

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALUMNI NEWS

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Above, Lillie Hawker, class of 2021, looks through yearbooks at the Alumni-Community Reception during Heritage Days 2022. See more pics on page 13.

INSIDE...

- 2 2023 Class Reunions
- 4 2009 'Beauty & the Beast' Reunion Update
- 4 Alumni In Our Schools
- 5 Alumni In Our schools
- 6 Kathy Staskal Retires
- 7 Welcome to Julia Andrews
- 8 Class Reunion Photos
- 13 Memories from Heritage Days 2022
- 14 Mustangs - What Are They Doing Now?
Judy Berends Workman '65
Al Pearson '83
Sara Kendall '78
- 17 Multi-Activities Complex Update
- 19 '88 and '89 Wrestling Teams Reunion
- 20 Alumni News
- 22 2022 Foundation Donations Report
- 26 2023 School District Retirees
- 27 School Year 2022-2023 in Review
- 28 2023 Alumni Association Donation Form

2023 HERITAGE DAY ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY EVENTS - SHOW UP AND ENJOY!

SPECIAL EVENT: JOIN US

The Alumni Association Board invites you to join us on Saturday, July 8, from 3-5 pm in the First Street Community Center library for a RECEPTION to



honor outgoing Alumni Association Communications Director Kathy Staskal, outgoing President Andrew Morf, and to greet incoming Alumni Director Julia Andrews and President Cathy Hufford '83

FRIDAY EARLY BIRD RECEPTION -- July 7, 3-5 pm

First Street Community Center lobby

Alumni of all ages are welcome to visit the First Street Community Center for a tour and reception. Enjoy refreshments and what was likely once your high school or middle school.

SATURDAY ALUMNI-COMMUNITY BREAKFAST -- July 8, 8-10 am

Mount Vernon High School Commons

Enjoy breakfast, coffee and juice, along with other alumni and families, school staff, and MV community. Cost of breakfast is a monetary donation. Plenty of time to enjoy this event and then head on to the parade which starts at 10:30 AM and ends at approximately 11:30 am.

PAC tours available **ALUMNI FUNDRAISER**

SATURDAY RECEPTION -- uptown, July 8 after parade until dark

Join alumni and community for a spot to sit down, enjoy cold water, pictures and yearbooks, a game of bags, and ice cream! Great meet-up spot. Location is yet to be determined, but will be in the area of Mount Vernon Bank and the old Fire Station. **Chocolate Shakes and Ice Cream Cups (many flavors) for sale ALUMNI FUNDRAISER**

The annual Heritage Day Festival, Mount Vernon's biggest summer festival, will take place on Saturday, July 8. However from Thursday, July 6 through Saturday, July 8 the community is hosting several events. Heritage Day is hosted by the Mount Vernon-Lisbon Community Development Group (CDG) in partnership with the Mount Vernon Alumni Association, the City of Mount Vernon, Kernoustie Golf Club and several other local organizations.

Watch for complete event information to come in the 'MVL Sun' and online at visitmvl.com & mvalumni.org

525 Palisades Road SW
Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314
alumni@mvcasd.org
319-895-8845
www.MVAlumni.org





Mustang ALUMNI



Andrew Morf '94 Kathy Staskal Cathy Hufford '83 Julia Andrews

SPECIAL EVENT: JOIN US

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To advertise in the Alumni News - call 319-895-8845 or email alumni@mvcsd.org

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER is published twice yearly for alumni and friends of the Association. Views are those of the authors. Articles and advertisements (preferably digital) may be submitted by email to alumni@mvcsd.org or by mail to 525 Palisades Road SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314. All materials submitted are subject to review by the Alumni Association Communications Coordinator. For advertising rates write or call 319-895-8845.

MV Community Events

www.visitmvl.com

2023

July - Heritage Days
Oct - Chili Cookoff
December - Magical Night
and more

2023 REUNIONS

You are a student once, but an alum for a lifetime.

2018 5 years - Heritage Day July 8

2-4 pm, home of Cameron Weaver, 1602 Palisades RD SW. See next page.

Contact: Cameron Weaver
Phone: 319-440-7511
Email: cam25weaver@gmail.com
Contact: Katy Bellamy
Phone: 319-310-3604
Email: bellamykaty17@gmail.com
Contact: Josh Jordan
Phone: 319-450-5674
Email: joshuaajordan0917@gmail.com

2013 10 years - Heritage Day July 8

Davis Park Pavilion, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm

Contact: Hannah Ganzel
Phone: 319-540-2927
Email: chenaegrace@gmail.com

2008 15 years - no reunion this year

Facebook page 'MVHS Class of 2008'
Contact: Ryan Winder

2003 - 20 years - July 7

Friday July 7 Reunion at Morning Glory Farm in Mount Vernon, 7-9 pm. See page 7.

See our Class Facebook Page for more details (MVHS Class of 2003).

Contact: Nikki Port Morgan
Phone: 319-721-0653
Email: nikkip1212@yahoo.com

1998 - 25 years - no reunion this year

Contact: Charlotte Campagna
McDermott
Phone: 319-895-8234
Email: char.mcdermott7@gmail.com

1993 - 30 years - Heritage Day July 8

Saturday eve Reunion at home of Braden Rood, 101 Crestview Dr NE in Mount Vernon, 6:30-9:00 pm. See Facebook page for more info: 'Mount Vernon High School Class of 1993' or facebook.com/groups/mvhs1993

Contact: Braden Pospisil Rood
Phone: 319-654-1016
Email: roodbrood5@gmail.com

1988 - 35 years - Heritage Day July 8

Saturday reunion at Sutliff, 5:30 pm visit Facebook page 'Mount Vernon Iowa Class of 1988'

Contact: Jennifer Clark
Phone: 319-530-8809
Email: jengonzalez1969@gmail.com
Contact: Lisa Squiers White
Phone: 319-899-4671
Email: whitetdlc@msn.com

1983 - 40 years - Heritage Day July 8

Saturday reunion 4 - 7pm at the Lester Buresh Center. Saturday morning float in the parade. Facebook page 'MVHS IA 1983'

Contact: Cathy Hufford
Phone: 773-750-0318
Email: cathy.hufford@gmail.com

1978 - 45 years - July 7

Friday evening at the Local 5-7 pm, then Friday evening town events and fireworks, Saturday am breakfast at high school. See page 7.

Contact: Andy Wolfe
Phone: 319-899-4606
Email: centralappraisal@mchsi.com
Contact: Jeff Spencer
Phone: 972-730-3828
Email: jeff.spencer.dal@gmail.com
Contact: Cynthia Deskin Halbmaier
Phone: 641-799-7583
Email: halby@me.com
Contact: Ann Koppenhaver
Phone: 319-895-6001
Email: ann@koppenhavercpas.com

1973 - 50 years - Heritage Day Weekend

Friday eve 7-10 at Yock's Landing, Saturday am at the breakfast followed by float in the parade. Saturday evening reunion 5 pm at Chris Starkweather's home - see next page.

Contact: Chris Hanson Starkweather
Phone: 319-895-8588, 319-538-8281
Email: clstarkweather@hotmail.com

1968 - 55 years - July 7 and 8

Saturday am at Alumni-Community Breakfast at High School, Saturday evening reunion dinner at Mount Vernon Creates 5 pm, see page 7.

Contact: Jane Pospisil
Phone: 319-350-4160
Email: janepospisil@gmail.com
Contact: Barb Thomsen Neal
Phone: 319-560-0197
Email: xword417@gmail.com
Contact: Mike Smith
Phone: 319-361-8193
Email: mikesmith124w@yahoo.com

1963 - 60 years - Heritage Day July 8

Friday pm at Sutliff Bridge and Tavern Saturday am at Alumni-Community Breakfast at High School, Saturday 5 pm reunion dinner at Gwen's Restaurant, Please RSVP to Linda. Sunday am tba. See page 4.

Contact: Bob Dvorak
Phone: 319-895-8206
Email: dvorakb47@q.com
Contact: Linda Peterson Nost
Phone: 319-455-2138
Email: lindanost@icloud.com
Contact: Karen Fox
Phone: 319-329-2787
Email: kfmarion@aol.com

Thank you to EVERYONE who volunteers to help at Alumni Association events -- we couldn't do it without YOU!

1960 - 63 years Gathering - July 8

Sally's in Springville, 4:30 pm
Attend our gathering to 'stay in touch'
Let Judy know if you plan to attend.

Contact: Judy Caldwell Penn
Phone: 319-721-5448
Email: reldady793@q.com
Contact: John Rife
Phone: 319-310-8105
Email: jtbr2@q.com
Contact: Annamae Stoneking Baker
Phone: 319-895-8979
Email: abmrlk@gmail.com

1958 - 65 years - Heritage Day July 8

Friday eve social at Schnittjer home 5-7 pm,
Saturday am at Alumni-Community Breakfast,
Saturday eve Reunion at the Sleep Inn 4 pm.
See page 5

Contact: Marilyn Dean Schnittjer
Phone: 319-895-8817
Email: mschnittjer@gmail.com
Contact: David Kroeger
Phone: 319-377-7782
Email: dpkroegs@aol.com

1953 - 70 years - Heritage Day July 8

Reunion dinner at Moore home, 5:30 pm
Contact: Barbara Beckhelm Moore
Phone: 319-895-8512
Email: mooremanor@mchsi.com

1948 and earlier years

Meet at Saturday morning Alumni-Community
Breakfast

DID YOU MOVE? HAVE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS? GET MARRIED?
Don't forget to send your updated contact information, email addresses, and news items to the Alumni Association at alumni@mvcasd.org or call 319-895-8845

*Class of 1973
50th Class Reunion
July 7 & 8, 2023*

**FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 7, 7-10 pm
MEET & GREET
at Yock's Landing
102 1st St SE, Mount Vernon**

**SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 8,
8-10 am AT ALUMNI-COMMUNITY
BREAKFAST -- Look for our table!**

**SATURDAY EVENING, JULY 8,
REUNION PARTY 5 PM
at Chris Starkweather's House
Reunion party and food, 208 3rd Ave
SW, Mount Vernon**

**Contact: Chris Hanson Starkweather
text or call 319-350-4470**

*Class of 2018 -- 5 Year
Class Reunion
Saturday, July 8, 2023*

**at the home of Cameron Weaver, 2-4 pm
Food provided, BYOB
1602 Palisades Rd SW, Mount Vernon
****Please RSVP by July 1st******

**Contact: Cameron Weaver, 319-440-7511
cam25weaver@gmail.com
Katy Bellamy, Josh Jordan**

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Ann Koppenhaver, CPA
Class of '78
Mount Vernon Community School District
Foundation President

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UPDATE-UPDATE-UPDATE-UPDATE-UPDATE-UPDATE-UPDATE
**HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE
MV ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

The Alumni Association's Board has decided to move from a dues/support and donation system to simply a donation.

