

# MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL

## STUDENT HANDBOOK

8515 Old Mount Vernon Road  
Alexandria, VA 22309

Main Office: (703) 619-3100

Fax: (703) 619-3197

FCPS Security Tip Line: (703) 658-3636

Student Activities Hotline: (703) 827-6000

[www.fcps.edu/MtVernonHS](http://www.fcps.edu/MtVernonHS)

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## GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

### HISTORY

Mount Vernon High School, originally located on Richmond Highway, opened its doors in the fall of 1939. There were 447 students and 15 teachers. Over the years the school enlarged to meet the needs of the growing student body and expanded educational programs. In the summer of 1973, Mount Vernon High School moved to its present location at 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. The 2010-2011 projected enrollment is 1830 with a professional staff of 155. The building has a capacity of 2200 students.

Highlights of Mount Vernon High School include faculty and academic programs that are easily adaptable to the diverse needs of the students. There are self-contained and open classrooms for English, mathematics, and social studies, several computer labs; art, photography, and computer graphics labs; a little theater, and a field house with seating capacity of 4000. Students are enrolled in courses of study leading to the International Baccalaureate diploma, advanced placement at universities, and successful entry into a variety of technical and service careers.

The school colors, maroon and gray, and our nickname MAJORS, were selected by the athletic boosters in 1945 as a tribute to Lawrence Washington, the builder of Mount Vernon. Mr. Steinbach, the bandmaster, wrote our Alma Mater in 1949.

### ALMA MATER

Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon, we sing to thee  
Your spirit and honor humble and free  
Our Praise to you we sing;  
Your bells of Truth shall ring;  
Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon, praises to thee we sing!

### MOTTO

#### A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

### VISION

MVHS prepares its culturally diverse student body for the future through a rigorous course of study in a positive and supportive environment. MVHS graduates are lifelong learners who are prepared to live in and contribute to a global society.

### MISSION

MVHS inspires, enables and empowers students within a culture of excellence to meet high academic standards, lead ethical lives, and demonstrate responsible citizenship.

### CORE VALUES

We believe in academic excellence.

- Students reach their full academic potential by pursuing a rigorous academic program.
- Faculty and staff work collaboratively using best practices in an environment of trust to maximize the learning experiences of the students.
- The community is both recipient and contributor to the academic program and a strong partnership is essential to promote student learning.

We believe in building relationships.

- Students appreciate diversity and honor self and others through words and actions
- Faculty and staff demonstrate fairness in judgments and actions with all students and with each other.
- Community members are involved and informed ambassadors for MVHS.

We believe in citizenship and character.

- Students learn, internalize, and practice skills and ethics necessary to become responsible citizens.
- Faculty and staff are role models of ethical behavior.
- A dynamic partnership among students, parents, teachers and staff members, and the community is critical in developing responsible citizens and future leaders.

## ORGANIZATION

Mount Vernon High School is organized into four subschools. Students are assigned to subschools by grade level. Each subschool is staffed by an administrator and an administrative assistant. Together with the school counselors, they assist students with matters relating to guidance, attendance, discipline, and administrative details.

<b>Principal</b> Nardos E. King	(703) 619-3103 Karen Mitchem, Administrative Assistant
<b>Subschool I 9<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> Johnny Pope, Principal	(703) 619-3275 Susan Mosser, Administrative Assistant
<b>Subschool II 10<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> Esther Manns, Principal	(703) 619-3250 Mary Beth Jordan, Administrative Assistant
<b>Subschool III 11<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> Patricia Dutchie, Principal	(703) 619-3225 Beth Beaulieu, Administrative Assistant
<b>Subschool IV 12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> Mark Sewell, Principal	(703) 619-3200 Patricia Sabbahi, Administrative Assistant
<b>Comprehensive Services Site</b> Mary Beth Harrison-Cunningham, Principal	(703) 619-3300 Lori Douglas, Administrative Assistant
<b>International Baccalaureate Diploma Program</b> Daniel Coast, IB Diploma Coordinator Karen Hertel, IB MYP Coordinator	(703) 619-3285 (703) 619-3138
<b>Student Activities</b> Bob Maxey, Director Tony Garza, Assistant Director	(703) 619-3140 Marsha Spillars, Administrative Assistant (703) 619-3142
<b>Main Office</b>	(703) 619-3100 Karen Heroth, Administrative Assistant (703) 619-3102 Bridgette Hamilton, Office Assistant
<b>Finance</b>	(703) 619-3115 Michelle Brown, Finance Technician
<b>Student Services</b> Malicia Braxton, Director	(703) 619-3112 Linda Alvarez, Administrative Assistant
<b>School Counselors and Office Locations</b>	
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselors</b>	
<b>A – Jo</b> Carmon Golden (SS III)	(703) 619-3253
<b>JP – Z</b> Linda Romanchok (SS III)	(703) 619-3136
<b>10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	
<b>A – Con</b> Matthew Beck (SS IV)	(703) 619-3279
<b>Coo – Hai</b> Margaret Stasikowski (SS IV)	(703) 619-3254
<b>Haj – Med</b> Rachel Margolis (SS I)	(703) 619-3255
<b>Mee – Ruf</b> Toni Jones Newton (SS I)	(703) 619-3233
<b>Rug – Z</b> Colleen Hanrahan (SS II)	(703) 619-3280
<b>CSS</b>	
<b>A - Z</b> Virginia Justis (CSS)	(703) 619-3308
<b>Career Center Specialist</b> Audrey Jones	(703) 619-3118
<b>Clinicians</b>	
Greg Bolton, School Psychologist	(703) 619-3258
Lea Gaffen, Social Worker	(703) 619-3208
Stephanie Hart, Speech and Language Clinician	(703) 619-3262

