



Ram o Gram

April 2009

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FFA News

The Mt. Vernon FFA will have the annual Mt. Vernon FFA banquet on Friday, April 24, 2009 at the Roland Lewis Community Building at 6:30 pm. We invite all the agriculture students and their parents to attend this event. We will be awarding many awards to our outstanding agriculture students. Teachers and staff are also invited to the banquet, which will include a free barbeque meal and chicken dinner.

The Mt. Vernon FFA will also have a labor auction at 6 pm before the banquet meal for 8 hours of Saturday labor. We are looking for community members to bid on these students. Half of the money will be sent to the FFA and the other half will go to the student worker.

Congratulations to the Mt. Vernon FFA who won with their record books and their agriculture experience at Carlyle High School. The following students won with their record books and projects: Cody Owens – Outdoor Recreation, Felecia Marlowe– Agriculture Education, Kaitlyn McLearn– Swine Production, Austyn Taylor– Diversified Livestock Production, Jerrod Brown– Electricity, Samuel Buffington– Ag Mechanics Repair and Maintenance. These students won at the section level. The students then participated in interviews at the district level at Benton High School. The winners will advance to the final 5 in state in aquaculture at the University of Illinois on Saturday, April 4, 2009. Good luck District Competitors!

From The Superintendent's Office

By this time of the school year, all fees should be paid. The only fees in question might be for a spring sport your student is trying out for. This fee should be paid as soon as they make the team. Please use the family access website (www.mvths.org) to check your student's account.

Remember, all fees must be paid and first semester books must be returned to allow the purchase of a Prom ticket. Please check now on the website and see what your student has listed as outstanding or the pleasure of seeing everything marked PAID.

If you have any questions or concerns about fees, please call Mrs. Holt 246-5909; if it's concerning textbooks, Mrs. Elliott at 246-5922; if it's regarding a waiver, Mrs. Jane Brown at 246-5910.

2009 YMCA Youth and Government News

The 2009 MVTHS Youth and Government delegation returned from the 60th General Assembly in Springfield on Sunday March 22 with a number of victories. Jessa Hawkins was elected as Speaker of the House. Gabe Cralley and Dakoda Hanson were assigned to Gray Legislature as Committee Chairs. Hunter Marler was elected as Secretary of Gray Senate. Cameron Stewart was elected as Clerk of the Blue House. Reis Barnfield was elected as the Sgt.-at-Arms of the Orange Senate. Jodie Hanson was designated at the Bill Flow Clerk while Kyle Welker served as Clerk-Baliff, Kathleen Sledge was an Election Official and Alex Frisby was a Recorder in the Gray House as Wes Mason was a Recorder in the Blue Senate. Four Mt. Vernon delegates will be serving as Attorneys; Derek Burwell, Troy Kirkpatrick, Alex Crisel and Brett Tucker. MVTHS had ten bills awaiting debate in the House and Senate. Seven were passed and signed by the Governor. Adult Advisors this year were Kim and Jeff Donoho, Jim and Janet Hawkins, Sean and Kari Docherty, Ms. Jessica Pilson, Mrs. Sarah Watts, Mrs. Melanie Gulley, and Mr. Andy Wells, Youth and Government sponsor.

Congratulations Daniel Chambliss!

Daniel Chambliss has been named the Woodman of the World Society's 2009 Outstanding History Student of the Year. A senior, Daniel is the son of Howard and Donna Chambliss. Daniel and his family will be honored at a banquet on May 8, 2009 at the Roland Lewis Building in Mt. Vernon and will receive a plaque commemorating his achievement.

Daniel is an American History student at MVTHS. He was chosen for this honor because of his achievement in his class, his desire for learning more about American History and his relationships with his classmates and performance in all of his classes. Congratulations to Daniel– a great student and citizen.

