



**WELCOME
BACK TO
SCHOOL!**

**CLASSES BEGIN
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14**

**Note: There will be an
Early Dismissal at
12:30 PM on the first
day of school, August 14**

The Mount Vernon Community School District will again be using the *PowerSchool* online registration process, which will save our district time and money. Online registration instructions are included in this mailing. ***It is important that your registration be completed by Friday, August 2.***

Staff members will be available on Thursday, August 1, 2013 from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM at the High School, 731 Palisades Road SW, to answer questions. Access to computers will be provided if you need help with online registration.

You will have the opportunity to:

- meet building principals and secretaries, superintendent, transportation director, day care director, and school nurses
- ask questions about transportation routes
- drop off medications with the school nurses before the first day of school
- ask the building principal and secretary questions about their school
- talk to the superintendent
- complete new student registrations

PowerSchool eRegistration SINGLE FAMILY LOGIN

The *PowerSchool* student information program will be used again to register your students for the 2013-2014 school year. See the *PowerSchool* eRegistration Guide, included in this registration packet, for complete details.

The parent login for *PowerSchool* can be accessed on the school website at www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us, *PowerSchool*. To log in to *PowerSchool* for registration, parents must **first** have the Single Family Login account set up in *PowerSchool*. If you used *PowerSchool* in the 2012-2013 school year, your login information is the same for 2013-2014.

If you have not previously set up your Single Family Login, please refer to the enclosed *PowerSchool* eRegistration Guide. Additional questions on how to setup your account may be directed to Amy Weber at the District office at aweber@mountvernon.k12.ia.us or by phone at (319) 895-8845.

REGISTRATION FEES

Following are the 2013-2014 registration fees:

Instructional Materials Fees -

Required fees for all students

Early Childhood	\$35.00
Kindergarten – 4 th Grade	\$63.00
5 th – 8 th Grade	\$73.00
9 th – 12 th Grade	\$83.00

The Instructional Materials Fee pays for the costs of textbooks, instructional materials, and computer technology for students. In the spring of 2013, the School Board approved an increase to these registration fees to allow for technology updates for all of our students in grades K through 12.

Students who qualify for free meals will have the instructional materials fee waived or the fee will be reduced to 40% if they are approved for reduced price meals.

A state income tax credit can be taken for this fee. See the related article, "State Income Tax Credit" on page 17 of this newsletter for more information.

Music Department Fees (required fees for high school students participating in orchestra, band or choir)

High School Orchestra

Uniform Cleaning \$13.00

High School Band

Uniform Cleaning \$13.00

High School Concert Choir (grades 9-12)

Choir Robe Cleaning \$13.00

High School Yearbook (includes DVD) - \$50.00

If a student would like to be a yearbook photographer, contact High School teacher JoAnn Gage, jgage@mountvernon.k12.ia.us at the beginning of the school year.

Middle School Yearbook - \$18.00

Activity Ticket (optional fee)

Early Childhood – 6 th Grade	\$20.00
7 th – 8 th Grade	\$39.00
9 th – 12 th Grade	\$44.00

Activity tickets allow for admission to all regular season middle school and high school home athletic events.

Extra Milk (required fee for EC, Kindergarten & 1st grade)

Early Childhood, Kindergarten & 1 st Grade	\$47.00/year
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PAYMENT OF SCHOOL FEES

Fees may be paid online by selecting the *InTouch* option on screen 8 of eRegistration in *PowerSchool*. When you select the *InTouch* online payment option, you can pay the fees for that student. If registration fees are paid online, you do not need to mail back the enclosed Fee Sheet. Full details may be found in the next article, "*InTouch Online Payments*."

Enclosed in the registration materials is a Fee Sheet for payment of school fees for your student(s). If you did not pay online for school fees, please complete the Fee Sheet and return it with your check to the Superintendent's office.

Fees are due Friday, August 2, 2013.

INTOUCH ONLINE PAYMENTS

The school district uses an online payment system called In Touch, which can be accessed from Screen 8 in the eRegistration option in *PowerSchool* or directly from the main page of the website. In Touch can be used to make deposits into family meal accounts for breakfast and lunch, as well as making payments for school registration fees and day care payments. InTouch allows payments to be made by either debit card or credit card from VISA, MasterCard, and Discover. It is integrated with the School Dining System so online payments for the family meals account will directly update the family's lunch account in the School Dining System. InTouch is a great way to save yourself and the district time and money. There are **NO convenience fees** to use the system!

For payment of the student registration fees, InTouch **uses both the student's five digit school identification number and the student's last name to credit payment of fees to the correct student account.** This is the same five digit student identification number that students use at school for lunch, and also appears in the School Dining System and the eRegistration system for each student.

For further information about InTouch, see the InTouch explanation document included in the registration materials. If you have questions regarding the InTouch program, please contact Amy Weber at (319) 895-8845 or aweber@mountvernon.k12.ia.us

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

A complete guide for online registration is provided in this packet. Following are descriptions of student permissions that are included in online registration:

NAME PERMISSION

Students, teachers, and community are involved in a variety of school activities each day both in the classroom and in outside activities. We use student names in a variety of communication tools so that we might share these activities with our community through the school district's newsletter, website, brochures, and other district communication materials. If you do not wish to have your student's name included in these materials, please indicate that in the appropriate box on the online eRegistration form.

PHOTO PERMISSION

We occasionally photograph students involved in nonpublic events within the classroom or school as well

as activities outside the building. This is done so that we might share these activities with our community through the school district's newsletter, website, brochures, and other district communication materials. Elementary and middle school student names are not included with the photographs. High school student names are occasionally included with the photographs. Local newspapers and local media will occasionally take pictures of students involved in school activities and will request the student's name to be included with the picture. If you do not wish to have your student's picture published in these materials or their name released as stated above, please indicate that in the appropriate box on the online eRegistration form.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT RECRUITMENT OPT-OUT

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Section 9528) requires that high schools must provide military recruiters access to student names, addresses, and telephone listings. Parents or students may request that this information not be provided without written parental/guardian consent and districts must comply with all such requests. This opt-out is included in the registration documents.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

Parents and Guardians: This is the information you need if your child will be taking prescription medication at school when school starts on August 14.

Parents are asked to bring prescription medication and a completed medication form to the school nurse during the All School Information and Registration Session at the High School on August 1 from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. If you are unable to attend this session, you should email Missy Hauser, the district School Nurse, mhauser@mountvernon.k12.ia.us or call (319) 895-6251, ext 2003 or (319) 560-3972 after August 1 to make other arrangements.

- Medication at School forms may be obtained at www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us, Registration Forms & Supply Lists. Forms may also be obtained by calling the Superintendent's office or any of the three school buildings after August 1.
- If your child carries an Epi-pen or inhaler, we ask that you make sure to also provide one to be kept in the health office of the building your child attends.
- For the safety of all students please do not allow your child to bring medication to school.
- Ask your pharmacist for an extra pharmacy labeled bottle for prescription medication coming to school. All

medication must be in a correctly labeled pharmacy bottle/container with a current date.

NURSE / HEALTH OFFICE

Lead Level Requirement: Iowa law requires that all students entering elementary school must show proof of having a blood lead level. This law is effective as of the 2008-2009 school year. It applies only to incoming kindergarten students. It is not necessary to repeat the blood lead level if your child has already completed the test. However, documentation of the blood lead level must be provided to the school. If you have questions or are unsure if your child has had a lead level drawn, please call your child's physician.

Hearing Screenings will be provided by Grant Wood Area Education Agency for students in Early Childhood and Kindergarten through Second grade as well as students in other grades if there is a history of hearing loss. Students that are new to the Mount Vernon School District will also be screened. A note will be sent home informing you the dates of the screening.

Parents/guardians who do not want their child screened for hearing should notify the school nurse, Missy Hauser by phone (895-6251 ext. 2003) or in writing.