Rebecca Bonsall, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Clinician (703) 619-3271  
 Katie Baskinski, CSS Social Worker (703) 619-3304  
 Ryan Dickerson, CSS Psychologist (703) 619-3305  
 Virginia Dixon, CSS Psychologist (703) 619-3333

**Parent Liaisons**

Gisele Gray (703) 619-3213  
 Ana Ventura (703) 619-3228

**Security**

Bill Lawson, Safety and Security Specialist (703) 619-3105  
 Janice Ashley, Safety and Security Assistant  
 Danny Hill, Safety and Security Assistant  
 Eric Rowland, Safety and Security Assistant

Officer Fred Kessel, School Resource Officer

**DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT SERVICES  
 GUIDANCE PROGRAM**

The Student Services Office, located in the main office suite, is responsible for providing academic and personal guidance and counseling, scheduling, testing, registering new students, maintaining student records, and grading and reporting. Counselors are available for individual and group sessions with students. When intensive counseling is indicated, referrals are made to the appropriate resources. Counselors assist students in selecting their high school academic programs and in developing post high school plans.

Students may request a conference with their counselor by filling out a form in the sub school office before or after school, or between classes. Except in emergencies or by pre-arrangement, students are not to leave a class to see a counselor. Counselors will send a pass to the teacher when they request release of a student for counseling.

Parents are encouraged to call the school at (703) 619-3100 to arrange a conference or discuss their concerns. Parent-teacher conferences are arranged through the appropriate counselor. Conferences are generally held during the teacher’s unencumbered period, before school, or immediately after school.

**INTERIM REPORTS**

Interim reports are mailed to the homes of all students just after the mid-point in each grading period. Because there is a direct relationship between attendance, punctuality, behavior, and achievement, this report is an attempt to improve communication and provide timely information to parents. It is hoped that the information noted on the interim report will assist parents in guiding their student through high school.

**REPORT CARDS**

Report cards are prepared quarterly by automatic data processing. Report cards are mailed approximately seven days after the close of each nine-week period. The report cards give grades, attendance, and other pertinent information for each class.

**INCOMPLETE GRADES**

A student with excused absences for more than half of a grading period will receive an incomplete for the grading period, unless the student is new to Fairfax County Public Schools and has a previous grade for an equivalent course.

A student who is absent for extended periods of time and whose absence is excused will be given the opportunity to make up the work and have the incomplete changed to a grade. A student receiving an incomplete for a grading period has until the end of the next grading period to convert the incomplete mark to an earned mark. Students may not receive an incomplete for a final grade.

**GRADING POLICY**

Grades indicate the level of student achievement in accordance with the program of study and curriculum guide objectives in each course. An additional 0.5 quality point can be earned for IB courses.

The Fairfax County Public School secondary grading system follows:

Symbol	Scale	Quality Points	Symbol	Scale	Quality Points
A	93-100	4.0	C	73-76	2.0
A-	90-92	3.7	C-	70-72	1.7
B+	87-89	3.3	D+	67-69	1.3
B	83-86	3.0	D	64-66	1.0
B-	80-82	2.7	F	below 64	0.0
C+	77-79	2.3			

Teachers will post their grading procedure in their class syllabus. Quality points are used to determine a student's Grade Point Average (GPA).

Final grades for full-year courses are based on four quarter grades and a final exam grade. The final exam may count a maximum of one-fifth of the final grade. The SOL test score may also be used in calculating the final grade.

#### REQUEST FOR PASS/FAIL STATUS

1. With parental/guardian approval, any high school student shall be given the option of taking one elective credit per year to be marked on a pass-fail basis. This may be applied to required physical education credits, foreign language credits, and to credits other than those required for English, social studies, mathematics, and laboratory science.

2. Students should obtain the form for requesting pass-fail from their counselor. The form must be completed and returned before the 22<sup>nd</sup> school day for a full-year course and the 11<sup>th</sup> day for a semester course. This decision may not be reversed.

#### HONOR ROLL

Students who exhibit mastery of their courses, as demonstrated by their quarterly grades, are recognized each quarter on the Class Honor Roll. In order to make the Honor Roll, students must receive all "A's" (to include and A-) or all A's and B's (to include and A-, B+, and B-). Students who earn a grade of "I" (incomplete) will not be eligible for honor roll during the quarter for which the work is not complete.

#### COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER

Career planning is an important facet of a student's high school education. The Fairfax County Public Schools career education guidance program integrates from Kindergarten through Grade 12 developmental activities designed to help achieve program of studies objectives and to enrich the study of each subject area. A parallel series of activities integrates career education into the guidance program; thus, counselors and teachers, through coordinated efforts, affect the career education guidance programs.

The College and Career Center is open during school hours from 7:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, as well as by appointment. Catalogs from over 500 colleges and universities are available, as well as computer-generated queries for colleges, careers, scholarship information, and test preparation. There are files with materials on over 1,000 occupations. In addition, there are college yearbooks, handbooks on vocational and technical schools, occupational pamphlets, U.S. government publications on job information, scholarship information for colleges, entrance requirements for the service academies and ROTC programs, and service recruitment. Throughout the school year, college and military recruiters visit the Center to talk with students. The College and Career Center also provides a job opportunity board for students looking for part-time work in the community.

#### PARENT VIEW

Parents are encouraged to log onto Blackboard and access the Parent View in order to learn more about their child's post high school plan. Parent View is a portal to Counselor's Office, a program all parents will find very useful. For more information about this program, please contact your child's counselor.

#### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Four diplomas will be available to students at Mount Vernon: the Standard Diploma, the Advanced Studies Diploma, the Modified Standard Diploma, and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. In addition, students who graduate with at least a "B" average or better and complete at least one IB or college-level course will also receive a Governor's Seal on the diploma.