Please consider an annual donation of your choice to support the activities and publications of the Alumni Association. Either visit the

- back page of this publication
- or online at mvalumni.org

Online, just select 'Donate' located in the upper left hand corner.

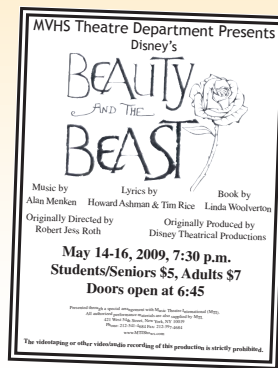
NOTE: do not be alarmed that the page you are directed to is a Foundation page. For donation reporting purposes, the MV Alumni Association operates under the MVCSD Foundation, a tax-exempt organization. Select 'Alumni Association' for your donation and the total amount is directed to the Alumni Association.

'Beauty and the Beast' THESPIAN REUNION! 2009 cast & crew REUNION Update



Pictured above: Lynaea Kiefer, Khloe Rand Mlynarczyk, Tom Mlynarczyk, Taylor Sedlacek Brocka, Brianna Pickel, Cory Brannaman, Janelle Knight Ullrich, Emily Stoner Bell, Jessie Mhire, Evan Freed, and Spencer Schmidt (in center at bottom)

Fourteen years ago, teacher Tom Stephens joined the Mount Vernon High School Fine Arts team and produced his first spring musical of 'Beauty and the Beast.' There were grand costumes, pyrotechnics, a two-story set, and lighted roses speckled in the audience. This spring, Mount Vernon High School again put on this fantastical musical and the cast and crew of the 2009 production were invited to come for a reunion, to see the show, and a behind-the-scenes sneak peek at the new theatre facilities. The reunion was hosted by Khloe Rand Mlynarczyk '11 and Spencer Schmidt '11.



Class of 1963 -- 60th Class Reunion Saturday, July 7 & 8, 2023

Friday, July 7

Late afternoon informal gathering at the Sutliff Bridge and Tavern at Sutliff. Visit with 1963 classmates and other MV alum. Food and beverage are available for purchase.

Saturday, July 8 Reunion

Gwen's Restaurant,
119 W Main St in Lisbon

Social time at Gwen's will begin at 5:00 PM with buffet dinner at 6:30 - cost is \$25 per person. A cash bar with beer and wine will be available.

Contact Linda if you would like to attend and have not sent in your RSVP.

Bob Dvorak 319-895-8206

dvorakb47@q.com

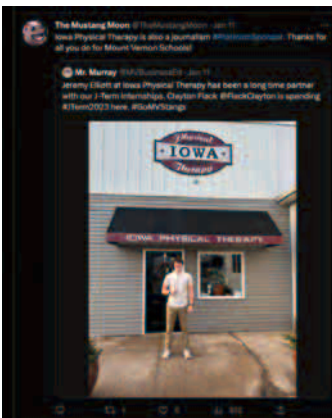
Linda Peterson Nost 319-455-2138

lindanost@icloud.com

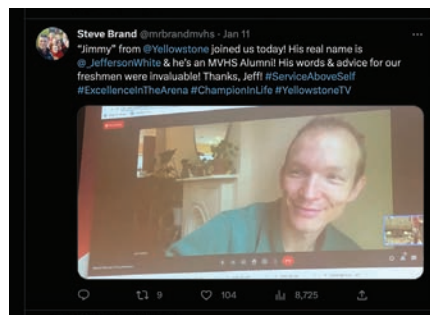
Karen Fox 319-329-2787

kfmarion@aol.com

ALUMNI IN OUR SCHOOLS



During the High School's January J-Term, Principal Steve Brand and his teachers reached out to alumni both in person and via Zoom to learn about their professions. Above row, left to right are student Clayton Flack who spent his J-Term doing an internship with alum Jeremy Elliott '89 at Iowa Physical Therapy, Nathan Novak '16 hosted student Kalen Light, two students spent the day with alum Gabe Golberg '17 learning about commercial real estate, and High School Principal Steve Brand hosted NFL football players Tristan Wirfs '17 (Buccaneers) and Jack Cochran '17 (Chiefs) via Zoom. Bottom row, actor Jefferson White '06 who was hosted by Principal Brand. Picture at right, High School English/Drama teacher, Tom Stephens, shared "As part of our J-Term 'Theatre After High School' course, we invited three groups of alumni to speak about their experiences in college theatre (Alice Conroy '21, Lynn Burgin '21, Quinnie Rodman '19), community theatre (Grant Freeman '06, Braden Rood '93, Trevor Baty '15), and professional theatre (Alex Morf '99, Kristin Stewart Livingston '99, and Jon Stoner '04). We asked each of them to describe their path from MVHS to their current position and students were able to ask questions." Jefferson White, Tristan Wirfs, Braden Rood, Kristin Stewart Livingston are all members of the Mount Vernon Alumni Hall of Fame.



Class of 1958 -- 65th Class Reunion Saturday, July 7 & 8, 2023

Friday, July 7

Reception 5 to 7 pm at the home of Marilyn and Roger Schnittjer
205 4th Ave SW in Mount Vernon

On Saturday, July 8

8 - 10 am. – Alumni Association breakfast at Mount Vernon High School
10:30 a.m. – Heritage Days Parade
Noon – Lunch on your own
Afternoon – Explore your old school, the many great Mount Vernon shops, play a round of golf, take a nap, or whatever else you may want to do.

Saturday, July 8 Reunion

4:00 pm – Gather at the Sleep Inn dining area for conversation and snacks. Bring your own beverages,
5 pm – Dinner is served by Gwen. Cost to you for dinner and dining room use fees comes to \$25 per person. We want you to join us, so sign up and send in your check by June 28. Additional donations are welcome to defray some of our costs if you wish to add a bit to your registration.
(Mail \$25 to: Marilyn Schnittjer,
205 4th Avenue SW,
Mount Vernon, IA 52314)

Planning Committee:

Marilyn Schnittjer: 563-920-0330
mschnittjer@gmail.com
David Kroeger: dpkroegs@aol.com
Thiara Bys Smith: thiara58@gmail.com
Howard Clark: phone 319-310-4009
Larry Kramer: lnkramer@mchsi.com,
Bob Lenz: bolenz@mchsi.com

2023 Homecoming & Hall of Fame Events SEPTEMBER 29

**DID YOU MOVE? HAVE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS?
HAVE A NAME CHANGE?**
Don't forget to send your updated contact information, email addresses, and news items to alumni@mvcsd.org

ALUMNI IN OUR SCHOOLS



Top: The Alumni Association continues with their tradition of presenting each graduate with a mustang alumni pin at commencement. Association board members Cathy Humphries Stoner '69 and Mary Thomsen '75 presented at the 2023 graduation on May 21. Shown here with graduate Micheal Briesemiester



2nd photo: 2023 Classmates Ryne Moeller and Kyla Vaughn were named Class Reunion Organizers, and at right Kim Zangger Tucker '94 presented \$250 scholarships from the Alumni Association at their Senior Awards Night in May. They will keep open lines of communication with their respective classmates, coordinate reunion planning, and serve as a link between the Association, the school, and the alumni.



3rd photo: There are approximately fifty alumni on staff within the Mount Vernon Community School District, not including many alumni who volunteer. Pictured here are alums involved in the school's very successful Speech/Theatre department: at left Grant Freeman '06, second from right is volunteer Zak Moran '13, with High School Instructional Coach/Speech Team Coach Tawnua Tenley and Language Arts/Speech Coach Ned Kelly.



4th photo: The Alumni Association annually sponsors the High School National Honor Society Reception by providing hosts and refreshments. At the November 2022 ceremony are from left, Jane Colehour Pospisil '68, Kenny Pospisil '68, and organizer and Association Treasurer, Susan Mounts Fisher '65.



Bottom photo: The class of 2023 had several students who presented their proposed Commencement speeches. These alumni and friends came on May 2 to listen, then worked as a committee to make recommendations as to which speeches they thought would be best for Commencement. Front row, left to right, Babs Beckhelm Moore '53, Thelma Rife, Patty Mounts Woods '74, and Brenda Langenberg. Back row: John Rife '60, chair and member of Alumni Association Board Cathy Hufford '83, Lance Schoff '83, Superintendent Dr. Greg Batenhorst, and Jim Baty. The group is pictured in front of the Mustang statue located outside of the new High School Performing Arts Center that was donated by alum Dave Van Metre '55.



Best Wishes to Kathy Staskal

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Kathy Staskal pictured with 2023 board members, front from left to right: Kim Zangger Tucker '94, President Andrew Morf '94, Cathy Humphries Stoner '69, Kathy, Mary Thomsen '75, and Treasurer Susan Mounts Fisher '65. Back row: Cathy Hufford '83, Superintendent Dr. Greg Batenhorst, Secretary Alex Brannaman '09, and Vice President John Pospisil '66. Not pictured: Taylor Sedlacek '10 and Sarah Rife Patten '93

Kathy Staskal is retiring after twenty years with the Mount Vernon Community School District. She has been the Alumni Association Coordinator since its inception in 2005. She was named an Honorary Alum in 2008. Join us on Heritage Day, July 8, for a reception in at the First Street Community Center Library from 3-5 pm.

Following is Kathy's outgoing letter: "I'm so pleased that our Association has grown to be such a highly respected organization any school district would proud of. Our board has always tried to improve and tweak our projects and events, while keeping steady with our mission. Your board members have always been 100% in service to the alumni of this district, and together we have made a good team. However we never forget it is the alumni and friends of the Association who have 'hands down' made this happen with their support in one way or another - a BIG thank you to all.

"The school district went all in to support the Association, and has never waived. In 2005 this included superintendent Jeff Schwiebert, district secretary Carol Woods-Boren '75 and district secretary-treasurer Matt Burke, along with Foundation Director Ann Koppenhaver '78 and the Foundation board, and the School Board which at that time included alum Bob Penn '81 and was chaired by Tom Wieseler. When we reached out to start the Association, our first meeting was attended by representatives from the years 1942 to 2004. Our first board consisted of President Lisa Squiers White '88, Vice President Jean Kuntz Bowman '64, Treasurer Susan Mounts Fisher '65, and Secretary Shauna Applebee Dye '01, along with Deb Winchip Douglass '96, Dick Moore '52 and Nargi Rayman Steinbrech '55. Dick Moore chaired a committee to write our bylaws. Deb Douglass led the effort to start the Hall of Fame in 2008. Class of 1960 alums Judy Caldwell Penn and Annamae Stoneking Baker along with many class representatives, have been constant contributors.