Vision Screening will not be provided by Grant Wood Area Education Agency due to budget constraints. If you do not have vision insurance and are concerned about your child's vision please contact the school nurse, Missy Hauser.

Dental Health: From the Iowa Bureau of Oral Health: All children newly enrolling in an Iowa elementary or high school are required to have a dental screening. This requirement was passed by the 2007 legislature and became effective July 1, 2008. The purpose of the dental screening requirement is to improve the oral health of Iowa's children. Dental screenings help with early detection and treatment of dental disease; reduce the incidence, impact, and cost of dental disease; inform parents and guardians of their children's dental problems; promote the importance of oral health for school readiness and learning; and contribute to statewide surveillance of oral health.

St. Luke's Dental Health Center will provide dental screening to students in Kindergarten through 3rd grade. They will also provide dental screening to 8th grade students. A note will be sent home in September informing you of the date of the screening.

Parents/guardians are not required to have their child participate in the screening. However, parents of students in Kindergarten and eighth grade who desire to have their dental screening with a private provider must have their dentist fill out the necessary paperwork required by the state and provide a copy to the school. Please notify the school nurse, Missy Hauser, by phone (319) 895-6251 or in writing if you do not want your child screened.

Over The Counter Medication: Students frequently ask for medication at the first sign of discomfort. Please discuss healthier methods of treating headaches and other ailments with your child and discourage the use of medication except when absolutely necessary.

The WOW Cure for Headaches

Water - Ten gulps of water at a fountain is about 8 ounces of water.

Oxygen - Take ten deep breaths.

Wait - Give it about 30 minutes and see if your headache is gone.

At Washington Elementary and the Middle School we will always attempt to call the parents/guardians before administering a medication to your child even if prior written approval has been given.

NUTRITION INFORMATION

SCHOOL BREAKFAST & LUNCH PRICES

Lunch prices, as set by the federal government, are increasing five cents to \$2.60 for middle and high school students and to \$2.45 for elementary school students. Breakfast will be \$1.45 in all three buildings.

SCHOOL DINING SYSTEM FOR BREAKFAST & LUNCH PURCHASES

The school district uses a computerized system for breakfast and lunch charges. Each student has been assigned a five-digit number that they will use to purchase their meals and ala carte items. When you send a check to school, it will be deposited into your family account. On the Registration Fee Sheet or online through the *InTouch* payment system, you should deposit an appropriate amount of money into your

family account depending on how often your child(ren) eats at school. Each time your child(ren) purchases a meal, the money will be withdrawn from your family account. When your family account runs low on funds, an email will be sent to notify you of the low balance. When you receive this email, please deposit money to your lunch account promptly or add funds via *InTouch*. For more information about *InTouch*, see related article "Pay Online for School Meals" below.

Students in middle school and high school also have the option of purchasing ala carte food items at an additional charge to your family account. Ala carte items are food items that are normally separate from the school breakfast and lunch menu. If you do not want your child to purchase these extra charge ala carte items, please discuss this with your child and turn off this option in the School Dining System.

Each day, early childhood, kindergarten and first grade students take breaks and drink a carton of milk. The cost of milk is \$47.00 per year for these students.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, physical appearance, or sexual orientation. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or Call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD).

PAY ONLINE FOR SCHOOL MEALS

A payment option is available online to pay for school meals using your credit card or debit card instead of sending the money to school with your child. There are two convenient ways to access the In Touch online payment program to make a deposit directly into your family account.

- When you receive a low balance email from the School Dining System, select the *Pay Online* link from the email. This is the quickest and most convenient way to pay online.
- Log in to In Touch by visiting the school website, www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us, *InTouch*.

After you log in, simply enter the dollar amount you wish to deposit into your family lunch account and choose to pay by debit card or credit card. Your payment can be made by VISA, MasterCard or Discover credit card or debit card. After you complete your purchase, an email confirmation and receipt will

immediately be sent to you. In Touch uses security software, requires passwords throughout the program, and does not store personal bank or credit card information to ensure privacy and security for users.

InTouch Benefits:

- Easy and convenient online access to pay fees 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
 - No convenience fees to use the system
 - No more lost checks
 - Instant credit to student accounts reflecting the new activity
 - Ability to view account history of purchases
 - Assurance of private and secure transmissions
 - Saves the school building secretaries' time
- If you have questions regarding the *InTouch* program, please contact Amy Weber at (319) 895-8845 or aweber@mountvernon.k12.ia.us.

NUTRITION ACCOUNT BALANCE

Parents can use the following link: <http://nutrition.mountvernon.k12.ia.us/> to access their family lunch account balance on the Mount Vernon School Dining System website. After you have logged into your family account on this website, you can view your family's current account balance and deposits made to your family's account, view in detail what breakfast and lunch items your child(ren) are eating at school each day and you can deposit funds online via In Touch into your account. This is also where you can set up the very popular option to have the system email you when your family account balance is running low.

Please keep your family account balance positive to avoid the situation where your child will not be allowed to purchase a meal at school.

If you do not have your family's School Dining System login and password, contact any building secretary or the superintendent's office.

APPLYING FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICE BREAKFASTS & LUNCHES

An application for free or reduced price school meals is included in the registration packet. Free or reduced price breakfast and lunch meals are available to students of families meeting the income or other qualifications listed on the application forms. **The information on these forms is kept strictly confidential.**

The school lunch computer is set up so other students will not be aware that your child qualifies for free or reduced price meals.

Families of middle school and high school students on the free or reduced price meal plans **will be charged and must pay for ala carte food items purchased.** Ala carte items are food items that are normally separate from the school breakfast and lunch menu. If you do not want your child to purchase these extra charge ala carte items, please discuss this with your child and turn off this option in the School Dining System.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, physical appearance, or sexual orientation. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or Call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD).

CHANGES TO THE NUTRITION PROGRAM

Changes are coming to the breakfast nutrition program. The USDA has set forth new guidelines to be followed when serving breakfast in schools. One change is the amount of calories that can be served at breakfast. For all grades, the calories must fall within 450-500. Breakfast must consist of three components: grain, fruit/vegetable/100% juice, and milk. Meat/meat alternate (ie: yogurt, eggs, cheese) are not required but may be substituted for one grain within a day. We must offer at least 4 items per day at breakfast and a student may decline **ONLY ONE** item to be charged a breakfast price. Many times, 5 items are offered, which means the student **MUST** take 4 of the 5 items to be charged a breakfast price. On any given day they may take all items offered at no extra charge. If they do not take the minimum requirement to be considered a breakfast under USDA guidelines, the items will be charged as ala carte.

This may be confusing to many students, as it is different from what we have done in the past. Please encourage your child to ask the breakfast/ lunch servers for help in understanding the new guidelines. It is a learning process for all of us and we will most likely be making changes along the way as we have a better understanding of what works and what doesn't.

Thank you for your patience in helping us work towards meeting the USDA guidelines.

Lunch guidelines remain the same as last year. The middle school will have two options. They may go through the main lunch line for the hot lunch or they may go to the salad/sandwich bar for their lunch. The

salad/sandwich bar will change its offerings each day of the week.

The high school will also offer the main hot lunch line as well as a different salad/sandwich bar each day of the week. We will also be offering another entrée each day at the high school as an alternative to the main item. As always there will be a variety of fruits and vegetables to choose from daily.

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY

SCHOOL – WETAP

“MEET & GREET, FIND YOUR SEAT”

Come and meet your teacher and classmates the day before school starts and calm the first day of school jitters!

On Tuesday, August 13, teachers will be in their classrooms to greet their new students from 3:00 - 4:00 PM. Students are encouraged to bring school supplies to put into their desks, lightening the load and helping to keep the first day of school the beginning of a new routine.

