



# MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

# ALUMNI NEWS



The John Pospisil '66 family makes Heritage Days a time to get together. Above are Jared '94 and Scott '95.

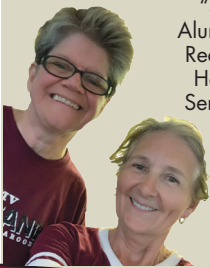
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## 2021 ALUMNI EVENTS

watch for updates to come via email, Facebook, or on our website at [www.mvalumni.org](http://www.mvalumni.org)

## 2021 HALL OF FAME & HOMECOMING OCT 8



"See us at the Alumni-Community Reception during Heritage Days. Serving delicious chocolate shakes as an Association fundraiser."

PLEASE SUPPORT THE ALUMNI ASSOC. WITH YOUR DONATION... SEE BACK PAGE

## SPECIAL Hall of Fame Event with 2017 alum Tristan Wirfs

**July 10 - Main Stage at Heritage Days - 6 pm** - Join us as the Alumni Association honors Tristan Wirfs from the Class of 2017 with a 'Mustang Outstanding Achievement Hall of Fame' award. Tristan is a big deal to both our alumni and the Mount Vernon community, and throughout Tristan's success from Mount Vernon schools, through the University of Iowa to the NFL, he has never forgotten about Mount Vernon. And, Mount Vernon fans are Tristan's biggest fans! Tristan is the son of Sarah Wirfs '93, sister of Kaylia Wirfs '20. See page 4.



PHOTO CREDIT AP



After a one year break due to COVID-19, the Annual Heritage Days Festival, Mount Vernon's biggest summer festival, will take place Friday and Saturday, July 9 and 10 with a theme of 'There's No Place Like Mount Vernon.'

Heritage Days will be 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.

The event starts Friday, July 9, at Kernoustie Golf Club with a Kids Fun Run, followed by inflatables, a trackless train, a food/beer tent, a rock wall, live music, a balloon glow, and a fireworks show at dusk.

On Saturday, July 10, the day begins at 8 am with our All-Alumni-Community breakfast at MV High School followed by Heritage Days events in Uptown. Visit the Alumni Association Reception area in the old Fire Station and enjoy friendship, displays, yearbooks, and ice cream. A perfect meet-up spot.

Other Saturday events include a Car Show, parade at 11 a.m., a bags tournament, carnival games, food vendors, a beer tent, live music, special alumni event to honor Tristan Wirfs at 6, and a street dance led by headliner Crazy Delicious starting at 8:30 p.m.

New this year will be the Memorial Park Family Fun Zone with a Wizard of Oz theme that offers children and families the opportunity to skip down a recreated Yellow Brick Road and meet costumed OZ characters. Also new this year, all school buildings and the Lester Buresh Recreation Center will offer tours.

If your class is having a reunion, see listing on the next page. Even if your class is not having a reunion, click your heels and come home for this community celebration.

TURN TO PAGE 5 FOR FULL SCHEDULE





# Mustang ALUMNI

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To advertise in the Alumni News –  
call 319-389-8602 or email  
alumni@mvcasd.org

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer to help the Association on Saturday, July 10 from 8-9 am or 9-10 am in the kitchen at the high school for our breakfast, or as a two-hour host any time from 11:30 am to 8:00 pm. In addition, Heritage Days needs volunteers for set-up on Saturday morning the 10th from 8 am to 10 am, and Friday the 9th from 6 pm to 8 pm. Contact Kathy at alumni@mvcasd.org or text/call 319-389-8602.

**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@mvcasd.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 Committee. For advertising rates write or call 319-895-8845.

### MV Community Events

www.visitmvl.com

2021

Oct - Chili Cookoff & Chocolate Stroll  
December - Magical Night  
other events: Lincoln Hwy Arts Festival  
and more

# REUNIONS UPDATE

## 2016 - 5 YEARS - - Heritage Days weekend

Friday, July 9, outdoor tailgate starting around 7 pm. Location tba soon on our 'Mount Vernon Class of 2016' Facebook group. All other updates will be posted there as well.

Contact: Jenna Brannaman Kannegieter  
Email: jenna.brannaman@gmail.com  
Phone: 319-558-6811  
Contact: David Taylor  
Phone: 319-855-2822

## 2015 5 years - tba

Contact: Courtney Maddocks  
Phone: 319-895-6316 319-826-4634  
Contact: Abbey Teubel  
Phone: 319-455-0147 319-651-4712

## 2011 - 10 YEARS - Heritage Days 2021

Friday eve – meet up at Scorz  
Sat eve – meet near Heritage Days beverage tent

On Facebook at  
'Mount Vernon Class of 2011'  
Contact: Micah Wieditz  
Email: micahwieditz@gmail.com  
Phone: 319-654-6126

## 2010 10 years - tba

Contact: Thomas Mlynarczyk  
Contact: Emily Stoner  
Email: emilyb@broadstar.com  
Phone: 318-551-6634  
Contact: Sarah Woods  
Contact: Molly Giegerich

## 2005 15 years - tba

Contact: Chrystal Covington Wherry  
Phone: 319-540-1879  
Email: Crystaal2005@yahoo.com

## 2006 - 15 YEARS - Heritage Days 2021

Saturday, July 10, 7 pm - meet uptown on Main Street near the Heritage Days beverage tent. We will plan ahead for a larger gathering for our 20 year.

Contact: Jessica Corcoran Fitzpatrick  
Email: jessicamcorcoran@gmail.com  
Phone: 319-551-2171  
Contact: Kim Smyth  
Phone: 319-482-2541

## 2001 - 20 YEARS - postponed to 2022

20th anniversary postponed due to COVID. Looking for volunteers to help plan something for 2022

Contact: Jessie Bigley Gallagher  
Email: jessiegallagher@gmail.com  
Phone: 469-544-7858

## 2000 20 years - tba

Find us on Facebook  
Contact: Katey Forest Sanders  
Phone: 319-551-4136  
Email: ksanders133@gmail.com  
Contact: Lauren Sauter  
Email: lauren.r.sauter@gmail.com  
Phone: 917-528-8891  
Contact: Jenny Mick Ballard  
Email: jmick1230@gmail.com  
Phone: 510-654-7116 319-329-6666

## 1996 - 25 YEARS - Heritage Days weekend

Saturday July 10, 5-8 pm, Kroul Farms  
Contact: Maggie Lessmeier Willems  
Email: maggiewillems@gmail.com  
Phone: 319-929-4542  
Contact: Ben Pospisil  
Email: bennyp1984@yahoo.com  
Phone: 319-330-9493

## 1995 - 25 years - reunion being planned

Contact: Carrie Rutledge  
Email: carrierutledge@gmail.com  
Phone: 323-632-4680

## 1991 - 30 YEARS -- Heritage Days 2021

Visit our Facebook page 'MVHS Class of '91' to RSVP via the poll on the class page.  
Friday, July 9 - 6 pm, meet at Scorz Bar, meal selections for \$10 with live music at 9  
Contact: Deanna Parish Gray  
Email: goldiegray@gmail.com  
Phone: 515-321-2051

## 1990 - 30 years - Heritage Days 2021

Saturday, July 10, 2-5 pm basement/patio at The Local

Friday event tba.

Please join our class Facebook page:  
Mt. Vernon High Class of 1990

Contact: Kim McGowan McAdams  
Phone: 773-294-7301  
Email: kmcadams@thehirecompany.com  
Contact: Paul Morf  
Phone: 319-841-3472  
Email: pmorf@simmonsperrine.com

## 1986 - 35 YEARS - postponed to 2026

Contact: Deb Winchip Douglass  
Email: debbilld@netins.net  
Phone: 641-755-3055

## 1985 - 35 years - tba

Contact: Dave Ryan  
Phone: 319-899-4965  
Email: ryanfamily210@msn.com

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

**1981 - 40 years - Heritage Days Weekend 2021**

Celebrating 40 years of friendship!  
 FRI. (at Sutliff Bridge)  
 SAT. evening (at the Skillet & Uptown)  
 Contact: Rhondi Ewing  
 Email: rhondi@ewingdesign.com  
 Phone: 805-499-1415

**1980 - 40 years - tba**

Looking for classmates to plan reunion.  
 Is this you?

**1976 - 45 YEARS - postponed to 2026**

Looking for classmates to help plan reunion.  
 Contact: Glori Holz Roman  
 Email: glori17@msn.com  
 Phone: 319-396-2991

**1975 - 45 years - Homecoming Weekend****Oct 8 and 9, 2021** watch for details to come

Contact: Lori Lehman Reihle  
 Phone: 319-310-2639  
 Email: lar917@msn.com

**1971 - 50 YEARS - postponed until 2022**

Contact: Wendy Kaplan Johnson 1971  
 Email: johnsonwendy725@gmail.com  
 Phone: 319-551-1428

**1970 - 50+1 years**

Friday night July 9, 6-9 p.m., meet and greet at "The Local", 103 1st St. NW  
 Saturday July 10, 8-10 am, Alumni-Community Breakfast, High School, followed by boarding float to participate in parade.  
 Saturday 6-10 pm, at 'Mount Vernon Creates,' 121 1st St. NW SEE PAGE 14  
 Contact: Chris Swiser  
 Phone: 319-360-0741  
 Email: teamswiser@gmail.com  
 Contact: Dan Stoner  
 Phone: 319-360-6634  
 Email: dan.lee.stoner@gmail.com

**1966 - 55 YEARS - Heritage Days Weekend**

Saturday evening, July 10, at home of Jeri and Barb Neal

Contact: Jeri Neal  
 Email: jmn773@gmail.com  
 Phone: 319-895-8171  
 Contact: Cindy Buresh Prewitt  
 Email: cynannprewitt@gmail.com  
 Phone: 612-940-0287  
 Contact: Margaret Ellison Duffy  
 Email: Margaret917@me.com  
 Phone: 319-930-0917

**1965 - 55 years - next reunion in 2025**

Contact: Susan Mounts Fisher  
 Phone: 319-389-3686  
 Email: SusanJFisher@netins.net

**1961 - 60 YEARS - Heritage Days Weekend**

Friday, July 9 - Ladie's Only Outing  
 Friday, July 9 - 5 pm evening gather at Sutliff on the bridge, evening fireworks show at the County Club  
 Saturday, July 10 8-10 am Alumni-Community breakfast at the High School, followed by the parade at 11 am  
 Saturday, July 10 5 pm, Class Reunion banquet, Sally's Restaurant in Springville  
 Sunday, July 11 Noon, Jim and Melani Vislisel's farm SEE PAGE 14  
 Contact: Dick Miner  
 Email: raldenm@aol.com  
 Phone: 775-833-2747  
 Contact: Bunny Williams Copeland  
 Phone: 319-377-7644  
 Email: bunnymulligan1961@gmail.com

**1960 - 60 years - Homecoming Weekend****Oct 8, 2021** watch for details to come

Contact: John Rife  
 Phone: 319-310-8105  
 Email: jtbr2@q.com  
 Contact: Annamae Stoneking Baker  
 Phone: 319-895-8979  
 Email: abmrlk@gmail.com

**1956 - 65 YEARS - - Heritage Days 2021**

-Saturday, July 10th - All Alumni-Community breakfast at the High School 8-10 am  
 -Parade at 11 am - uptown events on main street after parade  
 - Evening get together at Roger Schnittjer's home with finger food and drinks  
 -Sunday, July 11 - Brunch at Leona Smith's  
 More information to classmates will be sent with more information later.  
 Contact: Leona Reyhons Smith  
 Email: leonaosmith@gmail.com  
 Phone: 319-361-8097  
 Contact: Roger Schnittjer  
 Email: rmschnittjer@gmail.com  
 Phone: 319-895-8817