"A few personal thank yous...Carol Woods-Boren '75, district secretary and an alum of this school district, guided me in so many ways I can't relate them all! Her care and knowledge of all things Mount Vernon is incredible. I've relied on her knowledge and her willingness to team up with me countless times. Within the Alumni Association, I have admired and appreciated board member Susan Mounts Fisher '65 who has been a constant companion at alumni events and a voice of reason at our board meetings. A big thank you to Alumni Association presidents Lisa Squiers White '88, Kevin Rogers '81, Dennis Jordan '87, and Andrew Morf '94 and the many board members who have guided the Association. District Secretary Amy Weber has helped me with a multitude of tasks and projects, and I'm so thankful for her joyful personality and willingness to help. Thank you to former superintendent Jeff Schwiebert and current Superintendent Greg Batenhorst for their stead-fast support and guidance of both the Association and the alumni director position. *As for the rest of the people who helped me, I need at least ten more pages.*

"I am excited for the next twenty years of your Alumni Association. Julia Andrews, along with incoming President Cathy Hufford and our current board members who I can only describe as fantastic, will start it off. Again, thank you to everyone who has been a part of my life with the alumni family and the school district. It has been a rewarding opportunity not many people get."

Kathy can be reached at kathystaskal@gmail.com or at 72 White Oak Lane, Mars Hill, NC 28754




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*Welcome
Incoming
Association
Director
Julia
Andrews*



Julia Andrews will serve as the new Alumni Director/District Communications Specialist, replacing Kathy Staskal who is retiring. You may know Ms. Andrews as she is already a valued member of our community.

Ms. Andrews is a communicator, business owner, musician, and teacher. She has taught piano lessons for twenty-three years, and in 2021 opened Music Works Iowa in Mount Vernon. Music Works Iowa now teaches one hundred students and employs six local music teachers. It is based in the First Street Community Center (in the former guidance counselor's office).

Andrews was recently the Communications Project Manager for the Presbytery of East Iowa and the Grants and Compliance Manager for Cornell College. She is also the Music Director of First Presbyterian Church, Mount Vernon. Professionally she most enjoys connecting her communities with the tools to thrive. Andrews is an active performer of chamber music and jazz piano throughout the region. She has served on the music faculty at Monmouth, Knox, and Cornell College. In 2012, she began accompanying for the Mount Vernon Community School District. This seemingly random attempt to find a gig in a new town turned into one of the great loves of her life.

Andrews graduated with the Master of Music degree from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. She received two Bachelors of Music degrees in piano and music theory from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. While at Texas Tech, she was a Presser Scholar for excellence in music and was the Highest Ranked Undergraduate in the College of Visual and Performing Art

Ms Andrews has a daughter in the district and lives with her family in Mount Vernon. Her spouse Lauren works in IT at the University of Iowa. Ms. Andrews will work in the part-time alumni and communications role while maintaining her Music Works business. Ms. Andrews started June 5th.

Reach her at jandrews@mvcsd.org or alumni@mvcsd.org or 319-895-8845.



*Class of 1968 -- 55th Class Reunion
Saturday, July 8, 2023*

at Mount Vernon Creates, 5 pm
121 1st St West, Mount Vernon
you will be met at the door

RSVP to let us know if you and your guest(s) will be joining us or not, as a number count is necessary when planning refreshments and seating. When you reply, tell us of any physical needs and any food allergies or preferences you might have, so we can ensure accessibility and food offerings will be no problem. We plan to have plenty of hearty snacks on hand, and a cash bar will be available offering wine, beer, and soft drinks. Chilled water will be free of charge. In order to defray the inevitable costs of renting the facility and catering the food, your donation would be very much appreciated and used carefully. Please say YES to this special evening of remembering and reconnecting. Your attendance would mean so much.

Jane Colehour Pospisil (RSVP text to 319.350.4160)
with Barb Thomsen Neal, Ken Pospisil, Mike Smith, and Marcia Swaney Wagner

If at all possible, plan to attend the Alumni/Community Breakfast at the High School on Saturday morning 8-10:00 AM. A table will be reserved for Class of 1968.

*Class of 1978 -- 45th Class Reunion
July 7, 2023*

FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 7, 5-7 pm REUNION
at Glyn Mawr Winery-The Local
103 1st St NW, Mount Vernon

Contact: Andy Wolfe text or call 319-899-4606
email centralappraisal@mchsi.com

*Class of 2003 -- 20th Class Reunion
Friday, July 7, 2023*

at Morning Glory Farm, 7-9 pm
681 Hwy 1 S, Mount Vernon
See our Class Facebook Page (MVHS Class of 2003)

Please send donations to cover cost of venue and food
(deposited in our class account)

Venmo Nikki Morgan @Nikki-Morgan-41
Or, mail a check (with Class of 2003 reunion in the memo area)
or cash to Courtney Frye Speed, c/o Bridge Community Bank
302 Highway 1 SE, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

Contact: Nikki Port Morgan 319-721-0653 nikip1212@yahoo.com



REUNION PICTURES | REUNION PICTURES | REUNION PICTURES |

▼ CLASS OF 2023



Welcome Class of 2023! The class graduated 113 members on May 21, 2023 with commencement, followed by a senior parade through the community of Mount Vernon. Classmates Ryne Moeller and Kyla Vaughn were named Class Reunion Organizers, and received \$250 scholarships from the Alumni Association at their Senior Awards Night (see page 5). Photo by JoAnn Gage.

▼ CLASS OF 1982 - 40 YEARS

Thank you to Sonia Essex Redmond for hosting this 40th Reunion. On Friday, July 8, classmates met at Kernoustie Golf Club. On Saturday July 9, a Reunion was held at Studio 104 in Mount Vernon. On Facebook at MVHS Class of 1982



Reunion picture above: Seated: Barb Geiger, Karen Randall, Judy Whitley, Greg Randall, Kristin Bowers, Heidi Niehaus, Chris Schwiebert
Standing: Sonia Essex Redmond, Dan Clark, Pat Cullen, Jim Campbell, Marty Williams, Wayne Mantz, Greg West, Greg Enke, Steve Randall, John Thomas, Jack Graber, Jenny Jordan, Eric Siggins, Mark Rodman, Dan Bragg, Julie Atherton Lane, Andy Buchmeyer
At right: group photo at the golf club



REUNION PICTURES | REUNION PICTURES | REUNION PICTURES

▼ CLASS OF 1971 - 50+1 YEARS



The class of 1971 held their 50+1 Reunion on Saturday, July 9. They attended Alumni-Community Breakfast followed by riding their float in the Heritage Day parade. The evening reunion was held at the Lester Buresh Center. Pictured above: Front Row: Linda Pospisil McNeal, Susan Gaston Sherwood, Wendy Kaplan Johnson, Donita VonHamme, Connie Becker Borshel

Second Row: Julie Loomis Stephenson, Bonnie Pisarik, Kathy Kaliban, Jean Pospisil Larsen, Greg Larsen, Denny Stewart, Chris Ipsan, Becky Kroul Donovan, Nancy Schmitz Hach

Back Row: Denny Kirkpatrick, Scott Peterson, Dave Koch, John Pisarik, Rob Sautter, Connie Heeren Collins, Jim Baker, Steve Meyer, Tom Wolfe, Eugene Achenbach



Thank you to the 1971 Reunion Committee, Connie Heeren Collins, Wendy Kaplan Johnson, Kathy Kaliban, Bonnie Pisarik

▼ CLASS OF 1972 - 50 YEARS

The Class of 1972 held their 50th Reunion during Heritage Days 2022. On Saturday, July 9, they met at the new high school for the Alumni-Community breakfast, then participated by float in the Heritage Days parade. The evening Reunion was held at their old high school, the First Street Community Center. On Facebook MVHS Class of 72. Thank you to organizers, Connie Ferguson Winters and Joan Karr Berends



FRONT ROW: Gary Koppenhaver, Mary Friedrichs Graybill Welbes, Connie Ferguson Winters, Bill Thomsen, Debbie Holtz Studt. ROW TWO: Kris Bys Beisel, Lois Hetland, Jean Lehman, Victoria Peterson Ahrens Dorf, Jan Truesdell Onstott, Susan Deskin Glenn, Patti Rice Troyer, Francesca 'Fritzi' Wallace Thompson, Diane Zinkula. ROW THREE: Nancy Overman Van Zee, Chris Woods Van Tuyl, Bill Pringle, Tom Pray, Kathy Pisarik Dix, Gary Drahos, Chip Swaney, Joan Karr Berends, Jim Berends, Kathy Akers Hartgrave, Glenn Wolfe, Nancy Broulik. ROW FOUR: Matt Wilch, Dan Dye, Dave Hoke, John Rilett, Daryl Johnson, John Cordell, Tim Reynolds, Craig Shutt, Mike Studt, Ralph Jordan, Brenda Lange Potter, Mike Ohlfest



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▼ CLASS OF 1977 - 45 YEARS

The class of 1977 held their 45th Reunion over Heritage Days 2022. On Friday classmates decorated a float for the parade at Warren Havill's home. On Saturday they met at the Alumni-Community Breakfast, then on to ride their float in the Heritage Days Parade. On Saturday evening classmates held their Reunion at Kroul's farm. Thank you to reunion organizer Ann Lehman Currie.



Front row left to right: Marty Thomsen Davis, Nancy Stolte Hughes, Mary Rice Emge, Barb Harms Tepper, Emily Silliman, Ann Lehman Currie, Kate Klinsky Mallie, Becky Thumm Whitman, Michael Sheets
2nd row: Randy Hanson, Jay Koehn, Dan Broulik, Barb Blinks Mozingo, Kirk Jones, Cindy Viter, Liz Smith Burgess, Ron Thuerauf, Daniel Gaines
3rd row: Payson Peterson, Mike Woods, Terry Boren, Warren Havill, Ron Raines, Kurt Suchomel, Pat Reilly, John Kroul, and Chris Chadek

▼ CLASS OF 2010 + 2 - 12 YEARS

Thank you to Reunion Organizer Emily Stoner Bell for organizing and hosting the Class of 2010's 12 year Reunion. In the group picture starting in the back from left to right: Danny Laiser, Thomas Wenzel, Allison Melchert Vallad, Kenny Kostman, Thomas Mlynarczark, Taylor Sedlacek Brocka, August Shultz. Front, left to right: Anthony Deibner-Hanson, Rebecca Lowe, Kaylee Phillips, Tasha Redmond Tatara, Kelsey Steines, Emily Stoner Bell, Megan Cannon Pearson, Jenna Smith



▶ CLASS OF 1991 - 20 years

The Class of 1991 held a 20th gathering on July 9, 2021 at Scorz in Mount Vernon. Thank you to Reunion Organizer Deanna Parish Gray. Pictured at right are: Brandon Pitlik, Dan Spellerberg, Ty Ulch, Deanna Parish Gray, James 'Boots' Hansen, Karrie Clark, Jamie Brendes, Robyn Reyhons



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▼ CLASS OF 2007 - 15 YEARS



The class of 2007 held their 15th Reunion at the home of Rachel Laborde in downtown Mount Vernon on July 9. Thank you to Reunion Organizers Rachel Craig Laborde and Stephanie Damon-Moore.