Families and students are invited to stay for “Popsicles on the Playground” hosted by WETAP from 4:00 - 5:00 PM. Students will have a chance to play with their classmates and families can meet their peers for the new school year. It is a time to create classroom connections for the coming school year. Families are also asked to help clean the playground following the event so it is ready for the first day of school.

Contact Denise Havill at (319) 895-6251 after July 23 with any questions.

SCHOOL CHILD CARE

The school district offers three options for child care.

Mini Mustangs is our early childhood child care at the elementary school. We offer care for our youngest learners opposite their time in Early Childhood classrooms. This includes care from 8:10 AM to 12:05 PM, and from 11:10 AM – 3:05 PM. Lunch is served between the two sessions as a part of our school’s nutrition program.

It is the goal of this program to provide an enriching and appropriate environment for children ages 4 - 6. Children will benefit from a consistent

rhythm of daily activities including snack, rest time, and outdoor play. During their session with the Mini Mustangs, children will be offered a variety of learning and play experiences. This includes participation in group stories and songs, “Center Time” for open exploration of art materials, block play, pretend play and other teacher-guided activities.

The program operates during the school year, and also on school in-service days or days that school is unexpectedly cancelled. Enrollment forms for this program must be completed and returned before the first day of the child’s attendance.

Kids Club is our session child care at the elementary school for Kindergarten through fourth grade, available from 6:00 - 8:10 AM and 3:05 - 6:00 PM (before and after school) and on days classes are not in session.

Kids Connection is our session child care at the middle school for students in fifth through eighth grade available from 6:00 - 8:10 AM or 3:05 - 6:00 PM. The morning session location will be determined by the number of students participating. Kids Connection is held before and after school and on days classes are not in session.

These registered state programs are overseen by the building principal with a program director overseeing the day-to-day planning/operations.

These programs also operate on school in-service days, days that school is unexpectedly cancelled and during school breaks.

Enrollment forms for child care must be completed and returned with payment of \$10.00 **per student** registration before the first day of the child’s attendance. Child care is available on a first-come, first-served basis and enrollment is limited by the program license.

New students to this program should complete the child care packet. Questions may be directed to Maura Holland at (319) 560-2958 or via email at mholland@mountvernon.k12.ia.us.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT ARRIVAL / DISMISSAL

We encourage parents to conduct the first day of school with the same routine as their child should expect the remaining days of the school year. Before and after school routines should **rarely change** which allows your child the best opportunity to focus on learning during the school day.

Classes begin at 8:20 AM for elementary school students. They may go to their rooms at 8:10 AM.

Please make necessary arrangements to ensure a timely start to the school day. Teachers expect students to be in their seats at 8:20 AM. Students arriving after 8:20 must report to the office and will be counted tardy.

Tardiness is difficult for your child, the teacher, and their classmates. Students who eat breakfast at school may arrive at 7:50 AM and go directly to the lunch room. Students who arrive before 8:00 AM at school and do not eat breakfast must remain outside and are unsupervised. **Supervision begins inside at 8:10 AM, unless they eat breakfast at the school.**

The school day ends at 3:05 PM. All students are dismissed at 3:05 PM. **Please wait until dismissal time to pick your child up from school.** Teacher and school announcements often are at the end of the day and students leaving before 3:05 PM miss this instruction. Students who ride the buses are dismissed and exit through the back doors. Buses will load students in the Middle School parking lot. Students who walk and are picked up are dismissed and exit through the front doors. When picking up children, please **DO NOT** drive your car into the parking lot unless you stay in your car and pull into the car lane. If you wish to leave your car you must park in a parking spot. **Do not leave your car parked along the sidewalk.**

For student safety there is a stop sign and crossing guard north of the building on 5th Avenue and at the High School entrance.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

The Mount Vernon Community School District operates an Early Childhood program.

This year, preregistrations for four year olds were accepted in the spring. If you did not preregister your child, but are still interested in your child attending our Early Childhood program, have questions about the program or know of someone who has not alerted us about their interest the Early Childhood program, please contact Denise Havill at Washington Elementary, (319) 895-6251.

JOY THE THERAPY DOG

Washington Elementary participates in the Canine Assisted Learning Program. This well-researched program has been tried in many schools with great success. Our school has in attendance each day a Bernese Mountain dog named Joy. Mrs. Becthold is one of our third grade teachers and Joy's handler. Mrs. Becthold and Joy went through the CARES training program. Joy provides motivation and reinforcement

for students; she provides social support and other opportunities for all our students. The school needs to know of any health or safety concerns regarding your child's interaction with Joy. Please contact our school nurse Missy Hauser at mhauser@mountvernon.k12.ia.us with specific concerns.

MOUNT VERNON MIDDLE SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS SCHEDULES

Class schedules with locker assignments will be mailed the first week of August. If there are concerns with the schedules received in August, please contact Chiara Burke at (319) 895-6254 as soon as possible before the first day of school. **Please note that parent contact is required for a middle school student to drop band, choir or orchestra.** Drop requests must be made by a parent no later than August 23rd, 2013 for 1st semester classes or January 14th, 2014 for 2nd semester classes. After these deadlines the student is expected to remain in the class until the end of the semester.

MIDDLE SCHOOL - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: EARLY OUT

August 14, 2013 will be an early out dismissal at 12:30 p.m. for the entire school district. The middle school will structure this morning with a welcome back assembly and MS 101 curriculum. MS 101 includes a review of our expectations at the middle school as well as a run through of procedures (emergency drills) and a schedule walk through. The purpose of the morning is to prepare our middle school students for the school year and also feel confident about their relationships with the faculty, staff, their school, and each other. Students will also have a few minutes with each of their teachers as they walk through their schedules that day.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING SCHEDULE

The middle school opens at 7:30 AM each morning; the building will not be unlocked until that time. Students are not to enter the building prior to 7:30 AM unless they are prescheduled under the direct supervision of a teacher and then must remain with that teacher until 7:30 AM at which time they are allowed to wait in the commons for the 8:00 AM bell.

Kids Club does provide an option for supervised care at the elementary school for students as early as 6:00 AM in the morning if a middle school parent is seeking supervised care prior to 7:30 AM.

Classes begin at 8:20 AM and end at 3:05 PM for all middle school students. Parents are encouraged to make sure students arrive 10-15 minutes early so they have time to put their things away and be in their classroom prior to the 8:20 AM start bell. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 AM – 8:10 AM each morning. A bell will sound at 8:00 AM signaling that students are allowed to go to their lockers and prepare for class. Prior to 8:00 AM students must be outside, in the commons area, or under adult supervision.

Students are dismissed for the day at 3:05 PM and are expected to leave the building/school grounds at this time unless they are prescheduled to remain at school under the direct supervision of a coach or teacher. Students are not allowed to remain after school without direct supervision. Any unsupervised student that remains in the building or on the grounds will be instructed to leave the premises or will be required to go to the Kid's Connection before and after school program while waiting to be picked up. Please note that parents will be charged the usual Kid's Connection supervision fee whenever a student needs to attend this program.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCKER PADLOCKS

There are no permanent padlocks on lockers in the middle school hallways. A padlock is recommended when students are storing valuable items such as cell phones or iPods in their locker. If a student wants to purchase their own padlock, they may do so with the understanding that if they forget their combination or the school deems it necessary; the lock will be cut off. We ask that students bring their own locks and give the combination of these locks to the office so we can assist them should they forget their combination. **DO NOT PROVIDE PADLOCKS THAT REQUIRE A KEY** to open as the office will not be responsible for keeping track of padlock keys.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL SPORTS

The schedule for school sponsored fall sports for 7th and 8th grade middle school students will be announced the first week of school. Sports offered in the fall include: Cross Country, Volleyball and Football. Athletes should be prepared to attend a meeting and/or practice with their coaches at the middle school at 3:15

PM on Thursday, August 15th. All team meetings/practices will conclude no later than 5:30 PM. and students will be expected to leave for the day at that time.