	<b>Standard</b>	<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Modified*</b>
English	4 units	4 units	4 units
Mathematics	3 units <sup>1</sup>	4 units <sup>1</sup>	3 units <sup>2</sup>
Laboratory Sciences	3 units <sup>3</sup>	4 units <sup>3</sup>	2 units <sup>3</sup>
History and Social Sciences	4 units <sup>4</sup>	4 units <sup>4</sup>	2 units <sup>5</sup>
Health and Physical Education	2 units	2 units	2 units
Fine Arts or Practical Arts	1 unit	1 unit	1 unit
Foreign Language	---	3 units <sup>6</sup>	---
Electives	5 units <sup>7</sup>	2 units	6 units <sup>7</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>22 units</b>	<b>24 units</b>	<b>20 units</b>

**VERIFIED CREDIT/GRADUATION REQUIREMENT REPORT**

Modified Diploma	Standard Diploma	Advanced Diploma	SUBJECT
(1)			English 8
(1)			Math 8
	2	2	English: Writing (11)
			English Reading: Literature & Research (11)
	1	2	Algebra 1
			Geometry
			Algebra 2
	1	2	Earth Science/Geosystems
			Biology
			Chemistry
	1	2	World History/Geography 1
			World History/Geography 2
		U.S. History	
1	1	Student Selected Test(s)	
<b>Total (2)</b>	<b>Total 6</b>	<b>Total 9</b>	

\* The Modified Standard Diploma is intended for certain students who have a disability and are unlikely to meet the credit requirements for a Standard Diploma. Eligibility and participation in this program shall be determined by the student's Individual Education Program (IEP) team after the student's eighth grade year.

**SCHEDULE CHANGES**

Under normal circumstances, schedule changes are only made to correct errors that may have occurred during the scheduling process, to remove a student from the class of a teacher with whom he or she has experienced previous failure (if possible), or to reduce overcrowding. Other schedule changes will be made only after consulting the involved student, parent, teacher and administrator. A student-initiated or parent-initiated request for change of teacher will require a conference with student, parent, teacher from whose class the student requests withdrawal, and appropriate administrator. The administrator will make the final decision.

Students who wish to request a change should obtain a "Schedule Change Form" from their guidance counselor or from their subschool.

**GUIDELINES FOR DROPPING CLASSES**

A student must have administrative approval and written parental permission in order to drop a class. If a student drops a course during the:

1 <sup>st</sup>	QUARTER	No penalty- nothing is recorded
2 <sup>nd</sup>	QUARTER	WP (withdrawn passing) or WF (withdrawn failing)*
3 <sup>rd</sup>	QUARTER	WP or WF
4 <sup>th</sup>	QUARTER	WP or F.*

\*A student who has a passing grade may not withdraw during the terminating quarter of the course. In addition, for semester courses, a WP or F for failure is recorded.

NOTE:

- For the first grading period only, a student will have five days after the date on which report cards are sent home in which to drop a course without having a grade recorded.
- Courses dropped will not be counted in class rank except when an F is received:
  - For the fourth grading period of a full-year course.
  - For the second grading period of a semester course.

## **GUIDELINES FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL**

Students withdrawing from Mount Vernon High School during the school year must attend all classes on their last day at Mount Vernon High School. This is necessary to return textbooks and receive documentation from the teacher of their current academic status. Students will not be permitted to interrupt classes to obtain this information from the teacher.

## **INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM**

### **IB DIPLOMA PROGRAM**

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program is an internationally recognized program of studies, which is available to highly motivated 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders at Mount Vernon High School. This program is rigorous and rewarding. The IB comprises a holistic philosophy of learning that seeks to address the intellectual, philosophical and social development of the student. The program is open to highly motivated students who have met course prerequisites. Students may choose to participate in the full diploma track in pursuit of the IB Diploma or they may prefer the certificate track and take a few IB classes and exams. The IB Diploma is awarded after the successful completion of a two-year program across disciplines, the components of which are:

- Successful completion of six academic courses in different subject areas
- Completion of an external examination in each area
- Participation in the CAS (Creativity, Action, and Service) Program
- Enrollment in the Theory of Knowledge course
- Completion of an Extended Essay in an area of interest to the student

All U.S. colleges and universities have extended advanced standing recognition to the diploma and to the subject certificates earned in partial fulfillment of it. Good IB exam scores can earn college credit or allow you to be granted waivers on some core college classes. See your counselor and the IB Diploma Coordinator, Dan Coast, if you are interested in the IB program.

### **IB MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAM**

The ninth and tenth grade classes incorporate the ideas from the IB Middle Years Program. Students who attended Whitman for eighth grade have already been exposed to the concepts. Students can receive the IB MYP Certificate at the end of their sophomore year. Interested students need to sign up for this program at the beginning of their freshman year and then commit to completing the MYP Certificate requirements. Specifically, students must complete 30 hours of community service each year, complete a personal project, take a foreign language and choose from a list of electives to receive this academic reward. Contact Karen Hertel for more information.

## **GENERAL STUDENT INFORMATION**

### **ATTENDANCE POLICIES**

#### **General**

Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive for each class on time. Students shall follow their assigned daily schedules unless properly excused by the principal or authorized representative. Each student shall provide a satisfactory written explanation from his or her parent or guardian for any absence from class and for the release of the student from school during the school day. Principals may at their discretion accept a personal or telephone contact with the parent or guardian in lieu of a written excuse for a student's absence. Justifiable absences include those due to illness of the student, death in the family, medical or dental appointment, personal religious obligations, or other reasons acceptable to the principal. The current version of Regulation 2234 provides additional details.

#### **Unexcused Absences, Class Cuts, and Tardies**

An unexcused absence is one for which the parent or guardian does not have prior knowledge, consent and/or legitimate reason. When a student is absent without prior communication between the parent or guardian and the school, school personnel will notify the parent or guardian and take appropriate action based on the individual circumstances. Students are not allowed to enter class tardy without a pass from an administrator, counselor or other authorized person. The students are sent to the appropriate Subschool where they receive a pass to class. School attendance is required by law, as outlined in the Code of Virginia. Absences and tardies will be addressed by individual interventions with progressive consequences for students.

