



MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALUMNI NEWS

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2025 HERITAGE DAY ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY EVENTS – SHOW UP AND ENJOY!

FRIDAY All ALUMNI CELEBRATION -- July 11, 6:30pm-8:00pm

Performing Arts Center (PAC) at Mount Vernon High School

The Mount Vernon Alumni Association Celebrates 20 years of supporting Mount Vernon Alumni! Join us for a reception in the lobby of the PAC. Memorabilia, treats, cool AC, and premium parking before the drone show!

FRIDAY CITYWIDE DRONE SHOW -- July 11, Show at dusk

Martha Parsons Activities Complex (MAC) at Mount Vernon High School

The City of Mount Vernon is hosting a drone show at the Martha Parsons Activities Complex (MAC) at Mount Vernon High School. The MV Alumni Association will provide the concession stand. Come early to catch up with friends, get a good seat, and eat delicious ice cream.

SATURDAY ALUMNI-COMMUNITY BREAKFAST -- July 12, 8-10 am

Mount Vernon High School Commons

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

School tours available **ALUMNI FUNDRAISER**

SATURDAY RECEPTION -- Mount Vernon Visitor's Center, July 12 after parade.

Join alumni and community at the Alumni Tent. Find us at the Mount Vernon Visitor's Center (by Memorial Park) Enjoy cold water, pictures and yearbooks all in the shade of Memorial Park. Great meet-up spot.

**ALL ALUMNI EVENTS
ARE OPEN TO THE
COMMUNITY &
FRIENDS**



**MV ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!**

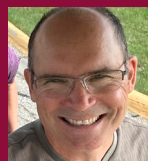
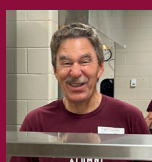


Last year's Drone Show at the Martha Parsons Activities Complex on the MVHS campus. See all of the Heritage Days memories on page 14.

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





Mustang ALUMNI

Call for Volunteers

Volunteer to help to Association on Saturday July 12, 2025 from 8am-9am or 9am-10am at the High School or later in the day at the Alumni Tent. It's a fun way to see friends and classmates! Contact Julia at 319-721-7953 or email alumni@mvcasd.org

Unable to make it on July 12? There's always an opportunity to help the week before or at Homecoming! Reach out for more info! alumni@mvcasd.org

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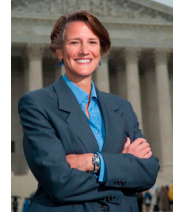
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ALUMNI NEWSLETTER is published twice yearly for alumni and friends of the Association. Views are those of the authors. Articles and advertisements (preferably digital) may be submitted by email to alumni@mvcasd.org or by mail to 525 Palisades Road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

FIND Heritage Days UPDATES

www.visitmvl.com
OR find a complete listing and
updates in the Heritage Days
issue of the Mount Vernon-
Lisbon Sun newspaper

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Cathy Hufford '83
Alumni Association
President

Greetings,

My how fast 20 years have flown by. On April 16, 2005, the Alumni Association held their first meeting and printed the first newsletter in May 2005. During these 20 years, the mission has remained the same: to support Mount Vernon Schools' alumni activities.

The Mount Vernon School Alumni Association was organized to improve communication among alumni and with the school district. Some of the projects the Association continues to work on are a comprehensive alumni database, reunion services, alumni social events, installation of the TouchPro interactive screen in the High School commons and assisting reunion organizers from each graduating class. Our bi-annual newsletter continues to keep our alumni informed and connected.

In order to stay better connected with all our alumni, we have created a presence on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter/X. The best way to stay connected though, is to reach out to us and inform us of your personal milestones – it's not bragging if your milestone is highlighted in LinkedIn, professional journal or college alumni newsletter.

We look forward to Heritage Days when many of you will venture back to Mount Vernon and reconnect with your classmates and others. We will be hosting a reunion for all the Alumni but especially for the people who were there 25 years ago, planning and creating this fantastic organization. It is a year overdue, but we will honor the 1974 State Football Champions at the September 19th home football game. For those of you around 51 years ago, it was quite a season.

Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you at Heritage Days.

Cathy Hufford
President, Alumni Association

UPDATE-UPDATE-UPDATE-UPDATE-UPDATE-

UPDATE TO WEBSITE & DATABASE

questions: alumni@mvcasd.org

The Foundation and the Alumni Association voted in November 2024 to change database companies from Wild Apricot to Donor Perfect. The primary reason was to be good stewards of donations by finding a more economical database and locking in the rate for two years.

You may notice changes in our online giving platforms and website.

The new software is more modernized and features up-to-date security. You may also notice that the website is under construction while we reconfigure 15 years of digital history onto the website.

Please see page 16 and 17 for more information!

2025 REUNIONS

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

2020 5 years -

Heritage Days Weekend 2025

Contact: Summer Brand
Email: sumbrand7@gmail.com
Phone: 641-247-0117

2015 10 years - tba

Contact: Nolon Teubel
Email: Nolanteubel@gmail.com

2010 15 years -

Heritage Days Weekend

Gathering at Scorz on Saturday, July 12 at 8 pm-close
Emily Stoner Bell
Email: emilyb@broadstar.com
Phone: 318-551-6634

2005 20 years -

Heritage Days Weekend

Saturday, July 12 from 5-8 @ Beau Dylan's in Lisbon.
Contact: Chrystal Covington Wherry
Phone: 319-540-1879
Email: Crystaal2005@yahoo.com

2000 25 years -

Heritage Days Weekend

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

1995 - 30 years - tba

Contact: Kim Stoner
Phone: 319-899-8542
Email: dyanstoner@aol.com

1990 - 35 years -

Heritage Days weekend.

Travis Allen Art Gallery. Saturday, July 12, 5pm. BYOB
Contact: Andrea Mott Zastrow
Email: andoreaz19@hotmail.com
Contact: Travis Allen
Phone: (319) 431-6512
Email: Tallen1872@gmail.com
Contact: James Winchip
Email: jwinchip999@gmail.com

1985 - 40 years -

Heritage Days Weekend

Alumni Breakfast on Saturday. Parade to follow. Gathering at Dave Ryan's house on Saturday, July 12, 2025 3pm
Contact: Dave Ryan
Phone: 319-899-4965
Email: dryan@mountvernonbank.com
Contact: Shawna Hutchins Rawson
Email: shwnrwsn9@gmail.com
Contact: Jennifer Spencer Toriggino
Phone: 303-792-3484
Email: jentoriggino@gmail.com

1980 - 45 years.