In order to participate (**play or practice**) in any sport, **a student must have a current medical physical and a signed concussion form on file in the school office.** This is a State law and must be strictly adhered to. These forms must be signed by the doctor attesting to the student's physical well-being and by a parent granting their child permission to participate. Physicals turned in during the previous school year are kept on file and are valid for one calendar year from the date of the physical. At the beginning of each sports season the office will provide the coaches with a list of students that have a current physical on file and the expiration date of that physical.

A physical form and concussion form are available on the school website at www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us under "Registration Forms & Supply Lists" or they may be picked up at the school office.

Fifth and sixth grade students are not required to have a physical on file with the school until they begin to compete in school sponsored sports at the 7th grade level.

Single admission prices for middle school home sports events remain at \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students. All Mount Vernon students who have purchased an activity pass receive free admission to all home Middle and High School regular season sports events. Students without an activity pass in their possession at sports events are expected to pay the regular admission price if they would like to attend the event.

MIDDLE SCHOOL KIDS CONNECTION

Kids Club is the Washington Elementary School before and after school day care program serving children in grades K-4. Under the Kids Club umbrella, Success Lab will be offered in the afternoons at the middle school for grades 5-8 and possibly in the mornings at the middle school depending on the level of interest. The focus of Success Lab will be on academic support first and foremost. However, if students complete their academic work, recreational activities will also be offered. This registered state program is overseen by the building principal with a program director overseeing the day-to-day planning/operations.

MIDDLE SCHOOL 1:1 TECHNOLOGY

Beginning this fall, all Mount Vernon Middle School students will be issued a school computer. Students in seventh and eighth grade will be issued 11" MacBook Air computers and will be allowed to take these devices home. Students in fifth and sixth grade will have access to MacBook Air notebook computers as well as Chromebooks. Fifth and sixth graders will not be taking these devices home with them but will have daily access to them at school. The middle school faculty and staff are working hard to prepare and have everything ready to go with the new computers this fall. Our teachers are excited about the opportunities these new computers will offer our students.

As we get closer to fall and the beginning of the school year, you will receive more information regarding this new technology initiative at the middle school. You will be asked to attend a parent/student informational meeting that will outline our plans and explain the computer check-out process for you and your student. Please feel free to call Bob Haugse, MVMS Principal, at (319) 895-6254 if you have questions or concerns.

INTERNET APPROPRIATE USE POLICY

Please see page 13 for full details on the district Internet Appropriate Use Policy.

MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL **NEW STUDENT/FRESHMAN ORIENTATION -** **HIGH SCHOOL**

Student Council members will sponsor an orientation for incoming freshmen and students who are new to Mount Vernon High School (grades 9-12). Orientation will be held on **Tuesday, August 13, from 9:00 - 10:30 AM** in the High School commons. Steve Brand (principal), Joe Wallace (assistant principal), and upperclassmen will lead school tours, check locker assignments/combinations, describe our school's athletic/activities program options, and highlight our academic recognition opportunities.

All incoming freshmen and upperclassmen new to MVHS are encouraged to attend this worthwhile get-started-right event. For additional information, contact Mr. Brand or Mr. Wallace at (319) 895-8843.

HIGH SCHOOL - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

On Wednesday, August 14, high school students will receive a copy of their schedules and other helpful information. Grade level meetings with Mr. Steve Brand, Principal, will be part of the first day. The High School first day of school schedule is:

Tuesday, August 14 – High School Schedule

Early Bird classes will meet

Pick up information	8:20 – 8:27: Commons
Period 1	8:30 – 8:55
Period 2	8:59 – 9:24
Period 3	9:28 – 9:53
Period 4	9:57 – 10:22
Period 5	10:26 – 10:51
Tornado Drill	10:35
Period 6 (lunch)	10:55 – 11:20: A Lunch 11:24 – 11:51: A Class 10:55 – 11:20: B Class 11:24 – 11:51: B Lunch
Period 7	11:55 – 12:20
Fire Drill	12:20
Dismissal	12:30

Class Assemblies:

Sophomores:	8:30 – 9:00
Freshmen:	9:00 – 9:30
Juniors/Seniors	9:00 – 9:30 Workplace Learning Connection
Juniors:	9:30 – 10:00
Seniors:	10:00 – 10:30
Juniors/Seniors:	9:00–9:30 Workplace Learning Connection

ATTENTION: HIGH SCHOOL FALL ATHLETES!

The fall sport season for high school athletes begins August 12, 2013 for high school football, cross country and volleyball.

ALL ATHLETES must have a CURRENT concussion form and physical to practice and play! The physical form for your doctor is available at the high school or middle school offices or on our website under "Student Forms." You can also access our web site for game schedules, www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us, Calendars.

ATHLETIC REQUIREMENTS

In order for a student to compete in any of our athletic/cheer programs:

FALL:

Football
Volleyball
Cross Country - Boys and Girls
Cheerleading

WINTER:

Basketball - Boys and Girls
Wrestling
Cheerleading

SPRING:

Track and Field - Boys and Girls
Soccer - Boys and Girls
Tennis - Girls
Golf - Boys and Girls

SUMMER:

Baseball
Softball

Parents and Students must sign the following documents:

1. Good Conduct Policy
2. Concussion Form

This year, we have added the **Good Conduct Policy** to the online permissions that parents can sign through the online registration process. Students will also provide a signature on the Good Conduct Policy form. This will be done on the first day of classes on August 14.

A copy of the **Concussion Form** is included in the registration packet. It may be returned to the district office with all other registration materials.

Also, an updated physical must be on file as well.

Once all three of the vitally important forms: Good Conduct Policy, Concussion Form, and Physical Form have been collected by the Activities Office, a student may participate in our athletic programs.

Students will be held out of practices and competitions if these forms have not been turned in.

INTERNET APPROPRIATE USE POLICY

Please see page 13 for full details on the district Internet Appropriate Use Policy.

LEAVING THE HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS

If a student needs to leave campus for a legitimate reason, he/she will only be allowed to do so with parent permission. Permission may be extended by a parent/guardian with a signed note or a phone call to the office. Students leaving or returning to school should sign out and in at the office window.

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY/PROCESS

Regular school attendance is one of the most important aspects of school success. Research confirms that regular attendance enhances student achievement and learning. Parents partner with school staff to encourage regular school attendance for all students. The following attendance procedures are designed to promote regular school attendance for each high school class:

- All absences will be recorded by class period.
- Absences must be verified by a phone call from a parent or guardian within 48 hours of the date of the absence. It is best to phone the high school (319 - 895-8843) on the same day of the absence.
- Students will be responsible for completing missed schoolwork within a timely manner for any absences. Homework assigned previous to the absence will be due upon the student's return to school. Example: If the student was absent on Monday, all work that was to be turned in on Monday will be due immediately upon the student's return to school. For work assigned on the day a student is absent, the student and teacher will work together to create a timeline to complete the work.
- School officials will determine whether a reported absence will be recorded as *excused* or *unexcused*. This includes absences that occur outside of scheduled breaks.
- Consequences for unexcused absences will include the following actions:
- **1st or 2nd unexcused absence** in any one class period – consequence is at the discretion of the teacher. This may include a before or after school detention to be served within 24 hours of the absence.
- **3rd unexcused absence** in any one class period - a phone call to parent/guardian will be made

to discuss the absences and the teacher may assign a before or after school detention.

- **4th unexcused absence** in any one class period - a meeting will be held with student, parent/guardian, teacher and administrator to discuss the viability of continuing the class. This may result in removal of the student from the class with a **failing** grade.

An administrator will address all cases involving excessive excused and/or unexcused absences (7 days/semester or more) through a conference with the student and his/her parents/guardians. Hospitalization or extended illness under doctor's care will be considered an exception to this conferencing requirement.

HIGH SCHOOL TARDINESS

Students are expected to arrive to class on time.

