



Ram o Gram

December 2007

www.mvths.org



What is ELO?

ELO (Extended Learning Opportunity) is a time when teachers are available to assist students each day. ELO times are as follows:

Mon—Wed	3:21—3:40
Thursday	2:55—3:40
Friday	3:15—3:40

Students may use ELO time to:

- Make up tests, quizzes, and assessments
- Get make-up work from absences
- Receive additional instruction
- Work on projects, do extra credit work, etc.
- Participate in academic and/or curricular enrichment activities
- Study independently or in groups
- Do homework
- Use the library and computer resources
- Meet with their guidance counselor



Report Cards Mailed

Report cards were mailed October 19th. If you did not receive your student's report card, please call his/her counselor to have a copy mailed to you.

390 students made the 1st quarter Honor Roll!

Art Department News

MVTHS had 4 students submit an art portfolio to the Rend Lake College Art Department for the chance to win a scholarship. Michaela Burwell received a one-year tuition waiver to Rend Lake and Whitney Fitzgerald received a \$500 award.

Basic Art students just completed a group project based off the artist Claes Oldenburg. The students had to transform an ordinary object into an extraordinary sculpture. Administrators and Faculty came to vote on 4 different categories. The categories and group winners for each were: Most Realistic— Taylor Williams, Casey Ingram, and Devin Edwards; Most Humorous— Bobbie Jo Staley, Jennifer Spurlock, Brooklynn Maclin, and Olivia Bullock; Best Crafted— Sam Cortez, Nikketa Snowden, and D'Andra Brooks; Most Original— Kaylyn Morris, Michelle Ford, and Nick Duncan; and Best In Show— Jordan Harmann, Eric Lyday, and Northern Williams. The prize was a \$5 gift card to McDonalds. Well done art students!!

Michaela Burwell DAR Award Winner

Michaela Burwell 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, Michaela has the opportunity to enter the DAR National Scholarship Competition.

Hooray!



Christmas Vacation/Break December 24—January 2

School will dismiss at 11:35 a.m. on Friday, December 21, 2007, to begin the Christmas break.

School will resume at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 3, 2008, for students and staff.

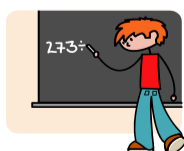
Catch the Rams in the Centralia Holiday Tournament December 27-29 or the Lady Rams at the Mascoutah Tournament December 27-29.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

From the Library

This was quoted from Prevention, December 2007 issue. "It's no science fiction: Cozying up with a good book shields your brain from decline. Baltimore's Center for Occupational and Environmental Neurology studied 112 factory workers with similar blood levels of lead, a known mental hazard, and those with an 11th-grade reading level or lower did half as well on cognitive tests as better readers. Researchers theorize that bookworms develop a brainpower reservoir that's tapped when disease or aging threatens their gray matter."

H
O
M
E
O
F
T
H
E
R
A
M
S



Math Team

Letters have been sent to those students interested or recommended for the Math Team, but if you were missed for some reason, come to the meetings December 4th and 11th, from 3:30 p.m.—4:30 p.m. in Mr. England's room (105G).





Ram o Gram

December 2007

www.mvths.org



H
O
M
E
O
F
T
H
E
R
A
M
S

Dear MVTHS Parent/Guardian,

Before the District cancels school this year due to inclement weather, I wanted to let you know the process the District uses when it decides to close school. Our primary consideration is for the safety of your 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:	RADIO:
Channel 2	WMIX AM/FM
Channel 3	WJBD
Channel 12	

You can also go to www.cancellations.com and type in the zip code or school name to see any cancellations posted. If you have any questions about the above, please feel free to contact me at my office.

Sincerely,

Terry Milt

Quad State Honors Choir

Seven members of the A Capella Choir were selected to participate in the Quad State Honors Choir. The festival was held on the campus of Murray State University on November 4 and 5. The following students worked with Dr. Bradley Almquist and performed Antonio Vivaldi's Gloria:

Sopranos	Altos	Basses
Jordan York	Alyssa Moore	Kent Almaroad
Hope Wallace	Leah Minor	Quinton Sledge



Driver Education Notice!

Each Driver Education student must pay his/her \$50 user fee in the Bursar's Office as soon as possible.

Note to Parents:

2nd Quarter Mid-term ended November 16th. Reports were mailed the week of November 26th. If you did not receive your student's mid-term grade report, call the school at 244-3700.



Sixteen MVTHS Students Selected for Illinois Music Educators District VI All-State Festival

Sixteen MVTHS students participated in the IMEA District VI All-State Festival held at SIU Edwardsville on Saturday, November 3. The students were required to go through a rigorous audition process and then were selected based on their performance merits.