**1955 - 65 years - Heritage Days 2021 breakfast**

Contact: Kay Jilovec Lind  
 Phone: 319-377-2079 319-538-6244  
 Email: kaylind38@gmail.com

**1949-1950-1951 - 70 YEARS - Heritage Days 2021 breakfast****1946 - 75 YEARS - Heritage Days Breakfast****1945 - 75 years - - Heritage Days breakfast**

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

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Find the Sun online in two places:  
 First, if you are a current subscriber go online to www.mvlsun.com, click E-EDITION at the top of the page. You may also receive news alerts. Current and archived.  
 Second, online at www.colelibrary.org, to find Mount Vernon news from 1860 to the Sun of 2013

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT OF THE MV ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!**

**TURN TO THE BACK PAGE TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP US CONTINUE THIS PUBLICATION AND OUR TRADITIONAL ALUMNI EVENTS**

\*\*\*\*\*

Your class may not be having a reunion, but come on Heritage Days weekend to enjoy seeing classmates, other alums, teachers, and your friends from the community.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Andrew Morf '94  
Alumni Association  
President

Where do I begin this letter? So much is happening and so much has happened this past year. First, it appears that life is finally beginning to return to normal, albeit a "new normal" as Covid 19 cases continue to fall rapidly, at least in our country, thanks to incredible vaccines created in record time and delivered at warp speeds. As it relates to life in Mount Vernon this summer, it means that Heritage Days is back on the calendar, and we anticipate it to be a very large town gathering given the twenty-four month hiatus this event has taken due to the pandemic.

Earlier this year, there were discussions at the community level about the viability of continuing Heritage Days given the significant financial and volunteer commitment required with no obvious or reoccurring funding mechanism. The Mount Vernon Alumni Association became heavily involved in these discussions as it is our belief this is an essential town celebration that creates a unique venue and opportunity for MV alums, from not only the area, but from all around the country, and really all ends of the globe, to come home to reconnect with classmates, friends, and family. Every summer numerous class reunions are held during this weekend, a large breakfast is served at the High School for MV Alums, and tours are given of the schools prior to the town parade. It is a perfect time of year to be in Mount Vernon and reconnect with the past while witnessing future generations thriving in the present. It is a reminder of the circle of life in which we are all a part, as well as a reminder of the opportunity we all have to give back a portion of the success we have earned, thanks in part to the investment teachers and coaches made in us while attending school here.

Determined to keep Heritage Days thriving, the Alumni Association has made a \$5,000 commitment to this year's Heritage Days. If we see that MV alums are supportive of this investment through the donations you continue to generously give, our hope is to provide this financial support indefinitely. We are making this gift this year on a bit of a leap of faith, but believe we will be supported in this decision, and thank you in advance for your support.

We are excited to announce that during Heritage Days we will be holding a special Hall Of Fame event honoring Tristan Wirfs from graduating class of 2017. He will be honored with the newly created 'Mustang Outstanding Achievement Award' for playing as a starting offensive lineman and helping his team – The Tampa Bay Buccaneers – win a Super Bowl. Our board determined no current Hall of Fame Award appropriately recognized the success of Tristan and his accomplishments a mere three and a half years after graduating from Mount Vernon High School and that special recognition beyond anything we had given was both necessary and deserved. We hope you can attend this special event recognizing Tristan.

Enjoy summer and a renewed lease on life in what is hopefully fast becoming a Post Covid World.

*Determined to keep Heritage Days thriving, the Alumni Association has made a \$5,000 commitment to this year's Heritage Days. If we see that MV alums are supportive of this investment through the donations you continue to generously give, our hope is to provide this financial support annually.*

## ALUMNI & COMMUNITY EVENT

Saturday, July 10, 6 pm  
Heritage Days Main Stage  
Presentation of  
'Mustang Outstanding  
Achievement Hall of  
Fame' award

Join alumni and community  
as we do a little cheering  
and hollering to honor  
2017 alum **Tristan Wirfs**

NOTE:  
times are  
subject to  
change

## Tristan Wirfs to Receive 'Mustang Outstanding Achievement Hall of Fame' Recognition

Join us as the Alumni Association honors Tristan Wirfs from the Class of 2017 with a 'Mustang Outstanding Achievement Hall of Fame' award on July 10th at 6 pm on the Heritage Days main stage.

As a Mustang in high school, Tristan was known not only as a great athlete, but as a great guy. As a senior he was elected to the U.S. Army All-American Bowl, named to Des Moines Register Elite all-state team, named captain of 2A Iowa Newspaper Association all-state team, named district offensive line MVP and Class 2A Iowa Preps Offensive Lineman of the Year, and earned first-team all-district for three straight seasons. He was a 3-year football letterman as both an offensive and defensive lineman and then a team captain as a senior. Tristan was named the Des Moines Register All-Iowa Boys High School Athlete of the Year in 2016-17 and he was also a state champion in discus and shot put as a junior and senior and a won state wrestling championship as a senior. He earned the Robert Kramme Award for most outstanding boys high school performer at 2017 Drake Relays.

As a Hawkeye for the University of Iowa, Tristan was a three-year starter and the first true freshman to start at offensive tackle under head coach Kirk Ferentz, according to Hawkeyesports.com. Wirfs started all 13 games in 2019, 10 at right tackle and 3 at left. He was named the Rimington-Pace Offensive Lineman of the Year in the Big Ten, earned First-Team All-American honors by multiple outlets and was an All-Big Ten selection his junior year.

Now as an NFL American League Tampa Bay Buccaneer, he is an offensive tackle. He was selected in the 2020 NFL draft in the first round, 13th pick, where he would be blocking for the G.O.A.T., Tom Brady. During the nine months from draft day when Tampa Bay was on the doorstep of winning the Super Bowl, Tristan was the only player on the Bucs



## ALUMNI EVENT

Friday, July 9 3-5 pm  
Early Bird Reception  
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 building.

## ALUMNI & COMMUNITY EVENT

Sat., July 10 8-10 am  
Breakfast and Tours

Pick up your 'grab-n-go' breakfast & and enjoy coffee and juice along with other alumni and families, school staff, and MV community. Cost of breakfast is a monetary donation. Eat in the commons or Fine Arts lobby, tours available

ALUMNI FUNDRAISER

## ALUMNI & COMMUNITY EVENT

Tours of all school buildings, the new Performing Arts Center, & the Lester Buresh Recreation Center

Pick up a map at any school building and go for a self-guided tour  
Friday from 10 am - 2 pm  
and Saturday from 8-10 am  
Host present in all bldgs

## ALUMNI & COMMUNITY EVENT

Reception Area open at old Fire Station uptown Saturday, July 10 after parade until dark

Join alumni and community for a spot to sit down, enjoy cold water, pictures and yearbooks, play a game of bags, and get a chocolate shake! Great meet-up spot!

Chocolate Shakes for sale \$3

# Heritage Days 2021 Schedule of Events

### Thursday, July 8<sup>th</sup> – Kernoustie Golf Cub

1 p.m. Heritage Days 3 Person Best Shot  
Call Kernoustie GC clubhouse to sign-up, (319) 895-8193

### Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup> – Kernoustie Golf Club

8:00 AM-2 PM MVHS Alumni and Friends Golf Special – 9 holes w/ cart \$16; 18 holes w/ cart \$22

5-5:45 PM Kids Fun Run Registration Kernoustie Golf Club  
6 PM Kids Fun Run Kernoustie Golf Club  
5:30-9:30 PM Children's entertainment including inflatables, rock wall, trackless train  
5:50-9:30 PM Food/Beer Tent Kernoustie Golf Club  
6 PM-9 PM Activities and Family Night at Kernoustie Golf Club  
Balloon Glow  
7 PM Sound starts at 7 p.m.; band plays 8-9:30 PM  
8:45 PM Bagpiper  
Dark Fireworks Display *by Heritage Days*



FIND UPDATES AT  
[www.visitmvl.com](http://www.visitmvl.com)  
OR find a complete listing and updates in the Heritage Days issue of the *Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun* newspaper

### Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup> - Uptown Mt. Vernon

8-10 AM **Alumni and Community Breakfast**  
Serving from 8-10 am in the High School Commons. All alumni, families, friends, and the community. Cost: Donation at the door.

9 AM to 1 PM CAR SHOW, 1<sup>st</sup> Street from 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
11 AM **Heritage Days Parade**, First Street West – Theme = "There's No Place Like Mount Vernon"  
Parade starts on First Street West, winds down 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and ends at 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Line up begins at 10:00 am

11 AM to 3 PM Memorial Park Family Fun Zone – Wizard of Oz-themed crafts and games for kids  
11:30 AM-9 PM **Alumni Reception**  
Hang out with your classmates uptown and meet fellow alums from many classes. Friends, family, and Community welcome.

Noon-8 PM **Carnival games**, Main street in front of the old fire station  
Noon- 10 PM Lions Club Bingo, event takes place in front of MV Bank on Saturday only  
Noon-midnight **Food Vendors**, First Street West  
Different street vendors with both local and regional favorites  
**Beverage Tent**, First Street West

Noon-midnight **Main Street Stage**, First Street West  
12:30-1 PM Mt. Vernon/Lisbon Young Adults Theater/ Mt. Vernon/Lisbon Community Theatre  
1:00-1:30 PM Dance Arts Iowa  
2:00-5:45 PM MV Wrestling Team – bean bag toss tournament fund raiser  
6:00-9:00 PM DJ music  
8:30 PM-midnight Crazy Delicious Band

5:30-7:30 PM **Theme Night @ the Mt. Vernon Pool**  
9:00-11 PM **Movie Night @ the Mt. Vernon Pool "Wizard of Oz"**





Mustangs...what are they doing now?

## BRANNAMAN FAMILY GIVES BACK TO

Hats off to the Brannaman family for the many ways they give to the Mount Vernon School District. Pictured below are Ben Brannaman from the Class of 2005 (left) and Alex Brannaman from the class of 2009 (right), sons of alum Denise Henik Brannaman (middle) from the class of 1981. In addition to being number one Mustang fans, Ben serves the District as Foundation Director, Alex as a member of the Alumni Association Board, and Denise as a member of the MV School District Board.

PHOTO CREDIT  
LISA LEWIS





# MOUNT VERNON SCHOOLS

## ■ DENISE HENIK BRANNAMAN 1981

### Tell about variety of things you do and have done for the school district...



I am currently serving in my second term on the Mount Vernon school board. I feel honored to serve with such a great group of caring and dedicated individuals along with Dr. Batenhorst. I am part of SIAC, the Management Committee, the Facilities Committee and also serve on the Mount Vernon housing commission as the district liaison. I served on fine arts for 10+ years while our children were in school including the role of treasurer with my husband Dan prior to being a board liaison in addition to being a band parent volunteer for 12 years. I was an assistant 4-H leader for 10+ years for many students in our district.

### Do you have a goal or project for our district that you would like to see through?

One of my continuing goals for our district is to ensure that as our students walk through the front doors each and everyday, we give them the best well-rounded educational experience we possibly can. Our own children and all other students are so fortunate to have such a committed group of individuals teaching them along with a community that supports our district. I get emotional as I watch graduation each year feeling I may have had a small part in developing such awesome individuals who receive their diplomas and walk out of our doors one last time and begin the next chapter in their lives. On the project side, I would like to see through the completion of our new proposed activities complex. Our district is in need of this facility and it will be an amazing addition to our campus along side the LBC as well.