Students who arrive late to any class must first go to the office for an admit pass to class.

HIGH SCHOOL ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

While we do not prohibit the use of cell phones, iPods, and other electronic devices during the school day, it will be left up to teacher discretion for student use in the classroom. If the use of an electronic device interferes with instruction, it will be confiscated and held until the end of the school day. Students who repeatedly use electronic devices that interfere with instruction will have their devices held at school until a parent or other responsible adult picks up the device.

All electronic devices are the responsibility of the student and should remain in a locked locker when not in use. **The school does not assume any responsibility for misplaced, lost or stolen electronic devices.**

DISTRICT INFORMATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT WEB SITE:

www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us

Be sure to visit our web site and mark it as one of your favorites. Information you will find there includes:

- calendars and announcements

- subscription service to our alert and information system, School Messenger
- lunch and breakfast menus
- email addresses and teacher web sites
- activity schedules
- building addresses and phone numbers
- school board meeting dates and agendas
- forms, procedures, student handbooks, course offerings
- a link to the School Dining System and In Touch

PowerSchool STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

PowerSchool is a web based system that allows parents to access student information via the Internet. Using this system, parents can view their child's classroom information such as assignments, attendance, and grading.

To access this system, go to the school website at www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us, select the *PowerSchool* link from the box on the left hand side. Enter the login name and password for your family account. The *PowerSchool* system requires a single login for a family.

If you do not have your family's login and password, please contact Amy Weber at the superintendent's office at (319) 895-8845 or via email at aweber@mountvernon.k12.ia.us.

The *PowerSchool* student information program will be used to register your student(s) for the school year using the eRegistration option. In order to log in to *PowerSchool* for registration, parents must have the Family Log In account set up in *PowerSchool*. To set up your *PowerSchool* Single Family Login, please follow the instructions on the enclosed *PowerSchool* sheet. Questions may be directed to the superintendent's office at aweber@mountvernon.k12.ia.us or (319) 895-8845.

ALERT & INFORMATION SYSTEM

Mount Vernon Community School District will be using School Messenger to notify families by phone, email, and text message of early dismissals, late starts, school or activity cancellations, or other emergencies and news that may be important to you. The High School also uses this system to distribute MVHS Office News. **It is very important that we have current email addresses for all parents and guardians.**

This alert system allows parents to log in and add or modify their data for how the system sends alerts. Please access the School Messenger alert and

notification system from the school website www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us. Full instructions on completing School Messenger account set up are included in your registration packet.

Our primary method to report school closings and delays is local television and radio station announcements. The School Messenger system is a secondary public announcement.

As a parent you do not need to do anything to receive communications through this new system. We are pulling information from *PowerSchool*, our parent-student information system.

Any time your contact information changes, please use your log in to update the School Messenger system AND provide the school with your current numbers and email addresses to ensure you receive important announcements.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Parents/guardians considering the use of the open enrollment option to enroll their child(ren) in another public school district in the State of Iowa should be aware of the following dates: March 1, 2013 – Last date for regular open enrollment requests for the 2013-2014 school year.

If the student meets the definition of good cause under 281-Iowa Administrative Code 17.4(1) because of a change in residence or is an entering kindergarten student for the 2013-2014 school year, the application can be accepted after March 1, 2013 for the 2013-2014 school year. Applications for kindergarten must be filed on or **before September 1, 2013**.

A student who transfers school districts under open enrollment in all grades 10 through 12 **shall not be eligible** to participate in interscholastic contests and competitions during the first 90 school days of transfer. For questions on eligibility, please contact the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union at (515) 288-9741 or the Iowa High School Athletic Association at (515) 432-2011.

Parents/guardians of open enrollment students whose income falls below 160% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for transportation assistance. This may be in the form of actual transportation or in the form of a cash stipend.

Forms are available from your **resident** district or the Mount Vernon Superintendent's Office. For further details, contact the Superintendent's Office at (319) 895-8845.

SCHOOL PICTURES

School pictures will be taken by Halverson Photography. High school photos will be taken on September 12, middle school photos will be taken on September 13 and Washington Elementary photos will be taken on September 11. Each school will distribute order forms/payment envelopes prior to the picture dates. Payment for pictures is required at the time the photo is taken. Purchase of school pictures is optional. However, **all** students will be photographed for school records. Students are encouraged to wear bright, colorful clothing for school photos.

SEASON TICKETS/PASSES

Season Tickets or Gym Passes are available at the High School for the high school sports programs. A Season Ticket may be purchased for football or a Gym Pass for volleyball, basketball, and wrestling.

For high school sports, single admission price is \$5.00 for adults and students.

For middle school sports, single admission price is \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students.

All Mount Vernon students who purchase an activity ticket have free admission to all home middle school and high school regular season sports events.

High School Football Season Ticket

5 games - \$22.00 (save \$3.00)

High School Gym Pass

Good for any regular season gym event

6 punches - \$25.00 (save \$5.00)

Mustang Super Pass - \$97

For the Super Fan! The Mustang Super Pass is good for all home, regular season high school **and** middle school sports events for the 2013-2014 school year and for the summer sports programs in 2014. This pass is perfect for those who are tired of having to pull out cash at every event. Just flash your pass and walk in.

Good for one individual per pass.

By purchasing one of these options you can avoid the rush and save money. Tickets may be purchased through registration, at the High School office, or call Activities Director, Joe Wallace at (319) 895-8843.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS

During the school year, from September through May, the Mount Vernon School newsletter is distributed to Mount Vernon and Martelle residents through *The Sun* newspaper or *The Sunlight* flyer. Other Mount Vernon School families receive the newsletter by mail.

If you do not receive the September newsletter, please contact the Superintendent's office at (319) 895-8845.

SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS, EARLY DISMISSALS & DELAYS

As the new school year begins, we would like to remind you how the school district handles weather related announcements.

Decisions concerning early dismissals, delays and school closings, made in the interest of the health and safety of the children will be reported to the media as early as possible. Freezing rain, fog, drifting, or heavy snow, extreme cold or heat and ability of the county crews to clear roads are all factors in the decision to close school.

Parents will also receive email and phone call alerts from the school regarding school cancellations, early dismissals and delays. These alerts will be sent from our alert system School Messenger.

The following radio and television stations are called when school will be delayed, dismissed early or canceled: KCRG-TV-9, KGAN -TV-2, KZIA-102.9FM, KWVL -TV-7, KDAT-104.5FM, KHAK-98.1FM, WMT-600AM

INTERNET APPROPRIATE USE POLICY – 206.12

Because technology is a vital part of the school district curriculum, the Internet will be made available to employees and students. Appropriate and equitable use of the Internet will allow employees and students to access resources unavailable through traditional means.

Email - Individual student accounts and electronic mail addresses may be issued to students. If a student already has an electronic mail address, the student will be permitted to use the address to send and receive mail at school.

The Internet can provide a vast collection of educational resources for students and employees. It is a global network which makes it impossible to control all available information. Because information appears, disappears and changes constantly, it is not possible to

predict or control what students may locate. The school district makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of information received on the Internet. Although students will be under teacher supervision while on the network, it is not possible to constantly monitor individual students and what they are accessing on the network. Some students might encounter information which may not be of educational value. The school district uses technology protection measures to protect students from inappropriate access, including sites that include obscenity, child pornography or are harmful to minors while on school district computers and while on school hours.

Appropriate Use Education /Training - The school district will educate students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting on social networking sites and chat rooms. Students will also be educated about cyberbullying, including awareness and response. Employees will provide age appropriate training for students who use the Internet. The training provided will be designed to promote the school district's commitment to student safety with regard to:

- safety on the Internet;
- appropriate behavior while on online, on social networking web sites, and
- in chat rooms; and
- cyberbullying awareness and response.

