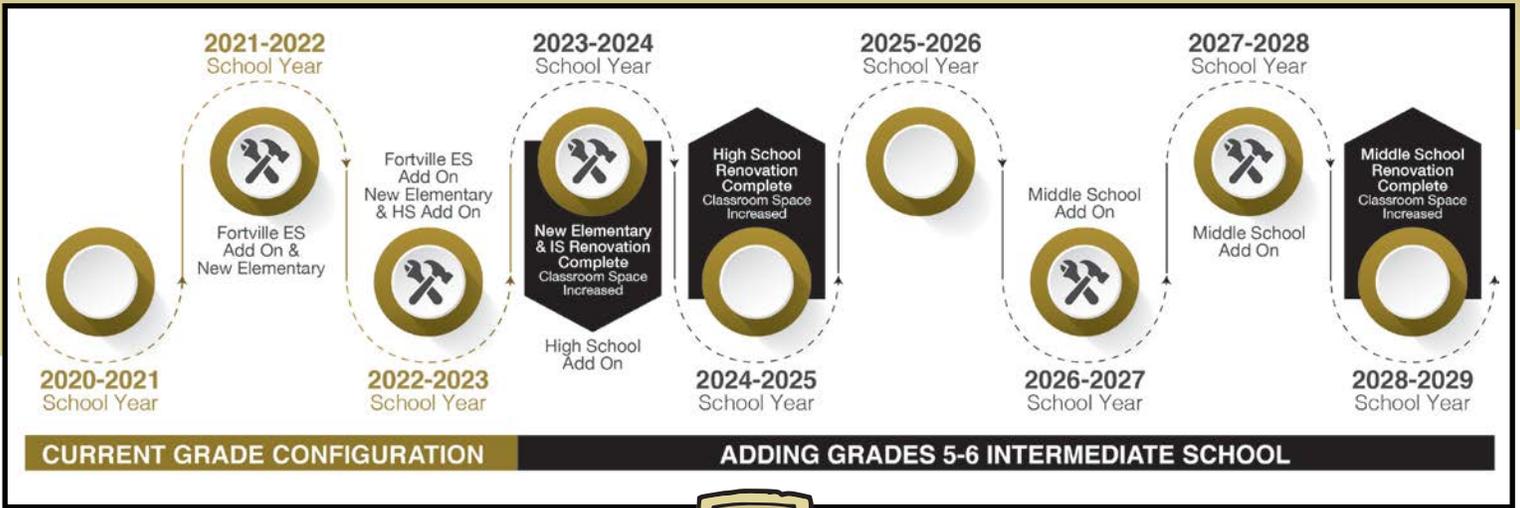
MVCSC Future Growth Plan

At the March 2020 MVCSC School Board meeting, the board approved the Future Growth Plan that the MV Community Champions (MVC2) helped to develop. It has been eight months since we kicked off our initiative where 317 community members provided input on the future of our school district. Our MVC2 Advisory Committee has met almost monthly and reviewed the input from the MVC2 after the initial August meeting, as well as the 240 participants' input from our January MVC2 meeting.

We have dialed into the community's wishes, and presented a future grade configuration that included bringing an intermediate school back to our district. Our future grade configurations (several years down the road) will be Elementary: Grades K-4, Intermediate: Grades

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5 & 6, Middle School: Grades 7 & 8, and High School: Grades 9-12.

The MVC2 Future Growth Plan will see us converting Fortville Elementary School (FES) back into an intermediate school and replacing FES with either new construction or a complete



renovation with additions to the current administration building (the former FES building). We will also be building additional classrooms to the future intermediate school (currently FES) as well as the high school and middle school to manage increased enrollment.



Stewardship Projects

An aspect of managing our future growth is making sure we take care of our current facilities. Through a collaborative process with staff, we have prioritized approximately \$18,000,000 of needed work to all of our buildings. The work will focus on new roofing as well as the quality and comfort of the air through significant HVAC upgrades and replacements.

A small part of our stewardship work will be to increase the size of our band and choir rooms at the middle school as those are grossly undersized for our programs. We are anxious to get all of this work started, and it is our hope to begin in the summer

months of 2020; however, contractors who may bid on our projects are expressing that they have plenty of projects on their current schedules. We look forward to sharing more about our Stewardship Projects and we will keep you informed along the way via a project tracker on our website.

We have a commitment to our tax payers to make conservative and transparent financial decisions that provide our students and staff with the environment they need to thrive each day. Stay tuned to learn more about our efforts to “take care of what we have!”

8th Grade Black History Concert



Mt. Vernon Middle School celebrated Black History Month with an annual live concert for eighth graders that featured a variety of genres including jazz, blues, rock, R&B, and contemporary/pop. The upbeat and engaging band played music written or performed by famous African-American artists. The band included Principal Benjamin Williams as the drummer/vocalist and Superintendent Dr. Parker made a guest appearance as a saxophonist. The concert is always a big hit with the students and for the first time, was also performed for students at Mt. Vernon High School as well.