Students are fully responsible for completing any missed assignments. Teachers may assist the student and parent or guardian in identifying missed work, but are not obligated to provide make-up assignments.

#### **All-Day Absences**

Whenever any student accumulates a total of five unexcused days of absence in a school year, the school will refer the student to the attendance officer, and a plan to resolve the nonattendance will be developed. If an additional unexcused absence occurs in the same school

year, a conference will be scheduled. If a further unexcused absence occurs in the school year, the attendance officer will file a complaint with the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court as described in Section 22.1-258 of the Code of Virginia.

### BELL SCHEDULE

Warning Bell				7:13 am
1 <sup>st</sup> Block				7:20 - 8:48 am
2 <sup>nd</sup> Block				8:53 - 10:18 am
3 <sup>rd</sup> Block				10:23 - 12:35 pm
A lunch 10:23 - 10:53	B class 10:23 - 10:53	C class 10:23 - 11:27	D class 10:23 - 12:01	
A class 10:57 - 12:35	B lunch 10:57 - 11:27	C lunch 11:31 - 12:01	D lunch 12:05 - 12:35	
B class 11:31 - 12:35				C class 12:05 - 12:35
4th Block				12:40 - 2:05 pm
Buses Depart				2:15 pm
<b>2 HOUR DELAY SCHEDULE</b>				
Warning Bell				8:13 am
1 <sup>st</sup> Block				8:20 - 9:28 am
2 <sup>nd</sup> Block				9:33 - 10:38 am
3 <sup>rd</sup> Block				10:43 - 12:55 pm
A lunch 10:43 - 11:13	B class 10:43 - 11:13	C class 10:43 - 11:47	D class 10:43 - 12:21	
A class 11:17 - 12:55	B lunch 11:17 - 11:47	C lunch 11:51 - 12:21	D lunch 12:45 - 1:10	
B class 11:51 - 12:55				C class 12:25 - 12:55
4 <sup>th</sup> Block				1:00 - 2:05 pm
Buses Depart				2:15 pm
<b>3 HOUR DELAY SCHEDULE</b>				
Warning Bell				9:13 am
1 <sup>st</sup> Block				9:20 - 10:15 am
2 <sup>nd</sup> Block				10:20 - 11:10 am
3 <sup>rd</sup> Block				11:15 - 1:10 pm
A lunch 11:15 - 11:40	B class 11:15 - 11:40	C class 11:15 - 12:10	D class 11:15 - 12:40	
A class 11:45 - 1:10	B lunch 11:45 - 12:10	C lunch 12:15 - 12:40	D lunch 12:45 - 1:10	
B class 12:15 - 1:10				C class 12:45 - 1:10
4th Block				1:15 - 2:05 pm
Buses Depart				2:15 pm

### CAFETERIA

The Mount Vernon High School lunch period is divided into A, B, C and D lunch shifts (see bell schedule). Students attend lunch during their 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> period classes. Because lunch assignments are determined by room location, it is possible that a student will be assigned to two different lunch periods, each on a different day (example, on an Odd day a student may have A lunch and on an Even day B lunch). All food must be consumed in the cafeteria. Lunch cards are available for students who wish to purchase meals using a check, or for multiple meal purchases.

### DRESS CODE

All students are expected to dress appropriately for a K-12 educational environment. Any clothing that interferes with or disrupts the educational environment is unacceptable. Clothing with language or images that are vulgar, discriminatory, or obscene or clothing that promotes illegal or violent conduct, such as the unlawful use of weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or drug paraphernalia, or clothing that contains threats such as gang symbols is prohibited. (See page 13, section II.A.2.k. for additional information regarding gang-related clothing.) Clothing should fit, be neat and clean, and conform to standards of safety, good taste, and decency. Clothing that exposes cleavage, private parts, the midriff, or undergarments, or that is otherwise sexually provocative, is prohibited. Examples of prohibited clothing include, but are not limited to: sagging or low-cut pants, skirts/dresses/shorts shorter than three inches above the knee, any pants that have holes or tears in them that are located three inches above the knee, low-cut necklines that show cleavage, tube tops, halter tops, backless blouses or blouses with only ties in the back, studded belts, chain belts, clothing constructed of see-through material, pajamas (to include bedroom slippers), and head coverings unless required for religious or medical purposes.

Athletic attire not in accordance with these standards may only be worn by students while they are participating in physical education classes and other athletic events, not at other times during the school day.

Parents of students requiring accommodation for religious beliefs, disabilities, or other good causes should contact the principal. **Students not complying with this code will be asked to cover the non-complying clothing, change clothes, or go home. Repeated infractions will result in disciplinary action.** The current version of Regulation 2613 provides additional details.

**The following are prohibited** while inside the school building or while participating in authorized school activities:

- Pants that have holes or tears located three inches above the knee.
- Bare feet.
- Clothing that is too tight or too loose so as to be immodest.
- Sagging pants (worn below the waistline).
- Skirts/dresses/shorts shorter than three inches above the knee.
- Clothing that is transparent or has holes that may expose the seat or parts of the body unique to the male or female.
- Clothing that advocates or depicts illegal or violent conduct, such as the unlawful use of weapons, alcohol, drugs, tobacco or tobacco products.
- Clothing that contains inflammatory, vulgar or suggestive writing, slogans, pictures, or emblems.
- Studded belts, chain belts
- Pajamas (to include bedroom slippers)
- Clothing that contains threats, such as gang symbols.
- Tank tops, sleeveless T-shirts, spaghetti straps, halter tops, backless blouses, strapless blouses or dresses, clothing exposing the midriff.
- Hats, caps, skullcaps, sunglasses, combs, picks, bandannas, etc. (Items subject to confiscation) Exception: Headwear customarily recognized for its religious significance.
- Clothing or articles that may indicate membership in a gang.