Front row: Lindsay Bock Thuerauf, Alice Stoner, Rachel Craig Laborde, Ashleigh Peska Ocasio, Stephanie Damon-Moore, Jaclyn Hoffman Craig
 Back row: Scott Binsfield, Greg Mlynarczyk, Joe Alger, Ben Vozenilek, Sean Boren, Kyle Williams, Jon Thuerauf, Jared Kladivo, DJ Argotsinger, Ben Klaus

▼ CLASS OF 2002 - 20 YEARS

Thank you to reunion organizer Jessie Brown-Kwaiser Thurn for organizing the class of 2002 reunion. Pictured below, Front Row: Amy Hughes Mohr, Joe Lewis, Angela Lysne. 2nd Row: Jenna Voss, Dawn Washburn Clifton, Lacy Alger, Jessie Brown-Kwaiser Thurn, Mary Thomsen-Shook Dalton, Kristen Hotz Robinson, Lisa Fettkether Schwiebert, Afton Clark. 3rd Row: Teresa Britt Patterson, Ashley Caruthers, Michael Lessmier, Lucas Stanton, TJ Thurn, Aaron Murphy. Back Row: Kira Scott Moore, Ben Havill, Amelia Carl Kibbie, Tyler Cullen, Luke Haugland, Nick Boren, Aaron Schwiebert, Chris Hunter, Michael Burbridge



Join Us At Heritage
 Day 2023

Best time all year to see many people you know at our traditional Alumni-Community breakfast from 8-10 am at the High School. Alumni-Community Reception in uptown Mount Vernon.

SATURDAY, JULY 8



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▲ CLASS OF 1992 - 30 YEARS

The class of 1992 held their 30th class reunion on the evening of July 9, 2022 at Liberty Iron Works. Thank you to reunion organizers Vince Ellison and Amy Reyhons Glick. Pictured are: Back row: Barron Bremner, Vince Ellison, Dale Merrill, Shannon Mitchell, Dana Vig, Chris Heeren, Nathan Bunting, Mark Kolday, Jennifer Woods Robinson, Jenny Brown, Heather Huffaker Vlasek
Front Row: Michele Meyer Grudzinski, Amy Reyhons Glick, Emily Adams Vig, Jennifer Wilkinson Volesky, Danielle Huber, Alexis Stine Gallegos

▼ CLASS OF 1966 - 55 YEARS



CORRECTION: Thank you to Dave Hartl for pointing out that the caption for this photo printed in the 2022 spring issue was incorrect and missing a few names. Here is the correct caption.

Front: Rose Lynott Ubben, Linda Richardson Moore, Karilyn Mead Eastvold, Lana Richardson Hartl, Margaret Ellison Stoner
Back: Eugene Stoneking, Dan Lambertsen, Jeri Neal, John Pospisil, Bill Bauman, Ted Croy, Jack Werling, Steve Neal, Dave Hudson, Larry Riley

▼ CLASS OF 1967 - 55 YEARS



The 55th Reunion for the Class of 1967 was planned by Jacklyn Wolrab Moore. Pictured from left to right, front row: Kathy Brawner Worcester, Jacki Wolrab Moore, Christine Chadek Deigan, Pam Pitlik Byersdorfer, Nancy Smykil Berns, Kandy Goodrich Kling, Sharon Meyer Crain, Mary Krejci Burr, Steve Clark, Robert Davis. Back row: Joe Conner, Mike Seiler, Mick Snodgrass, Peg Neal Howard, Roger Pitlik, Shelly Peterson Dies, Don Colton, Barbara Clarke Oakland, Ken Neal, Jane Baker Hardin, Gary Viter, Gail Brown, Dennis Allard, Conrad Leighton, David Moses, Ron Swanson, Dave Clark, Mark Burgess, and Larry Pisarik

MEMORIES FROM HERITAGE DAYS 2022



Darrel Jordan '61 and wife Donna enjoy breakfast at the 2022 Breakfast



Above, Alumni Association Treasurer Susan Mounts Fisher '65, Kim Mortensen Konkowski '81, Alumni Association Board member Cathy Hufford '83 and Jackie Jordan Morrill '84 volunteer at the Alumni-Community Reception



1973 Classmates meet at the Breakfast. Front row, Chris Hanson Starkweather, Ann Franks, and Linette Stewart Geissler. In back are Erik Encke, Kevin Smith, and Mark Hylbak



2002 Classmates Michael Burbridge, Luke Haugland, and Nick Boren meet at the Alumni-Community Breakfast



Former superintendent Jeff Schwiebert, Mark Binsfield, former high school principal Dennis Walsh, and High School Activities Secretary Val Binsfield volunteer to serve breakfast.



Family members John Wolfe '06, Doug Wolfe '68, and Katie Wolfe Scott '86 meet at the Breakfast.

1971 classmates Susan Gaston Sherwood and Julie Loomis Stephensen



Tom Carew '87 and 1982 classmates Greg Encke, John Thomas, Pat Cullen, and James Campbell visit at the Alumni-Community Breakfast

Cutting fruit for the Breakfast are alums Florene Allard Akers '65, Cathy Hufford '83, Carol Woods-Boren '75, and Denise Henik Brannaman '81. Denise is also a current school board member.



School district cook Kris Abodeely took the reins and helped the Association cook and serve the 2022 breakfast



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JEREMY HOTZ '99 Agent jhotz@hotzagency.com
JUSTIN ARNOLD '08 Agent jarnold@hotzagency.com



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Mustangs...what are they doing now?

■ JUDY BERENDS WORKMAN '65

What have you been doing since you left Mount Vernon High School?

After high school graduation in 1965, I attended Concordia Teachers College in River Forest, Illinois. (It is now Concordia University Chicago.) I taught third graders in Dallas, Texas for one year and then in San Antonio, Texas I taught fourth and sixth graders for five years. My husband and I moved to Mount Vernon in June of 1975. When we arrived to my parents' farm, they said Joe Cullen, the principal at Washington Elementary, had just called and wanted to schedule a job interview. I called him back and the next day I was hired as a fifth-grade teacher. My classroom, 108, was the same room I was in as a student for fourth grade the year Washington

Elementary opened. I spent the next thirty-five years as an educator in Mount Vernon Community Schools.



JUDY BERENDS

For several years, I taught fifth grade science or social studies, along with reading and other assorted topics—spelling and penmanship come to mind. During that time, I earned my master's in library science at the University of Iowa—at that time only teachers could become school librarians.

The Extended Learning Program (ELP) was a project given to me by Superintendent Adrian Ringold in 1986. I had taken classes in gifted education, and he knew it was an interest of mine. Mr. Ringold hired a substitute teacher for my classroom, and I spent time writing the proposal that went to the state for approval. Once the state had given its okay, I was hired to be the ELP teacher and to continue in fifth grade, each half-time—Bill Thomsen '72 and I shared a classroom. This arrangement continued for a few years. I also served on a state committee that approved gifted proposals for other school districts. Mount Vernon's model was used by many small school districts around the state as they made their own modifications.

When Betty Hanley Scott retired as elementary librarian, I became elementary librarian half-time and



ELP half-time. When Edith Hetland retired from the high school library, Mary Dana Ware took that job in addition to her half-time middle school library. When Mrs. Ware retired, a new teacher was hired for ELP, and I became the elementary and middle school librarian, each half-time, and Suzette Kragbenbrink was hired as the high school librarian. All the half-time library jobs would not have been possible without exceptional library aides!

As a teacher librarian, I taught students how to locate information in the library, how to do research, to take notes, to evaluate the information, and then taught or reinforced the skills they needed to do reports—bibliographies, indexes, or citing sources (depending on the age of the student!) as well as finding books of interest to them. As a school librarian I helped students by trying to find “the good book with the green elephant riding a bicycle on the cover” for a first grader (it turned out to be a blue lion pulling a wagon) or to determine “when the next book in this series going to be in the library” for a seventh grader (that book hadn’t been published yet). It was fun and sometimes challenging to find the “right” book for students and teachers. Along the way, I created a “Series” binder in each library. Until the late 1980’s series books were not proliferating for children—*Narnia*, *Little House on the Prairie*, and *Judy Blume* books come to mind as early series. With the binder, students and teachers could see how many books were in a particular series and in what order they should be read. Today you can go to internet and locate series information easily. My favorite source is fantasticfiction.com

I spent time reading book reviews to select the books that should be added to the library collection based on student desires and teacher needs. In the days before library automation, I cataloged the new books in addition to ordering them. I also worked with teachers, locating materials needed for units or books on specific topics. I tried to incorporate what they were doing in the classroom with the “library lessons” for third through fifth graders. For several years I was the computer educator for teachers as they incorporated technology into the classroom. Students were also taught computer skills in the library until teachers were comfortable doing it. I was responsible for teacher workshops on gifted education and computers in Mount Vernon as well as

other school districts and at Grant Wood Area Education Agency. I enjoyed education for myself, so by the time I retired, I had an additional forty-five hours of graduate credit beyond my master’s—it wasn’t focused on another degree but on areas of interest.

I always felt fortunate to work in a community that valued education and where students were eager or at least willing to learn—most of the time.

In 2010, I started retirement doing what I had said I wanted to do – sleeping late, taking naps, and reading! Then I was convinced to become the interim librarian at St. Luke’s Hospital library until they hired someone full-time (that ended up lasting almost ten months!). In the hospital library I was asked to locate the latest research on new surgical procedures, find articles comparing medications used for specific illnesses or to find resources to answer medical questions raised by patients or the public. I also helped locate resources to complete projects and papers for classes that staff members might be taking to get another certification or degree. I ordered requested medical books and determined which medical journals and databases should be available in the library. This was a part-time job that I could work as I wanted, and it ended up being more time than I anticipated when I agreed to it!