Songs performed by the band were from influential African American artists, including: Prince, Louis Armstrong, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, Lenny Kravitz, James Brown, Aretha Franklin, Earth Wind & Fire, Michael Jackson, and Sly & The Family Stone.

The band consisted of an all star lineup of local musicians. In addition to Principal Williams on drums and Superintendent Parker as a guest saxophonist, the keyboardist and lead vocals featured Allen Burke who has toured with the Temptations, Marvin Gaye, and the Spinners. Burke is also a member of the Indiana Jazz Hall of Fame. Mt. Vernon Alumni and now Band Teacher in Zionsville, Chris Murray, joined the band on trumpet. Completing the band was local guitarist, Casey Harshbarger, TJam on vocals, Austin Shearer on Bass, and Josh Weirich on Saxophone. Several Mt. Vernon High School band members also made guest appearances to play a few songs with the band.

Mt. Vernon Middle School Principal, Mr. Benjamin Williams, stated, "Music can change the way people think. Music can change society. Music can change the world. Overall, the goal here is to take kids on a historical tour of music that has changed America for the better."



FEATURED MT. VERNON SCHOOL: Mt. Vernon Middle School Snapshot

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOUR STAR SCHOOL – 9 TIMES TOTAL

- STEM Certified by the Indiana Department of Education – 2018
- \$10 Million Renovation Featuring a Fieldhouse, Collaborative Classrooms and Additional Classrooms – 2018
- Student Council Named "Honor Council" for 13 Straight Years
- Counseling Program has Been Recognized as ASCA Model Program (RAMP) by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) - 2019
- Received an Indiana Gold Star School Counseling Award from the Indiana Department of Education - 2019
- All Students have their own Chromebook
- Cheerleaders Won 8th Place in National Cheer Finals – 2017
- Academic Competitions Available Including All Core Subjects
- 18 Clubs or Extracurricular Opportunities, in Addition to 17 Athletic Teams
- Enriching "Walk on Water" 8th Grade Science Project
- Video Surveillance and High-Tech Safety Features
- English Language Learners (ELL) Assistance Program
- Speech/Language, Special Education and Sensory Room, High Ability, & Social Worker Programs



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MVMS Million Meals Movement

**MT. VERNON MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL
AND MT. COMFORT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
STUDENT COUNCIL CAME TOGETHER ON FEBRUARY 22
TO HOST A MILLION MEALS MOVEMENT AT
MT. VERNON MIDDLE SCHOOL AND PACKED MORE THAN
12,000 MEALS FOR THOSE IN NEED.**



The two student councils collectively raised \$2,400 to bring the Million Meals packaging event to Mt. Vernon. The Million Meals Movement is a nonprofit organization whose goal is to provide meals for the hungry and promote the importance of volunteerism.

The meals are packed and sent back to the organization's warehouse where they will be distributed to food pantries around the state of Indiana. The meals packed by the students were distributed to the Muncie area, one of the most food insecure areas in the state.

Molly Adams, the Development Coordinator for Million Meals, provided each student with a hair net and gloves before teaching them the assembly line method to package the meal bags. The assembly line included a different job for each person. The bags were to be properly filled, measured, and sealed by each group. The vegetarian and gluten-free meal bag contains various scoops of rice, soy protein, six different dehydrated vegetables, and twenty-one different vitamins and minerals.

**"GIVING BACK TO THE
COMMUNITY IS AMAZING."**

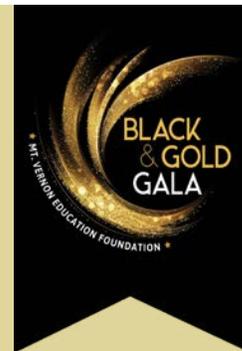
— MISHA PATEL, 8TH GRADE
STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

insecure." Molly explained. Food insecurity is defined as being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.

Mrs. Schenck, a Fifth Grade Teacher and Student Council Advisor at Mt. Comfort Elementary, stated, "I want my students to see the importance of volunteerism and that doing things for others takes time out of our schedule, but it's important because we are feeding the mouths of hungry people!"

When asked what made her want to participate in this event, Misha Patel, Eighth Grade Student Council President, shared, "If I have the opportunity to give back to [the less fortunate] I feel that I should be a part of it, and also because giving back to the community is amazing."

In just two hours, the groups packed 12,500 meals! MVCSC will continue to promote to students the importance of giving back to others, and hopes to continue providing this service opportunity with the Million Meals Movement.



Black and Gold Gala Rescheduled: August 8

The Mt. Vernon Education Foundation (MVEF) has rescheduled the "Black & Gold Gala" to August 8 at the Indianapolis

Marriott Downtown. Mark your calendars to attend this Roaring 20's themed event and know that all attendees will be supporting Mt. Vernon students and staff.

All proceeds help enrich the educational experiences, programs and initiatives of our students and teachers at Mt. Vernon. Since 2008, the MVEF has granted more than \$450,000 through a variety of educational opportunities for students.