• Compliance with the E-rate requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act

Employees and students will be instructed on appropriate use of the Internet. Parents will be required to sign a permission form to allow their students to access the Internet. Students will sign a form acknowledging they have read and understand the Internet Appropriate Use policy and regulations, that they will comply with the policy and regulations, and that they understand the consequences for violation of the policy or regulations.

The following uses of Mount Vernon Community School District's internet system and network are considered unacceptable:

- **Illegal Activities.** It shall be prohibited to have unauthorized access to Mount Vernon Community School District's internet system and network or to any other computer system through the Mount Vernon Community School District's internet system and network, or go beyond the user's authorized access. This includes attempting to log in through another person's account or access another person's files. The user will not make deliberate attempts to disrupt the computer system or

destroy data by spreading computer viruses, or by any other means. The user should not use the Mount Vernon Community School District's internet system and network to engage in any other illegal act, such as arranging for a drug sale or the purchase of alcohol, engaging in a criminal gang activity, threatening the safety of persons, etc.

- **Inappropriate Language.** The user should not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language. The user will not post information that could cause damage or a danger of disruption. The user will not engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks. The user will not harass another person. Harassment is persistently acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person. If user are told by a person to stop sending messages, the user must stop. Avoid knowingly or recklessly post false or defamatory information about a person or organization, or pretend to be or represent another person.
- **Respecting Resource Limits.** School resources should not be used to download or store non-instructional resources including but not limited to games, movies, music or software. Students will not create or use proxy websites to bypass the district's filtering (CIPA) program.
- **Plagiarism.** The user will not plagiarize works found on the internet. Plagiarism is taking the ideas or writings of others and presenting them as if they were yours.
- **Copyright.** Respect the rights of copyright owners. Copyright infringement occurs when the user inappropriately reproduce a work that is protected by a copyright. If a work contains language that specifies appropriate use of that work, the user should follow the expressed requirements. If the user is unsure whether or not the work can be used, the user should request permission from the copyright owner.
- **Inappropriate Access to Materials.** The user will not use the Mount Vernon Community School District's internet system and network to access material that is designated for adults only or is profane or obscene (pornography), that advocates illegal or dangerous acts, or that advocates violence or discrimination towards other people (hate literature). If the user mistakenly access inappropriate information, the user should immediately tell the teacher.

In compliance with federal law, this policy will be maintained at least five years beyond the termination of funding under the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) or E-rate.

Legal References: Iowa Code n279.8(1995).

Cross References: 502 Student Rights and Responsibilities
506 Student Records

Date of Adoption: 11-18-1996

Dates of Review: 6-9-2003, 8-2006

Dates of Revision: 6-18-2012

TRANSPORTATION

INFORMATION

BUS ROUTES & INFORMATION

All Mount Vernon Bus Drivers have participated in the S.T.O.P. Program plus 3 hours of yearly training. Drivers have successfully completed training required to acquire a CDL license, P endorsement, S endorsement, and passed the DOT physical. The Mount Vernon Transportation Department participates in the Federal Drug/Alcohol Testing Program.

Following are bus numbers, drivers and general routes:

#2 - Driver Kevin Casey – 7:15 AM departure to North Hwy 1, Abbe Hills Road, Ink Road, Linn Grove Road, Goudy Road, Lehr Road, Linn Grove Church, Linn Grove Road, Goudy Road, Yeisley Road, Linn Ridge Road, Hunter Tree Addition, Springville Road, Abbe Hills Road, Abbe Hills Addition, Ink Road, Colonial Estates, elementary @ 8:05 AM.

#3 - Driver Dave Blythe – 7:05 AM departure to Mount Vernon Road West, Irish Lane, Hwy 30 West, Maxson Road, East Bertram Road, Knapp Road, Cedar Crest Woods Addition, Zach Lane, Palisades Road, elementary @ 8:05 AM.

#4 - Driver Meryl Hartung – 7:05 AM departure to Mount Vernon Road West, Abbe Hills Road, Smythe Road, Gabriel Ct, Holman Road, Smyth Rd, Holman's Road, Big Creek, Bertram Street, Hwy 13, Summit View, Mount Vernon Road, Forest Grove Road, Ironwood Drive, Berry Drive, elementary @ 8:05 AM.

#5 - Driver Jeff Merritt – 7:10 AM. departure to Hwy 1 North, Ellison Road, White Oak Road, 230th Avenue, South Fork Road, Martelle pickup, Hwy 1 South, high school Colonial Estates, elementary @ 8:05 AM.

#6 - Driver Dennis Gross – 7:05 AM departure to South Hwy 1, Dylan Road, Long View Road, Seven Sisters Road,

Hardshell Road, Dolezal Road, Ivanhoe Road, Old School Road, Rodger Grove Road, Carnes Road, Palisades Access, Ivanhoe Road, Lincoln Drive, Lisbon Road, elementary @ 8:05 AM.

#7 - Driver John Thatcher – 7:10 AM departure to West Mount Vernon Road, Museum Road, Linn Ridge Road, Ballard Road, Horn Road, Apple Creek Addition, O’Connor Road, Bloomington Road, Bliss Road, Timber Lake Drive, Lake Ridge Ct, Mount Vernon Road East, Abbe Hills Road, Springville Road, Scobey Road, elementary @ 8:05 AM.

#13 - Driver Cliff James – 7:10 AM departure to Highway 1, Ivanhoe Road East, Cedar River Road, Zinkula Road, Hwy 30 East, Hillview Addition, Oak Ridge Drive, Country Club Drive, Standing Rock Road, Light Road, Highway 1, elementary @ 8:10 AM.

Special Education Drivers: Sally Hunter and Jean Litts.
If you have moved since last school year or are new to the school district, please contact Denny Gross at the Bus Barn (319) 895-6205.

BUS RULES

1. Walk to your stop. Leave the home early enough to arrive on time.
2. Wait in a safe place well off the roadway. Cross only upon the driver’s signal.
3. Enter the bus in an orderly manner and take your seat.
4. **REMAIN IN YOUR SEAT WHILE THE BUS IS IN MOTION!**
5. Keep head and arms inside the bus.
6. Keep aisles clear at all times.
7. Remain quiet and orderly. “No throwing of objects on the bus.”
8. Be courteous at all times and follow instructions from the school bus driver.
9. Be alert to traffic when leaving the bus.
10. No eating or drinking on the bus.
11. State law prohibits use of tobacco on school buses.
12. All State regulations must be observed on items transported on the bus. Please check with your driver.
13. **Continued misconduct on the bus may lead to the following:**

Step 1: Conference between bus driver and student

Step 2: Conference between bus driver, student, principal, and parent will be called

Step 3: Conference between bus driver, student, superintendent, principal, and parent.

Mount Vernon Schools have quality, experienced drivers with well-maintained buses, each equipped with

two- way radios capable of transmitting thirty to fifty miles. If we have a problem with a vehicle on a regular or special education route or on most activity trips we are able to respond in a reasonable amount of time with assistance.

Mount Vernon Schools Transportation Department needs substitute bus drivers – for Regular Routes (Bus) and Activity Trips (Bus). Must have a CDL license, P endorsement and S endorsement. Stop in or call Transportation Director, Denny Gross at the Bus Barn, 515 5th Avenue SW, Mount Vernon, (319) 895-6205.

BUS EVACUATION DRILLS

Bus Evacuation Drills for K-12 students are scheduled during the fall and spring at the elementary school, middle school and high school.

PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION

The Mount Vernon Fine Arts Association is dedicated to supporting and promoting all of the Fine Art programs in the Mount Vernon Schools. This is accomplished through countless hours of volunteer time devoted to enhancing and supporting the Arts. The Fine Arts Association meets the first Tuesday of each month in the High School Band Room at 7 PM.

Each year a variety of fundraisers provide financial assistance for the various fine arts opportunities in our schools.