Any other clothing that is disruptive to the educational process.

#### **FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION**

In 1988, the State Board of Education established regulations to support the legislative mandate that each school division offer a comprehensive, sequential Family Life Education (FLE) program. An opt-out regulation is available for those families who wish to exclude their children from all or any part of the FLE program identified for each grade level. In compliance with the state mandate, each student will be included in these FLE lessons this school year unless the family requests otherwise. To exclude a student from any part(s) or the entire program, the family must complete, sign and return the opt-out form to the school. All instructional units are available in the school library for parent review. The FLE programs are offered through the Health, Biology I, and US/VA History and Government classes.

#### **FIRE DRILLS**

During fire drills all students and faculty are required to leave the building and report to their designated areas outside the building. Each classroom and office should have a map directing you to your outside location. Once outside, attendance will be taken. If a student was away from their class at the time of the alarm and unable to exit to the area of their class, they should report their attendance to a staff member at that location. False alarm pulls are a violation of the law and cause inconvenience on both the school and public safety officials. Offenders will be disciplined by the school and prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

#### **HEALTH ROOM**

Students requiring medication during school hours must obtain authorization from the health department's physician through the school nurse. Necessary forms are available in the health room and must be completed by a parent/guardian and physician and approved prior to administration. THE HEALTH ROOM DOES NOT SUPPLY MEDICINE (INCLUDING ASPIRIN AND CALAMINE LOTION). Students are not permitted to go to the health room during class changes, except in emergencies. A pass from class must be obtained from the teacher and presented to the nurse/health room aide before the student can be admitted to the health room. Students will not be allowed to re-enter/enter class without a pass signed by the nurse/health room aide. Students who are sent home from the health room will appear on the daily absentee list. Students who visit the health room without adequate cause will be brought to the attention of guidance and the teachers involved. If a student wishes to go to the health room, a health room pass is obtained from the classroom teacher. Health room passes are required. If there is no one in the health room, the student is to report to his/her subschool. The health room is not permitted to dispense medicine unless the student's doctor specifically requests the health room aide to administer medication. In addition to the doctor's written authorization, a parental release form must be on file in the health room for each prescription. Forms may be obtained from the health room or by downloading the forms at [www.fcps.edu/forms.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/forms.htm). (See authorization for medication)

### HONOR CODE

I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid on any test, quiz, research paper, lab or any other student-generated work as long as I am enrolled at this or any other academic institution.

### LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER

The Mount Vernon Library Media Center has resources to help you find the information and answers you need. We can even help you find a good book to read!

Below are the basics – hours, loan period, etc... - come by to see what we have to offer and say hello.

*Hours:* The Media Center is open to students from 7:00am - 3:15pm Monday and from 7:00am – 2:15pm Tuesday through Friday.

*Loan Period:* Books are checked out for a three-week period; reference books may not be checked out. Books may be renewed for as long as needed, but we may ask you to bring the book back if another patron requests the book. Overdue notices are given to students monthly.

*Lost Books:* If a book is lost, the student is required to pay the replacement cost of the book.

*Online Resources:* For more details about library policies and resources, as well as the link to the online catalog for the MVHS library, go to: <http://www.fcps.edu/MtVernonHS> and click on the **Media Center**.

*Passes:* Teachers will give passes to students to be excused from the classroom. This will be up to the judgment of the teacher. If teachers send more than four students, notify the librarian in advance. Students may use the library during lunch periods only if they have obtained a pass from a teacher or a librarian in advance. Students must obtain Major Time passes in advance in order to use the library during Major Time.

### LOCKERS

Students are assigned lockers within or near their subschool, provided they do not have any outstanding fines or other incomplete obligations. Students are expected to arrive to class prepared for instruction. Students should be aware that school lockers are subject to search at any time based on concerns regarding health or safety. Additionally, students should be aware that they are responsible for any items contained in the locker that has been assigned to them. Sharing of lockers is not permitted. **Violation of this rule will result in loss of locker privileges. Students will be fined \$20.00 at the end of the year if lockers are not cleaned out.**

### RESIDENT AND NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

A student is considered a resident only if he/she is living in Fairfax County with his/her parent(s). Any student who is not a resident may be admitted to membership only on 1) written approval of the Office of the Superintendent, and/or 2) payment of non-resident tuition which is established by the school board.

### SNOW DAY POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, school delays and cancellations are broadcast on all local television and radio stations and are flashed on cable channel 21. Please do not call the school. Due to our use of the block schedule, missed days due to weather do not change our schedule. For example, if the snow day occurs on an Odd day, and the next day of school is an Even day; students will attend their Even classes. In the event of a number of missed days of one type, changes may be made at the end of the quarter.

### STUDENT INSURANCE

Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the medical and dental insurance plans available. Specific information, including cost, will be distributed to students at the beginning of the school year.

### STUDENT PARKING

According to Fairfax County School Board Policy, the use of the student parking lot is considered a privilege which is extended primarily to students on work study programs, on short schedules, living outside Mount Vernon boundaries, engaged in athletics, or considered hardship cases. A student must appear in person to register a car and to request permission to drive to school. The fee for registration is \$200.00 per year. Students must park their cars in the areas designated by the administration. A set of rules will be given to each student and failure to comply with the rules will void the parking privilege. The sale of parking permits will be coordinated through the Safety and Security Administrator.