Heritage Days Weekend

Saturday, July 12th 6-8pm. Whitey's Lisbon, Ia
Contact: Chris Kinley Osborn '80
Email: mvosborn80@gmail.com
Phone: 319-241-4696

1975 - 50 years - UPDATED

September 19, 2025

Friday Night, Attend MVHS Football game and 1974 State Championship Celebration
Saturday, September 20, 5pm

At the home of Dave and Linda

(Royer) Pitlik

Contact: Lori Lehman Reihle

Phone: 319-310-2639

Email: lori.reihle@gmail.com

Contact: Carol Woods Boren

Phone: 319-350-4662

Email: woodsboren@gmail.com

1970 - 55 years -

Heritage Days Weekend

Friday night July 11 at Dan Stoner's house, 1050 Linn Ridge Road, Mount Vernon. 5:00 social hour, 7:00 dinner catered by Gwen. Free will donation.

Contact: Sara Gaarde

Phone: 319-389-8951

Email: saragaarde@gmail.com

Contact: Chris Swiser:

Phone: 319-360-0741

Email: teamswiser@gmail.com

1965 - 60 years - tba

Contact: Susan Mounts Fisher

Phone: 319-389-3686

Email: SusanJFisher@netins.net

1960 - 65 years -

Heritage Days Weekend

Sally's in Springville, July 12, 4:00p

Contact: Annamae Stoneking Baker

Phone: 319 361 3897

Email: abmrlk@gmail.com

Contact: John Rife

Phone: 319-310-8105

Email: jrife485@gmail.com

Join us for our 20th Anniversary!

**FRIDAY, July 11, 2025 from 6:30-800pm
MVHS Performing Arts Center (PAC) Lobby**

Treats, memorabilia, catching up with friends, and cold AC. Celebrate with us before the city-wide Drone Show at the MAC (behind the High School)



The first Alumni Association Board meeting held in April, 2005

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



Class of 1970 -- 55 Year Class Reunion

Friday, July 11, 2025

Dan Stoner's house, 1050 Linn Ridge Road, Mount Vernon. 5:00 social hour, 7:00 dinner catered by Gwen. Free will donation.

Sat., July 12, 2025

Meet at the NEW high school for the annual alumni breakfast.
8:30-10am Alumni Breakfast
10:30a Dan will pick all of us up to be the parade

Sara Gaarde 319-389-8951
saragaarde@gmail.com

Class of 1985 40th Reunion

Sat., July 12, 2025

Alumni Breakfast on Saturday.
Parade to follow.

Gathering at Dave Ryan's house on Saturday, July 12, 2025 3pm-close.

Dave Ryan; 319-899-4965;
dryan@mountvernonbank.com
Jennifer Spencer Torriggino; 303-792-3484;
jentorriggino@gmail.com
Shawna Hutchins Rawson;
shwnrwn9@gmail.com

Class of 1975 50th Class Reunion

IMPORTANT UPDATE!

Friday, September 19, 2025

Attend the MVHS Football Game
Celebrate the 1974 State Football Championship

Saturday, September 20, 2025

At the home of Dave and Linda (Royer) Pitlik

Lori Lehman Reihle; 319-310-2639;
lori.reihle@gmail.com
Carol Woods Boren; 319-350-4662;
woodsborn@gmail.com

Class of 2005

Saturday, July 12 from 5-8

Beau Dylan's in Lisbon.

Main course provided, bring a side dish. Cash bar. Adults only preferred.

Contact: Chrystal Covington Wherry
Crystaal2005@yahoo.com

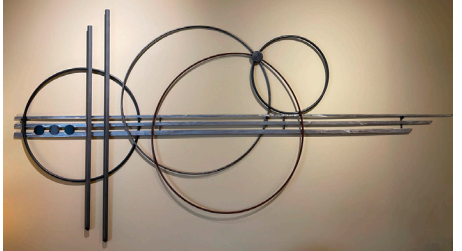
NEWSLETTER POLICIES

Due to rising postage costs, The Alumni Association Board has decided to update our newsletter mailing procedures.

1. For five years after graduating, classes will receive a DIGITAL copy of the newsletter. At each 5-Year reunion, alumni can choose to opt into a print copy.
2. In the fall, District teachers will receive the newsletter in their District mailbox instead of USPS.
3. Families with multiple alums will receive one copy of the newsletter when requested by the family or alum.

If you want a hard copy of the newsletter, we will make sure that you receive a hard copy. The Board wants to ensure that we maintain a vital communication to our alumni while still practicing financial responsibility with donations.

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Alumni With MVHS Concert Choir



Choir alums from the classes of 2013-2023 join the Mount Vernon Concert Choir for their final song. Each year the tradition grows larger and larger.

On Monday, May 19, 2025, the Mount Vernon Concert Choir hosted their final concert and senior night. At the performance MV Director of Choral Activities Thad Wilkins invited alumni to participate in singing *The Road Home* by Steven Paulus. The tradition, now in its fourth year, has grown in the number of alumni participating. This year was made special by siblings from different classes singing in the Concert Choir together. On the right: Bryce '23, Lauren '23, and Hayley Hepker '19 came together to sing on the PAC Stage.



Class of 1980

July 12th 6-8pm
Whitey's in Lisbon, IA
Cost: \$20 per person

RSVP: Chris Kinley Osborn
615 1st Ave NW
Mount Vernon, Ia 52314
mvosborn80@gmail.com
319 241-4696 & leave message.

Class of 1990

Saturday, July 12, 2025

Travis Allen's Gallery
132 E. Main Street, Lisbon

5:00 p.m. Bring your own beverage
Andrea Mott Zastrow
andreaaz19@hotmail.com

ALUMNI IN OUR SCHOOLS

Editor's note: The following is an excerpt from the article "Wartburg, MV choirs perform in MV PAC" published in the April 3, 2025 *Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun*. Story by Nathan Countryman.

Wartburg Choir held an abbreviated version of their choir tour in Mount Vernon Friday, March 28, 2025 in a joint choir concert with Mount Vernon Choir.

This was also the first stop on the Wartburg Choir's tour schedule this year. Their final home concert is April 13 at Wartburg Chapel before they do a tour of the west coast that kicks off during Easter weekend.

Wartburg choir director Dr. Lee Nelson said his continued connection with alum Thad Wilkins sparked the idea for a concert in the Performing Arts Center space, and that coming to the space was like coming home with the many connections the choir has to

the area. Four Mount Vernon alum are members of the choir – Milo Olinger '23, Ty Panos '23, Ben Nydegger '23 and Trystin Lashley '23.

Picture below: Milo Olinger '23 and Ty Panos '23 talk about their time in the Mount Vernon Choir and how it set them up to succeed in the Wartburg Choir.



Mollie Snedden '24, above, returned to MVHS to play flute in the April production of *The Music Man*. Mollie donated hours of rehearsal time to the production. The pit consisted of 19 professional players, MV staff, current students, and alumni.

continued on next page



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ALUMNI IN OUR SCHOOLS (CONTINUED)



The Alumni Association continues with their tradition of presenting each graduate with a mustang alumni pin at commencement. Below, left: Association board members Susan Mounts Fisher '65 and Greg West '82 welcomed new graduates. Top left, Susan welcomes Colin Bentley, one of the two Alumni Scholarship recipients off the stage. Top right, Betsy Louwagie, one of the Alumni Scholarship recipients receives her diploma. PC: Nathan Countryman.