For more information see
MtVernonFoundation.org
or to purchase tickets visit

MtVernonFoundation.ticket.qtego.net



"Engage, Educate & Empower Today's Students"



MVCSC... Stay Healthy! Coronavirus Situation

Although this article was written in mid-March and many things may have changed in our world by the time this newsletter makes it to your home, MVCSC has made many conservative efforts to keep our students and staff safe and healthy. We must work together and be diligent in doing our individual part in slowing down the spread of this virus. Thus, we have enacted several practices to maintain social distancing as much as possible.

- We will not have any students or staff at any school or facility through Sunday, May 3 and all school activities have been canceled through this timeframe.
- All rentals of our facilities have been canceled.
- All staff scheduled to work during these periods are encouraged to work from home if they can. The administration building is also closed through Sunday, May 3.
- At the March MVCSC School Board meeting, a resolution was adopted that ensures no staff member will lose any pay due to social distancing (work from home) and the closing of our facilities.

The last few weeks have been extraordinary to say the least. With guidance from our governor, health institutions, and the CDC being provided on a regular basis, we need to understand the fluidity of the situation and be nimble in making day-to-day decisions, not only for our students, but also our entire staff.

We must be diligent in our practices for our friends, neighbors, and family members to help slow this virus down and give as much time as we can to develop vaccinations and treatment for those in need.

eLearning Tips for Parents

MVCSC knows that extended eLearning can be stressful for our students, staff and parents. Our staff is prepared to reach out and connect with our students regularly in an effort to provide some sense of normalcy and camaraderie. Here are some tips to help with extended eLearning:

- **Be an example for your child.** These days are not going to be perfect. Keep your cool, even when your child is having a difficult time. Be patient with your child and their teacher(s). They are doing their best to provide meaningful academic experiences.
- **If needed, help your child login and connect with their teacher.** Connecting with MV staff may help provide a sense of regularity for the child. On eLearning days, staff hours are 9 - 11 a.m. and 1 - 3 p.m.
- **Encourage your child to do their best.** Make sure your child is completing and turning in assignments.
- **Be flexible and patient if your child is having difficulties.** Students may be stressed as they now have to manage their time and resources in their home, rather than school doing this for them.
- **If your child has questions, encourage them to reach out to their teacher and communicate with plenty of details.** Mt. Vernon staff want to help, but they can't read minds. It's important to write with all the details so staff can help to the best of their ability.
- **Take frequent breaks, keep a routine, and have a regular place for them to study.** Your child is used to a routine at school and a consistent schedule may help keep a sense of regularity. Make sure they stay virtually connected with their friends from school.
- **Remain calm and reassuring with your child about the coronavirus situation.** Be available to talk with them and monitor what/how much coronavirus news they are viewing.
- **If your child is having technical difficulties with accessibility or with the computer's functionality,** tech support is available on eLearning days from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 317-482-4112 or techsupport@mvcsc.k12.in.us. For class assignment questions, contact the teacher.
- **Take time to enjoy the downtime with your family.** Many families are normally on a constant cycle of activities. This unprecedented break allows an opportunity for family bonding. Take time to bake cookies together, build a woodworking masterpiece, play outside, or create a homemade art/science project. The sky's the limit!

Out-of-District/Transfer Application Windows

OUT-OF-DISTRICT/TRANSFER APPLICATION INFORMATION: 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Students who live out-of-district and wish to attend Mt. Vernon Schools must complete an online application during either of the designated windows listed below. Also, all students who are currently enrolled at a Mt. Vernon school and do not live within the school district boundaries are also required to submit an application during either of these selected windows to attend during the 2020-2021 school year. As Superintendent Dr. Parker has previously shared, once you are a Mt. Vernon student/family, those students who submit an application will remain part of the Mt. Vernon family, unless there are major discipline or attendance issues.

THE OUT-OF-DISTRICT/TRANSFER APPLICATION WILL BE LIVE HERE DURING THE FOLLOWING WINDOWS:

Saturday, April 18 at noon through Sunday, April 26 at noon

Saturday, May 9 at noon through Sunday, May 17 at noon

FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS, SEE THE WEBSITE AT WWW.MVCSC.K12.IN.US.



MT. VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

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To Be Rescheduled.... **Kindergarten Registration & Town Hall Meetings**

MVCSC has every hope and intention to reschedule both of these wonderful events. Parents/guardians should be on the lookout for the event dates to be announced via email newsletters, the MVCSC website, and social media.

Kindergarten Registration



On dates TBD, parents/guardians will be able to visit ANY of the three elementary schools to register their kindergarten child. It is imperative to have all Kindergarten students register so the schools may prepare enough teachers to keep the class size low. MVCSC will have FULL day kindergarten only. See the mvcsc.k12.in.us website for details.



Delayed Start/ Early Release - Parent Input Requested at Town Hall Meetings

In January, the five principals asked the MVCSC School Board to consider delaying buses next school year on Wednesdays so that students won't come to school early while teachers are working in their Professional Learning Communities (PLC). Another option for consideration is to have an early release instead of a delayed start. The information that was presented is compelling and we will be sharing this information more broadly while collecting input from parents through the March survey and Town Hall meetings (dates TBD).

◀ **See Inside!!
Future Growth Plan**