### VEHICLE VIOLATIONS

Unauthorized parking without permit:	No warning/booted
Unauthorized parking in faculty/visitor space:	No warning/booted
Speeding or reckless driving:	Loss of driving/ parking privilege
Boot removal fee:	\$25.00 plus any outstanding fines

In lieu of or in addition to the above, a student may receive a violation as listed below with fines as indicated:

Failure to display permit:	..... \$5.00
Parked in Visitor/Faculty/Reserved Space, Bus Lane or Student Drop-off Lane:	..... \$25.00

All fines must be paid within five (5) school days after the date of issue. Unpaid fines will be charged to the student's account with the School Finance Technician and must be paid prior to the issuance of graduation cap and gown.

## **STUDENT PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Fairfax County Public Schools does not assume responsibility for the personal property of students and does not purchase insurance for their property. Students and their parents are urged, therefore, to consider carefully the types and value of property that students take to school. Items of significant monetary or sentimental value are strongly discouraged, including certain types of apparel, jewelry and electronic devices.

With regard to items that are relevant to the instructional program and that students take to school to share with a class, parents/guardians and students should give consideration to the value of the property relative to the limited storage and security that is available in schools. This is not intended to discourage the sharing of materials that enhance the instructional program but to urge appropriate consideration of what is taken to school. The same consideration should be given to personal property brought to extracurricular activities, including musical instruments. Teachers and staff members will not store the personal items of students.

Staff and administrators who confiscate student personal property because student possession or use violates FCPS regulations or local school rules (e.g. a cell phone, iPod, PSP) shall take every available precaution to protect that property until its dispersal can be determined. The school principal has discretion to determine whether a banned item may or may not be returned to a student or to his or her parent/guardian.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Daily bus service is provided for all high school students living in excess of one and one-half miles from the school.

## **VISITORS**

Mount Vernon High School is a model for other schools and school systems. Our many successful programs have piqued the interest of other educational personnel. As a result, we receive a number of visitors during the school day. While we try to accommodate our guests, we are in the business of educating our children and this business comes first.

Student visitors, social, and/or casual visitors are not permitted in the school building during school.

Parents/guardians are welcome during the school day, but they must sign in and receive a visitor's pass in the main office. Parents/guardians who desire to visit a class or classes where their child is in attendance may do so by making application through the appropriate counselor who will obtain the approval of the appropriate subschool principal 48 hours in advance. A copy of the authorization shall be forwarded to each teacher, the main office, and to the Safety and Security Administrator. In addition to wearing the visitor pass the parent/guardian MUST have in his/her possession a copy of the approved application.

Visitors must understand that the pass they are issued must be worn until they exit the building. The pass is issued to the visitor to go to an approved location. The pass does not allow the visitor to tour the building or to go to any other location other than that indicated on the pass. Parents/guardians are not allowed to go to a student's classroom, the cafeteria, etc., for personal reasons. In the event of an emergency, the student will be brought by security to the main office to meet with the parent/guardian. Unauthorized visitors are subject to criminal prosecution for trespassing.

## **WORK PERMITS**

Until a student is sixteen (16) years old, he/she needs a work permit for employment. After the job is obtained, the student may obtain the necessary forms from the main office. Three forms are necessary: one to be filled out and signed by the employer, one to be filled out and signed by the parent/guardian (in the presence of the issuing officer or notary), and one for the student to sign after completion by the issuing officer. After completion of all three forms a copy is given to the student to be returned to the employer. The returned form is considered the "work permit".

## **OFFICE OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS**

### **ELIGIBILITY FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

Mount Vernon High School sponsors 33 athletic teams for boys and girls. Participation requires each student athlete to complete the Virginia High School League eligibility form, which includes a doctor's physical. ALL STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WILL BE REQUIRED TO SIGN THE PARTICIPATION PLEDGE TO REMAIN ALCOHOL AND DRUG FREE. Interested individuals should contact the respective coaches or the Director of Student Activities office for starting practice dates and times. All student athletes must have the completed physical form as well as well as emergency care card on file prior to beginning practice.

### **NCAA ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

Students interested in playing at the college level Division I or Division II sports should contact their coach and their counselor to begin processing the NCAA Clearinghouse eligibility form. Visit [www.dynamitesports.com](http://www.dynamitesports.com)  
Username: fcpsports Password: athletes for additional information regarding college athletics.

### **ADMISSION - ATHLETIC EVENTS**

Tickets to all Mount Vernon High School athletic events are \$5. Admission to District Tournament events are \$6 and Regional events are \$7.

## **ACTIVITIES/CLUBS**

Mount Vernon High School offers a wide variety of clubs and activities for the student body. Additional information, including qualifications for membership, application information, and application deadline dates are available in the student government office. All students will be afforded the same opportunity to participate in activities for which they are eligible. Students will be required to sign the Participation Pledge to remain alcohol and drug free during their club/activity membership. Students who need financial assistance in order to participate in an activity should discuss this with their counselor.

#### STUDENT OBLIGATIONS

**Any student, who owes money to Mount Vernon High School because of fees and/or fines, will not be permitted to participate in extra-curricular activities until the debt is paid in full.**

## GO MAJORS!

### CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

#### PERFORMING ARTS

Band—Richard Bacz  
Choral—Judi Belzer  
Drama—Elizabeth De Marco  
Orchestra—Timothy Gaffga

#### PUBLICATIONS

Em Vee Hi—Terry Donohue  
El Punto Latino - TBA  
Pen & Palette—Kathleen Powers  
Yearbook / Surveyor—Rashida Johnson

#### HONOR SOCIETIES

English Honor Society— Kristen Bosch  
French National Honor Society—TBA  
German National Honor Society—TBA  
History Honor Society – Anna Rippy  
International Thespian Society—Elizabeth De Marco  
National Business Honor Society—Gloria Adams  
National Honor Society—Dan Coast, Karen Hertel  
Mathematics National Honor Society—Danette Short  
Science National Honor Society—Cameron Rohrkemper  
Spanish National Honor Society –TBA  
Quill and Scroll – Katherine Allen  
Tri-M Honor Music Society—Judi Belzer