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

Wow, that seems like so long ago when you count the years that I walked across

the stage and received my MV diploma but then when I reflect on it, it seems to have flown by. The old sayings like "where has the time gone," "don't blink," and "time goes faster than you think" are really true. Dan and I have been married for 36 years, raised our four children, became grandparents to three and couldn't be happier to have done this where we both grew up in the Lisbon-Mount Vernon area. For most of those 36 years our lives revolved around what our kids were doing in school and activities, which we truly enjoyed. Each morning I walk our town and I still continually realize how special this place truly is to have called and continue to call home for us and all our family.

If I would write down what has happened since graduation it might get too long and sound a little ho-hum, but on the contrary, as it has been amazing and just as I would have planned when I graduated way back then.

### What do you do now?

Presently I still run a small in-home daycare for school employees. This allows me to have summers off so I can spend time crafting, baking and cooking, gardening, working on our farm, being a grandma, and just enjoying each day to its' absolute fullest. I enjoy being involved in many different levels at our church, St. Johns, and I presently serve on their Pastoral Council.

### An accomplishment you are proud of?

On a personal note, I am most proud to having raised and been given the honor of being "mom" to Ben, Alex, Cory and Jenna, all who graduated from Mount Vernon and Wartburg College. An accomplishment within our district was to have helped in a very small way to produce our new Performing Arts Center which has been so rewarding as I watch our students on stage. I still get goosebumps when I walk into the PAC. This project had been waiting to be completed for a very long time.

continued on next page

## CLASSROOM CASH

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SPENCER DRAHOS '14, Agent [sdrahos@hotzagency.com](mailto:sdrahos@hotzagency.com)



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

As a MV student in marching band under the direction of Don Stine, I fondly remember how proud I was to march in the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington D.C. And on that trip we managed to stay overnight in caboose cars in the country and rode a bicycle built for two on a sunny early morning in the rolling hills while seeing farmers plow with horses.

One year our marching band theme revolved around Overture 1812 and I distinctly remember the REAL canon that was used in our show and how it echoed through Mt Vernon when we did the halftime show for football games. Our band won just about everything we competed in for both marching and concert band for many years and numbered over 100. It was when I was in band and choir that I could truly be me.

Our band was a family and if you ask Mr. Stine about the those years he should say without a doubt, that he had the best clarinet section ever in the late 70's and early 80's. It is because of my positive and rewarding experiences in fine arts that I remain determined that all of our MV extra-curricular activities stay strong and available.

Every student has passions and it is our responsibility to help them find those passions. I had many good teachers but I fondly remember Mr. Dick Peters. I could have listened to his history stories far longer than one period a day.

### **■ ALEX BRANNAMAN 2009**

#### **Tell about the variety of things you do, and have done, for the school district.**

I have been serving on the Alumni Association Board since 2014! Alongside outstanding Board members, I am fortunate to be part of a team that carries out the mission of the Association and engages with alumni through communications, events, and programs. Association operations are a year-round, team effort. Currently, I assist the Board with secretarial duties. During 2009-2011, I worked for the district during the summer to help manage and maintain facilities and grounds. I have great memories of working alongside district staff during the Iowa summer months.



#### **Do you have a goal/project for our district that you would like to see through?**

The Association holds an important role since its establishment in April 2005, and I look forward to working with Board members to continue the strong tradition of connecting alumni with each other and the district. As the Association strives to preserve the storied past and keep pace with the ever-changing future, there are opportunities to continue showcasing to alumni the exceptional work by our district through excellence in academics, arts, and athletics. The Association's display case in the Performing Arts Center will soon house alumni achievements and memories. I

am excited about the proposed Activities Complex and its potential to serve as an important investment and facility for both the district and community. The proposed proximity on the district's campus to all three district school buildings will be a tremendous benefit for district activities and generations of Mount Vernon students.

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

Upon graduation from MVHS, I continued my education at Wartburg College in Waverly. I graduated from Wartburg in 2013 with a degree in accounting, and I began my career at the University of Iowa. After growing up in the Mount Vernon-Lisbon community, I appreciate being able to be back home and reside in our special part of the state. The individuals and organizations in our local community make this place special and one-of-a-kind!

#### **What do you do now?**

I am a finance and operations administrator for the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost at The University of Iowa. I am honored to serve as a board member with the Iowa City-based Red Shamrock Foundation, which raises awareness of the unique health care needs of childhood cancer survivors and supports survivorship programs and research. In April 2021, the Red Shamrock Foundation was pleased to be able to continue its support of the Pediatric Cancer Survivorship Clinic at the University Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital with a \$80,000 commitment. Within the



At far left, Alex Brannaman '09 works on notes at an Alumni Association Board meeting. At left, School Board Member Denise Henik Brannaman '81 presents diplomas at the 2016 graduation ceremony, in this picture to her daughter Jenna.

local community, I volunteer at St. John the Baptist. For the past decade, Ben and I co-directed the Heritage Days 5K Run/Walk.

### An accomplishment you are proud of?

Wartburg College defines leadership as "taking responsibility for our communities and making them better through public action." After the August 2020 derecho, my mother, sister, and I spent time at the Mount Vernon Cemetery picking up debris, American flags, and decorations. In the afternoon, I unexpectedly worked alongside a fellow alum to clear downed trees and prepare a site for a service. Growing up in a Midwestern community, I am thankful the values of service above self and public good were rooted in me by parents, grandparents, teachers, and many others. Moments like that day in August make me proud to be a Mount Vernon alum.

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

Many administrators, faculty, and staff contribute to favorite experiences as a student. I always enjoyed history classes and discussions, and ever since being a student of both Mr. Alnot and Mr. Meeker, I continue to have a passion for history and historical nonfiction reading. The thrilling, late-night 4x400 meter races are part of many track and field memories with teammates and coaches! Although only my coach for one season, I am grateful for the time and memories with Coach Bellamy. The season was enough to make a lasting impact, and Coach Bellamy helped shape me into who I am today.

## ■ BEN BRANNAMAN 2005

### Tell about the variety of things you do, and have done, for the school district.

I serve alongside our Foundation Board of Directors to facilitate philanthropic support of the district. The Mount Vernon community - both far & wide - is so generous, and it's a joy to connect with you all.

### Do you have a goal/project for our district that you would like to see through?

The multi-activities complex project is an initiative that I'm excited to see become a reality. We are nearing \$1 million in gifts and commitments towards the project, working towards a goal of \$2.5 million. We invite you to join us as we build a facility that will serve our Mount Vernon community for years to come. In the years ahead, I would love to see the Mount Vernon-Lisbon area better connected with bike trails. More to come on that front!

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

After graduating from Wartburg College (Go Knights!) and working in Waverly for a year, I moved back to the area and have spent the majority of my career in philanthropy. Around town, you can find me enjoying lunches at Palisades Cafe, afternoon espressos at Fuel and hanging with family and friends at The Local. And dreaming up new world-changing ideas w/ John Rhomborg and the crew



at One Mission.

### What do you do now?

My wife Brittany (MV Class of '04) and I are thrilled to be raising our family in the Mount Vernon area. In addition to my work with a global nonprofit, we are proud to call Veritas Church in Cedar Rapids home.

### An accomplishment you are proud of?

It was awesome to be part of the fundraising campaign for Mount Vernon's new community wellness center - now known as the LBC. The philanthropic support (more than \$2 million) allowed the city to build a facility that is such a resource for our community - including the school district.

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

So many good ones - too many to count. One of my most notable memories has to be our team's state track championship in 2004. And getting the chance to be on the coaching staff in 2012 for the boys basketball state championship team. As I reflect on teachers, I can't help but acknowledge Mrs. Richardson for the impact she had on my ability to communicate through my writing.

It is so fun to get to serve our district alongside my mom Denise and brother Alex. I'm proud of the progress we've made as a district and community in this season, and I'm excited to keep the momentum going.



## CONNECT WITH THE SCHOOL

### To stay current with Mount Vernon Mustang academics, athletics, fine arts, activities and more

be sure to check out the awesome, online content from the 'Mustang Moon' via YouTube, website, Twitter and Facebook! If you're on Instagram look up "themustangmoon." Great work being done by our award-winning journalism department - sign up on their website to get automatic email updates!

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MVHSroom208>

<http://themustangmoon.com/>

<https://twitter.com/TheMustangMoon...>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheMustangMoon/>

District and individual schools website is at [www.mvcsd.org](http://www.mvcsd.org)

Enjoy 'MUSTANG VISION' Mount Vernon's home of high school sports and fine arts broadcasts. Free, live, play-by-play of Mustang athletics and fine arts! Find it online at [GoMVStangs.org](http://GoMVStangs.org). You will also find their broadcast schedule and archived events.



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### TRISTAN WIRFS, CONTINUED

who played every snap – 1,284, and allowed just one sack. The Buccaneers and Tristan went on to win Super Bowl 2021 during Tristan’s first year. Entering his sophomore season, Wirfs is already arguably the best right tackle in the entire NFL. Today he weighs in at 320 lb at a height of 6 ft 5 in.

The Mount Vernon community and alumni nation-wide are Tristan’s best fans. Keep it up, Tristan! We’re behind you!

Tristan is the son of Sarah Wirfs ‘93, sister of Kaylia Wirfs ‘20. His high school coach was Lance Pederson.



As a Mustang, graduating in 2017

PHOTO CREDIT MVHS JOURNALISM DEPT

Mount Vernon School District staff members and community members rally outside the Wirf home on NFL Draft day in 2020 when Tristan was drafted to the Buccaneers in the first round.



PHOTO CREDIT MVHS JOURNALISM DEPT

“Not only one of the best tackles in the NFL, but also one of the best humans as well. Thanks to SuperBowl champion Tristan Wirfs of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for stopping by our practice and making these kids day!”  
Matt Thede, April 7, 2021



## Mustangs...what are they doing now?

### ■ JIM WALLACE 1964



From left to right: Rik Smith, Jackie Wallace, Ellie Smith, Jim Wallace ‘64, Caleb Smith and Jamie Wallace Smith ‘01. Photo by Nathan Countryman-MV Lisbon Sun.

**Editor’s Note:** Source MV-Lisbon Sun

By Nathan Countryman  
MV Lisbon Sun reporter

For more than two decades, Jim Wallace from the Mount Vernon class of 1965, has been one of the faces of the Lisbon-Mount Vernon Ambulance Service. He was recognized for his 25 years of volunteer service at a reception on May 11, 2021.

Wallace joined the service in 1996, and his contributions have run the gamut from maintenance of the first ambulance shed to leadership in the LMVAS fundraising and volunteer committees.

Wallace contributed more than 100 hours a week with the LMVAS being on-call for a number of years for the service, more than four days out of every week. That’s meant numerous times where he has had to respond when a pager goes off to run an ambulance call to help provide medical care to a Lisbon or Mount Vernon citizen in need.

Wallace has been instrumental in ensuring facilities match a growing service, for example, adding a lounge area to the LMVAS shed, which allows volunteers who are on call a place to sleep or decompress between calls.

Wallace was also influential in determining the model that will work best for the LMVAS service with having a full-time paid EMS director who helps

staff the volunteer crews for the service, as well as participates in calls as needed.

LMVAS director Jake Lindauer noted the average length of a career for a volunteer paramedic is usually six years, which Wallace has more than quadrupled.