Chosen for the All-State Orchestra were Andrei Froehling on violin and Darwin Walters on viola, and Caitlin Bullock on Double Bass. Chosen for the All-State Chorus were sopranos Kylie Kaskie, Olivia Bullock, Jeanette Straeter, Blythe Lee Brown, and Hope Wallace. Altos chosen were CeCe Joseph, Kelly Lisenby, Bylie Bruce, and Jessa Hawkins. Boys chosen include Chris Cobb, Andrew Burnett, on tenor and Kent Almaroad singing bass.

On November 10, the District VI All-State Jazz Festival was held at McKendree College in Lebanon. Hope Wallace was one of only 32 from District VI chosen to sing in the Jazz Choir.

Attention Senior Parents/Guardians

Letters were mailed in November reminding senior parents/guardians that payment for cap & gown sets is due by December 18th. There will be a \$10.00 late fee for orders placed after that date, and Balfour has informed us they cannot guarantee availability of caps & gowns after December 18th. 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 is incorrect. If you are the parent of a senior student and did not receive your letter, please contact the Main Office at 246-5912.





Ram o Gram

December 2007

www.mvths.org

Congratulations!



October Students of the Month

Artrena Badger
Aaron Holt
Conner Lundius
Karley Moore
Amanda Stewart
Jessica Thomas

Emma Fox
Clay Jackson
Rhiannon Marquis
Lexi Shoemaker
Emma Stover
Karleigh Turrentine

Michael Hicks
Alex Laur
Erin Moore
Mallory Smith
Shawn Tate
Erika Zinke

November Students of the Month

Samantha Allen
Jacquelyn Backstrom
Brittney Brown
Lacey Daniel
Ericka Opalecky
Dakota Torres

Cassy Austin
Lamanda Bean
Alisha Capps
Devon Droll
Coleton Swank
Peter Walker

Nathanael Garner
Shauna Brandt
Wanda Dang
Justin Hatton
Shaelynn Tice
David Williams

Junior Class Fundraiser



The junior class is selling Mt. Vernon Rams apparel in order to raise money for Prom. The shirts are all black with white writing outlined in orange. We have long sleeve shirts for \$15, short sleeved shirts for \$10, crew neck sweatshirts for \$20, and hooded sweatshirts for \$22. We have them available in all sizes. If you are interested in purchasing one of these shirts please contact the junior class sponsors, Amber Tieffel 244-9647 or Brittany Boldt 246-5809. Thank you for your support!

From The Bursar

Second semester at MVTHS begins on January 3, 2008 and fees are due at that time. Fees are \$50.00 per semester, thank you to everyone who has already paid both semesters. Any fees for first semester should have already been paid. Please call 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 of \$25.00, Occupational Design supply fee \$25.00, sports participation pay to play fee \$25.00 or an academic team pay to play fee of \$25.00. The good news is that the Board of Education elected to cap the sports, music, and academic fees to no more than two per student.

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.

The parent on-line access for student fees should be accurate. Please continue to check that and call me with any questions or concerns. My direct line is 246-5922.

Please make checks payable to MVTHS and mail them to 320 South Seventh Street, Mt. Vernon, IL. 62864 Attention: Kathy Kingsley.

Please be sure to include your students name and what you are paying for. I am located in room 104A and you or your student may pay me directly.

Hi~Tri Planning Sweetheart Dance

The Hi-Tri Council and members are busy planning for the Sweetheart Dance to be held on Saturday, February 2. The dance will be held from 8:00—11:00 p.m. in the Changnon Gym. The theme and decoration plans should be finalized soon.

The Sweetheart Dance is a semi-formal to formal occasion and appropriate dress is expected of those attending. A copy of the dress guidelines will be given to students at the time of ticket purchase. You may also get a copy from Mrs. Hutchison in the Bookroom or Ms. Lovin in the Guidance Office.

The cost of tickets is \$12 for Hi-Tri members and \$14 for non-members. Girls have until January 18, 2008 to join Hi-Tri and receive the discounted price. Tickets will be sold **after school only** during the week of January 22-25. Students must purchase tickets at this time. Tickets cannot be sold at the door. All school debts must be cleared before tickets can be purchased. Any student, former student, or graduate who is attending the dance as a date must also have cleared their debts.

Also, the Hi-Tri Christmas Shoppe is now open. Many unique and reasonably priced items are available for holiday gift giving. Students and staff are encouraged to visit the shop located in the high school's Bookroom.