#### OTHER CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Class of 2011—Jard Shoemake, Tracey Vasques  
Class of 2012—Brian Oliver  
Class of 2013—TBA  
Class of 2014—TBA  
Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco Kill (ADTK)—TBA  
Art Club – Chris Klinke  
Brown Bag Book Club – Kathleen Powers, Anne McCracken  
Chess Club – Adam Cahuantzi  
Creativity Action Service—Phil Myers  
Dance Team – CaSandra Davis-Perrilliat  
Debate and Forensics—Ken Mussen  
DECA- TBA  
Ecology Club—Amy Bedell  
Engineering & Robotics Club – D. Dilts, C. Sabatier  
F.B.L.A. -- Berkeley McHugh, Pete Sienkiewicz, Gloria Adams  
FCA—Ryan Dickerson  
FCCLA—Beverly Card  
FEA—Beverly Card  
Gay & Straight Alliance-Suzanne Clark  
German Club—TBA  
It's Academic—Mitch Luxenburg  
Math Team – Danette Short

JV Math Team—Dottie Dilts  
Honor Court – Jan Warner  
Kinetic Style Crew-Irvin Kalugdan  
Math Team—Danette Short  
Key Club—TBA  
Project Discovery Club – Margaret Stasikowski  
Ritmo Latino (Latin Dance) - TBA  
S.A.C. — Melinda Bloomquist-Charley Sabatier  
SGA—Melinda Bloomquist-Charley Sabatier  
Video Production—Kathleen Powers  
Young Democrats—Suzanne Clark/Jane Harper  
Young Republicans—Pete Sienkiewicz

#### **THE ACADEMIC LETTER AWARD**

To qualify for this award, the student must have achieved a 3.75 grade point average for the preceding school year at Mount Vernon High School. All courses taken during the year are used in computing the GPA.

#### **HONOR SOCIETIES**

This is a summary of the honor societies at Mount Vernon High School. Additional membership criteria and applications should be obtained from the faculty sponsor and student officers. The national organizations also offer award recognition and scholarships to members. Memberships in an honor society result from a student having demonstrated scholarship, character, leadership, citizenship, and service. Membership is an important inclusion on applications for colleges and jobs.

##### **National Honor Society**

Membership in the National Honor Society is based on scholarship, character, leadership, citizenship, and service. A candidate is eligible in his/her sophomore, junior or senior year and is informed by his/her counselor of this eligibility. A candidate must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5. Candidates are nominated on the basis of scholarship; however, the candidate must complete a membership form which provides evidence of meeting the criteria and interest in becoming a member. Continuing membership has a school service requirement. In order to retain membership, members must also continue to show evidence of scholarship, character, leadership, and service.

##### **English Honor Society**

The MVHS EHS seeks to promote and recognize literary excellence, to confer distinction upon outstanding students of English language and literature, to promote participation in community literary events and publications, promote exemplary character and good fellowship, and to foster an interest in English, literature, and the humanities. At the time of selection, meet the following qualifications:  
3.5 grade point average in all English department classes (weighted for IB).  
Junior or Senior at Mount Vernon High School.  
Rank in top 35% of the class.  
Recommendation of at least one English teacher.  
Minimum of 12 community service hours involving reading, writing or literacy projects.  
Submission to at least one writing contest per semester.  
Submission to at least two school- or community-based publications per year (one per semester).  
Participation in quarterly book discussion group.  
Regular attendance at MVHS EHS meetings and events.

##### **French National Honor Society**

Membership shall be based on scholarship in general and scholarship in French in particular, leadership in French activities and interests, either in a group or as an individual.  
The candidate must be in the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> grade of high school and enrolled in the second semester of Level III or above if the high school offers 5 years of the language.  
The candidate must have spent one full semester in the high school before becoming eligible.  
The candidate must have maintained an A- or higher average in French during the three (3) semesters preceding selection as well as a cumulative semester average qualifying the candidate to be on the A-B Honor Roll at the time of induction.  
Only students currently studying French may serve as officers.  
Tutoring French students needing help is a national requirement for membership.

##### **German National Honor Society**

The purpose of the organization is to recognize high scholastic attainment in the study of German and to promote interest in the study of German language, literature, culture and civilization.  
The candidate must have completed three semesters of German.  
The candidate must have attained an average of 3.6 in German (on a 4.0 scale) and an overall GPA of 3.0 during the three semesters.

##### **Mathematics National Honor Society**

### **Mu Alpha Theta**

Any senior enrolled in an academic mathematics course with a cumulative 3.5 GPA in mathematics is eligible.

### **National Art Honor Society**

The purpose of the society shall be to recognize those students who have shown outstanding ability in art and to increase an awareness of art in relation to other areas of the school curriculum.

Membership shall be based upon art scholarship, service and character.

A candidate must have been enrolled in art in this school for a period of one semester.

Candidates eligible for selection must be in the sophomore, junior or senior year and shall have a minimum B average in art scholarship. This level of achievement shall remain fixed.

### **National Business Honor Society**

This National Organization recognizes the scholastic ability and professional attitudes of students enrolled in business courses in the junior and senior year. Membership is by application and then invitation.

Juniors may apply for probationary membership if they meet the following requirements:

Be enrolled in a full year or a two-semester business subject during the junior year.

Have a general scholastic average of 2.8 through the first quarter of the junior year documented by a counselor's signature on the application form.

Have a 3.0 average in all business subjects completed or in which presently enrolled documented by a teacher's signature on the application.

Meet the requirements of a professional attitude as determined by the chapter advisor.

Seniors may apply for active membership without having been probationary members if they meet the following requirements:

Be enrolled in a full year of a two-semester business subject during the senior year.

Have a general scholastic average of 2.8 through the first quarter of the senior year documented by a counselor's signature on the application form.