2nd photo: Mount Vernon continues to excel thanks to teachers like Tawnua Tenley, and alumni coaches Grant Freeman '06 and Trevor Baty '15 pictured on the right. This year in individual speech 31 students received Division 1 ratings and 8 students were nominated for All State. Mount Vernon Group Speech Team had 9 teams nominated for All-State!



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JUSTIN ARNOLD '08 Agent jarnold@hotzagency.com



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Bottom photo: Every year in May, alumni, community members, and friends listen and select the class commencement speeches. This year's committee included Bob Campagna, Brenda Langenberg, Sara Kendall '78, Alumni Board member Kim Konkowski '81, Tommie Oувerson, Thelma and John Rife '60, and Josh Jordan '18.

The group is pictured in front of the Mustang statue that was donated by alum Dave Van Metre '55 located outside of the High School Performing Arts Center (PAC). PC: MVHS Principal Steve Brand



**2025 Homecoming
& Hall of Fame
Events
OCTOBER 3, 2025**

**DID YOU MOVE? HAVE A NEW EMAIL
ADDRESS?**

HAVE A NAME CHANGE?

Don't forget to send your updated contact
information, email addresses, and news
items to alumni@mvcasd.org



To the left: The Alumni Association annually sponsors the High School National Honor Society Reception by providing hosts and refreshments. At the November 2024 ceremony are President Cathy Hufford '83, Alumni Board member Kim Mortensen Konkowski '81, and Alumni Board Treasurer Susan Mounts Fisher pictured with NHS inductee and Mount Vernon Junior Grant Tucker.



Sixth grade teacher, Brian Nichols and his classes studied countries and cultures around the world. Mr. Nichols invited alumni Mikaela Lengwin '15 (Dr. Mac) to speak about her service trip to Kenya. She, along with other chiropractors, medical providers, and educators traveled to Kenya to treat patients and also took time to see some incredible sights. Dr. Mac loved sharing about her trip and coming back to her former school.



To the left. Do you have what it takes to run the "Mount" in Mount Vernon? Hall of Fame Inductees Kevin '76 and Becky '77 Whitman do! The dynamic duo ran the Middle School 5k on April 23, 2025. The 5k raised over \$22,000 for the Middle School!

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▼ CLASS OF 2025



Welcome Class of 2025! The class graduated 125 members on May 25, 2025 with commencement, followed by a senior parade through the community of Mount Vernon. Classmates Elizabeth Louwagie and Colin Bentley were named Class Reunion Organizers and received \$250 scholarships from the Alumni Association at their Senior Awards Night. Photo by Matt Thede.

▼ CLASS OF 2009 - 15 YEARS



The class of 2009 had their reunion on Saturday, July 13, 2025 at Doug Rice's house.

Front row: Ross Each, Mackenzie Kraus (Glenn), Megan Traxel (Grunder), Allie Thompson. Second row: Ben Kraus, Emily Stamp (Ryan), Lacey Wolter (Downey), Amber Hess (Melchert), Mackenzie Havill. Third row: Taylor Anderson, John Weirather. Back row: Matt Hess, Paul Fugate ["honorary" after moving before graduation], Kyle Wolter and Doug Rice

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▲ CLASS OF 2014 - 10 YEARS



The class of 2014 held their ten year reunion at Grunder home on Saturday, July 13, 2024. Special thanks to Cory Brannaman for organizing the reunion. Attendees included Beatrix Thornton, Gabby Kolker, Kayla Burkart, Whitney Fernandez, Eric Dunford, Ashley Dunford, Cory Brannaman, Macon McInnis, Brittany Ferguson, Josh Cannon, Amanda Grunder, Trey Ryan, and Eliza Effen.

▼ CLASS OF 1994 - 30 YEARS

The Class of 1994 held their 30th reunion 6pm, Tin Roof Hideaway & Event Center in Lisbon. Donation collected were in memory of the late Kasey Merrill. The event was organized by Sara Reyhons Nost, owner of the Tin Roof Hideaway and Andrew Morf.



Reunion picture above: Sarah Dillard, Erin Kennedy, Crystal Kauder, Sara Reyhons (Host at her event center in Lisbon) Teresa Berner, Kim Zangger Middle Row: Matt Bunting, Andrew Morf, Dave Ballstaedt, Matt Plotz, Bill Studt, Ryan Hanna, Patrick Elliott, Tom Gillespie, Jill Lass, Alison Dix, Back Row: Karl Yeats, John Zehms, Ryan Reyhons, Doug Merrill, Dan Studt, Ebe Boettcher, Stephanie Marion, Nicoli Martin, Matt Burgess, Shana Brewer, LaVonne Meyer, Jared Pospisil



▼ CLASS OF 1964 - 60 YEARS



The class of 1964 held their 60th reunion on Saturday, July 13th at Gwen's Restaurant. Gary Kaplan and Ray Stoner organized the event. Back Row Standing: Gary Kaplan (Secretary/Treasurer), Robert (Bob) Jilovec, Timothy (Tim) Simmons. Middle Row Standing: James (Jim) Wallace, John Saathoff, Lyman Stoneking, Joseph (Sam) Studd, Ron (Ronnie) Armstrong, James (Jim) Ellison, Diana Kafer LaVoi, Christene (Chris), Hudson Brown, Joan Wallace Burge, Russell Steiner, Ray Stoner (Class President). Front Row: Darla Stoltz Templeton, Janice Johnson Forest, Jean Kuntz Bowman, Jane Maxson Penfield, Betty Koutney Buresh, and Joanne Moses Heims.

▼ CLASS OF 1984 - 40 YEARS

The Class of 1984 held their 40th reunion on Saturday, July 13 at the Renegade Revival Palisades Lodge followed by a Private Party at Glyn Mawr Winery/The Local. Pictured below are Back Row: Mark Vislisel, Kirk Bostwick, Sarah (Booth) Fried, Cam Addis, Pat Melchert. 3rd Row: Doug Hanson, Daryl Becicka, Dan Drahos, Randy Timm, Susie (Wolfe) See, Wade Squires, Lorrie (Fordyce) Dahlman. 2nd Row: Tad Ault, Bill Clark, Jackie (Jordan Morrical), Beth Hufford, Bill Mealman, Sharon (Kuntz) Glenn. Front Row: Wendy (Ballstaedt) Wright, Jill Woods, Julie (Brokel) Hendricks, Toni (Wilkey) Hof, and Jeff Pepper.