Wallace is still participating on calls with the service to this day and encourages people to consider serving as an EMT. “There have been a number of times when I’ve arrived on a call and heard ‘Boy, I’m glad you’re here,’ as it’s nice for people to see a face they know when they’re facing a medical emergency,” Wallace said.

\*\*\*\*\*

Jim can be reached at [jjmwallace68@gmail.com](mailto:jjmwallace68@gmail.com)

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

Enjoy ‘MUSTANG VISION’ Mount Vernon’s home of high school sports and fine arts broadcasts. Free, live, play-by-play of Mustang athletics and fine arts!

Find it online at [GoMVStangs.org](http://GoMVStangs.org).



**■ DANIEL LAISER 2010**

**Editor's Note:** Daniel wrote to the Alumni Association earlier this year, and we asked him to follow up his email with an update:

**MAY 2021 EMAIL:**

"You probably have been sending emails to me because I'm an ALUMNUS of Mount Vernon high School. I was in Mount Vernon Iowa in 2009/10 during my exchange year, hosted by Amy and Brad Russell, and I loved so much being in America. I have not enough space to tell you all the fun I had in America including my experiences with snow, Halloween, homecoming, and Mr MVCSD - in which I participated in all of them and finally prom. I love all of the Mount Vernon teachers and students and all alumni.



I am currently back in Tanzania and completed three years of medical school in 2017, and now I now a practicing doctor.

I have been working in sports ministry and I'm actually building a relationship with FCA. I learned about FCA in Mount Vernon and I thought it is best for me to continue the journey of sports and cooperation with my American friends through FCA.

Please pass my greetings to all my friends in Mount Vernon, Lisbon, Solon, and Cedar Rapids."

**FOLLOW UP:**

Since I left Mount Vernon in 2010 June just after graduation from Mount Vernon high school, I rejoined my local high school until I graduated in October of the same year after sitting for my final exams. I passed my national exams and I was selected to join an advanced level of high school for my form five and six levels. I graduated in 2023 February I then joined military national service under a government mandate. I completed this national service in October 2013 and stayed home until September 2014 when I joined Medical school. I completed a diploma in clinical medicine three years later in 2017.

After graduating from medical school I continued working at a Lutheran hospital for 2 years until 2019 when I heard God's calling for sports ministry. I am now working on establishing a relationship with fellowship of Christian athletes FCA so that I can do sports ministry and still looking for anyone who is interested in sports who might get behind my ministry for support. (Please when you share this update, let me know anyone who might be interested in supporting sports ministry in Tanzania.)



I am so much blessed that I have accomplished my medical studies although I look forward to studying further, but I am proud of where I am that I can make people smile by helping their health become better.

Mount Vernon was a home to me. I am afraid of mentioning a memory because everyone was so helpful and welcoming and supporting to my stay in Mount Vernon. But to mention just a few

- 1 - Mary Young, my math and biology teacher, was so much of a blessing to me. I loved how she would teach in a fun and easy way that I have not seen in Africa, especially from science teachers like her.
- 2 - Joleen Woods, my choir and music teacher, I love her.

So many people in Mount Vernon are all my favourites, I really can't separate their goodness. I remember a very happy time with a play "The Pajama Game" where I was one of the actors and I really had a wonderful time with most of my fellow students and teachers.

This is just a summary of all the fun I had in Mount Vernon. Hopefully I will get an opportunity to visit Mount Vernon in the future.

\*\*\*\*\*

Daniel can be reached at danlaiser7@yahoo.com or by mail at PO Box 9596, Simanjiro, Tanzania



**Early Bird Reception  
July 9 3-5 pm**

**You're invited to the First Street Community Center  
for an Early Bird Reception on Friday, July 9, from 3-5 pm.  
Enjoy some refreshments, some good company, and a tour of what was either your  
old Middle School or High School. You will be AMAZED at the variety of shops and  
businesses now in the building.**

**Join Us At Heritage  
Days 2021**

**Best time all year to see many people you know at our traditional Alumni-  
Community breakfast or uptown at our Reception area and Heritage Days events.  
See pages 1, 4, and 5**

**JULY 9 and 10**



■ AMY FRIEDL STONER 2001

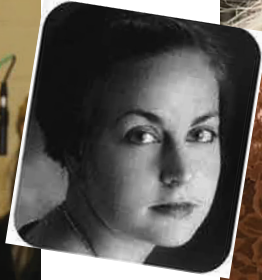


PHOTO CREDIT AMY STONER

Amy was guest jazz vocalist with Mount Vernon High School's Jazz Ensemble the Swingin' Stangs as a part of Jazz 88.3 KCKK-FM's Corridor Jazz Project in February of 2021. They performed and record Bobby Darin's "As Long As I'm Singing," with Amy, directed by high school director Scott Weber. Amy says "It was so fun to be back at my alma mater with my son Weston in tow, and he even got to see senior pictures of his mom, dad, aunts, uncles and grandparents hanging up in the high school. I cherish any opportunity to safely make music right now, and today's crew was top notch. Thanks to Dennis Green & Ed Karr for all of their hard work on this project every year. I can't wait to see the final product, filmed by Gmixeast!" See

both an interview with Amy and the finished product on YouTube at <https://tinyurl.com/yrrk4dfh>  
\*\*\*\*\*

Amy can be reached at [amysuefriedl@msn.com](mailto:amysuefriedl@msn.com), or friend her on Facebook to keep up with her performance schedule.



■ AMELIA CARL KIBBIE 2002



PHOTO CREDIT MVL SUN

Amelia is Mount Vernon's new poet laureate for the City of Mount Vernon. She replaces Marianne Taylor. The Mount Vernon Area Arts Council recommended Kibbie as the city's second poet laureate.

She will serve two years, which included creating a poem for the recent Mount Vernon Memorial Day event. In addition, she will host one public event that has to do with poetry each year. (Source: MVL Sun)

In November of 2019 she debuted her first novel 'Legendary,' published by Running Wild Press. It is available via Amazon or wherever books are sold.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Amelia can be reached at [ameliamk1983@gmail.com](mailto:ameliamk1983@gmail.com) or [akibbie@lisbon.k12.ia.us](mailto:akibbie@lisbon.k12.ia.us)



Mount Vernon alums and friends met in early May to serve as a sounding board in selecting this year's two graduation speakers. The group served as audience to several seniors who gave their proposed speech, then provided feedback to principal Steve Brand. The two 2021 seniors selected by the high school were Kean Kamerling and Megan Baumler. Pictured from left to right are: front row: Patti Lynch, Barb Thomsen Neal '68, Terese Pisarik '65, Marilyn Dean Schnittjier '58, Brenda Langenberg. Back row: Kim Zangger Tucker '94 - Alumni Association Board Member and chair of committee, Cathy Hufford '83, Pat Melchert '84, Chris Swiser '70, Rich Aalbers, and Derek Boren '00.

**HALL OF FAME**

**May 1, 2022 Deadine for Hall of Fame NOMINATIONS**

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[www.MVAlumni.org](http://www.MVAlumni.org)



# Alumni News...

## Send us your information...

alumni@mvcasd.org  
or call 319-389-8602 Kathy

## BIRTHS

**Miranda Roudabush Moore '13** and Brady of Port Hueneme, CA, a son, Mason Ryder, March 16, 2021.

**Samantha Weber Formanek '08** and Kyle of LeMars, IA, a son, Levi Michael, March 8, 2021.

**Kierstyn Borg Mickelson '06** and Kent of Ankeny, IA, a daughter Georgia Claire, March 10, 2021,

**Shannon Carter Currie '01** and Weston of Burbank, CA, a daughter, Ginger Rose, Jan 13, 2021.

**Luke Staskal '00** and Nicole of Hampton, NH, a daughter, Olivia, April 8, 2021

**Chris Schonhorst '00** and Tiffany Yeisley of Cedar Rapids, twins, Remington William and Olivia Ann, Feb 22, 2021.

## WEDDINGS/ENGAGEMENTS

**Ryan Winder '08** to Naomi Engelken on May 29, 2021. The couple reside in Mount Vernon Vernon.

## EDUCATION & MILITARY SERVICE

**Karissa Whitman Walker '08**, Doctorate of Nursing Practice from the University of Missouri to become a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. She is currently a resident of North Liberty, and works at Stead Family Children's Hospital in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.

**Ryan Winder '08**, MSN from Walden University in May, 2020. Ryan is now a Nurse Practitioner for MercyCare Cedar Rapids in the Urgent Care

**Jennifer Bern-Vogel '75**, received an honorary doctorate from the Hebrew Union College - Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music in New York in May 2020 after 25 years as a Cantor in New York, Virginia and California. Jennifer is currently in her 12th year of serving as the Cantor of Congregation Emanu El in Redlands, CA and is a hospice chaplain in Los Angeles.

## AND MORE...

**Carol Dolezal '81** has taken a position with Hope Hospice in Dublin, California as a Spiritual Care Counselor. She continues her Creative Carol Celebrant Services where she officiates services for life's milestones such as weddings and memorials.

**Kristen Elliott '18** was named Luther College women's basketball team offensive player of the year and team most valuable player. She was named American Rivers Conference honorable mention all-conference. Kristin is the daughter of Jeremy Elliott '89.



**Sydney Meeker '17**, a senior all-American volleyball libero at Cornell College, was selected Cornell's 2020-21 Ellen Whale Senior Female Athlete of the Year.

**Bryce Cox '16** earned both the people's choice and the judges choice 1st place awards at Mount Vernon's 2021 Chalk the Walk event for his art depicting some of his students. Bryce is an elementary teacher. He will be invited back as the featured artist for the Chalk the Walk 2022 event.

**Mary Thomsen '75** retired from Mount Vernon Bank & Trust at the end of March 2021, ending 42 years in their bookkeeping department.

**Sonia Essex Redmond '82** was recently promoted to vice president at Mount Vernon Bank & Trust along with added trust administration duties.

**Michael Langer '85** of Warrenton, VA, was legally adopted by his step-father Jerry Meskimen in Iowa's Linn County District Court on Dec. 18th 2020. Jerry raised Michael from the time he was 8 years old.



## In Memory of classmates we have lost

**Richard 'Dick' McKeen 1951**

March 9, 2021 Iowa City, IA

**Pearl Whitlatch Martin**

January 29, 2021 Mount Vernon, IA

**Barbara Bridges Hladek 1957**

January 29, 2021 Cedar Rapids, IA

**Edward Saathoff 1960**

January 21, 2021 Marion, IA

**Shirley Woods Simmons 1962**

April 12, 2021 Monticello, IA

**Ann Yeisley Becker 1970**

April 5, 2021 Norton, KA

**Michael 'Mike' Reid 1971**

Feb 14, 2021 Marion, IA

**Joylyn Harken McCain 1988**

February 27, 2021 Phoenix, AZ

### - FRIENDS -

**Joe Cullen**, former Elementary Principal

February 13, 2021, Mount Vernon, IA

(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.)

## YOU WILL BE AMAZED AT THE CHANGES MADE TO BUILDINGS IN THE MV SCHOOL DISTRICT...

You are invited to tour all of the school buildings, including the new Performing Arts Center and the Lester Buresh Recreation Center

on Friday, June 9 from 10 am to 2 pm, and on Saturday morning from 8 am to 10 am.

Pick up a map at any entrance from the host for a self-guided tour.

## Hall of Fame & Homecoming OCTOBER 8

Make plans now to attend **Homecoming** and the **Alumni Hall of Fame Ceremony** this fall on October 8th.