Have a 3.0 average in all business subjects completed or in which presently enrolled documented by a teacher's signature on the application.

Meet the requirements of a professional attitude as determined by the chapter advisor.

Have a total of three credits (not courses) in more than one business subject upon graduation.

### **Spanish National Honor Society**

A candidate must be in his or her third year of Spanish at the high school level and be at least a sophomore.

The candidate must have a grade point average of 3.5 in Spanish and an overall GPA of 3.0.

The candidate must be enrolled in a Spanish language class at the time of induction into the society.

Applications are available from Spanish teachers. A brief essay in Spanish is required as part of the application process.

### **Science National Honor Society**

An honor society that acknowledges excellence in the scientific arena. Exposes students to scientific careers and experiences, and encourage scientific exploration.

The candidate must have a grade point average of 3.5 in science, a 3.0 cumulative GPA, and currently enrolled in at least one IB science course.

### **Quill and Scroll**

Every recommended candidate must meet all of the membership qualifications. Members must be high school students, who, at the time of selection, meet the following qualifications:

The student must be a junior or a senior. Sophomores may be inducted during the last grading period of the school year; their membership becomes effective at the beginning of their junior year.

The student must be in the upper third of his/her class scholastically, either for the year of his/her nomination, or for the cumulative total of his/her high school work.

The student must have done superior work in journalism or school publications.

The publication advisor or the publication governing committee must recommend the student.

## **COACHING STAFF**

### **Fall**

Cross Country	Head Coaches: Willie Medley, Mike Feeney
Field Hockey	Head Coach: Jessica Hebel
Football	Head Coach: Barry Wells
JV Football	Head Coach: Richard Britt
Freshman Football	Head Coach: Jamie Langley
Golf	Head Coach: Jard Shoemake
Cheerleading	Head Coach: Bridgette Hamilton
Volleyball	Head Coach: Julia Lashley

### Winter

Boys Basketball	Head Coach: Alfonso Smith
Girls Basketball	Head Coach: Courtney Coffey
Girls Gymnastics	Head Coach: Linda Fisher
Winter Track	Head Coach: Chris Lolagne
Swim and Dive	Head Coach: Mark Murray
Wrestling	Head Coaches: Anthony McDuffie

### Spring

Baseball	Head Coach: Luke Sable
JV Baseball	Head Coach: Marshal Larkey
Boys Tennis	Head Coach: Jerry Musarra
Girls Tennis	Head Coach: Pete Sienkiewicz
Boys Soccer	Head Coach: Robert Garza
Girls Soccer	Head Coach: Tony Garza
Boys Lacrosse	Head Coaches: Dale Nalls
Girls Lacrosse	Head Coach: Caroline Pickell
Softball	Head Coach: Dan Coast
Spring Track	Head Coach: Chris Lolagne
Crew	Head Coach: Ryan Ward

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Co-Sponsors: Melinda Bloomquist/Charley Sabatier

### Student Government Officers for 2010-2011

#### SGA Officers

President:	Bailey Braun
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Ryan Solivio
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	Victor Lenske
Secretary:	Helen Vu
Treasurer:	Logan Beougher

#### SGA Committee Chairs

Historian:	Christian Snow
Publicity:	Chau Tieu
Communications:	Derriet Quist
Homecoming Week:	Taylor Gailliot
Winter Spirit Week:	Lauren Canestrini
Spring Spirit Week:	Merone Hailemeskel

#### Class of 2011 Officers

President:	Brian Fitzsimmons
Vice President:	Scott Klein
Secretary:	Victoria Oliver
Treasurer:	Rashidat Omotosho
Senators:	Michael Goodale Jamie Felong

#### Class of 2012 Officers

President:	Eugene Coleman
Vice President:	Jacky Sorto
Secretary:	Sammie Oputa
Treasurer:	Beatriz Cruz Velasquez
Senators:	Brittany Cosnahan LaTarryl Hall

#### Class of 2013 Officers

President:	Sabrina Evans
V.P.:	Jordan Hayes
Secretary:	Jean Janvier
Treasurer:	Ben Deneault
Senators:	Brooke Garner John Victoria

#### Class of 2014 Officers

President:	Muhammed Butt
Vice President:	Michelle Werner
Secretary:	Tatyana Williams
Treasurer:	Rosa Mendez
Senators:	Samantha Williams Jayla Smith

#### **STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE PRINCIPAL**

The purpose of this group is to identify concerns of the school and advise the administration of the feelings of segments of the student body in relation to possible solutions to these concerns.

#### **STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The Student Advisory Council (SAC) is a country-wide organization. Mount Vernon High School is in the same cluster as West Potomac High School. Three (3) elected students from each school make up the Student Advisory Council. Elections for the SAC are held in the spring. The SAC meets once a month with the superintendent's designee to provide direct communication between the students and county administration.

#### **Student Advisory Council Delegates**

Connor Carrick  
Abby Kitchen  
Jenna Kraynak  
JD Stotz

#### **PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ASSOCIATION (PTSA)**

The Mount Vernon High School PTSA seeks to represent the parents, teachers and students as well as to welcome interested community members to its association. The PTSA has two general meetings during the school year. The PTSA board meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Parents, teachers and friends of Mount Vernon High School are encouraged to join and participate in all PTSA activities.

President: David Miller  
Vice President: Angie Barrows  
Treasurer: John O'Hara  
Recording Secretary: Edna Primrose  
Correspondence Secretary: Damara Gailliot

#### **PEER MEDIATION**

The overall purpose of the program is to help students learn alternative, constructive ways to handle anger, disputes and conflict. If a student wishes to go into mediation, he/she can request the mediation through his/her counselor, subschool principal, teacher, or he/she can make a self-referral. The Mediation Request Forms are available in the subschools.

<http://www.fcps.edu/MtVernonHS/>