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, the Fine Arts Association appreciates any assistance you can offer. Please enter your name, phone number, and email address in the fields provided in the Parent Volunteer enclosed form and show your support for our efforts by volunteering your time, talents, and/or financial support. For more information contact Chris Lyon at (319) 895-9474.

MUSTANG BOOSTER CLUB

The purpose of the Booster Club is to offer support for all athletic programs at Mount Vernon High School and Middle School. Each year the Booster Club provides thousands of dollars in uniforms and equipment for the athletic programs at our schools. Much of the operating budget comes from a membership drive and concession

stands during athletic events held at our school. The Booster Club asks each parent of our athletes to consider donating time to this worthwhile cause. They encourage a lot of volunteers to help with concessions, so please, when someone calls and asks you to volunteer for a game/meet, say "Yes!"

The Mustang Booster Club is looking forward to an exciting year for Mount Vernon athletics. If you would like to take a more active role in Booster Club, please attend our next meeting on Wednesday, August 7, 2013, at 7 PM in the High School Commons.

Booster Club meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month except for June and July. Watch the activity calendar in the school newsletter for Booster Club meeting times. You are welcome to attend all meetings - we need your input and will put your talents to good use!

Our largest yearly fundraiser is our annual Membership Drive which will be held on August 19, 2013 from 6:00 - 9:00 PM. This is when we send *all* of our high school student athletes (usually in groups of about 5-6) throughout the community and rural areas to collect Athletic Booster Club memberships. For those students unable to drive, adult drivers will be available. All fundraising is completed before 9:00 PM. Please contact Kent Streicher (319) 560-7081 with any questions.

Please enter your name, phone number, and email address in the fields provided in the Parent Volunteer form provided in this packet and show your support by volunteering your time, talents, and/or financial support.

For further information, contact Booster Club President, Kent Streicher or Activities Director, Joe Wallace at (319) 895-8843.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

P.R.I.D.E.

P.R.I.D.E. is middle school parents and faculty working together to promote the positive aspects of middle school life. *All parents* of Mount Vernon Middle School students are members of P.R.I.D.E. Opportunities to volunteer are included on the P.R.I.D.E. insert with this mailing. Questions may be directed to P.R.I.D.E. President, Jackie Morrical at morrical@mchsi.com or (319) 895-6135. P.R.I.D.E. meets the third Monday of each month in the Middle School Media Center at 7 PM.

WETAP

WETAP is the Washington Elementary parent group that provides support to staff and students at the elementary school. All teachers, parents and guardians of Washington Elementary students are automatically members of WETAP. Please see the WETAP insert for additional information and ways that you can sign up to volunteer. Additional questions may be directed to WETAP President, Jo Nowak-Thompson at jnowak@mountvernon.k12.ia.us or (319) 895-8338. WETAP meets the first Monday of each month at Washington Elementary at 7 pm.

WETAP AND P.R.I.D.E. ONLINE VOLUNTEER FORMS

Are you tired of filling out the parent group volunteer forms and mailing them back to the school district? Again this fall, you can simply visit our website and complete your volunteer information online for WETAP and P.R.I.D.E. (**Donations to the parent groups may still be mailed to the appropriate addresses.**)

To submit your volunteer information and availability online visit, www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us, select "Resources" and then "Parent Groups." There is a direct link under WETAP and P.R.I.D.E. to sign up to volunteer. Questions regarding the online sign up may be directed to Amy Weber at (319) 895-8845 or via email aweber@mountvernon.k12.ia.us.

PARENT INFORMATION

IOWA SALES TAX HOLIDAY

The State will have a Sales Tax Holiday on August 2 and 3. These two days there will be no sales tax charged on most clothing/footwear purchases.

- Exemption period: from 12:01 a.m., August 2, 2013, through midnight, August 3, 2013
- No sales tax, including local option sales tax, will be collected on sales of an article of clothing or footwear having a selling price less than \$100.00
- The exemption does not apply in any way to the price of an item selling for \$100.00 or more
- The exemption applies to each article priced under \$100.00 regardless of how many items are sold on the same invoice to a customer

“Clothing” means. . .

- any article of wearing apparel and typical footwear intended to be worn on or about the human body

“Clothing” does not include. . .

- watches, watchbands, jewelry, umbrellas, handkerchiefs, sporting equipment, skis, swim fins, roller blades, skates, and any special clothing or footwear designed primarily for athletic activity or protective use and not usually considered appropriate for everyday wear

For more information go to the following website:

<http://www.iowa.gov/tax/educate/holiday1.html>

STATE INCOME TAX CREDIT

Certain school fees can be taken as a credit on your Iowa State Income Tax return. See the instructions for Line 48 on Iowa Form 1040. The credit amount is 25% of the first \$1,000 paid for each dependent for tuition and textbooks. Since this is a credit rather than a deduction, it will reduce your state income tax dollar for dollar.

“Textbooks” means books and other instructional materials used in teaching those same subjects. This includes fees, books, and materials for extracurricular activities. Examples of extracurricular activities include: sporting events, speech activities, musical or dramatic events, awards banquets, homecoming, prom (clothing does not qualify), and other school related social events. See the following website of expanded Line 48 instructions for more information on what does and does not qualify:

<http://www.iowa.gov/tax/1040EI/Line/12Line48.html>

Some of the qualifying fees you might pay to school or other expenses include:

- ***Textbook fee***
- ***Student activity fee***
- ***Booster Club dues***
- ***Fine Arts Association dues***
- ***Rental of musical instruments***
- ***Music materials purchased at school***
- ***Football, soccer, golf shoes, track spikes***
- ***Field trip fees***

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Mount Vernon Community School District will not discriminate in its educational activities on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender,

age, marital status, disability, physical appearance, or sexual orientation.

The District requires all persons, agencies, vendors, contractors and other persons and organizations doing business with or performing services for the school district to subscribe to all applicable federal and state laws, executive orders, rules and regulations pertaining to contract compliance and equal opportunity.

The District is committed to the policy that no otherwise qualified person will be excluded from educational activities on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, physical appearance, or sexual orientation.

Further, the District affirms the right of all students and staff to be treated with respect and to be protected from intimidation, discrimination, physical harm, and harassment.

Harassment or discriminatory behavior that denies civil rights or access to equal educational opportunities includes comments, name-calling, physical conduct, or other expressive behavior directed at an individual or group that intentionally demeans the race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, physical appearance, or sexual orientation the individual or individuals or creates an intimidating, hostile or demeaning environment for education.

The superintendent will designate a compliance officer and will publish the name of this person and the grievance procedure which follows an ongoing basis.

Any student, parent of student, or employee of this district who believes he or she or his/her child has been discriminated against, denied a benefit, or excluded from participation in any district education program or activity in violation of this policy, may file a written complaint with the compliance officer. The compliance officer shall cause a review of the written complaint to be conducted and a written response mailed to the complainant within ten working days after the receipt of the complaint. A copy of the written complaint and the compliance officer's response shall be provided to each member of the Board of Education. If the complainant is not satisfied with such response, he or she may submit a written appeal to the Board of Education indicating with particularity the nature of disagreement with the response and his or her reasons underlying such disagreement. The Board of Education shall consider the appeal at its next regularly scheduled meeting following receipt of the response. The Board of Education shall permit the complainant to address the Board in open or closed session as appropriate and lawful. The Board will provide the complainant with its

written decision in the matter within ten days following completion of the hearing.

The compliance officer for the Mount Vernon Community School District is:

Joe Wallace - Assistant Principal
Mount Vernon High School
731 Palisades Road, Mount Vernon, IA 52314
Phone: 319-895-8843 ext. 4005

SUPPLY LISTS

HIGH SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

High School Students should bring paper and pencils their first day of classes. Individual teachers will list specific materials needed for individual courses during their first classroom meeting. Students should keep general school supplies (paper, pens, folders, etc.) in their lockers.