H
O
M
E

O
F

T
H
E

R
A
M
S





Ram o Gram

December 2007

www.mvths.org

Attention 2nd Semester Driver Education Students:

To accommodate everyone's wish to get their permit and driver's license as soon as possible, and to keep students from thinking they need to take Driver Education at a commercial school, the state test and state eye exam will be given to all 2nd semester driver education students on Thursday, December 13th during ELO in the auditorium. Each student that takes the test will need to have a signed state permit application and the \$20 state fee turned in before they can take the Rules of the Road test.

The \$20 fee is to cover the cost of the state test, state eye exam and the driver's license. By passing the state test and eye exam, each student will be able to get his/her driver's license when they turn 16 years of age or at the end of the 2nd semester (whichever comes second). **Nothing needs to be done at this time.**

The first meeting for the Rules of the Road will be Thursday, November 29th during ELO in the auditorium to explain to everyone what is going to transpire, do the necessary paperwork, distribute the Rules of the Road book and answer all questions. Each student must bring a black or blue ink pen. **Mark this down on your calendar, as it is a "one time offer."**

Itinerary:

Thursday, November 29th– 3:00-3:40	Register permit applications and distribute Rules of the Road booklets in the Auditorium.
Thursday, December 6th– 3:00-3:40	Collect \$20 fee, collect permit applications, review Rules of the Road signs in the Auditorium.
Thursday, December 13th– 3:00-?	State test and eye test in the Auditorium.



From The Nurse

This is just a reminder to all parents and students that a signed doctor's authorization form and a parental consent is needed for all prescription and over-the-counter medications that are taken at school. These medications should be kept in the nurse's office and not carried in book bags or purses. If you have any questions, please call the nurse's office at 246-5832.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Note the enclosed flyer for the 1st Semester Exams Schedule.

Also note the 2nd Semester opening procedure at the bottom of the flyer.

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

Once again, the art department is announcing the call for submissions for the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. To participate you can come by Mrs. Rodgers room 228H for more information. Your work needs to be turned in by December 14.

Golf Fundraiser

The girl's golf team is selling bags as a fundraiser for next year's team. We have nylon backpacks for sale for \$10 each and tote bags for sell for \$15. Both bags have Mount Vernon Rams and a ram head screen printed on them. If you would like to purchase one of these bags you can contact the coach, Amber Tieffel at 244-9647.

Coat Donations



It is that time of year again. We are looking for new, clean, and gently used coats. Please drop-off your donation at the attendance office, room 127H or call Mrs. Renth at 246-5931. The students will benefit greatly from your donation!

School Cancellations

Mt. Vernon Township High School has registered with Cancellations.com. Cancellations.com is a free public service and is an Internet alternative for weather-related closings and delays for schools. Recently their offerings have grown to include postings by E-mail, allowing messages to be sent to email accounts. This notification system is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

As a member, Mt. Vernon Township High School is able to communicate emergency or priority announcements to members of the community.

All students, parents, etc. are encouraged to access this information, register, and subscribe to be notified of school closings or delays automatically.



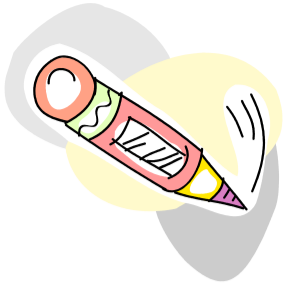
H
O
M
E

O
F

T
H
E

R
A
M
S





Semester Exam Schedule First Semester 2007-08

Wednesday, Dec. 19th

Semester Exam 2 8:20 – 9:55
Semester Exam 4 10:00 – 11:35
LUNCH 11:35 – 12:20
Semester Exam 6 12:20 – 2:00
ELO 2:00 – 3:00
Buses will run at 2:10 and 3:10.

Thursday, Dec. 20th

Semester Exam 1 9:00 – 10:40
LUNCH 10:40 – 11:25
Semester Exam 3 11:25 – 1:00
ELO 1:00 – 2:00
Buses will run at 1:10 and 2:10.

Friday, Dec. 21st

Semester Exam 5 8:20 – 9:55
Semester Exam 7 10:00 – 11:35
Students are dismissed for the day at the end of Block 7.
Buses will run at 11:45.

Thursday, Jan. 3rd

7 Period Day (Modified Schedule – Students start at 9:00 a.m.) Students report to 1st Semester, Period 1 Class to receive schedules. An announcement will be made at approximately 9:10 a.m. to move to the new 2nd Semester, Period 1 class.

Period 1 9:00 – 9:50
Period 2 9:55 – 10:38
Period 3 10:43 – 11:26
Period 4 11:31 – 12:14
Lunch 12:14 – 12:59
Period 5 12:59 – 1:42
Period 6 1:47 – 2:30
Period 7 2:35 – 3:20

Friday, Jan 4th

Regular 7 Period Day