We will celebrate both the 2020 and 2021 Hall of Fame recipients at a Friday morning public event and reception, along with the traditional Homecoming game and Marching Band performance on Friday night. 2021 Hall of Fame recipients will be announced in July.





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

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**THANK YOU SCOTT WHITE!**

...for repairing and refinishing the podium given to the school by the class of 1946. Scott, who retired from teaching at MVCSD, lives in Monticello. Scott can be reached at scottwhite98@yahoo.com.

**CLASS OF 1961 CHECKING IN...**



The Class of 1967 held their bi-monthly lunch at Whiteys in Lisbon on May 10, 2021. In attendance were Pam Pitlik Byersdorfer & husband, Bob, Barb Clark Oakland, Sandi Erenberger Hanna, Gail Brown, Mary Krejci Burr, Joe Connor, Doug Randall, Gary Vitor, Ron Swanson, Jane Baker Hardin, Ken Neal, and Karen Tesar Rios. Some people had not seen each other since graduation. Organized by Sandi Hanna.

The Class of 1967 has had two ZOOM Get-Togethers in 2021. About 15 class members have been in attendance at each meeting. Barb Clark Oakland has spearheaded both meetings. Jane Baker Hardin moderated the last meeting on April 16, 2021. The next ZOOM meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2021 @ 11 am. If you would like to be a part of this meeting, contact Barb Clark Oakland at barb.oakland@gmail.com.

**CLASS OF 1961  
60TH REUNION**

**Heritage Days Weekend 2021**

- Friday, July 9 - Ladie's Only Outing
- Friday, July 9 - 5 pm Informal cocktails on the bridge at Sutliff, evening fireworks show at the Country Club
- Saturday, July 10 8-10 am Alumni-Community breakfast at the High School, followed by the parade at 11 am
- Saturday, July 10 5 pm, Class Reunion banquet, Sally's Restaurant in Springville
- Sunday, July 11 Noon BBQ, Jim and Melani Vislisel's farm

On Friday Bunny (Williams) Mulligan is trying to organize a "Ladies Only" get together in the late afternoon in Mount Vernon. Classmates and friends of classmates should contact Bunny at 319-361-9562 for more information.

The Sunday BBQ and picnic will start at 12:00 noon and has been moved to Jim and Melani Vislisel's farm off Highway 30 west opposite the Upper Pal.

Contact: Dick Miner  
Email: raldenm@aol.com  
Phone: 775-833-2747

Contact: Bunny Williams Copeland  
Email: bunnymulligan1961@gmail.com  
Phone: 319-377-7644

**1970 - 50+1 years  
REUNION**

Friday night July 9, 6-9 p.m., meet and greet at "The Local", lower level, 103 1st St. NW, Mount Vernon. A fun new place on Main Street! Dan Stoner pulled some strings and got them to reserve the lower level for us. They run Glyn Mawr Winery and have good beer. We'll bring in pizza.

Saturday morning, July 10. Meet at the Alumni Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. (At the current high school, which is the SECOND building after the one we attended!) Donation. After breakfast, we'll ride in the Heritage Days parade on a trailer provided by Dan. Wear shades and try to look like a geriatric hippie.

Saturday evening, 6-10 p.m. At "Mount Vernon Creates," a venue and art gallery at 121 1st St. NW. Food will be heavy hors d'oeuvres. Beer, wine, soft drinks. Some sort of program. Reminiscence.

Contact: Chris Swiser  
Phone: 319-360-0741  
Email: teamswiser@gmail.com

Contact: Dan Stoner  
Phone: 319-360-6634  
Email: dan.lee.stoner@gmail.com

# CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer to help the Association on Saturday, July 10 from 8 - 9 am or 9-10 am in the kitchen at the high school for our breakfast, or as a two-hour host any time from 11:30 am to 8 pm. In addition, Heritage Days needs volunteers for set-up on Saturday morning the 10th from 8 am to 10 am, and Friday the 9th from 6 pm to 8 pm. Contact Kathy at alumni@mvcso.org or text/call 319-389-8602.

# CORRECTIONS

Our apologies to the following alumni and friends who were missing from the last issue's 2020 Alumni Donation report:

### DUES/SUPPORT

- 2020 support, Ruth Farris '53, Eatonton, GA
- 2020 support, Linda Peterson Nost '63, Lisbon IA
- 5 year support, Barb Sutliff Hansel '55 Cedar Rapids IA
- 5 year support, Larry Kramer '58, Marion, IA
- 5 year support, John Rife '60, Mount Vernon, IA
- 5 year support, Sarah Rife Patten '93, Mount Vernon, IA
- 5 year support, Abigail Patten '19, Mount Vernon, IA

### DONATIONS

- donation, Linda Peterson Nost '63, in memory of JoAnn Kroul Clark '64
- donation, John Rife '60 and Thelma Rife, Mount Vernon, IA

CORRECTION: Apologies to Kean Kamerling whose name was misspelled in the last issue.

# 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!

**\$12,000 awarded to 13 projects during the 2020-2021 school year:**

- Teacher: Erica Nichols, High School Spanish Novellettes to expand the classroom libraries in World Language classes.
- Teacher: Alaina Appley, High School Science Materials for mini-indoor greenhouse
- Teacher: LeAnn Briesemeister, First Grade Coding and robotic kits to enhance STEM activities
- Teachers: Tom Wilkinson & Tom Stephens, High School Alternative seating for deskless classrooms
- Teacher: Ryan Whitman, High School Physical Education Heart rate monitors and software
- Teacher: Whitney Turner, Middle School Special Education Annual subscription to Unique Learning Systems curriculum
- Teachers: Reading Intervention team grades 5-12 Magnetic letter boards for hand-on phonics instruction
- Teacher: Jessica Murphy, Seventh Grade Books for WWII unit
- Teacher: Laura Irvin, Elementary Special Education Colored printing of curriculum pages
- Teachers: Middle and High School Music 50 new music stands
- Teacher: JoAnn Gage, High School English Books for English 1
- Teacher: Bonnie Ahrens, High School Visual Art Pedestals to display 3D student artwork in new Performing Arts Center
- Teacher: Michelle Boyden, District Instructional Specialist Social studies books for each K-3rd teacher

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# F O U N D A T I O N

## ANNUAL GIFT REPORT FOR 2020

Thank you to the alumni, businesses, parents and friends listed below who contributed to the Foundation during 2020.

2020

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

2020

### GIFT RECOGNITION LEVELS

Major Gifts \$15,000+ Founding Donors \$10,000+ Leading Donors \$5,000+ Mustang Donors \$1,000+ Maroon and White Donors up to \$1,000

## GENERAL FUND DONORS

### BUSINESS DONATIONS

Thank you to the following area businesses who donate throughout the year and who also responded to our annual business campaign.

#### Leading Donor

Bowker Mechanical Contractors

#### Mustang Donors

Gary's Foods  
in memory of Gary Dietrich  
Hills Bank & Trust Company  
Hills Bank & Trust Company  
Classroom Cash Program  
Mount Vernon Bank & Trust Co.

#### Maroon & White Donors

Budget Blinds  
Bridge Bank  
Chestnut Mountain Ski Resort  
Downtown Dental, Dr. Dawn Gaffney  
Fordyce Painting  
Howes Law Firm  
Iowa Physical Therapy  
Jase Jensen  
Lynch Ford Chevrolet  
Mount Vernon Ace Hardware  
Mount Vernon Bank and Trust Company  
in memory of Otto Schellberg  
Mount Vernon Insurance  
Mount Vernon Investment Center  
Neal's Water Conditioning  
in memory of David Neal '60  
One Mission  
Pepsico  
RTE Properties  
Si Senior

### CORPORATE MATCHES

#### Mustang Donors

Raytheon  
for Beth Hufford '84  
United Way of Johnson & Washington Counties for Jared Bienemann

#### Maroon & White Donors

Wells Fargo for anonymous  
Wells Fargo for Dawn Hanna  
Wells Fargo for Holly Chappell

### INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

#### Leading Donor

Mary Bowman Seidler '57

#### Mustang Donors

Beth Hufford '84  
Dr. Gary '65 and Gail Knutsen

#### Maroon & White Donors

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Ben '05 & Brittany Corkin '04 Brannaman  
George '53 & Paula Brown  
in honor of Becky Livermore '88  
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Benton Campbell  
David & Barbara Jo '56 Conn  
Tandi Dausener  
Jannes DeCamp  
in memory of Howard DeCamp '51  
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in memory of Gary Dietrich  
Jeremy '89 & Carrie Elliott  
in memory of Dave Spellerberg '89  
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David Enns '56  
in honor of the Class of 1956  
Tasha Erickson  
Ed Fordyce '59  
James & Nancy Emrich Freeman  
in honor of Fred Burke  
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Rosalie Gallagher '63  
Gerald & Penny Gerber  
Myra Croft Greve '58  
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Kent '51, in memory of Dr James Croft  
'47 and Diana Pringle Croft '46  
Sandi Erenberger Hanna '67  
in memory of Lyle Hanna '64  
and Aaron Hanna '99  
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Nancy Tonne Hansen '67  
in memory of Jean Minish Stoner '37  
and Warren Stoner '63

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in memory of Doris Pospisil  
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Jase Jensen  
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Marilyn Jones  
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John '77 & Kaylene Kroul  
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in memory of Class of '64  
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Robert '58 & Linda Lenz  
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in memory of Bill Lighthall '66  
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in memory of Kathleen Woods  
Pitlik '47  
Patty Lynch  
in memory of Margaret and James  
Lynch  
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in memory of Royce Majors '89  
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Denae McGrath  
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Joel Pendergrass  
Scott Peterson '71  
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John '66 & Cindy Pospisil  
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Michael & Shirley Ryan  
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in memory of Irene 'Susie' Tuetken '59  
Bertram Sippola '56  
Matthew Slinker '90  
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David '68 & Jo Ann Thomson '70 Stoner  
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Tawnua Tenley  
Debbie Thorman '74  
in memory of Debi Clark Bridgewater '76  
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in honor of David Van Metre '55  
David & Sandy Vislisl '80 Ruhs  
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in honor of Leo & Elsa Appleton  
Bernie & Phyllis White  
Kevin '76 & Becky Thumm '77 Whitman  
in memory of Jo Wilch  
and Randy Rundle '74  
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Matthew Wilch '72  
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Vincent Wolrab '57  
in memory of Mary Ellison Wolrab '33  
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in memory of Jack & Hildred Yeisley  
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Robert & Kimberly Zimmerman  
  
IN MEMORY OF JAMES BELLAMY  
Jason '90 & Brittany '90 Booth  
Charles Halsey  
Randall Krejci  
Kevin '76 & Becky Thumm '77 Whitman



# F O U N D A T I O N

IN MEMORY OF JOANN KROUL  
CLARK '64  
Sheila Borg  
Janice K. Majors '57  
Mount Vernon Bank  
Ray '64 & Ann Stoner  
Kevin '76 & Becky Thumm '77 Whitman

IN MEMORY OF JIM GUNN '46  
William '57 & Myrt '57 Bowers  
Ed Fordyce '59  
Joyce Loomis  
Larry Petrick '62  
Julie Gunn Thomas '70

IN MEMORY OF JINDA COLEHOUR  
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Mount Vernon Bank & Trust Co.  
Karen Edwards Packer '68