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▼ CLASS OF 2004 - 20 YEARS

The class of 2004 held their reunion on Saturday July 13 at the Local. Thanks to organizers Luran Damon-Moore, Brittany Corkin Brannaman and Jon Stoner. Picture below L-R: Jacob Broulik, Zach Martin, Jeff Jewel, Joe Siegle, Sean Armstrong, Jason Mick, Jessica Hunter, Tim Campagna, Steve Kreinbrink, Jacob Hommer, Lindsay Patterson Glynn, Karah Goetschius Hoffer, Dustin Stewart, Whitney Schreder, Allison Pospisil, Matt Kroul, John Brokel, Derrick Alger, Heather Heaton Brokel, Val Horton-Latta, David Conroy, Joe Weirather, Jon Stoner, Julia Hanson Broulik, Kadera Havill Scanlon, Jason Williams, Garrett Glenn, Laura Damon-Moore, Brittany Corkin Brannaman, Will Casey, Jacob Craig, Brian Hess, Michael Brandt, and Derek Feaker.



▼ CLASS OF 1999 - 25 years

The class of 1999 partied like it was 1999 at the home of Meredith Ash Crawford on July 13. Special thanks to reunion organizers Kristin Stewart Livingston and Meredith Ash Crawford. Group photo left to right: Ellis Burge, Kyle Brown, Erin Whitehead, Evan Peterson, Casey DeVries, Mike Ripke, Nick Thurn, Emily Bennett, Jeremy Stoll, Doug Wumkes, Joe Koster, Meredith Ash Crawford, Shaun Swiser, Alex Morf, Alison Happel-Parkins, Jeremy Hotz, Mike Weisler and Andy Pitlik.





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▼ CLASS OF 1974 - 50 YEARS



The Class of 1974 held their reunion over Homecoming weekend on September 26-28, 2025. The class marched in the Homecoming Parade on Thursday night, attended the Homecoming Game on Friday night, and held their reunion on Saturday night. Pictured above are: Front Row: Joann Erenberger Sebetka, Carolyn Henderson Stephenson, Karol Koppenhaver, Carol Tesar Brannaman, Deb Vargason Bys, Joel Wallace, Tim Pliffner, Deb Peshek Thorman. Second Row: Robert Broulik, Marcia Humphries Driscoll, Mary Palmer, Donna Rosendahl Zimmerman, Pat Moses, Vickie Hill Reynolds, Cindy Feaker Johnson, Sandy Rice Schloss, Diane Victor Raymond, Shirley Klinsky Mott, Jenifer Chadick Prowant, Theresa Cody Erwin, Ann Dvorak Ash, Mark Sargent, Miles Meyer, John Bartosh. Third Row: Ed Slach, Gen Kuntz, Annette Stastny Wieneke, Dave Pitlik, Anna Tonne Broulik, Sandra Palmer Todd, Guy Bys, Kaj Jensen, Russ Phillips. Not Pictured Bob Barrett, Karen Miller Thornton. Memory Table: Terry Merta, Julie Kruger, Gary Arnold, Janette Wolrab Blinks, Randy Rundle, Keith Conrad, and Mike Petrick.

▼ CLASS OF 1969 - 55 YEARS



The class of 1969 held their 55th reunion on Saturday, July 13 at the home of Dan '70 and Cathy Humphries Stoner '69. Pictured above are: Wendy Ellison Stryker, Mark Windsor, Linda Wallace Wiltfang, Cathy Humphries Stoner, Stuart Seiler, Kate Shackford, Sandra Neal Williams, Doug Pitlik, Tom Travis, Mary Peterson Berry, Doug Easker, Steve Maaske, Diane Kirkpatrick Jones, and Louis Floden.





On Friday July 12, 2024 the MVHS Theatre Troupe - the Velvet Curtain Dramatic Society, along with the Alumni Association came together to host a gathering 100 years in the making. 2024-2025 was the 100th year of theatre at Mount Vernon High School. The July celebration kicked off the season with a reception, audience sing-a-long, memorabilia, and live performances from MVHS Alums.

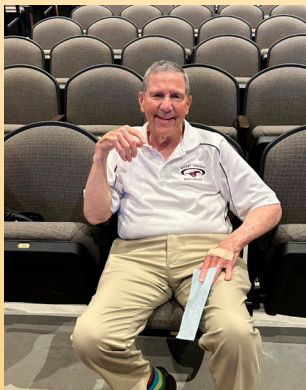
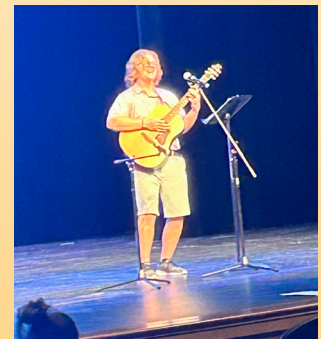


Photo outtakes from the rehearsal, reception, and performance.

Bottom: The performers and speakers of the evening including Daryl Becicka '84, Grant Freeman '06, Brandon Douglas '13, Amy Friedl '01, Charlotte Krob '24, Braden Rood '93, Milo Olinger '23, Ty Panos '23, Bryce Cox '16, Luke Stephens '24, Kim Benesh '85, Jasper Rood '21, and emcee John Rife '60





MEMORIES FROM HERITAGE DAYS 2024



New MV superintendent Matt Leeman volunteered for the breakfast on his 13th day of the job!



New alum Drew Heck '24 was hard at work but all smiles this Heritage Days. He spent his summer as an intern for the Community Development Group (CDG) which organizes Heritage Days for Mount Vernon.



Mark Hylbak '73 enjoys the view from the Class of 1973 bench. The Class of '73 donated this bench to the Martha Parsons Activities Complex (the MAC) following their 50th reunion last year.



Alumni Board president Cathy Hufford '83 and Kim Mortensen Konkowski '81 ran the Alumni Concession Stand at the Citywide Drone Show Friday night.



Ray Stoner '64 and Sharon Neal Urich '59 catch up at the Alumni Breakfast on Saturday Morning.



Francis Pisarik '63 looks at the class composites before the breakfast.



Above: Alex Morf '99 fuels up before his class reunion. Below: 2024 Alumni Scholarship Recipient Luke Stephens volunteers during the Alumni Breakfast.



Above: Members of the class of 1984 enjoy time together before the parade. Below: Mary Thomsen '75 and Foundation Director Amie Roberts volunteer to serve fruit at the breakfast.



Above: Kevin Smith '73 and Kurt Suchomel '77 at breakfast. Below: Whitney Bennet Turner '00 with daughter Hanna and assistant Roscoe take a break from door greeting.





ATTENTION 1974 STATE CHAMPION FOOTBALL TEAM

It's hard to believe that it has been 51 years since the 1974 MVHS team completed an undefeated season enroute to the school's first state football championship. The memories of the 1974 have left a lasting legacy – and it's time to celebrate that again!

The Alumni Association is organizing a Championship Team Reunion to bring everyone back together for a special evening of memories, laughter, and reconnection.

