



Ram o Gram

September 2008

www.mvths.org



“Nurture your mind with great thoughts, for you will never go higher than you think.”
-Benjamin Disraeli

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year at Mt. Vernon Township High School. I am looking forward to another exciting year of meeting new students and staff members. I want to encourage students to take advantage of the many clubs, organizations and athletic opportunities offered at MVTHS. Involvement in some type of athletic or academic activity will enrich your high school experience.

I am proud to be working alongside some of the best teachers in Illinois. I believe our staff have the best interest of our students in their minds and want to see our students be successful. With everyone working together we should watch students reach their academic potential.

I wish everyone the best for the coming school year.

Ron Daniels
Principal

Student Involvement

The fall sports program at Mt. Vernon High is under way. First practices were held in early August, and the first games or matches have been played.

Other school organizations are gearing up for a busy year. Youth and Government members have been identified and are planning the Cedarhurst Craft Fair parking concession before they begin to write legislative bills and lobbyist papers. The Speech and Acting Team will soon be kicking off their season. FFA and FCCLA have their first meetings planned, and Student Council officers have been elected.

In addition to the above organizations, students may join and participate in the following school groups:

- Creative Writing Club
- Cultural Awareness Organization
- Lifesavers
- Scholar Bowl
- Science Club
- Mock Trial Team
- Math Team
- HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America)
- VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America)
- Key Club
- Hi-Tri
- Thespians Society
- WYSE (World-Wide Youth in Science & Engineering)
- FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America).

Students who are interested may apply to write for the school newspaper, help produce the yearbook, submit prose, poetry, and art to JAVA (the school's art and literary magazine) or sign up to be a peer academic tutor.

Basically, there is something for everyone to participate in at Mt. Vernon High. Encourage your student to “get involved” early in the school year.

2008—2009 Bell Schedules

7-Period Day Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

	<u>Regular Day</u>	<u>Short Day</u>
1st Period	8:20—9:10	8:20—8:58
2nd Period	9:15—10:05	9:03—9:41
3rd Period	10:10—11:00	9:46—10:24
4th Period	11:05—11:55	10:29—11:07
Lunch	11:55—12:40	11:07—11:52
5th Period	12:40—1:30	11:52—12:30
6th Period	1:35—2:25	12:35—1:17
7th Period	2:30—3:20	1:22—2:00

3-Block Day Thursday

Teacher Sch Imp	8:10—9:00	
2nd Period	9:00—10:35	9:00—10:23
4th Period	10:40—12:15	10:28—11:51
Lunch	12:15—1:00	11:51—12:36
D.E.A.R.	1:00—1:20	
6th Period	1:20—2:55	12:36—2:00
ELO	2:55—3:35	

4-Block Day Friday

1st Period	8:20—9:50	8:20—9:31
3rd Period	9:55—11:25	9:36—10:47
Lunch	11:25—12:10	10:52—12:03
5th Period	12:10—1:40	12:03—12:48
7th Period	1:45—3:15	12:48—2:00

4-Block Half-Day

1st Period	8:20—9:05
3rd Period	9:10—9:55
5th Period	10:00—10:45
7th Period	10:50—11:35

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Note From the School Nurse

A big "thank you" to all the parents and guardians who had all of their student medical records and paperwork completed and ready to turn in at registration. This is a very big help to us in the nurse's office.

If you have **not** turned in your physical or immunization records to the nurse's office, you have until the close of school on October 15, 2008. If records are not obtained by this time, your student will be on medical suspension until the records are received in the nurse's office. Thanks again to those who were in compliance.

Reminder of Dress Code

It is important that students and parents are aware of the dress code as stated in the Student and Parent Handbook for 2007-2008.

Student's clothing shall not detract from or disrupt the educational process or contain messages or statements contrary to the stated curriculum of the school district. Shirts and blouses must cover the torso/midriff of the body. Tube tops, halter-tops, "see through" shirts or blouses, etc. are not permitted. Pants/slacks must be positioned at the waist/hip level.

(See page 53-54 in the Student and Parent Handbook for the entire policy.)

Help Is Available At The Public Library!

You made it through another challenging week at school and are home for the weekend! You check your student planner and discover that you have a test to study for, or homework to complete, but you forgot to bring your textbook home. Good news!!!

C. E. Brehm Memorial Library has a complete set of the textbooks used at Mt. Vernon Township High School! The library is located at 101 South 7th Street. You have access to the textbooks on Monday through Thursday until 8:00 p.m.; Friday until 5:00 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday hours will run through May.

Hi-Tri

Hi-Tri will kick off the school year with the annual membership drive the week of September 8-12. A get-acquainted picnic will be held at the West Shelter at Veterans' Park, from 4:30-6:00 p.m., on Thursday, September 11. All high school girls are invited to attend the picnic. There is no charge to attend. Girls interested in joining Hi-Tri are encouraged to do so during the membership drive. Dues are \$2.00 per year.

Freshman girls who want to run for Hi-Tri Council may pick up petitions beginning on September 15. Petitions must be turned in by the close of school on September 19. Petitions will be available in the Guidance Office and the Library. Election will be held on September 23.