IN MEMORY OF CAROLYN PALMER '42  
Winston Addis  
David '68 & JoAnn '70 Stoner

IN MEMORY OF MARVIN WIESELER  
MV Investment Center  
Dr. Larry & Judy Poduska

## RESTRICTED DONATIONS

### BOOSTER CLUB

**Mustang Donors**  
Paul '90 & Jennifer Morf

### Maroon & White Donors

Alliant Energy Foundation  
for Jenna Wiebel Wischmeyer '91  
Ben '05 & Brittany Corkin '04 Brannaman  
Darrell '61 & Donna Jordan  
Andy & Kacey Kuntz '00 Schmit  
Duane '93 & Leigh Jordan  
Amy Weber  
Scott Peterson '71  
Jenna Wiebel Wischmeyer '91

IN MEMORY OF SONDR A MOUNCE  
Ruth Clark  
Hills Bank  
Mount Vernon Bank  
Bill & Kay Riffey  
Marsha Siggins McWhinney '70

IN MEMORY OF JOHN MCVAY  
Geoffrey & Patricia Barrance  
Richard & Sarah Knight  
James Stickle  
Plenny J Bates  
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IN HONOR OF MUSTANG VISION  
Rick & Trude Elliott  
Ruth Clark  
Hands in Harmony

### FINE ARTS

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Darrell '61 & Donna Jordan  
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in memory of Carolyn Neal Palmer '42

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Alliant Energy Foundation  
for Jenna Wiebel Wischmeyer '91  
Ben '05 & Brittany '04 Brannaman  
John '60 & Thelma Rife  
Duane '93 & Leigh Jordan  
Allison Nissen  
Nathan & Meridith Voight  
Jenna Wiebel Wischmeyer 199  
One Mission Fundraising

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Richard Glattly 1959

### CLASS OF 1968 MEMORIAL FUND

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Edwards  
Class of 1968  
in memory of Class of 1968  
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in memory of Lona Sterenberg  
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Craig & Jean Smith Family  
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**Major Gift**  
Dave Van Metre '55

### HS BAND

John '60 & Thelma Rife  
David '68 & Jo Ann '70 Stoner

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### HS CHORAL PROGRAM

John '60 & Thelma Rife

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for Douglas Kopp  
Douglas and Diane Kopp  
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### MS BANDS

John '60 & Thelma Rife  
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Thomson '70 Stoner

### MS CHORAL PROGRAM

John '60 & Thelma Rife

continued on next page

# F O U N D A T I O N

## WETAP

### Mustang Donors

Paul '90 & Jennifer Morf

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for Douglas Kopp  
Brenda Bany  
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Jessica Johanningmeier  
Jaclyn Klimek  
Douglas and Diane Kopp  
Rachel Krug  
Kyle '02 and Taryn Kuntz  
Allison Nissen  
Andy & Kacey Kuntz '00 Schmit  
Erika Uthe

## ELEMENTARY LIBRARY

Ingleside Club  
Kyle '02 and Taryn Kuntz  
Duane '93 & Leigh Jordan  
for Mo Willems books

## ELEMENTARY PLAYGROUND

### Major Gift

WETAP

### Maroon & White Donors

Kyle '02 and Taryn Kuntz

## ELEMENTARY 2ND GRADE

Alliant Energy Foundation  
for Douglas Kopp  
Douglas and Diane Kopp

## ELEMENTARY 5TH GRADE

Alliant Energy Foundation  
for Douglas Kopp  
Douglas and Diane Kopp

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Thank you to the following businesses and individuals who donated to fund scholarships for our 2019 graduating seniors.

Adrienne Smith 2011 Scholarship  
Greater CR Comm Foundation  
Alternative Education Scholarships  
Anonymous  
Ann Koppenhaver 1978 Business Award  
Koppenhaver & Associates  
Charles H Halsey Gift  
Charles Halsey  
Paul Feuss  
Donna Jacob, Gladys Rife, Ruth Michaud  
and Maggie Quinn Ellison 1962 Award  
Jim '65 & Nancy Rife  
John '60 and Thelma Rife  
Carol Van Metre Scholarship  
David Van Metre 1955  
Evans-Moffit Scholarship  
Jim & Mary Evans 1967  
Faculty Scholarships  
MVCSD staff  
Girls STEM and Physics College Scholarship  
The Maurice Foundation  
Heritage Days Volunteerism Award  
Mount Vernon Heritage Days  
Hills Bank Scholarship  
Hills Bank  
Inspiration Award  
Anonymous  
Kay Woods Scholarship  
Mike '77 & Joleen Woods  
Terry Boren '77 & Carol Woods-Boren '75  
Kevin Woods '73  
Mary Nugent Woods  
Lucas Casper & Sarah Woods '95

Margaret Garry 1979 Memorial  
Scholarship

Margaret Garry Memorial Trust  
Melchert Book Scholarship  
Amber Melchert '09  
Allison Melchert '10  
Morgan Melchert '15

MVL Dev Group Scholarship  
MV Lisbon Comm Charitable Dev Group  
Mount Vernon Bank & Trust Company  
Scholarship  
Mount Vernon Bank & Trust Co.  
Mount Vernon Volunteer Firefighters  
Scholarships

Mount Vernon Volunteer Firefighters  
Association  
Teaching Creativity Scholarship  
Laurie Zaiger

US Nameplate Scholarship  
US Nameplate

Dean Borg Scholarship  
Rich & Rachel Aalbers  
Winston Addis  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Anonymous

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Gail Bertram '94  
Guy & Ann Booth  
Terry Boren '77  
& Carol Woods-Boren '75  
Sheila Borg  
Lindsey Borg '83  
Earnest & Joanne Buresh  
Lenny & Connie Burkart  
Katharine Carter  
Caterpillar Match James Helms  
Keith '60 & Jo Ann '64 Clark  
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Ed Fordyce '59  
David & Julie Freed  
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Cot, Kay, David '80, and Jack '82 Graber  
Lindsey Granzow  
Chuck & Barbara Grassley  
Janet Griffith  
Kevin & Cynthia Deskin '78 Halbmaier  
Charles Halsey  
Carolyn Hauptert  
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Ann Koppenhaver '78  
Don & Margaret Koppenhaver  
Linda Koss  
Mike & Suzette Kragenbrink  
Kenneth & Arlene Lee  
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Fred & Marion Lehman  
Joyce Loomis  
Barbara Moore '53  
Darrel & Mildred Morf  
Doug & Mary '80 Morningstar  
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Katherine Ostrander  
Sue Otto '50  
Bob Penn '81  
Judith Penn '60  
Margaret Quayle  
Jon & Joan Rasmussen  
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for Lindsey Borg '83  
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Brad Russell  
Dave '85 & Heidi Ryan  
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Alan & Barbara Shepley  
Mike '68 & Valerie Smith  
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Jody Stewart '79  
Don & Judy Stine  
Jeff Thieleke  
Ed & Stephanie Timm  
Erik '03 & Amanda Triggs  
Rhoda Vernon  
David '76 & Julie Vislisel  
Tom Vorpahl  
Julie Yeoman  
David & Julie Yeoman  
Steve & Mary Young  
Laurie Zaiger  
Frank & Gail Zlatnik

## 2020 DISTRICT EMPLOYEE DONATIONS

Employee donations support the Foundation's Teacher Grants Program.

Kaimee Akers	Julie Dye	Patty Mote	Toni Stanbro Wiesenhofer
Lisa Alger	Leigh Ann Erickson	Kevin Murray	Kate Stanton
Heather Allen	Sarah Fitzgerald	Chris Noll	Kathy Staskal
Kristin Anderson	JoAnn Gage	Jo Nowak-Thompson	Kim Steele
Alaina Appley	Lisa Greif	Abby Ohlaug	Kelsey Strobe
Greg Batenhorst	Dennis Gross	Stephanie Olney	Sonya Sullivan '90
Mallory Beatty	Megan Hach	Joe Peters	Ed Timm
Gina Becthold	Robert Hanson	LeAnn Pisarik	Stephanie Timm
Mark Benesh '83	Bob Haugse	Sheryl Pospisil	Lauren Tittle
Robin Brand	Annie Hawker	Marcia Purington	Whitney Turner '00
Steve Brand	Susan Hoyler	Michael Raso	Shawn Voigt '86
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Lesly Bruner	Brett Karkosh	Heidi Ryan	Stephanie Whisner
Chiara Burke '78	Kristi Keast	Raechel Sabin	Krista Whitham
Matt Burke	Megan Krapfl	Kacey Schmit '00	Vicky Wieseler
Jennifer Carstensen	Tim Larson	Allison Schnoor	Thad Wilkins
Megan Casey	Mary Leopold	Brandy Schurbon	Erin Wilkinson
Chris Chapman '16	Susannah Maddock	Linda See	Tom Wilkinson '86
Miranda Chapman '14	Susan Maurice	Andy Shea	Maggie Willems '96
Jenny Ciha	Jan Moore	Raechel Shea	Deanna Winder
Susan Deibner	Mollie Moses	Kim Siggins	Joelynn Winkler
Cara Dix	Lori Moss	Emily Stamp '09	Mary Young



# F O U N D A T I O N

## EXTRAORDINARY WOMAN SCHOLARSHIP

Susan Alexander  
 Emily Appleton  
 Mary Lou & Greg Batenhorst  
 Sara Beck in memory of  
 Carmella Gallagher & Jodie Gallagher  
 Kim Benesh  
 Ann Booth  
 in memory of Vivian Heywood  
 Bonnie Bootsmiller  
 Myrt Bowers  
 Susan Brust  
 Janet Budack  
 in memory of Betty Budack  
 Jo Clark  
 Ruth Clark in memory of  
 Adrienne Smith & Jackie Kerr  
 Thea Cole  
 Susan Coleman  
 in honor of Laurie Zaiger  
 Barbara Connolly  
 in honor of DeAnn Scearce  
 Karen Cripe, dedicated to women who  
 teach and administrate at MVCSD  
 Sue Deibner  
 Sharon Dendurent  
 Marie DeVries in memory of Nancy Gale  
 Janet Dietrich  
 in honor of my mom Catherine  
 Carrie Elliott  
 Trude Elliott  
 Carol Enns  
 JoAnn Gage  
 Deb George  
 Kay Graber  
 Michele Grudzinski  
 Nannette Gunn  
 Christine Hallier  
 Donna Happel  
 Diane Harrington  
 Debra Herrmann  
 Jen Hoffman  
 Ann Hufford  
 Amy Jackson  
 Kay Johansen  
 Ann Koppenhaver  
 Elizabeth Kroul  
 Coralie Liberko  
 Joyce Loomis  
 in honor of Stephanie Frantz  
 Jan Lorne Majors  
 in memory of Shirley Lorne DuRos  
 Tracey Louwagie  
 Sue Margheim  
 in memory of Adrienne Smith  
 Nyla McCall  
 in memory of Bethany  
 & Howard Rinehart  
 Mary Jane McWilliams  
 in memory of Mary Jo Lessmeier  
 Ruth Miller  
 Denise Murphy  
 in memory of Arvilla Henyan  
 Sherene Player  
 Jane Pospisil  
 in memory of Jeanette Colehour  
 Cindy Pospisil  
 Catherine Quehl-Engel