More event details to follow, but please keep Friday, September 19, 2025, open. Updates will be posted on the Alumni's web page (www.mvalumni.org), the Alumni's Facebook page (Mount Vernon Alumni Association) and Instagram ([mvalumni52314](https://www.instagram.com/mvalumni52314)). We will also send emails out closer to the big day!.

We are looking forward to your special night. Go 'Stangs!

ALUMNI BASKETBALL GAME



ARE YOU A FORMER MVHS BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER?

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2025

Interested in playing some fun basketball?

Join us in the High School gym for the 2nd Annual Alumni Basketball game. Time TBA.

Support the Mustang Basketball team earlier in the afternoon. Time TBA

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

Alumni and Foundation Embrace Ne

After fifteen years of maintaining a comprehensive database, the Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation and the Mount Vernon Alumni Association are ushering in a new era of digital connectivity and security.

Since its creation in 2005, the alumni and friends database has grown to contain the records of the nearly 8,000 alums, friends, and donors that interact with our schools and our alumni network. Capital projects, teacher grants, and our school community are built by the people within this database. The first Alumni Newsletter in 2005 said, "One of the larger and more important projects we've undertaken is to develop an Alumni database." The article went on to say, "This database will be of utmost importance over the years, especially for reunion organizers."

In 2024 the two boards came together to conduct a comprehensive review and analysis of our current database as compared to other systems. Databases were compared by various features with cost and security being our biggest priorities. In the end, the boards decided to move away from our previous database and into a new system, DonorPerfect. DonorPerfect is a widely respected donor management platform.

Our community can expect familiar features to remain intact:

- Online donation capabilities
- Email communication from the Alumni Association
- The ability to update your address and contact information
- The ability to set up recurring donations
- The ability to curate class lists for reunion organizers

Dr. Amie Roberts, MVCSD Foundation Director said, "DonorPerfect will be a great asset for our donors. Not only is it more secure, it is also a more user-friendly process. We are excited for what lies ahead."

What is changing with the database upgrade?

The two groups will now have two different websites. Alumni Association will remain

MValumni.org

The Foundation and its supported groups will now be hosted at

MVCSDfoundation.org

Where will I donate?

If you would like to donate to the alumni association, simply go to

MValumni.org

If you would like to donate to the Foundation or any of the groups that the Foundation supports, go to

MVCSDfoundation.org

Both sites will have links to each other. You can also link from the district page.

What's improved with this database?

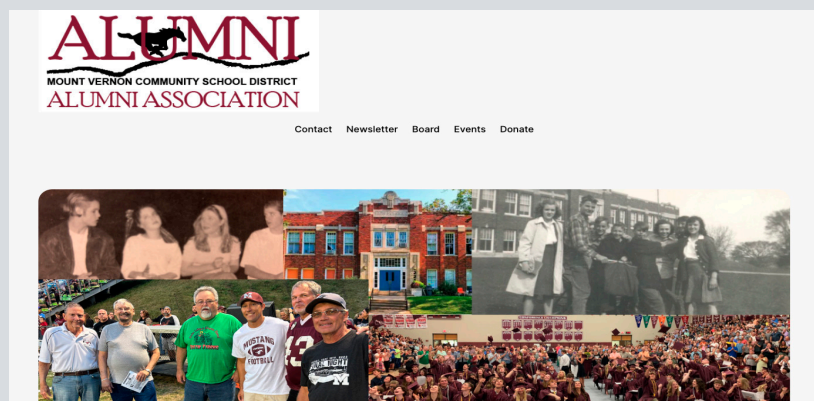
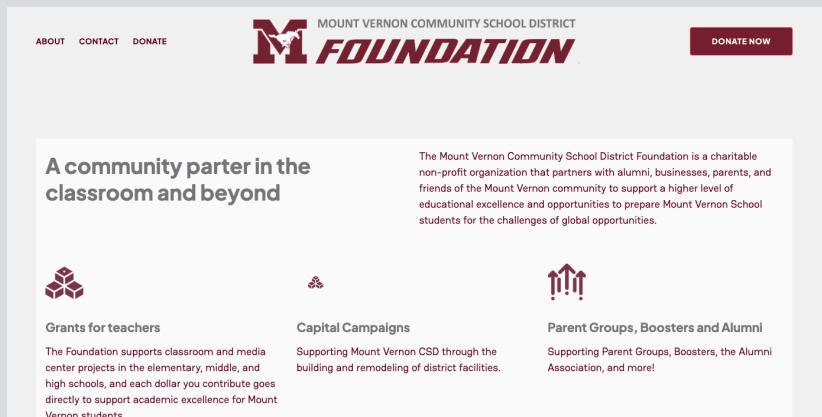
The shift to DonorPerfect brings several advantages:

- Enhanced data security
- Integration with our accounting software for more streamlined financial management.
- A more powerful email tool using Constant Contact for communication with our community.

New Era with Database Upgrade

As the Foundation and the Alumni Association complete the transition over the summer, we remain committed to strengthening the bonds between our alumni, donors, and the community.

Need assistance understanding the new system? We are planning a booth at the Heritage Days Breakfast on July 12, 2025 if you need help. We are also available at the Mount Vernon Visitors center the same day with live, in person help. Additional help is always available by calling Julia Andrews Alumni Coordinator at 319-721-7953 or alumni@mvczd.org. Or Amie Roberts, Foundation Director at 319-939-4590 aroberts@mvczd.org



Above, left: The Foundation Website will be a place to donate to School Groups and read more about teacher grants, scholarships given, and upcoming Foundation projects. Below, left: The Alumni Website will include previous newsletters, information about upcoming events, and stories of our Alumni community.



Left: Foundation Treasurer Ann Koppenhaver '78 and Aarika Koppenhaver '08 keep the group positive and on task during a recent database training meeting. Right: Alumni Board President Cathy Hufford '83 and MVCSD Bookkeeper Becky Whitman '77 listen to a training about the database.



■ COL. DEREK OAKLEY '92

Editor's note: This article is from "A View from the Top" from *Black Hills Family Magazine*. The article was written by Kayla Gahagan. <<https://blackhillsfamily.com/a-view-from-the-top/>> in combination with an email interview with Col. Oakley.

Col. Derek Oakley '92 is commander of the 28th Bomb Wing, Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, the largest B-1 combat wing in the United States Air Force, with more than 12,000 active duty military, civilian employees, and family members. He provides combat-ready aircraft, crews and associated combat support for global engagement taskings.

"After I graduated from college, a fellow Mount Vernon classmate spoke with me about military service," said Oakley. "Through this conversation, I decided to join the Air Force and have enjoyed over 27 years of service to our country."

Col. Oakley earned a teaching degree before becoming a command pilot with more than 3,400 flight hours in the B-1B, T-38, T-6, and T-37, including 991 combat hours in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Before becoming Commander, he led the 28th Operations Group at Ellsworth, the largest operational B-1B group in the U.S. Air Force.