I spent 2014 and 2016 having hips and knees replaced and starting to think more about ‘real’ retirement. As a widow with no children, I needed to make decisions, so my siblings didn’t have that responsibility in the future. After looking at various retirement locations, I decided that Meth-Wick Community would be the best place for the rest of my life. It is a community that offers a wide range of living accommodations and activities.

I moved to my new condo in the Methwick community on August 8, 2018. I settled in for a couple of years and then got more involved. Stephanie Frantz, who also lives at Meth-Wick, recruited me to drive Red Cap—picking up residents and delivering them to other buildings on campus. I usually drive two or three days a month. The Meth-Wick chorus is a lot of fun, and we are giving three concerts this year. I am chairman of my building, so Oakwood residents come to me with issues, concerns, or for information. This also puts me on a committee with other officers of living

areas. We meet several times a year with members of the Meth-Wick Board to give a resident’s perspective on how things are going at Meth-Wick and to offer suggestions for change.

In January of 2021, I volunteered to be the buyer for the gift shop at Meth-Wick, Sally’s Gifts. The staff is all volunteer and they do a wonderful job. For someone who isn’t a great fan of shopping, I now seem to do quite a bit of it! I do a big share online, so that helps; then spreadsheets need to be updated and prices determined and marked before items go to the shop. Our goal at Sally’s is to offer needed items at reasonable prices—I try to find items on sale or with a coupon. Residents make requests for items and then I go on a search for a good price. This has turned out to be another job that is bigger than I thought it would be—but I am having a good time and enjoying the people.

You really must wonder if I always make a job bigger than it was supposed to be or if I underestimate the amount of work required to do a job??!!

What do you do now?

I enjoy life! Re-reading many favorite series is a constant goal. I have a den full of paperback books waiting to be read. Now when I find a book I like, I try to get all the books in that series before I keep reading—it saves frustration! I belong to paperbackswap.com and frequently trade books with other omnivorous readers. I still sleep late when I can, but I don’t take many naps. That sounds a lot like my original retirement goals!

Two of my three siblings live in the area and the other one comes and goes, so we get together and laugh. I play cards and board games with friends and see Judy Caldwell Penn ‘60 a couple times a week to drink Diet Coke and solve world problems. We wonder how we got to be this age when we still feel at least a couple of decades younger most of the time!

An accomplishment(s) you are proud of ?

In 2022 I was one of four Star Volunteers at Meth-Wick Community.

While working at school, I enjoyed doing projects in the library with students—that lead to cake contests

continued on next page



Mustangs...what are they doing now?

my last few years in the elementary library. Some students and parents will remember making cakes representing a book, a series, or an author, transporting them to the elementary library. Classes came in to see the cakes and voted for favorites in each category. Bids were made on cakes by staff and community members who came and looked at the cakes and the money provided more library books after a budget cut.

The Birthday Book Program that Elementary Principal Joe Cullen had in place when I started working in the library was expanded. Students would bring money to Mr. Cullen, whatever amount was comfortable for their family, and select a book from new ones available in his office or they could ask for a specific author or title to be ordered. A book plate was put in the book with their name and the year it was donated to the library. The student took the book home to read before it was available for check-out and frequently their classroom teacher would share the book with their class. Students would come to the library, find their Birthday Book in later years, and show it to friends. It was also a big deal

when I read to students to show them a book plate and see if they knew the child who donated the book. Several other schools ended up with Birthday Book Programs—former students who became teachers or librarians wrote and asked for information so a program could be started in their school, and sometimes families who moved, talked about it and I was contacted for information.

During my thirty-five years working with students and teachers in Mount Vernon, I served over twenty years on the executive board at East Central Uniserv Unit, a unit of the Iowa State Education Association, representing about thirty small school districts in our area. This gave me the opportunity to meet teachers from other districts and find out what was happening and to represent our needs and concerns to others. It also gave me the opportunity to attend regional and national conferences and represent our area of Iowa. I credit elementary music teacher, Carolyn Neal Palmer '42, with getting me started in Association work. I enjoyed it and met many wonderful educators from around the state and country. Association involvement was another way to work for a good future for students in Mount Vernon.

A favorite memory or two of your time as a student at Mount Vernon Schools -- or of a favorite teacher perhaps?

As a student in Mount Vernon, my favorite teacher was Gladys Rife, high school English and speech. She was known to be stern, and most students (me included) didn't want to upset her. Mrs. Rife was a teacher who wanted to bring out the best in each student, even if we didn't know it was in us. She had a dry sense of humor that I enjoyed. (Some of my former students might say that I have a similar sense of humor.) When she retired, I was president of Mount Vernon Education Association and made a speech when she was presented with a plaque. I still couldn't call her by her first name—even though she encouraged me to do so. She would look at me, raise an eyebrow, and smile.

I'm not sure how Mrs. Rife would feel about my heavy use of commas, dashes, exclamation points, and parentheses, in this saga! (OK, I'm sure she would have suggested that I find other ways to express myself!)



Judy can be reached at judith.workman@mchsi.com

Several folks from who graduated from or worked for Mount Vernon Schools reside in the Meth-Wick Community. Pictured below, front row are: Renee Travis Reilly '45, Joyce Loomis (Middle School secretary), and Chuck Silliman (High School German teacher). Back row: Meryl Hartung '59 (bus driver), Judy Workman '65 (5th grade & ELP teacher, then elementary and MS librarian), Janet Ault (orchestra teacher), and Stephanie Frantz (school board member). Not pictured: John (MS physical education teacher, driver's ed teacher and bus driver) and Carol Thatcher (4th grade teacher), Roger Johanson (Cross Country coach and school board member) Gretchen Beckhelm '56, Deb Streff (4th grade teacher), Barb McClain (elementary teacher)



■ AL PEARSON '83



Denny Dietrich (left) and Peter Dietrich '06 (right), with retiree Allen Pearson '83 from Gary's Foods. Allen's last day was Saturday, March 4. Photo by author Nathan Countryman.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Excerpt from March 9 2023 article by Nathan Countryman, See complete article at www.eastcentraliowanews.com/mvlsun/

Allen Pearson, a 1983 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, has been working at Gary's for more than 27 years – helping to stock shelves, along with a variety of other duties. Through wind, snow and ice, Pearson is definitely one of the employees who helps customers get their groceries packed in vehicles.



Pearson said he has met and helped train a lot of kids on how to bag groceries and handle groceries to customer's cars over the years, some of them even the kids of fellow classmates. Pearson knows he will definitely be spending more time with his dachshund Buster, who will be celebrating his fourth birthday this March. Pearson remembers when he was adopting this dachshund, a community effort helped pay for that dog for him. He also plans to spend more time helping his mom and dad, both in their 80s, and tackling some of the things they shouldn't be doing on their own. He'll also spend more time with his grandchild and at the car races in Tipton, West Liberty, Knoxville and Farley.

"That's one of the things that Al shared with some of the employees at Gary's, was his love of racing, inviting some of us to go to the tracks with him," said Garret Dietrich.

"That, and his mom's cookies," said Denny Dietrich. "Those are some of the best cookies."



MUSTANG ACTIVITIES COMPLEX UPDATE...

The latest sign of progress in the Mount Vernon Community School District is hard to miss, as construction of the new Mustang Activities Complex is underway! This project would not have been possible without the great generosity of many of you, and we offer a big thank you to all who have made donations in support of the project. The project is being financed through a combination of a facilities loan, district facility funds, and over \$2 million in private support. You can still be a part of this great project by donating to it, and this can be done in several ways.

- **Donor recognition opportunities** from \$10,000 to \$500,000. This allows you to put your name or the name of your business on a certain part of the complex
- **Donor recognition wall** in any of the following categories:
 - Major Donors: gifts of \$15,000 or more
 - Founding Donors: gifts of \$10,000 - \$14,999
 - Leading Donors: gifts of \$5,000 - \$9,999
 - Mustang Donors: gifts of \$1,000 - \$4,999
 - Maroon & White Donors: gifts up to \$999
- **Recognition through the "Save Me a Seat" program.** Personalize a plaque that will be applied to a bleacher seat in the home stands.

If you have any questions about the Mustang Activities Complex or any aspect of the Mount Vernon Community School District, please feel free to reach out to Dr. Greg Batenhorst, Superintendent, at gbatenhorst@mvcsd.org.



Save Me a Seat Fundraising Campaign

The Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation invites you to show your Mustang Pride and make a lasting impact on the new Mustangs Activities Complex by participating in the "Save Me a Seat" campaign. With a donation of \$500, donors can personalize a plaque that will be applied to a bleacher seat in the home stands. Funds generated from the "Save Me a Seat" campaign will be applied to overall project costs.

Celebrate a loved one, honor your favorite Mustang, or give a gift to the person who has everything! Contributions to the "Save Me a Seat" campaign are tax deductible.



Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Total Commitment: _____

Pledge Schedule:
 By 12/31/22: _____
 I have included my 2022 contribution with this form
 By 12/31/23: _____

Donor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Checks should be made payable to the MVCS Foundation. Please write "MAC" in the memo line. Donations can also be made online at mvcsd.org/district/foundation. For information on gifts of securities, please contact the Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation at mvfoundation@mvcsd.org.

Pledge forms can be emailed to mvfoundation@mvcsd.org or sent to:
MVCS Foundation
 525 Palisades Rd SW
 Mount Vernon, IA, 52314

Details

Pricing: \$500/seat
Pledges: Donors can make a pledge for the \$500 (or more), which can be paid until December 2023
Give Online: <https://mvcsd.org/district/foundation>
Mail checks*: MVCS Foundation
 525 Palisades Rd SW
 Mount Vernon, IA 52314
 *Please include attached form
Questions: mvfoundation@mvcsd.org
More Details: Seat location is determined by MVCS/MVCS Foundation. Seat donors must still purchase tickets to any event at the MAC, as determined by the MVCS/MVCS Foundation. Seating is not guaranteed seating in the location bearing their names. If you have already made a donation of \$500+ and would like to "Save Me A Seat", please contact the Foundation.

Plaque Listing

Max of 3 lines, 25 characters per line

Line 1: _____
 Line 2: _____
 Line 3: _____





Above, Sara Kendall is recognized by Kirkwood Community College for 35 yrs of teaching in their nursing program.

■ SARA KENDALL '78

What have you been doing since you left Mount Vernon High School?