Current Hi-Tri Council members are seniors Ashley Chattick, president; Chelsey Webb, vice president; and Chelsea Beaty, secretary; juniors are Morgan Bozarth, Shaye Riley, and Alicia Sheldon; and sophomores are Bria Allen, Chelsea Johnson, and Karleigh Turrentine. Mrs. Carol Hutchison and Ms. Tami Lovin are the sponsors for Hi-Tri.

The Hi-Tri League is a social and service organization for girls. This year marks the 83rd year for Hi-Tri at Mt. Vernon High School. All high school students are welcome to join and be a part of this longstanding tradition. Other major activities planned for the year include a Christmas charity project, the annual Sweetheart Dance, and the Mother-Daughter/Senior Farewell Tea. Hi-Tri also sponsors two scholarships and participates in various service projects throughout the year.

Dear Parents,

The library staff encourages and welcomes parents to visit and use our library here at the high school. We are located in the top of C Building. A pass should be obtained from the Attendance Office in H Building prior to coming. We open at 7:30 a.m. and close at 4:30 p.m. on all regular school days and on short or half days, we will close 1 hour after school. Mrs. Garrett, Mrs. Hutchison, and Mrs. Reyling are always happy to be of assistance.

There will be a display of banned books in the library in September for Banned Book Week. Students are welcome in the library before, during, and after school and may eat their lunch in the library.

We also have popular fiction and non-fiction, classics, graphic novels, paperbacks, children's books, and magazines. Some of the popular authors we carry are Grisham, Clark, King, Roberts, Stine, and many, many others. We do not limit the numbers of books students may check out.

You and the students have access to free inter-library loan services. We hope you and your child will use our services.

The Library Staff

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Chess Club/Team

The Chess Club will be starting practice in September. It will begin on Wednesday, September 3rd, and will meet from 3:30—5:00 pm each Wednesday thereafter. We have 24 competition chess sets and 24 new clocks. If you are interested in learning how to play, playing for fun, or you want the competition, come and join them in room 105G. A participation fee of \$25 should be paid to Mr. England. If you want more information, contact Mr. England at 246-5716. Otherwise, just show up!



FFA NEWS

The MVTHS Agriculture Program and FFA took home 23 top honors and recognitions from the 80th Annual Illinois Association State FFA Convention in Springfield, Illinois, this summer. The following is a list of some of the awards received at the Convention:

- Triple Gold FFA Chapter Award (9th out of 348 high schools in Illinois .)
- National Chapter Award- (The Mt. Vernon FFA Chapter is among 29 other FFA Chapters that will advance to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis in October.)
- Gold in Illinois in Student Development- (1st in Section 21)
- Gold in Illinois in Chapter Development- (1st in Section 21)
- Gold in Illinois in Community Development- (1st in Section 21)
- Superior Chapter- (Outstanding performance in 2007-2008)
- Gold & 4th place in Illinois in our Farm Bureau Heritage Program and 1st in Section 21
- Gold & 7th place in Illinois in our Farm Bureau Cooperative Activities Program and 1st in Section 21
- Outstanding Chapter President Award- (Anthony Graham received Gold and Top Ten recognition for his work as the Section 21 FFA President.)
- Section 21 FFA President- (Anthony Graham retired as the 2007-2008 Illinois Association Section 21 FFA President.)
- Bankers Plaque- (The outstanding FFA Chapter in Section 21)
- Lacy Pranga received State Proficiency winner in Aquaculture at the convention.
- American FFA Degree- Anthony Graham and Timothy Oliger were recognized as receiving their American FFA Degrees. The American FFA Degree is the highest degree the National FFA can bestow on less than 1% of its members.
- FFA Talent- Lamanda Bean sang in front of the 3,000 members, guests, and parents.

Those attending the Convention were Anthony Graham, Timothy Oliger, Stephen Chambliss, David Clifton, Levi England, Bryson Owens, Zac Smith, Cody Owens, Mallory Adams, Raina Jones, Lacy Pranga, Kaitlyn McLearn, Samuel Oliger, Jean Mace, Josh Bravard, Lamanda Bean, and advisors John Kabat and Jason Hall.

Student Identification Cards

Each student will be issued an identification card. This card is to be carried at all times during the school day and at school-sponsored activities, whether on or off campus, and is to be presented upon the request of any member of the administration or faculty. The card also entitles a student to a reduced admission price to certain school activities.

A fee of \$4 will be charged to replace a lost card. Students must have their I.D. for entrance into dances, hops, spring-fling and any other activities the administration identifies.

Students who fail to follow the ID policy shall be subject to the Board's disciplinary penalties for misconduct.

For more information on the identification cards, refer to page 26 in the Student and Parent Handbook.

Homework Hotline

We now have a dedicated line for the "Homework Hotline." You can call 246-5678 any time day or night, then follow the recorded instructions or you may dial direct using the enclosed homework hotline class codes.



National Honor Society Accepting Applications

The Mt. Vernon High School chapter of the National Honor Society is now accepting applications. If you are a sophomore or a junior with a 3.75 cumulative GPA or higher, you are eligible to join. Please stop by 201C and pick up an application. Applications are due by Friday, September 19. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Davis at 246-5407, hdavis@roe25.com.



Mark you calendar!
September 18, 2008
Picture Retake Day
8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m
in the Lobby of
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