He spent half his career flying the B-1 and the other half teaching new pilots. He received his commission from the United States Air Force Officer Training School in 2000 and graduated from pilot training at Columbus AFB, Mississippi. He was operationally assigned to the B-1B.

He has served in a variety of flying squadrons as an instructor and evaluator pilot in the B-1B, T-6, and T-38. He commanded a T-6 squadron at Columbus AFB and served on the Joint Staff as the Director of the Joint Targeting School, Dam Neck Naval Air Station, Virginia. He served as the director of the B-21 Integration and System Management Office where he liaised between Air Force Global Strike Command and the Department of the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office, supporting development of the B-21 Raider, the Air Force's Top 3 priority acquisition program.

"I was really lucky to get to fly the airplane I wanted to fly," he said of the B-1, which first came into service in the 1980s as a conventional supersonic bomber. It has been used to support missions in the Asia-Pacific region and Afghanistan. It does not carry nuclear weapons and about 60 remain in service at Dyess Air Force Base in Texas and Ellsworth.

Mount Vernon High School provided Oakley with the training to be a leader in his field. "Mount Vernon High School is a unique place where students can pursue a top-tier education while finding their talents through participating in nearly any activity that piques their interest. I was a National Honor Society student, while able to participate in multiple sports (Cross Country, Wrestling, and Track), and tried chorus and school musicals. I was a team captain and state qualifier as both a team and individual in Cross Country, state qualifier as a team in Wrestling, and state event qualifier in Track. I was the KCRG "Athlete of the Week" where I won a thousand dollars for the Cross Country program, using those funds to purchase new uniforms."

Derek Oakley and his wife Kelly Britt Oakley 1993 are MVHS high school sweethearts. Their lives together include 28 years of marriage, two kids, and 14 military moves.

Derek moving so often is the opportunity to see the world. "Our kids have seen every zoo, museum, attraction," he said, laughing. "The ability to take normal vacations really doesn't exist. For many military members, our vacations are going back home to see family."

As a Colonel, Oakley has many responsibilities but continues to train new airmen. It's the mentoring and coaching DNA that runs in his blood, and he can't give that up even with his new responsibilities. It lines up with a long-term vision to be the best, and to train from the ground up.

He continues this teaching spirit in his new position as commander of the 28th Bomb Wing, Ellsworth Air Force. Oakley notes, "It's all about teaching, coaching, mentoring," he said. "I have the best job in the Air Force."



Col. Derek Oakley '92

"My motto is 'win today, dominate tomorrow,'" Oakley said. "We need to be able to win today, and though we never want to go to war, we will defend our freedom if we are asked to do it. It's a mindset of doing better every day."

That's why it's important, he said, to keep investing in each airman and their families.

■ CAROL DEELY '82

Editor's Note: The following article was authored by Alumni Association Board President and Carol Deely's sister Cathy Hufford.

these trends, visiting grade schools and high schools, afterschool programs, and summer day /overnight camps to educate children and adolescents in grades four to 12, as well as groups of teachers and parents.

for Gabriel is making a difference in young lives. "In a very short period of time, they have built an effective foundation that has reached nearly 100,000 individuals," says Deborah R. Major, Director of Catholic Charities' Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) Program.

For their advocacy, courage, and commitment to preventing youth suicide, the Deely family will receive the 2025 Charles T. Rubey LOSS Award during the April 27 Blossoms of Hope brunch. To learn more about Gabriel's Light, go to www.gabrielslight.org.



Carol '62 and Brendan Deely

On the one-year anniversary of losing their son Gabriel, Carol (Hufford, 1982) and Brendan Deely launched Gabriel's Light, a nonprofit organization with a mission to prevent youth suicide through mental health education that drives awareness and empowers action. The Deely family forever changed November 14, 2018, when they lost their 12-year-old son, Gabriel, to suicide. They're dedicated to sharing their family's story to encourage others to confront mental health challenges head-on — and over the past six years, their mission has had a powerful impact.

Every four days, an Illinois teen takes their life. (Illinois Department of Public Health). According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, suicide ranks as a leading cause of death for children ages 10 to 19 — claiming more lives than any other major medical illness. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) also reports there are more than 3,700 suicide attempts each day nationally by students in grades 9-12. Four out of five of these teens give some sign of their intentions. The numbers would be higher if younger children were included.

The Gabriel's Light team addresses

Gabriel's Light educators encourage students to speak up and reach out to a trusted adult if they hear a classmate express feelings of worthlessness. They teach students to never joke about suicide. They emphasize the importance of sensitivity around the topic of suicide. Age-appropriate, hands-on activities teach younger children how to support themselves and friends in need.

"We presented at a high school of 600 students, and 34 students asked for support," Carol says. "One student was transported that day to the emergency room, others were referred to mental health services and parents were called so they could get the care they needed right away."

"If we saved one life, that's one significant life, but we know it's many more than that," Carol says. "The silver lining of the pandemic is people are more willing to talk about mental health. We try to normalize asking for help as a sign of strength, not a weakness." Carol says one of the most rewarding aspects of Gabriel's Light is helping other families navigate the challenges of guilt and grief that survivors of suicide loss, like the Deely family, often experience. Gabriel's Light has brought their family peace through service. She says they are proud that this legacy



At Gabriel's Light, we are dedicated to preventing youth suicide and providing tools for youth, parents, and educators to make a life-saving difference.

Carol Hufford Deely
President & Founder
MVHS Class of 1982

www.gabrielslight.org
info@gabrielslight.org

*Together, we can be the
light that saves a life.*



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In Memory of classmates we have lost

John Studt 1954

Sept 7, 2023 Bentonville, AR

Stanley Parks '64

September 10, 2024 Clarion, IA

Frances Bensmiller Lanning '60

September 30, 2024 Nevada, IA

Dorothy Bitterman Shestak '60

Dec 15, 2024 Bryant, WI

Helen Peterson Meeks '46

January 25, 2025 Mount Vernon, IA

Ruth Reyhons Hinz '48

January 27, 2025 Anamosa, Iowa

Bess Koutny Telecky 1953

January 31, 2025 Mount Vernon, IA

Michael Hartl '77

February 5, 1977 Mechanicsville, IA

Paul Hughes Robinson '79

February 23, 2025, Apache Junction, AZ

Jean Sproston Allsup '57

March 2, 2025 Lisbon, IA

Robert Marshak '62

March 4, 2025 Iowa City, IA

Dennis Pisarik '62

March 4, 2025 Mechanicsville IA

Ron Longerbeam '64

March 6, 2025 Marion, IA

Tim Tuberty '74

March 6, 2025 Ames, IA

Brenda Simonds Oakley '68

March 8, 2025 Cedar Rapids, IA

Lynne Humphries Gonzales '68

March 12, 2025 Moreno Valley, CA

James Telecky '49

March 14, 2025 Mount Vernon, IA

Frank Peterson '61

April 23, 2025 Aurora, MO

Melissa Morrissey '83

April 26, 2025 Stanwood, IA

Linda Schick Drahos '59

May 11, 2025 Cedar Rapids, IA

Joanne Wolrab Karns '51

May 12, 2025 Cedar Rapids, IA

Ralph Jordan '72

May 29, 2025 Mount Vernon, IA

- FRIENDS -

Joyce Thompson Whitlatch

Attended MVHS for 1 year, attended '55 reunions

December 6, 2024 Lisbon, Iowa

Ed Sauter

February 21, 2025 Mount Vernon, IA

Karla Stephen, former teacher

May 7, 2025 Manchester, IA

Ben Jamison

former student, attended '58 reunions

May 6, 2025 Manchester, 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.)