I worked for two years at Iowa National Insurance company while going to school part time at Kirkwood Community College for my pre-requisitions in nursing. In December 1979 I was accepted into the Kirkwood Nursing Program. I started as a full-time student in March 1980 and graduated with my Associate Degree in Nursing in February 1982. I completed my BSN from Mercy College Cedar Rapids, IA., in 1990 and my MSN in 1999 from University of Iowa College of Nursing. I started working March 1982 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, UIHC, in Iowa City, IA. on the Gynecological Oncology Unit caring for female reproductive cancer patients. After working on that unit for twenty years, I practiced for one year as a traveling nurse to Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Mercy Hospital Cedar Rapids. In January 2002, I went back to the UIHC as a weekend float nurse for the Medical Surgical Division. After doing this for 3.5 years, in July 2005 I moved to Division Float nurse for the Medical Surgical Supervisors for 3.5 years from July 2005 to December 2008.

What do you do now?

From December 2008 to current I am a staff nurse in the Admission and Transfer Center at the UIHC. I take calls from outside hospitals, clinics, and medical centers from all over the state of Iowa and surrounding states for admissions and transfers from other hospitals to the UIHC. I also take internal calls within the UIHC from the emergency room, intensive care units to the specialty floors, medical or surgical floors. I play the role of a charge nurse in the Admission and Transfer Center, ATC, currently shared with another RN every other weekend. I have enjoyed working as an RN for 40 years. I plan to stay in the ATC for 10 more years when I can celebrate 50 years of nursing. I also have been teaching both clinical and classroom for Kirkwood Community College since 1987. I currently work in the nursing labs at Kirkwood and teach clinical at the UIHC. I just celebrated 35 years of teaching at Kirkwood Community College (see photo at left), starting my 36th year on June 1, 2023.

An accomplishment(s) you are proud of ?

First, I am proud of being a graduate of the MVHS class of 1978. I came from a very intelligent class who have excelled in their careers. Followed my Kirkwood graduation, I was able to obtain degrees from Mount Mercy College and the U of Iowa College of Nursing, all while working as a Registered Nurse. I have also been proud of my volunteer work with the Community Health Free Clinic in Cedar Rapids. I have been a 25 year volunteer as an RN in the clinic. In addition I have been involved with the American Cancer Society as a volunteer for 35 yrs, providing education in elementary and middle schools in the Linn County region, primarily teaching about prevention against cancer, smoking and skin cancer. For the last 20 years I have volunteered with the VFW Auxiliary in Cedar Rapids. I am currently the Chaplain in Post 788. These are all still organizations that I am involved with. I have also been on the Mount Mercy University Alumni Board for the last 31 years and will be on that board until September 2023. I have also enjoyed involvement with education in the community about nursing as a profession. Through Mount Mercy University I visit schools in Linn County and the Cedar Rapids School District.

I am most proud of my cancer education and missionary work I have done throughout my nursing career as a public speaker locally, state-wide, national and internationally. I recently have returned from Tanzania on a Mission trip. I traveled from February 10 to March 1, 2023 to both tour and to work with physicians in various clinics and hospitals. In addition our Mission group was invited to local schools to work with children in their classes, and to help teenagers with children who

Sara was a member of a Mission group that went to Tanzania from February 10 to March 1, 2023. At left, she is the 2nd adult from the left. Here some members of the group were visiting a school where the smartest and brightest students come to attend Kindergarten through 12 grade, and then go on to college. Sara says 'We got to help them read and write and look at their assignments.'



Above Sara was recognized in February 2023 as a 25-year volunteer at the Community Health Free Clinic in Cedar Rapids as a registered nurse. Sara has worked at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, UIHC, for 41 years, and 35 years at Kirkwood Community College. She says 'Of course I want to earn my 50 years at UIHC!'



are now coming back to high school to get the remainder of their education. On this trip I visited three different tribes to learn about their way of life and how they educated their children. I had fun by going on a hot air balloon ride in the Serengeti where we saw 'The Big 5'... lions, leopards elephants, rhinos, and zebras. These were your friends in the Serengeti at night. It was the 40th country that I have been too and it was indeed a trip of a lifetime!

I was involved with band from 3rd to 9th grade and chorus/choir from 7th to 12th grade. Student Council in 5th grade.

I did visit Mount Vernon Elementary School in March of 1990 to visit all second grade classes to educate them on the Cathy Healthy Chew Program. This was an American Cancer Society Program to teach children about making healthy fruit choices. The fruit offered were apples instead of smoking or chewing tobacco. I dressed up as an apple and provided education materials to the second graders to color and take home to their parent(s). Each child was offered a piece of apple as the fruit in each class. From 1987 to 2000 I visited 36,000 students in Linn County and Jones County.

A favorite memory or two of your time as a student at Mount Vernon Schools -- or of a favorite teacher perhaps?

My favorite memory was April 10, 1973, after our blizzard of the Century when we had to wear coats in the portables for band class. Mrs. Lonnie Petersen our band teacher, wore her gloves. We were all freezing in the building and Scott Truesdale '78 put the mallet through the base drum. We all laughed and Scott laughed the hardest! RIP Tooter.

My favorite teacher was Bill Meyer in 7th grade English. He prepared me for American Literature in College because we learned about all the writers and stories they wrote. He was also my Driver's Ed Teacher which made it fun learning how to drive. He remained relaxed with his students and made Drivers Ed enjoyable.

Sara lives in Bertram, Iowa. She can be reached at sara-kendall@uiowa.edu



35TH YEARS '88 AND '89 WRESTLING TEAMS REUNION

Join us during Heritage Days 2023 to relive the "glory days" of our '88 State Duals Team Championship and '89 Runner-up. Let's get together for a few beers, reminisce and tell tall tales that seem to get taller by the year!

FRIDAY NIGHT - JULY 7

6 to 8 pm - Team dinner with spouses, at Jeremy Elliott's home
Dinner and refreshments provided
1505 Palisades Rd SW in Mount Vernon

9 pm - Yock's Landing to enjoy Travis Allen and his band ' Vinny and the Night Prowlers'
102 1st St SE in Mount Vernon

SATURDAY - JULY 8

8-10 am - Alumni-Community Breakfast at the High School
10:30 - line up for parade (get on float at 10 am in front of school)
2 -5 pm MVHS wrestling bags tournament and auction
on Main Street Mount Vernon

Hosts: Jeremy Elliott'89 and Todd Neal '89

Jeremy: 319-651-9161 mvelliott@netzero.net

Todd: 563-568-1070 toddneal4444@gmail.com



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In Memory of classmates we have lost

Mary Brawner Viter 1944

April 17, 2023 Mount Vernon, IA

John Neff 1954

March 27, 2023 Mount Vernon, IA

Betty Smith Brunton 1955

Feb 26, 2023 Ashland VA

David Van Meire 1955

May 11, 2023 Cedar Rapids, IA

William 'Willard' 'Bill' Bowers 1957

March 25, 2023 Mount Vernon, IA 52314

George Pospisil 1959

April 7, 2023, Lisbon, IA

Susan West 1964

May 8, 2023 Mount Vernon, IA

David Clark 1967

April 30, 2023 Mechanicsville, Ia.

Karen Tesar Rios 1967

March 4, 2023 Kalona, IA

- FRIENDS -

Harriet Pitlik

March 22, 2023 Cedar Rapids, IA

3rd grade teacher

(Please excuse us if your classmate or loved one is not listed here for their recent death, but let us know for inclusion in the next newsletter.)

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Alumni News...

Send us your information...

alumni@mvcisd.org, Kathy 319-389-8602

BIRTHS

Flannery Lucas '10 and **Dylan Schroeder**

'10 of Janesville, WI, a daughter, Iris Hope Schroeder, October 22, 2022.

ANNIVERSARIES/SPECIAL DAYS

Marty Thomsen '77 married Victor Davis on September 17th. The couple reside in Mechanicsville, IA.

Keegan Lamparek '15 married Rachel Hollingsworth on September 24, 2022. The couple reside in Iowa City.

EDUCATION & MILITARY SERVICE

Nicholas Leopold '18 earned a bachelor of arts in accounting from the University of Northern Iowa fall graduation.

Noelle Ossenkop '18 earned a bachelor of science in engineering from the University of Iowa, fall graduation.

Zachary Vig '18 earned a bachelor of science in physics from the University of Iowa, fall graduation.

Josephine Crock '18 graduated cum laude from Iowa State University in December 2022 with a bachelor of science with a degree in biology and horticulture.

Abigail Patten '19 graduated from Cornell College with a BA in Finance with a minor in Biology. She will attend the University of Iowa Tippie School of Business in the fall to pursue a Master of Science in Finance and Business Analytics. She is the daughter of Sarah Rife Patten '93 and granddaughter of John Rife '60.

Samantha White '19 graduated with a BA, summa cum laude, in Political Science and Sustainability Studies from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA. She is the daughter of Lisa Squiers White '88.

AND MORE...

Brady Ketchem '21 earned his second varsity football letter at Central College in Pella, IA, and was named the American Rivers offensive player of the week Sept. 12, 2022.

Aiden Nosek '21 was honored with the Ted Dagh Award (defensive scout team player of the year) at Central College in Pella, IA.

Dr. George J. Hill '49 won a 2023 Next

Generation Indie

Book Award

for his book 'A Surgeon's Journey, A Venturesome Life.'

George says "I credit

Miss Betty Ralston,

my American History

teacher in 8th grade

at MVHS, for getting

me started. She was,

I later learned, a senior at Cornell

College, substituting that year. She

died before I was able to thank

her, but I located her son in Illinois

and thanked him." George lives in

Baltimore, MD.

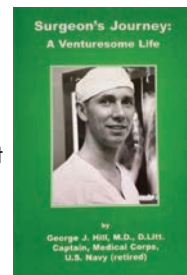
CORRECTIONS:

Apologies to Jane Baker Hardin '67 for missing her donation to the Alumni Association in the fall newsletter. Her donation was made in memory of mother Barbara Baker and brother Michael Baker '69.

John Havill was incorrectly listed as in the Class of 1977 in the last issue. He was from the Class of 1967. Deceased June 2, 2022.



source: MVL Sun Newspaper



Thank you to everyone who volunteers to help at Alumni Association events -- they couldn't happen without you!!!

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HALL OF FAME RECIPIENT NEWS

Alex Morf '99, 2015 Fine Arts Hall of Fame recipient and actor, says to watch for him "on an episode of the final season of *Fear the Walking Dead* on AMC." Date is unknown, but the show will likely be on television in July or August. Alex also says "The other bit of news is that a television pilot I wrote, '*Ode to Psyche*' was selected as part of the Dances With Films Festival in Los Angeles and is going to screen at the historic Chinese Theaters on July 1st.

Jefferson White '08, 2021 Fine Arts Hall of Fame recipient and actor, is working in Bulgaria on *Hellboy: The Crooked Man*, a new film directed by Brian Taylor and written by Michael Mignola, the creator of the Hellboy comics published by Dark Horse Books. Jeff plays the part of Tom Farrell in this live action movie set in 1950s Appalachia.