Joan Rasmussen  
 in memory of Margaret E. Savage  
 DeeAnn Rexroat  
 Sarah Richardson  
 in memory of Maggie Ellison  
 Nancy Rife  
 in memory of Dr. Gladys Rife  
 Berta Ringold  
 Kate Rose  
 Donna Rotschafer  
 Susan Salter  
 in honor of Ginna Owens  
 Marilyn Schnittjer  
 Nina Scott  
 Barb Shepley  
 Marsha Siggins McWhinney  
 in memory of Jean & Donald Siggins  
 Anne Silva  
 Val Smith  
 Mary Squiers  
 Karen Stewart  
 in honor of Emily & Madeline Beehn  
 Judy Stine  
 in honor of Ann Booth  
 JoAnn Stoner  
 Cathy Stoner  
 Gretchen Sutherland  
 in memory of Vivian Heywood  
 Marianne Taylor  
 Stephanie Timm  
 in memory of Nelda Weih  
 Dave Van Metre  
 in memory of Carol Van Metre  
 Judy Vopava  
 Amy Weber in honor of  
 Samantha Formanek  
 & Kylea Brautigam  
 Carolyn Wellso  
 Laura Werkman  
 Stephanie West  
 in memory of Roberta Parish  
 Amy White  
 in memory of Alice Loope  
 Becky Whitman  
 Vicky Wieseler  
 Maggie Willems  
 Jenna Wischmeyer  
 Anissa Wolfe  
 Mary Young  
 Laurie Zaiger  
 Michelle Zaruba

## EXCEPTIONAL MAN SCHOLARSHIP

Abbe Creek Ag  
 Jeremy Elliott '89  
 Darrin Gage  
 John Hale  
 Vance Light  
 Mike Kragenbrink  
 Kevin Murrin  
 Joe & Beth Peters  
 Jon & Joan Rasmussen  
 in memory of Dean Borg  
 David Roe  
 Dave '85 Ryan  
 Dan '70 Stoner  
 Tawnua Tenley  
 Ed & Stephanie Timm  
 Scott Weber  
 Steve & Mary Young

## 2020 DONORS TO THE MV PERFORMING ARTS CENTER PROJECT

Thank you to the following donors who contributed to the Performing Arts Center Campaign in 2020. The new center, PAC, will serve our school district and the Mount Vernon community for years to come.

**Major Gift** \$15,000 + Mount Vernon Bank and Trust Company

**Founding Donor** \$10,000 + Hills Bank

**Leading Donor** \$5,000 + Jerry Ringer 1955

**Mustang Donors** \$1000 +

Mike & Brenda Bany

James & Julie Baty

David, Karen, Chris '16 & Lily '20 Cripe

Loren & Jennifer Hoffman

Patty Lynch in memory of Margaret & James Lynch

Babs Moore '53

Brian & Gail Nonnecke in honor of Kristin,

Mark, Gavin '30, and Greta '32 Anderson

Dave '85 & Heidi Ryan

Colin & Mary Squiers

VG Stoner & Sons Corp

Ed & Stephanie Timm in memory of Gene & Nelda Weih

Edie Wilch '71 in memory of Meredith Wilch '83

Dan Wilch '77 in memory of Meredith Wilch '83

**Maroon & White Donors**

Class of 1968

Winston Addis

Matt Alles 25 in honor of Quinn '21, Lincoln '25,

and Nicholas '25 Alles

Paul & Paula Anderson in honor of Kristin Anderson,

Mount Vernon Middle School Teacher

Mark & Kristin Anderson

Anonymous

Dan & Denise '81 Brannaman

Becky Corbett, Marcia Wagner '68, Chip Swaney '72,

Steve Swaney '76 in memory of Marion Newman "Aunt Monie"

Joe Corkin '99

Lance & Sarah Dickson

Sandy Zehms Guenther '88

Kevin & Cynthia Deskin '78 Halbmaier

in memory of Bill and Ruth Deskin

Jodi Hoke '00

Darrell & Donna Jordan

Benjamin Klaus '07 in memory of Megan Cox Klaus '08

Roger & Erin Koehn

Marsha McWhinney '70

Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge #112

Michael & Karen Edwards '68 Packer

in memory of Dr. Richard and Lillian Edwards

Diane Peterka

Mike '99, Jill, Jada '28, & William '30 Ripke

Dennis & Elise Rodenberg

Lance & Sue Schoff

Rick, Kim, Payton '19 & Jesse '23 Schwiebert

Mike '67 & Jackie Seiler

Dennis A Steele '65 in memory of C Bruce Steele '68

Tom & Katie Stephens in honor of Luke '24 and Anna '27 Stephens

Don & Judy Stine

Marilyn J Svestka

Target CW on behalf of Jill Ripke

Justen & Kimberly '94 Tucker

Nathan & Meredith Voight

Mark Weldon

Wiladene Hoggard Willming '50 in honor

of Millicent Hoggard Zehishek '47

Evan Yeats '02



# 2020 DONORS TO THE MV MULTI-ACTIVITIES COMPLEX PROJECT



**Thank you to the following donors who contributed to the new Multi-Activities Complex Campaign in 2020. The new complex will serve our school district and the Mount Vernon community for years to come.**

**Major Gift**  
Anonymous

**Mustang Donors**  
Darrell & Donna Jordan '61

**Maroon & White Donors**  
Ben '05 & Brittany '04 Brannaman  
Mike & Shirley Ryan  
Rick & Trude Elliott

We are thrilled to continue our fundraising efforts for a multi-activities complex on the district campus. The proposed project will be located north of the high school and will include the following:

- 1 An eight-lane track and competition space for field events
- 2 A turf field for football, soccer, marching band, and physical education classes
- 3 Seating for approximately 1500 spectators, a concession/restroom building, and a possible team room building

The project is estimated to cost approximately \$4 million, and will be funded through a combination of district funding and private donations. Completion of the project is tentatively scheduled for August of 2023 - just in time for our current 6th graders, the Class of 2027, to begin their high school journey.

Our goal with fundraising is to close the funding gap and do all that we can to offset the district's investment in the project, allowing those funds to be directed to other worthwhile school initiatives. Fundraising efforts will continue through completion of the facility, and multi-year commitments are allowed.

We are pleased to announce that we are nearing \$1 million in gifts and commitments thus far. We are excited for this facility to serve our kids and community, and we look forward to working with our Mount Vernon community near and far to help make it a reality.

Get in touch with Foundation Director Ben Brannaman if you're interested in learning more about supporting this exciting project for MV Schools. Ben can be reached at mobile 319-693-9520 or by email at [bbrannaman@mvcasd.org](mailto:bbrannaman@mvcasd.org).

If you would like to make a gift today, you can do so online at [www.mvcasd.org/give](http://www.mvcasd.org/give) (select ACTIVITIES COMPLEX DONATIONS) or by mail with checks made payable to MVCSD Foundation and mailed to 525 Palisades Rd SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314 \*activities complex in the memo line.

## Don't See Your Name Listed Here?

THIS LIST IS FOR 2020 DONATIONS. WATCH FOR 2021 DONATIONS TO APPEAR IN A 2022 SPRING ISSUE OF THE DISTRICT NEWS. If you have any questions, or need to report a change to me, please let me know.



With continued gratitude,

Ben Brannaman '05,  
Foundation Director  
[bbrannaman@mvcasd.org](mailto:bbrannaman@mvcasd.org)  
319-693-9520

**DONATIONS MADE TO THE FOUNDATION (listed here) SUPPORT MOUNT VERNON STUDENTS**

**DONATIONS MADE TO THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SUPPORT THIS NEWSLETTER, ALUMNI ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

**WATCH FOR THE 2021 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DONATIONS AND DUES/ SUPPORT TO APPEAR IN THE FALL/WINTER 2021-22 ISSUE**

**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](mailto:alumni@mvcasd.org) or text/call 319-389-8602**



# 2020 SCHOOL DISTRICT RETIREES

## SARAH FITZGERALD

**Year started at MV:** 1991  
**Total years at Mount Vernon:** 30  
**Total years teaching:** 38



The past 30 years of my employment in the Mount Vernon Community school district beginning with my initial job teaching alternative kindergarten and part time art and then full-time art have been gratifying and rewarding. Retiring from something I have thoroughly enjoyed has been a difficult decision. I am honored to have worked with such fantastic children and staff. The elementary school has changed and grown physically and the number of students attending has almost doubled during my time. I feel fortunate to live and work in a district and community that values the arts.

**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?** "Art Brings Joy" (a gift from Jo Nowak-Thompson) and "Art is all around" are two signs hanging in the elementary studio that exemplify its wonderful environment. I treasure the time I spent assisting children learn about and create art. I will miss the magic of the art studio filled with wonderful children happily and playfully exploring and creating. There have been so many miraculous occurrences over the years along with beautiful discoveries made by incredibly talented young artists. I am delighted many families cherish and display the art their children have created. You can see some of my students' fabulous art on Instagram: @mvwearart. Knowing that many former students have pursued careers in the arts makes me happy.

**One or two memories of events that happened during your career at Mount Vernon that you would share.** Highlights of my time working in the district have included collaborating with district art teachers and members of the local arts community on different projects. The large-scale collaborative art installations we created each year for

Magical Night stand out as a special achievement. Helping with past arts immersion days and displaying student art at city hall during past Chalk the Walk celebrations and in the Fine Arts booths during past arts festivals was also fulfilling. The mural we helped paint up-town with Strider Patton, a former student, was also meaningful.

Outstanding experiences were the two separate years Kristi Keast and I worked with the Tiny Circus crew and parent volunteers collaborating with all students for week-long sessions of controlled chaos, making art and music creating two animated videos.

The Elephant Trap: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsiGnd1knyw> and Giraffe Trap: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jmw64CLcWls>  
 The evening world premieres of the films outside on the school lawn attended by children and their families were amazing.

**Parting Words and plans:** I am about to step into a new unknown world, leaving the academic calendar behind. I hope to continue teaching art education students at University of Iowa and plan to substitute teach. I will be able to spend more on my personal art practice. Presently I have a show of my art at Palisades Café. I am excited about being able to travel throughout the year and have many trips planned including a trip to Greece in September. I encourage everyone to pursue creative opportunities and to continue to advocate for and support the arts in our schools and community.

## SHERYL POSPISIL



**Year started at MV:** 1992  
**Total years at Mount Vernon:** 29 years

**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?** Mr Krumbolz- He was a good, kind principal. He would listen to you and would always make the kids laugh. He was a lot of fun.

**One or two memories of events that happened during your career at Mount Vernon that you would share.** One memory was when my mom

and I worked at the middle school and we had a few boys that always stayed in for recess. While we washed the tables, one boy had key lime yogurt and had a scoop of it on a spoon. I took his arm to feed it to him and he shook the spoon, so I put my hand in the yogurt and smeared it on his face. They all laughed and started yelling "You guys are the #1 lunch ladies."

I later ran into them at Adventureland and the kids noticed me and yelled out...." You're the #1 Lunch Lady!"

**What has changed in education?** The use of laptops, computers, food allergies, and lunch menu options.

**Retirement Plans:** We bought a park model in Pepin, Wisconsin. We will be spending a lot of time camping, fishing, and swimming in our pool. I will also be helping more with my mother's care and spending time with our grandkids.

**Parting Words:** I will miss the kids and teachers. Good luck to everyone! It's been a couple of rough years but hopefully things will get better!

## SUE DEIBNER



**Year started at MV:** 1996  
**Total years at Mount Vernon:** 25  
**Total years teaching:** 41  
 Cornell College, Regis, Mount Vernon

**First year favorite memory:** "During my first year, my Spanish classes were on a cart that I wheeled around the entire old high school, current middle school. I had classes in 4 different rooms. The tiny space between the Spanish and German rooms was my "office" that housed everything I had and my cart. When I started, it had never been cleaned out from the previous Spanish and German teachers. I had to do a thorough cleaning and requested a new metal cabinet. They got one for me and it was promptly organized with necessary items including: video cameras and cassettes, audio recorders and cassettes, computer, clothing, plastic food, art supplies, children's books in Spanish, magazines, games from home, maps, flags, and all my Spanish regalia that I had collected over my years of travels. My classes never lacked in hands on

continued on next page



## Retirees continued...

learning. Everything we learned was learned through practical application as much as possible. I was used to moving around, so my students got used to it as well.