Alumni News...

Send us your information...

alumni@mvcisd.org, Julia 319-721-7953

BIRTHS

David Jones and Mallory Roudabush Jones '17

welcomed their son, David Harrison Jones born in February, 2025

EDUCATION & MILITARY SERVICE

Abigail Patten, '19 earned her Master of Science in Finance from the Tippie College of Business at the University of Iowa. She is currently a Financial Analyst at F&G Annuities & Life, Inc.

Rachel Hook '14 graduated with her Master of Science in Education from Mount Mercy University in December, 24.

Brady Ketchum '21 graduated from Central College earning a bachelors degree in business management in May 2025.

Aidan Nosek '21 graduated from Central College earning a bachelors degree in economics and business management in May 2025.

Kayden Pendergrass '21 graduated from Central College earning a bachelors degree in business management in May 2025.

Collin Swantz '21 graduated from Central College earning a bachelors degree in business management in May 2025.

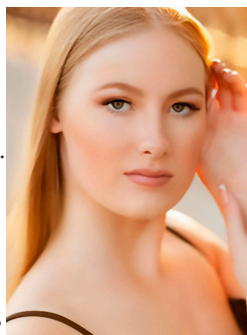
Miranda Roudabush Moore '13 was promoted to First Class Petty Officer in the US Navy.

Faith Roudabush '21 graduated from the University of Iowa with a BS in Economics in May, 2025.

AND MORE...

Sarah Rife Patten '93 recently completed her Structured Literacy Dyslexia Specialist Certification through the Center for Effective Reading Instruction (CERI), a subsidiary of the International Dyslexia Association. She is a certified Orton-Gillingham Educator and holds a K-12 Dyslexia Specialist Endorsement. In April, Sarah served as a guest panelist for the Iowa Dyslexia Board. She teaches Title I Reading at Lisbon Community School.

Finley McVay '23 is a recipient of



Finley McVay

the University of Iowa 2025 Stanley Award for International Research! McVay is currently an undergraduate student pursuing a degree in Vocal Performance with a minor in Theatre Arts. With the award, Finley will be able to study and perform at the Berlin Opera Academy where she will gain deeper insight into the professional and international music field as well as German culture.

Elizabeth Dougherty '22 was awarded the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship. Liz's career goal is to pursue a Ph.D in Biochemistry with a focus in biomedical science to prepare for a career in disease and drug development research. The Goldwater Scholarship is considered one of the most prestigious and competitive undergraduate scholarships in the nation. "The Scholarship Program honoring Senator Barry Goldwater was designed to identify, encourage, and financially support outstanding undergraduates interested in pursuing research careers in the sciences, engineering, and mathematics."



Nolan Brand and students with his "Tools for Schools" award. PC: KWWL

Nolan Brand '20 won the "Tools for Schools" award in March. Brand is in his first year teaching 7th and 8th grade at Union Middle School in Dysart. He plans to use the award to purchase supplies that will help better engage with his students, like a whiteboard to graph on or complete STEM activities. The Cedar Valley Tools for Schools Program is a partnership between Green State Credit Union and KWWL.

Nicole Philbrick '06 returned for a home concert at the First Street Community Center this March with her band "Blame Not The Bard." In its ten years, BNTB has played hundreds of shows across the midwest, lighting up stages in nine states with venues ranging from intimate listening rooms to major festivals including the Kansas City Irish Fest and main stage appearances at the Iowa Irish Fest. Boasting multiple

media appearances, including a 2021 feature in Little Village Magazine, an artist feature on KDEC 100.5 and numerous appearances on the award-winning Irish and Celtic Music Podcast, Ceolplay with Colum King, and a 2022 full-length *Greetings from Iowa* PBS special.

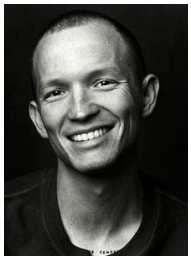


Blame Not the Bard

Jack Cochrane '17 re-signed with the Kansas City Chiefs as a linebacker. Thus far in Cochrane's career, he's played in 32 regular-season games with one start and logged 37 combined tackles. He appeared in all 17 games for Kansas City this past campaign, playing 180 defensive snaps for Steve Spagnuolo's unit. Cochrane amassed 336 snaps on special teams in 2023 before seeing the field 85 times in the playoffs.

Lindsay Glynn '04 was named the new Director of Operations at Meth-Wick. Lindsay has a master's degree in Gerontology from Iowa State University which she received in 2012. Lindsay has worked in the aging services field for over 20 years assisting individuals with Alzheimer's and their family members.

Elizabeth Louwagie '25 and Colin Bentley '25 were presented \$250 scholarships from the Alumni Association by Kim Zangger Tucker '94 at their Senior Awards Night in May. They will keep open lines of communication with their respective classmates, coordinate reunion planning, and serve as a link between the Association, the school, and the alumni.



HALL OF FAME NEWS

Jefferson White '08 narrated the New Hunger Games audiobook *Sunrise on the Reaping* by Suzanne Collins. "We are beyond thrilled to have

the prodigiously talented Jefferson White narrate the audio edition of *Sunrise on the Reaping*," said Lori

Benton, President, Scholastic Audio. "With his ability to capture the subtle complexities of characters, Jefferson delivers a dynamic and nuanced performance that will draw listeners deeper into the raw emotion and intensity of the world Suzanne Collins has built. It's an auditory adventure that you won't want to miss!" Jefferson White said, "It's an honor to be a small part of a world I've loved for so long—Suzanne Collins is a genius and it's equal parts exhilarating and terrifying to be back in Panem."

Tristan Wirfs '17 became the first player in NFL history to be named AP First-Team All-Pro at both left and right tackle this past January.

Leo Beranek '31 received a Technical Grammy Award posthumously this past January. Cornell College Professor Leon Tabak said of Beranek "They bought some very early computers at the company he founded, the company was initially focused on acoustical engineering, but they saw the future in computers." The technology helped Beranek improve the design of performance halls to enhance the sound.