AND MORE...

Photographer and Mount Vernon resident Bob Campagna worked with alum and Washington Elementary teacher Emily Ryan Stamp '09 along with her 4th grade team, Sadie Andersen, Heather Bauer, Tierney Rowe, and Jessica Thede, to produce a new book about Mount Vernon. Bob says "What you will discover in the new publication *Read and Enjoy: The Book of Mount Vernon* is a present-day observation of our town. Perhaps it's our community's first ever book of its kind. Herein, insightful words and vibrant images are generated by the entire fourth grade." Bob says Emily once was my photo student in her fifth-grade class. Copies are available by contacting the fourth grade team or Bob at Abbecreek@aol.com.



Editor's Note: see complete article by Bob in the May 18, 2023 issue of the Sun, www.eastcentraliowanews.com/mvlsun/



Early Bird Reception

July 7 3-5 pm

CONNECT WITH THE SCHOOL

www.youtube.com/user/MVHSroom208
themustangmoon.com
twitter.com/TheMustangMoon...
www.facebook.com/TheMustangMoon/
 District and individual schools website is at www.mvcsd.org
 'MUSTANG VISION' GoMVStangs.org

ALUMNI BASKETBALL GAME

ARE YOU A FORMER MVHS BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER?



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

Interested in playing some fun basketball?

Join us in the High School gym. Time tba.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

enjoy watching our High School Mustangs playing at home on in the High School gym. Time tba.



If you are interested in playing or contributing to the game, contact High School Coach Derek Roberts at 563-212-5094 or by email droberts@mvcsd.org

A NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

What does amazing look like? I was reflecting back on my high school, and I tried to think of the most famous alumni member ever to graduate from North Platte Saint Patrick's High School in North Platte, Nebraska (Spoiler Alert: It's not me). The closest I could get was a guy named Bill Hayes (Class of 1975), who went on to play professional baseball and served as a coach at the major league level for several years. While many alumni members have gone on to do great things (like being superintendent in the Mount Vernon Community School District), the list of famous alumni members is fairly short. During J-Term at the high school, Mr. Brand talked to the freshmen about being champions in life. As part of this work, Mr. Brand brought in three Mount Vernon alumni speakers via zoom that included the following:



Dr. Greg Batenhorst, Superintendent

Jefferson White - Jimmy on the hit television series, *Yellowstone*
 Tristan Wirfs - All Pro and Super Bowl Champion offensive lineman with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers
 Jack Cochrane - Linebacker with the Kansas City Chiefs

These are three high profile alumni members who are currently thriving in their chosen fields. If one were to go and study the names and accomplishments of those on the Hall of Fame wall display at Mount Vernon High School, they would quickly figure out that Mr. Brand could have brought in multiple speakers for multiple days to highlight the great accomplishments of many alumni members and Mount Vernon residents. I have now worked in education and related fields for thirty nine years, and what Mount Vernon has for famous and successful alumni members is not normal for a district and community of our size. In fact, what our graduates have accomplished is pretty special. None of this has happened by accident. The success of Jefferson, Tristan, Jack and others can be attributed to growing up in a community that cares and supports one another as students strive to reach high levels of excellence. And it can be attributed to being in a school district that is composed of so many outstanding staff members that help students find their passion and voice, while mentoring them and supporting them on their journey to success.

So who will be the next great alumni member that we see doing great things on a national level? Who will be the next members of the Mount Vernon Community School District Hall of Fame? I can't wait to see who is next!

Dr. B.

Source: District Newsletter

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS? DID YOU MOVE? DO YOU HAVE NEWS?
 Please send your email address (as well as any updates) to alumni@mvcsd.org

You're invited to the First Street Community Center for an Early Bird Reception on Friday, July 7, from 3-5 pm. Enjoy some refreshments, good company, and a tour of what was either your Middle School or High School. You will be AMAZED at the variety of shops and businesses now in the building.

F O U N D A T I O N

ANNUAL GIFT REPORT FOR 2022

Thank you to the alumni, businesses, parents and friends listed below who contributed to the Foundation during 2022.

2022

The Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation is a charitable non-profit organization that partners with alumni, businesses, parents, and friends of the Mount Vernon community to support a higher level of educational excellence and opportunities to prepare Mount Vernon School students for the challenges of global opportunities.

2022

The Foundation receives tax-deductible contributions to support the programs of the Mount Vernon Community School District.

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Employee donations support the Foundation's Teacher Grants Program

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Welcome



Mount Vernon Foundation Director,
Dr. Amie Roberts

Dr. Amie Roberts will join the District as its new Foundation Director, beginning in August.

Dr. Roberts replaces Taryn Kuntz, who did a great job in moving the work of the Foundation forward during her time as Director.

Dr. Roberts is currently a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, with a specialization in emergency medicine. Dr. Roberts will continue to work in this role on a part-time basis, while also serving the Foundation on a part-time basis. Dr. Roberts also has a child in the District, and she and her husband welcomed their third child to the family in May. Dr. Roberts is the wife of Derek Roberts, Math-Science teacher and Head Boys Basketball Coach at Mount Vernon High School.

Dr. Roberts is looking forward to fully immersing herself in the community, and helping provide leadership that benefits the students, staff, and programs of the District.

If you are interested in getting to know more about Dr. Roberts, have questions about previous donations or current funding opportunities contact the district office at 319-895-8845. After August 1, she can be reached at aroberts@mvcasd.org or 319-895-8845.

continued on next page

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ANNUAL GIFT REPORT FOR 2022, continued

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YOUR FOUNDATION DONATIONS WORK THROUGH THE TEACHER GRANTS PROGRAM

Every year the Foundation provides grants for district faculty and staff to fund projects that are innovative and promote a higher level of educational excellence for Mount Vernon students.

Your generous support of the Foundation helps to make these projects a reality. Thank you for continuing to support our Mount Vernon students!

MUSTANG LEGACY SOCIETY

Recognizing individuals who have chosen to include the Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation in their estate plans.

Anonymous

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Thank You

DONATIONS TO THE FOUNDATION

Your donations to the Foundation help the school district fulfill its mission in the classroom for students! The Foundation supports classroom and media center projects in the elementary, middle, and high schools, and each dollar you contribute goes directly to support excellence in academics, athletics, and the arts for Mount Vernon students.

Ways to Contribute

Contributions to the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation are tax-deductible and can be made in a variety of ways:

- One-time cash donations
- Annual pledges of cash donations
- Donations honoring a person
- Memorial donations
- Scholarships
- Designated gifts
- Endow Iowa Fund
- Wills
- Stocks and securities
- Retirement plan assets
- Employer matching gift programs
- Charitable remainder trusts
- Charitable lead trusts
- Cash surrender value
- Charitable gift annuity
- Life insurance
- Property

Your donations are put into our general fund and then used for a variety of projects that work to make a difference for Mount Vernon students. You may also designate how you would like your donation used, for example, specifically for use by Kids Club, or Kids in Need, teacher grants, school trips, or any one of our district organizations. Thank you!

SCHOLARSHIPS

Many of the scholarships awarded to graduating seniors are passed through the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation to the graduates. Through these scholarships, you help provide the next generation of Mount Vernon alumni with the help they need for their next step in education.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS

During the construction of the new high school, the school district had used all of its available resources to construct the new high school and to remodel the current high school building into a middle school. It was the \$367,000 in Mount Vernon Foundation contributions to the 'Fulfilling the Promise' Capital Campaign that provided the necessary funds to help the school district finish the buildings.

Currently, the Foundation is working on funding for a new activities complex that will be used by both Fine Arts and Athletics.

Don't See Your Name Listed Here?

THIS LIST IS FOR 2022 FOUNDATION DONATIONS.

WATCH FOR 2023 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DONATIONS TO APPEAR IN THE FALL/WINTER 2023 ISSUE, AND THE 2023 FOUNDATION DONATIONS TO APPEAR IN THE 2024 SPRING ISSUE.

If you have any questions, or need to report a change please call 319-895-8845 or write to foundation@mvcasd.org

DONATIONS MADE TO THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (listed in the next issue) SUPPORT THIS NEWSLETTER, ALUMNI ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

DONATIONS MADE TO THE FOUNDATION (listed in this issue) SUPPORT MOUNT VERNON STUDENTS

Special Event July 8 ... Join Us

The Alumni Association Board invites you to join us on Saturday, July 8, from 3-5 pm in the First Street Community Center library for a RECEPTION to honor outgoing Alumni Association Communications Director Kathy Staskal, outgoing President Andrew Morf, and greet incoming Alumni Director Julia Andrews and President Cathy Hufford '83.



2023 SCHOOL DISTRICT RETIREES



Brad Shipman
7 years

Not pictured: Sally Hunter, 23 years



Kathy Staskal
20 years



Tammy Latta
21 years



Jenny Ciha
25 years

Jenny Ciha

Year started at MV: 1998
Total years at Mount Vernon: 25
1998-2013 Day Care Director
and 2013 to present Bus Driver

First year favorite memory:

My first year memory in the elementary was 'wow, this is so much fun and they actually give me money to play!'

Another teacher or staff member who was a mentor or helped you in your career and what did they do that was helpful to you?

I really liked working with elementary principal Gary Nelson. He had a quiet way about himself but was always willing to listen and supported me in my quest to have a full-time day care.

One or two memories of events that happened during your career at Mount Vernon that you would share.

Which leads to my personal successes. In 2006 we went from a before-and-after school day care when school was in session, to a full time, year-round day care with a whole lot of summer time fun.

We grew from 25-30 kids per day to something over 100 kids per day. We provided service for preschool through 6th grade. I really did enjoy the daycare years and all 4th students that have passed through those doors. I remember so many of the and I have very good memories.

Not to embarrass a few, I'll not mention them by name, but for all the broken bones, stitches, bumps and bloody noses to the lost teeth and worms in the my water to a 13-mile bike ride because I let him lead. Maybe when I retire I'll write my memoirs of Kids Club with names included just to remember all the great fun I had.

In 2013 I retired from the day care because my family needed me at home. But I was not ready to leave the school where I find my joy. So since I had gotten my CDL for Kids Club, I thought I could keep bussing part-time. It was exactly what I needed to fill the void of not having hundreds of kids

making noise and having fun every day.

It has been an honor to drive many of them to their events and to watch them compete with such drive and talent, and play their hearts out just because they can. It's like Dr. Suess said "Oh the places you'll go." I never would have imagined I'd be where I have been or seen what I have seen.

Parting words?