*The school/office does not provide student school supplies, including poster board and batteries.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

8th Grade

1 Pack Post-it notes (2" x 2" or similar small size)
2 Regular composition notebooks (wide or college ruled)
2 Graph ruled composition notebooks
Scientific calculator for all math classes
Notebook paper
#2 Pencils
1 Pack 3" x 5" note cards
Pens (blue or black)
2 Boxes of Kleenex (to homeroom teacher 1st day of school)
Protractor and ruler
Folders for each class
Multi-colored highlighters
Colored pencils
Earbuds/earphones for laptops

7th Grade

6-2 pocket folders (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple)
Large supply of pens and #2 pencils
2 packs of loose leaf paper
Highlighters
2 packs of index cards

2 large boxes of Kleenex (to homeroom teacher)
Home supply of poster board for projects
Earbuds/Earphones for computers in zip lock bag
Calculator
Box of 10-12 pencils (to homeroom teacher)

6th Grade

Pencil bag
Things to put in pencil bag:
12 pencils
1 box large basic color markers
3-5 pens - black, red, blue
1-3 large erasers and a dozen+ pencil toppers
Large scissors
Basic calculator
5 folders: English = blue, Math = green, Social Studies = red, Science = yellow, Reading = orange
3 wide ruled spiral notebooks: 1- English = blue, 1- Math = green, 1- Science = yellow
4 packs wide ruled paper
Graph paper
1" - 3 ring binder for English autobiography unit
Composition notebook for Social Studies
Earbuds/earphones for computers
*buy above items in bulk for entire year ~ keep extras at home/refresh for 2nd semester

Additional items to 1st hour teacher:

1 box colored pencils
4-8 glue sticks
Highlighters (yellow, green, pink)
Kleenex
1 pack Expo dry erase markers (any color)

5th Grade

NO TRAPPERS-they do not fit in lockers
Pencil bag
Things to include in pencil bag:
Pencils (12 per quarter and replace as necessary)
Pens (2 Red)
Colored pencils
Highlighters (Yellow, Green, Pink)
Markers
Glue stick (replace as necessary)
One dry erase marker (replace as necessary)
Protractor - CLEAR with no arm
5 folders: English – blue, Math – green, Reading – red, Social Studies - orange, Health - yellow
Loose leaf paper (replace as necessary)
4 Spiral Notebooks: 1- English = blue, 1- Health = yellow, 1- Reading = red, 1- Social Studies = orange
1 box Kleenex (to 2nd Hour Teacher)
1 pack dry erase markers - 4pk (to 2nd Hour Teacher)

5th Grade continued....

Personal Earbuds/Earphones for computers
Suggest: Combination lock for locker (NO key padlocks)

Music (5th, 6th, 7th Grade General Music)

Composition book
Earbuds/earphones for computers

Art (5th, 6th, 7th, 8th Grade Art)

2 Fine/Ultra-Fine Dual Tip Sharpie Markers (Black)
Colored markers
Colored pencils
Pencils
Scotch tape
Masking tape

Band

“Sound Innovations” Book 1 (6th grade), Book 2 (7th grade), Book 3 (8th grade)
Appropriate care and cleaning supplies
Pencils
Clarinet/Sax: Box of 10 reeds
Oboe/Bassoon: 5 reeds
Percussion: Snare sticks, hard mallets, soft mallets and timpani mallets

*The school office does not provide student school supplies, including poster board and batteries.

**Each middle school student will receive an assignment notebook/planner from the school at no charge. Lost planners can be replaced for \$5.00.

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SUPPLY LIST

Early Childhood

1 box washable markers (Mrs. Whitehead only)
2 boxes of snack crackers multi-grain
Backpack – small – simple with 2 pockets
1 water colors Crayola paint set 8 colors
1 Box dry erase markers (2 or 3 per pack)
1 scotch tape refill roll (girls only)
Side walk chalk (boys only)
1 large container of Clorox wipes
4 Glue sticks
*1 box of tissues (girls only for art room supply)
*1 Clorox wipes (boys only for art room supply)

Kindergarten

16 glue sticks
1 Bottle Elmer’s glue
Large box of tissues
2 large boxes of snack items

Back pack
Small Fiskars scissors
2 boxes of regular crayons
12 #2 pencils sharpened (plain, not fancy)
4 boxes washable markers
1 set of watercolors
Ziploc bags Gallon (A-H) Quart (I-P) letters begin your last name
1 large refill bottle of liquid hand soap (Q-Z)
5” x 8” small plastic pencil box
Clorox wipes
*1 Ear Buds (open, fit to child & label) (technology room)
*1 Bottle Elmer’s glue (art room supply)

First Grade

1 Large box of snack crackers
2 Erasers
1 Large box of tissues
1 Pair stainless steel scissors (pointed)
36 #2 pencils (sharpened)
1 Small pencil box
1 Box of 24 crayons
12 Glue sticks
1 Box dry-erase markers
1 Box gallon Ziploc bags (boys only)
1 Box sandwich size bags (girls only)
1 Water color paint set (8 colors)
1 Box of markers
1 Box of colored pencils
1 Clorox wipes
*1 Ear Buds (open, fit to child & label) (technology room)
*1 skein yarn any color /texture (boys only - art room)
*1 Embroidery Floss or Crochet Cotton Thread any color (girls only - art room)

Second Grade

24 pencils (sharpened)
1 Box of 24 crayons
Colored pencils
Sticky notes (optional)
1 Large box of tissues
1 Pair, pointed stainless steel scissors
4 Plastic two-pocket folders (red, green, blue, yellow)
Second Grade Cont....
Markers, wide
12 glue sticks
2 Highlighter markers
1 Spiral notebook
1 Supply box
Pencil top erasers

Second Grade continued....

1 large pink eraser
1 ctn. Clorox cleaning wipes
6 to 8 Expo dry erase markers
Ziploc bags: Gallon size (A-L) Quart size (M-Z)
 *letters begin your last name
1 white binder 1-1/2" with clear cover sleeve
*Black sharpies (girls only for art room)
*Colored sharpies (boys only for art room)
*1 Ear Buds (open, fit to child & label) (technology room)

Third Grade

Wide lined loose leaf paper – 1 pkg.
3 wide lined spiral notebooks 70 pages each
Box of colors 24 – 48 count
24 #2 pencils sharpened
Pointed stainless steel scissors
2 Large boxes of tissues
12 glue sticks
2 pens
4 folders
Highlighters – 1 pink, 1 yellow, 1 green
Large rubber erasers
Pencil bag (no boxes)
Clorox wipes – 1 container
Expo markers –wide tip
1 pkg. sticky notes
Simple calculator
Ziploc bags Gallon (A-L) or Quart (M-Z)
2 - 1 inch binders
NO trappers
*1 Ear Buds (open, fit to child & label)
* Water color paint set (art room supply)
** Recorder (music room, you may purchase through school)

Fourth Grade

Gallon size baggies (Mrs. Thede's students only)
3 - 3" x 3" post it notes (Mrs. Plathe's students only)
Clorox wipes (Mrs. Whitham's students only)
Extra box of 12 pencils (Mr. Thomsen's students only)
NO pencil boxes
4 pack of Expo dry erase markers
3 packs wide lined loose notebook paper – no college ruled
24 #2 Ticonderoga pencils
Large eraser
6 plastic folders : (1 red, 1 blue, 1 green, 1 yellow with 3 prongs, 1 purple, 1 any design)
Colored pencils 24 count
Large box of tissues

Fourth Grade continued....

Pointed stainless steel scissors
8 ball point red ink pens
1 roll scotch tape
2 black Sharpies
6 wide tip highlighters (2 pink, 2 green, 2 yellow)
*1 Ear Buds (open, fit to child & label) (technology room)
*6 glue sticks (art room supply)
** 2 - #2 pencils (music room supply)