



# Ram o Gram

December 2009

www.mvths.org



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## School Cancellation Procedures

Before the District cancels school this year due to inclement weather, you should know the process the District uses when it decides to close school. Our primary consideration is for the safety of the students. If at any time the District does not cancel school and you believe your child's safety is being compromised due to the weather conditions, please do not risk your child's safety. Since our school district covers over 250 square miles, parts of the district may be safe to travel while other parts may not. Prior to our decision, we talk to the bus company and other area superintendents about the condition of the roads and the weather patterns that seem to be developing. Based on that information, we make the decision to cancel school, begin late, or allow school to start on time. Obviously, it is not an exact science. Again, we try to err on the side of safety.

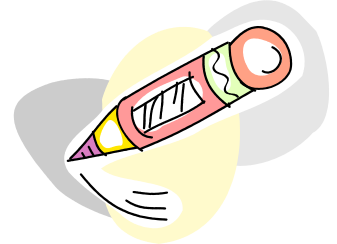
Once school has been cancelled, we alert the local media so that they can broadcast the news. The following stations should carry any school closing messages:

TV: Channel 3  
Channel 12  
RADIO: WMIX AM/FM

You can also go to [www.cancellations.com](http://www.cancellations.com) and type in the zip code or school name to see any cancellations posted. **If your information is correct in our system, you should receive a phone call by our notification system called School Reach.**

## Semester Exam Schedule First Semester 2009-2010

Monday, Dec. 21st	1st Period Exam	8:20– 9:50
	3rd Period Exam	9:55– 11:25
	LUNCH	11:25– 12:10
	5th Period Exam	12:10– 1:40
	7th Period Exam	1:45– 3:15
	BUS	3:25
Tuesday, Dec. 22nd	2nd Period Exam	8:20– 9:50
	4th Period Exam	9:55– 11:25
	LUNCH	11:25– 12:10
	6th Period Exam	12:10– 1:40
	BUS	1:50



### Joe Capps DAR Award Winner

Joe Capps has been selected to receive the DAR Award this year.

The DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Good Citizenship Award goes to a senior student who is nominated and voted on by the faculty and staff, and who best exemplifies outstanding qualities of leadership, dependability, service, and patriotism in school, at home, and in the community.

As the local winner, Joe has the opportunity to enter the DAR National Scholarship Competition.

*Hooray!*



### Christmas Vacation/Break December 23—January 1

School will dismiss at 1:40 p.m. on Tuesday, December 22, 2009, to begin the Christmas break.

School will resume at 8:20 a.m. on Monday, January 4, 2010, for students and staff.

Catch the Rams in the Centralia Holiday Tournament December 28-30 or the Lady Rams at the Mascoutah Tournament December 28-30.

*Have a safe and happy holiday season!*

### Attention Senior Parents/Guardians

Letters were mailed in November reminding senior parents/guardians that payment for cap & gown sets is due by December 18th. The Balfour Company cannot guarantee availability of caps & gowns after December 18th. The cost of the cap and gown set is \$35.00. Checks should be made payable to **BALFOUR**. Also listed in the letter are student names as they will be printed on diplomas. Please contact the Main Office if the name on your letter was incorrect. You are also reminded of our school policy – **In order for any student to participate in the commencement ceremony, all school debts must be paid.** If you are the parent of a senior student and did not receive your letter, please contact the Main Office at 246-5912.





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## PBIS News

2009-2010 is the second year of PBIS implementation for Mt. Vernon Township High School. This year, PBIS has had a really positive impact on the amount of students who receive a major discipline referral. In 2008, from the beginning of school thru September 30, the Attendance Office processed 934 major discipline referrals. However, this year, from the beginning of school thru September 30, only 807 major discipline referrals were processed. This decrease was due, in part, to the new "minor referral" system that MVTHS implemented at the beginning of the year. Now, teachers have an official way to document classroom managed behaviors, which offers more validation to the teachers as well as the students when they are disciplined in class for smaller infractions. This decrease was also due to the fact that we, the faculty, students, and staff, have a better understanding of the PBIS system and how it integrates into the everyday life at the school to improve the learning environment for all.

### September Students of the Month

McKenzie Adams	Thomas Braddy	Lacey Braden	Seth Brown
Cierra Burgin	Garrett Calvert	Page Clinton	Grant Cobb
Emma Creel	Rebecca Fenton	Jerry Ferguson	Louis Grote
Elizabeth Guthrie	Sherlinda Harris	Jacque Helverson	Dalton J Kemp
Bennett Lamczyk	Paige McDonald	Jacqueline Milt	Annie Mulvaney
Chandler Scarborough	Kaitlyn Simmons	Aaron Stone	Joshua W Williams
Collin Young			

### October Students of the Month

Donyale Black	Darius Box	Nathaniel Chwarczinski	Lindsey Clark
Ryan Conley	Jessie Dickerson	Jacqueline Flood	Gabriel Habtemariam
Brandy Jay	Ashley Meritt	Brooke Moore	Hannah Piercy
Miles Reeve	Casey Revelle	Annalee Schuette	Jessica Sledge
Dustin Todd	Craig Vishy	Jeffrey Wright	

## Student Fees

Second semester at MVTHS begins on January 4, 2010 and fees are due at that time. Fees are \$50.00 per semester. Any fees for first semester should have already been paid. Please call 246-5909 if you have any questions regarding those.

Some of the upcoming fees you might expect are physical education (bowling or skating) \$17.00, Driver's Education Behind the Wheel Training \$50.00, music fee \$25.00, Ceramics II supply fee \$25.00, sports participation pay to play fee \$25.00, an academic team pay to play fee \$25.00 or any dual credit courses \$15.00. The Board of Education capped the sports, music, and academic fees to no more than two per student.

Seniors must have fees paid by May in order to participate in any graduation exercises. Also, a reminder to all parents and students; all fees must be current with no previous fees due before a student can attend dances or take Driver's Education class. Please make checks payable to MVTHS and mail them to 320 South Seventh Street, Mt. Vernon, IL. 62864 Attention: Shirilyn Holt.

## Hi-Tri Planning Sweetheart Dance

The Hi-Tri Sweetheart Dance will be held on Saturday, January 16, from 8:00—11:00 p.m. in the Changnon Gym. This year's theme is *Winter Wonderland*.

The dance is a semi-formal to formal occasion and appropriate dress is expected of those attending. Dress guidelines will be given to students at the time of ticket purchase.

The cost of tickets is \$14 for Hi-Tri members and \$16 for non-members. Girls have until December 15, 2009 to join Hi-Tri and receive the discounted price. Tickets will be sold **after school only** during the week of January 4-8. **Students must purchase tickets at this time.** Tickets cannot be sold at the door. Students may not be on social suspension and all school debts must be cleared before tickets can be purchased.

## From The Nurse

The flu season is fast approaching and I hope you have received your flu shot. Flu viruses spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing of people with influenza. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose. Most healthy adults may be able to infect others beginning 1 day **before** symptoms develop and up to 5 days **after** becoming sick. **That means that you may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick.**

Parents, please encourage your child to get plenty of rest, eat healthy, drink plenty of fluids, avoid eating and drinking after others, practice frequent washing of hands and if ill, please stay at home to prevent infecting others. Also, a reminder to parents and students – If you are taking a medication, either prescription or over-the-counter, a signed doctor's authorization form and a parental consent is needed for **all** medications that are taken at school. These medications must be kept in the nurse's office and **not** carried in book bags, purses and pant pockets. If you have any questions, please call the nurse's office at 246-5832. Thank you, your school nurse Judy Knolhoff, R.N.

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