We did cooking demonstrations, scavenger hunts, dramatic videos, audio-recordings like radio shows, fashion shows, games outside, dramas for the elementary children and the local preschool, raised money and collected supplies for victims of Hurricane Mitch and children in Latin America, developed Pen Pal relationships with students in Nicaragua, started planning for our first trip to Mexico, went out to eat with Spanish Club, learned to dance, and we learned so much Spanish we were amazed. Once as I was wheeling that cart with books, magazines and art supplies down the ramp into the commons, everything on the cart went in the middle of the stairs! All the students were running around trying to avoid slipping on the stuff! Crazy! I was glad when after 2 years I was able to be located in a room at last!"

### 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?

Neila Sneller was the Spanish teacher I joined, and she and I worked very closely together developing a 4 year sequence of learning that made sense and covered what we felt was needed. She had just had a baby, so I ended up helping out with a lot of the extra organizational things. She helped acquaint me with the textbook curriculum we were using at the time. I used the textbook as a good curricular resource, but really taught lessons and developed activities without the text. Tom Wilkinson helped me develop an 8th grade exploratory that was to include the history of language and culture, and then some of both Spanish and German. Barb Hanson, the secretary at the time, helped me learn the ropes – the ins and outs of everyday activities such as the computers, attendance, how to get a sub, how to claim space in the school. She made me feel at home. Bob Meeker helped me understand the loneliness of being a good high school teacher. He told me that if you are there at the beck and call of students, it was not easy to have much time with the other staff. Suzette Kragenbrink and Vicky Wieseler were my go-to persons in the

library, a place that I used to frequent. Ruth Michaud helped me understand that by making a challenging curriculum that included good solid learning in language and culture, as well as particulars that I was passionate about, I would not only be a better teacher, but I would be true to myself. My promise to myself was that if I were to continue to teach Spanish language and culture, I would take students to countries abroad so they could learn first hand what it means to be bilingual, and so their world and cultural perspectives would be forever broadened and changed.

**One or two memories of events that happened during your career at Mount Vernon that you would share.** Once my first students made the trip to Mexico, I realized a trip every other year was not going to be enough. Since that first trip, I took students to a Latin American country every year for a total of 21 trips. The countries we visited included Mexico, Spain, Guatemala, Belice, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, and Peru. Every trip changed the lives of the travelers in amazing ways. They became more independent, more open-minded, deeper thinkers, and passionate about becoming bilingual and using the language in travel and eventual careers.

**What has changed in education?** I have been teaching Spanish long enough to see fads in teaching come and go. Our system to report grades has changed. Some like it and some do not. I was fine with the changes. I would say what has not changed is the importance of teaching for the best success of the students. In languages that includes skills in the presentational mode- speaking and writing, interpretive mode- understanding when listening or reading, and in the interpersonal communication mode, all within the framework of authentic culture.

**Retirement Plans:** This was an unplanned retirement, until the confluence of COVID19 and my daughter's pregnancy. Winry was born just before the end of the first semester, and I began caring for her so Julia could continue her important and necessary work taking care of seniors in a care center. I am continuing to use my Spanish daily, and am working on German and some Japanese.

**Parting Words:** It has been an honor to serve the young people of the Mount

Vernon and Lisbon School Districts. I feel like the school has been my home, and the faculty my family. Some of my most valuable and memorable experiences were: the consistent dedication and hard work of the students, the crazy and creative video, audio, and art projects the students produced each year, the volunteer projects seniors completed every year, supporting 4 Latin American Children through the NGO Child Fund International since 2005, taking students monthly to JFON (Justice For Our Neighbors) to help with legal services for immigrants also since 2005, raising and sending \$6000 worth of goods in a truck bound for Honduras following hurricane Mitch, designing and carrying out the Annual International Day with the Spanish Club, traveling to 10 different countries over the course of 21 trips in 22 years, working with 7 different colleagues in the language department during my 25 years, writing and performing fairy tales for the elementary classrooms and the Mount Vernon preschool, coaching one of the finest Cross Country teams in the state of Iowa (every year we had one or two teams make it to compete in the state meet, or individual competitors in a recent year), and working with the finest group of educators for which anyone could have wished. Muchas gracias por todo!

## KIM STEELE

**Year started at MV:**  
2002

**Total years at Mount Vernon:** 19

**Total years teaching:** 31



### First year favorite

**memory:** I was first hired at MVMS as the Student Success Coordinator. Dee Winder reminded me that on the first day of school the year I started, I wore a "clown nose" as I greeted students. She said she knew right then and there that I was definitely going to bring "something" to the building. Who knew it would last for 19 years..?

**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?** John Krumbholz, my first principal at the MV Middle School which is currently the First Street Community Center. John was an amazing leader!! He kept his focus and vision on the big picture but also saw and recognized the "little



things" that teachers/staff did and always seemed to go out of his way to personally acknowledge that person for the accomplishment.

**One or two memories of events that happened during your career at Mount Vernon that you would share.** One of my favorite memories is of the MVMS SAT (Student Activities Team) club with Susan Maurice. When Susan and I were co-coordinators of this club, we had regular after school/evening/holiday activity events, which included: open gym, dances, wrestling room dodgeball, karaoke, ping pong tournaments, crafts, student operated concession stand, etc... These events showcased the students who wanted to set up, decorate, organize and operate the activities, learn how to count money, and be a part of something bigger than themselves. I have many fond memories over the years of these activity events.

**What has changed in education?** Soooo many things have changed: grading, technology, curriculum, demands on the classroom teacher - some for the better, some for the not so good, but one thing that has not changed is our clientele: the kids!! Through the years, just like us, they also need routine, support, understanding, structure, accountability, responsibility, "restarts", being allowed to learn from failure, patience, kindness, etc.

**Retirement Plans:** I am very excited to spend more time with my husband, my children and my parents with the flexibility of being able to substitute teach as well.

## MARY YOUNG

**Year started at MV:** subbing- 1998; started in the classroom 2002, served on the school board 1999-2002

**Total years at Mount Vernon:** 18 in the classroom

**Total years teaching:** 19

**First year favorite memory:** My first day in 2002 was memorable... I had fallen a few days before and had injured my cervical spine. I showed up the first day of school black and blue and wearing a c-collar. My colleagues and students



were very gracious to me as I began my full time teaching career.

**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?**

My math teacher colleagues have been great. Jan Sauter, Richard Searce, and Beth McCollum were very generous with their knowledge and really helped me hone my craft. Caitlin Bienneman, Kelsey Strope, Derek Roberts, Erin Wilkinson, and Kim Bjork have continued that tradition of sharpening me and making me a better teacher. I appreciate all that our building secretaries do - Mary Hale and Stephanie Timm help the ship to run smoothly and do so much that we as a staff and a community are not aware of. They deserve kudos and my thanks!

**One or two memories of events that happened during your career at Mount Vernon that you would share.** It is really hard to narrow this down. I really enjoyed figuring out how my students learned best. It was awesome to see the lightbulb go off when understanding took place!

I really enjoyed working with high school students. I can think of no better place to have spent the past 18 years.

**What has changed in education?** Technology has made communication easier. Email, Google Classroom, Twitter all make getting the information to students so much easier. In addition there are other amazing teaching tools that have made teaching and learning fun and engaging. While mathematics has changed little in the past 18 years, the way it is taught, assessed, and graded has changed. Standards referenced grading is one of the biggest changes I have seen in the past 18 years.

**Retirement Plans:**

I plan to substitute teach at MVHS and spend more time with my kids and grandkids, take time to work in my garden and travel with my husband, Steve.

**Parting Words:**

Mount Vernon is the place we chose to settle and raise our family. Our children had the good fortune of being taught by some of Iowa's best. Know that as teachers we have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our students and their families. It has been a privilege to be part of the amazing things happening at MVHS.



## OUR SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021

AUGUST:

- starts in a hybrid schedule amid Covid-19 pandemic and August Derecho that hits the midwest
- MVCSD welcomes 8 new teachers.

SEPTEMBER:

- Softball field renovations are in full swing after a \$1.63 million donation given by alum Dave Van Metre '55

OCTOBER:

- Volleyball is WAMAC Conference Champions
- Kean Kamerling and Lauren Ryan are named 2020 Homecoming King & Queen
- Boys Cross Country team qualifies for State
- Laura Swart & Anna Hoffman qualify for girls State Cross Country
- Sydney Jones qualifies for State Swimming & Diving
- Iowa High School Press Association selects 10 MVHS students for individual awards in journalism

NOVEMBER:

- Aaron Truitt named Middle School Athletic Director of the Year in the Northeast District
- ESports team ends season as State Runner-Up
- Volleyball team places 2nd at State
- Coach Maggie Willems '96 is named the Volleyball 3A Coach of the Year by the IGHSAU
- 37 HS students inducted into National Honor Society
- 12 MVHS students selected for the All-State Music Festival

JANUARY:

- schools move back to full-time in-school education
- 18 out of 25 Large Group Speech groups qualify for State Speech Competition
- Two MVHS students compete at the IWCOA Girls State Wrestling Competition
- Charles Chatman Jr. is new HS Baseball Coach

FEBRUARY:

- Keaton Kutcher becomes all-time boys basketball scoring leader, breaking broke Phil Rilet's (1974) 47 year old record with 1,514 points
- Jackson Jaspers and Kean Kamerling earn trip to state wrestling, with both finishing 7th.
- HS Large Group Speech earns 2 All-State nominations
- MVCSD Staff is able to start receiving their COVID-19 vaccinations.

MARCH:

- MVCSD will be offering a summer breakfast and lunch program again during the month of June 2021.
- Academic Decathlon Team won 3 overall Golds, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze at the Regional Competition
- Swingin' Stangs participates in the 2021 Jazz Corridor Project with guest artist Amy Friedl Stoner 01'

APRIL:

- HS 'Mustang Moon' newspaper named a Class A News Team of the Year Finalist. Remy Merrill was named one of Iowa's Top 10 Emerging Journalists
- 'Bright Star' is the high school spring musical
- WaMaC Art Fair hosted by MVHS in the new PAC
- District launches new website at www.mvcsd.org
- 9 high schoolers received All-State speech nominations for individual speech contests
- Foundation launches new fundraising campaign for proposed \$4 million activities complex
- HS Robotics takes four robots to state competition

MAY:

- Nate Sanderson is named head girls' basketball coach
- 106 graduates receive their diplomas

# ALUMNI

SPRING/SUMMER 2021

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
525 Palisades Road SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

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**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.



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

### ONLINE

at [www.MVAlumni.org](http://www.MVAlumni.org)  
Select the grey 'LOG IN' box. Use your email to log in. If you have never logged in, select 'forgot my password'. Need help, call Kathy 319-389-8602

### OR BY MAIL

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

### SELECT ONE OF THESE FOR YOUR ANNUAL SUPPORT:

- One-Year Support/Dues.....\$15 per alum
- or Five-Year Support/Dues .....\$60 per alum

### SELECT THIS TO SEND A DONATION:

- additional donation or memorial.....
- in memory of/in honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- Amount Enclosed \$.....

### 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

# 2021

Alumni 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 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!