So to finish my career on the very route that started it all, number 15, when (teacher and bus driver John) Thatcher picked up my own kids so many years ago. It has been a privilege to drive for all of you. Thank you!

Sally Hunter

Year started at MV: 2000
Total years at Mount Vernon: 23
Bus Driver

First year favorite memory:

My favorite memories are the stories, jokes, and events of the day that I hear about daily from the kids. I enjoyed their excitement about any upcoming holidays, birthdays, and school events. I love to listen to them!

Another teacher or staff member who was a mentor or helped you in your career and what did they do that was helpful to you?

Chuck Woods '60 was the transportation mechanic and drove one of my children to kindergarten in a suburban bus. We would talk daily in my driveway and one day he suggested I might like a part time job as a bus driver. I told him (A), buses scare me and when it snows I don't let my kids ride and (B), I'm too small to drive a bus. The next thing I knew, I was quickly overcoming my fears as I practiced driving the big yellow bullet around the Catholic Church parking lot with the exceptional Chuck Woods!

One or two memories of events that happened during your career at Mount Vernon that you would share.

A personal favorite memory is when I see a child grow, mature, and blossom from one year to the next. I've witnessed this on my bus many times. They might be a handful

one year, and a whole different kid the next.

Parting words?

It takes a village... look out for each other and especially for each others' children. Children are precious!

Tammy Latta

Year started at MV: 2002
Total years at Mount Vernon: 21
Middle School Associate

First year favorite memory:

When I first started as a paraeducator at Mount Vernon Middle School there were many new people starting that same school year. The biggest change for the middle school was the new and innovative principal. We all know how change can cause disruption. Since I didn't have a comparison to the previous principal, I thought the new guy was great. That was not true for everyone at the middle school. Being here that year helped me learn quickly about the diverse personalities and diverse teaching philosophies of the staff, and how easily a school can become divided. We all made it through that year and we came out as a truly enriched middle school staff. I believe education sets the foundation for deeper learning.

Another teacher or staff member who was a mentor or helped you in your career and what did they do that was helpful to you?

An amazing person that gave me a guiding hand in my early years was Kemra Peska, another paraeducator. We soon became close friends, and we knew that we could count on each other through each and every tough situation and there were many.

One or two memories of events that happened during your career at Mount Vernon that you would share.

The most positive event that happened in my career at Mount Vernon was the time that I found one of the students in my Study Hall laying on the floor. At first I thought he was goofing around, but I immediately realized that the situation was a medical emergency. I stayed with the young man while I sent someone to get the nurse. When we had another adult there to help, I took the rest of the students into the auditorium to get out of the way of the emergency personnel. Once we were in the auditorium, a group of his peers asked if they could pray together for their friend. Of course I agreed to their request because it was what they needed in that situation. I was never so proud of our students as I was that day. I was delighted that they felt comfortable enough in our class to come together in such a caring way. What a great example of how we should all respond to tough situations that pop-up out of

nowhere. This event made me cry that day and every time since then when I retell this story I still get choked-up.

Parting words?

While in Mount Vernon, I have worked in grades 5th-8th. With about 100 new students entering middle school each year, that would make it well over 2,000 young people in the time that I have been here. I have many fond memories while working with the students. I have learned some very valuable and cherished lessons from all the teachers and staff in middle school. I will truly miss the friendships that have developed over the years. I would say that my farewell is bittersweet. Thank you all for so many good years!

Kathy Staskal

Year started at MV: 2003

Total years at Mount Vernon: 20

**Alumni Association Coordinator/
Communications, Secretary**

First year favorite memory:

I worked at both the Middle School and the District Office during my first year. I remember the inspiring impression that the Middle School teachers left on me -- an incredible group that included Dennis Gondek, Adrienne Coffeen, Karen Stewart, Steve Benson, Bill Meyer, Glen Helble, and new-at-the-time teacher Jo Ann Gage (who still continues to awe me).

Another teacher or staff member who was a mentor or helped you in your career and what did they do that was helpful to you?

A period of time that I treasure are my first years when I worked with Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert, Carol Woods '75, and Matt Burke. They were so invested in our school district and helped me fit in.

One or two memories of events that happened during your career at Mount Vernon that you would share.

My very favorite day of the year is the Alumni Hall of Fame day. Wow -- I am truly amazed at the graduates of Mount Vernon, and every year the inductees astound me. The Association is 15 years in with the Hall of Fame, and there is no end to the inductees worthy of this award. Staff and parents should be so proud!

Parting words?

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work with the fantastic people in our school district, and with the Alumni Association. Thank you to everyone who through the years have impacted either me or the Alumni Association in some way.

Brad Shipman

Year started at MV: 2017

Total years at Mount Vernon: 7

Middle School Custodian



SCHOOL YEAR 2022-2023

SUMMER 2022:

- HS softball earns 3A State title

AUGUST

- Schools opens on August 23, 2022 with 1,428 students, up 13 from the prior year

- 18 new teachers start the school year.

SEPTEMBER

- HS Football bests Solon for first time in more than 19 years

- Sand volleyball courts are completed, funded completely with donations and volunteer labor

- Homecoming King is Gus Andrews and Queen is Ava Dimmer

OCTOBER

- Mustang Activities Complex was approved, and ground breaking ceremony was held

- HS Volleyball clinches WaMaC title 4th straight year and earned a trip to state

- Marching Mustangs end a phenomenal season, with 8th consecutive Division I ratings at state competition

NOVEMBER

- Mustang football earns a trip to state in their 2nd win against Solon, 17-0, placed State Runner-up

- School board elects Nannette Gunn to serve her 2nd term as president, and Rick Elliott is VP

- Girls wrestling program starts its first officially sanctioned year

- 12 high school students earn trip to All-State Chorus

- Fall play is comedy 'Lend Me a Tenor

- HS boys cross county places 9th at state meet and girls place 4th

DECEMBER

- For the first time in more than 30 years, the elementary hosted a Holiday Chorus Concert

- Maggie Lessmeier Willems '96 is named NE Iowa Class 3A District Volleyball Coach of the Year

JANUARY

- HS speech has 74 students on team

- Middle School 6th grader Matthew Winkler wins state spelling bee and competes at regionals

- HS Swingin' Stangs Jazz Band earns a Division I rating at the State Competition.

FEBRUARY

- MS wrestling coach and teacher Kyle Jaspers named junior high wrestling coach of the year with the trophy presented by alum Tristan Wirfs '17.

- Wrestler Jase Jaspers is 126 lb runner-up at state, team placed 3rd overall, 9 wrestlers had qualified for state

- First season MV girls wrestling program sends 3 high school students to state, with Soph Libby Dix placing 170 lb runner-up.

- HS speech team earned 17 division ratings at All-State Large Group Festival with 9 earning All-State nominations; these 9 nominations involved 33 high school students, a new record

MARCH

- MVHS wins WaMaC Individual Speech Contest trophy, with 40 Division I ratings who earned a trip to State, and 17 Division II ratings.

- HS Lincoln Highway Jazz Choir placed 5th in Iowa Vocal Jazz Championships

- Head football coach Lance Pedersen was awarded the Class 3A coach of the year by the Iowa Football Coaches Association

- Middle School Science Olympiad team places first at State and competed at nationals in May

- HS earned 36 Division I ratings at the State Individual Speech Contest and 12 HS students were nominated for All-State Speech

APRIL

- Superintendent Greg Batenhorst announces he will retire at the end of the 2023-2024 school year

- HS Science Olympiad team is state runner-up

- HS Concert Choir invited to Iowa Choral Showcase

- 'Beauty and the Beast' is spring HS musical

- HS Theatre Department 'Lend Me A Tenor' invited to International Thespian Festival - only one of 7 schools nationally to receive this honor

- The Middle School Robotics team wins State and competes at the VEX World Championship in Dallas, TX. They were also chosen to represent the USA in the Parade of Nations.

MAY

- Seniors Ryne Moeller and Kyla Vaughn are named class alumni representatives

- 113 seniors graduate on May 21, 2023

- In State track Zach Fall wins the Boys 400 m to claim a State Championship and a PR of 48.53, in the Boys 4 X 400 Relay Caden Stimmel, Zach Fall, Brady Erickson, and Jensen Meeker are State Champs after running the second fastest time in 3A State history.

- Kaylie Kelchen placed 4th individually at the 3A Golf State Meet --daughter of Whitney Schreder'04

- Marching Mustangs perform in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, DC

ALUMNI

SPRING/SUMMER 2023

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MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATION UNDER THE MOUNT VERNON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION
525 PALISADES RD SW MOUNT VERNON, IA 52314

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

IS THIS THE RIGHT ADDRESS FOR THE PERSON ON THE ADDRESS LABEL? If not, please let us know by calling Kathy at 319-389-8602 or emailing alumni@mvcsd.org

MOMs and DADs, please help us update our contact information for your graduate(s). If you would also like to receive this publication, we can add your name to the list too.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

Andrew Morf '94, President
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Tom Wilkinson '86
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MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD

Nannette Gunn, President
Rick Elliott, Vice-President
Denise Henik Brannaman '81, Member
Jeremy Kunz, Member
Lori Merlak, Member
Lance Schoff, Member
Bill Thomsen '72, Member
Michael Marshall, Board Secretary-Treasurer
Dr. Greg Batenhorst, Superintendent

HERE'S HOW to support the Alumni Association...

ONLINE at www.MVAlumni.org

Select 'DONATION' located in the top left corner.
NOTE: do not be alarmed that the page you are directed to is a Foundation page. Select 'Alumni Association' for your donation and the total amount does come directly to us. For donation reporting purposes the MV Alumni Association operates under the MVCSDF Foundation, a tax-exempt organization.

OR BY MAIL return form & your check to:
MV Alumni Assoc., 525 Palisades Rd, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

Yes, I'd like to make a contribution:

- \$35 \$50 \$75
 \$100 \$200 Other _____

in memory of/in honor of _____

YOUR SUPPORT AND DONATIONS PAY FOR THESE ANNUAL EXPENSES:

Printing and mailing of twice yearly newsletter approximately \$10,000

Alumni Hall of Fame Events & Promotion approx \$2,000

Homecoming Reception approx \$300

Heritage Days Sponsor

Database Software \$2,800 and more

Your tax deductible support is very much appreciated and funds alumni organization publications & activities

2023

Alumni or friend first & last name, including maiden name _____

Class Year/Friend _____ Spouse name (and class year if also an alumnus) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Country if outside USA _____

Email address _____

Phone Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

For tax purposes, the MV Alumni Association operates under the Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation, which has been determined by the IRS to be a public charitable organization under code 501(c)3.

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ALUMNI Association

Thank you!