Dates to Remember

- April 22 & 23, PSAE Testing
- May 2, Prom– Mt. Vernon Holiday Inn
- May 13, Last day for Seniors. (if no exam)
- May 14, Sr. Exam Block 4,5,6,7
- May 15, Sr. Exams 1,2,3
- May 21, Honors Program
- May 22, Graduation Practice
- May 23, Graduation
- May 27, Last day for underclassmen (if no exam)
- May 28, Underclass Exams
- May 29, Underclass Exams
- May 29, Last Day of School for students (if no more emergency days are taken)
- June 1, Teacher Institute Day

Prom 2009

Prom will be held at the Mt. Vernon Holiday Inn on May 2, 2009. Tickets will go on sale the week of April 14–17 after school in the cafeteria annex.

Any junior, senior, or graduate of a high school who is 20 years of age or younger may attend as a date of a junior or senior of the Mt. Vernon Township High School. Students in school must be in good standing and have all debts paid.

Tickets will be \$30 for singles and \$60 for couples. Students must present their school ID when purchasing a ticket. They must also have their Prom form present when purchasing tickets as well. Further information can be found in the "Student and Parent Handbook." You can download this form from the MVTHS webpage. Go to www.mvths.org and click on the Prom Link for more information.

If you have any questions about Prom call Mrs. Boldt or Mrs. Tieffel at 244-3700 or email them at mvthsprom@yahoo.com.



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MVTHS FRESHMAN ACADEMY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



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What is the Freshman Academy?

The Freshman Academy is a smaller learning community with special features proven to help students successfully transition from middle school to high school.

- Freshmen are taught by a team of teachers who work in collaboration to link the lessons of individual courses, making them more relevant.
- The Freshman Academy is divided into four teams. Each student takes four core classes with their team.
- Extra support is provided for students who need academic assistance or face challenging life situations.
- A counselor has been assigned to the Freshman Academy to deal with scheduling, assistance to students, and to help students stay on track with classes.
- Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships are stressed.

What is meant by Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships?

At Mt. Vernon Township High School, the “3R’s” of education no longer mean just reading, writing, and arithmetic. The R’s stand for **Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships**—three words on which Mt. Vernon High School is building academic and social success for its students.

- MVTHS stresses Rigor by providing the opportunity and encouraging all students to take classes that are more challenging.
- MVTHS stresses Relevance by developing and delivering curriculum that shows the connection between school courses and future careers.
- MVTHS stresses Relationships on many levels:
 - ⇒ Teachers and students
 - ⇒ Peer relationships
 - ⇒ Parents in partnership with teachers
 - ⇒ Parents in partnership with their children and other students
 - ⇒ A caring community that provides opportunities for students.

What are the basic courses, and what about electives?

Core Classes

All freshmen are enrolled in the following core classes with a choice in Math:

- Freshman English
- Biology I
- Civics/Geography
- Comprehensive Algebra, Algebra I, or Geometry

In addition, per the Illinois State Board of Education:

- PE/Health

Electives

Freshmen have the opportunity to take two electives, which may include a support class.

What support is provided for the students in Freshman Academy?

Support is available for freshmen through the following:

- Freshmen Counselor
- Math support classes (Projects in Algebra)
- Literacy support classes (Freshman Literacy classes)
- After-School Tutoring
- Social workers (focus on students with attendance and truancy issues)
- Administrator to help with students who are absent
- Teachers provide extra help for students after school, if needed
- PBIS interventions

How are students identified for support classes?

Students are identified for math and literacy support classes based on their performance on the EXPLORE test taken by all eighth grade students, past performance, and on recommendation from the eighth grade teachers and school counselor.

Do Freshman Academy students have a different schedule?

The only difference is that Freshmen will have a closed and different lunch than the other students.

How does the Freshman Academy benefit our students?

Through the years, research has proven that the strongest programs are the programs that start out with a strong foundation. The foundation that we are giving the freshmen will allow them to be successful not only this year, but the next three years as well. Consider the following benefits to our students:

- Improved graduation rates
- The opportunity to earn more credits
- Increased engagement in classes
- Stronger connection to teachers
- Greater success in post-secondary endeavors
- Decrease drop-out rates
- Integrated curriculum and high expectations
- Increase student achievement