John Kroul '77 and Matt Kroul '04 and their business Kroul Farm are going to be on TV. "Farms Of America Episode 1" will air on the CowboyChannel on May 26 at 6pm, featuring Kroul Farms. Said in a recent Facebook post "It's beautiful, honest, funny, and inspiring...and we can't wait for you all to see it!" The episode will be available streaming after the 26th and will also air on RFD-TV later in June.



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@mvcisd.org or text/call 319-721-7953

Hey Alumni!

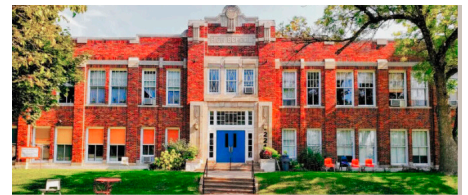
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Foundation and Alumni Board Mixer

On a cold day in January, the MVCSD Foundation and the Alumni Association Board as well as friends from the Fine Arts Association, the Booster Club, Washington Elementary Teacher and Parent Group (WETAP) and the Middle School Parent Teacher Organization (MSPTO) came together for a mixer at Mount Vernon Bank and Trust Co. The mixer served as an opportunity for these groups to connect, share ideas, and celebrate their collective pride in the district. Special thanks to Dave Ryan and his team at Mount Vernon Bank and Trust Co. for hosting the event.



Above, a group shot looking down from the 2nd floor of Mount Vernon Bank and Trust Co. Above L-R Trish Recker, Sarah Rife Patten '93, Virginia Roudabush, Ann Koppenhaver '78, Susan Mounts Fisher '65, Rick Elliott, Rose Hedges, Jenna Wischmeyer '91, Cathy Hufford '83, Chris Kinley Osborn '80, Meredith Voight, Amie Roberts, Becky Whitman '77, Brenda Bany, Charlene Vig, Myleena Grenis, Carol Woods-Boren '75, Greg West '82, John Pospisil '66, Camille Tryon, Dave Ryan '85, Tom Wieseler, and Brett Karkosh.



Cathy Hufford '83, President of the Mount Vernon Alumni Association Board presented Ann Koppenhaver '78 Treasurer of the MVCSD Foundation with a donation toward the TouchPros Project. TouchPros will host the biographies of the Hall of Fame winners as well as academic, athletic, and artistic accomplishments of Mount Vernon Alums. You can see the Touch Pros Wall outside of the MVHS Gym or online at <https://mvc sdfoundation.touchpros.com/Home2>.

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OCTOBER 3, 2025

2024



MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOUNDATION

2024

ANNUAL GIFT REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

Thank you to the alumni, businesses, parents, and friends listed below who contributed to the Foundation during 2024.

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.

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Abbe Creek Ag, Inc
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Employee donations support the Foundation's Teacher Grants Program

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| Heather Bauer | Susannah Maddock | Beth Troutman |
| Mallory Beatty | Jan Moore | Whitney Turner '00 |
| Nathan Bednarczyk | Lori Moss | Jordyn VanDraska |
| Gina Becthold | Patty Mote | Charlene Vig |
| Steve Brand | Kevin Murray | Shawn Voigt '86 |
| LeAnn Briesemeister | Chris Noll | Raechal Wagner |
| Chris Brown | Abby Ohlaug | Scott Weber |
| Lesly Bruner | LeAnn Pisarik | Krista Whitham |
| Jennifer Carstensen | Marcia Purington | Thad Wilkins |
| Megan Casey | Jodi Russell | Erin Wilkinson |
| Cara Dix | Heidi Ryan | Tom Wilkinson '86 |
| Paul Fugate | Kacey Schmit '00 | Maggie Willems '96 |
| JoAnn Gage | Allison Schnoor | Deanna Winder |
| Dennis Gross | Brandy Schurbon | Joelynn Winkler |
| Megan Hach | Andy Shea | Miranda Zilaitis '14 |
| Robert Hanson | Kim Siggins | |
| Bob Haugse | Emily Stamp '09 | |
| Adrianne Hoppenworth | Jen Stanerson | |
| | Sonya Sullivan '90 | |

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ANNUAL GIFT REPORT FOR 2024, continued

| | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
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| Richard & Carolyn Enns | Dianna Hamilton | Sheri Kahl | Amber Luck |
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| Laura Fisher | Brad & Kindel Haverback | JoAnn & Bob Kintzel | Zachary & Nichole Martin |
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 Jakob Raley
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 Mark Randleman
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 Whitney Rasmussen
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 Jim Rebhuhn & Carol Wozniak-
 Rebhuhn
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YOUR FOUNDATION DONATIONS WORK THROUGH THE TEACHER GRANTS PROGRAM

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

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

continued on next page

ANNUAL GIFT REPORT FOR 2024, continued

David Vig
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Brandi Viter-Pitlik
Nathan & Meredith Voight
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Nancy Williams
James Winchip
Lori Winder
Jenna & Kirk Wischmeyer
Jessica Wiskus
David Wolfe
Doug & Sue Wolrab
Vincent & Ardyce Wolrab
Dave & Donna Wolter
Kyle & Lacey Wolter
Nathan & Megan Wolter
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Joleen & Michael Woods
Kevin & Mary Woods
Lynn Woods
Sarah Woods
Carol Woods-Boren and Terry Boren
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Marshall & Shannon Yanda
William Yeisley
Yock's Landing
Jesse & Jennie Young
Steve & Mary Young
Adolph & Mary Zabloudil Jr.
Laurie Zaiger
Zeb & Michelle Zaruba

Thank You

Don't See Your Name Listed Here?

THIS LIST IS FOR 2024 FOUNDATION DONATIONS during fiscal year 2024 (July through June)

WATCH FOR 2025 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DONATIONS TO APPEAR IN THE FALL/WINTER 2025 ISSUE, AND THE 2025 FOUNDATION DONATIONS TO APPEAR IN THE 2026 SPRING ISSUE.

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

DONATIONS TO THE FOUNDATION

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

Ways to Contribute

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

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

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

SCHOLARSHIPS

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

CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS

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



Celebrating a Remarkable Year – Thank You for a great First Year!



Matthew Leeman
Superintendent

As the school year draws to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a really great year—and to thank each and every one of you who helped make it so special. It has truly been an honor to serve as your Superintendent, and I am deeply grateful for the warm welcome and strong support my family and I have received from our community, staff, students, and district leadership throughout my first year.

This year, we have had some remarkable achievements both within our classrooms in our test scores and outside as well with all that our students have continued to accomplish. Our athletic programs had a banner year, highlighted by two state championships. This speaks to the talent, discipline, and heart of our students and relentless efforts of all of our coaches across all of our various programs. Across multiple sports, our teams consistently competed at the highest levels, earning regional and post-season honors while representing our district with pride and sportsmanship.

Equally impressive has been the outstanding performance of our Fine Arts programs, which brought home multiple postseason accolades of their own. From breathtaking musical performances to inspiring visual art showcases, from theater productions to competitive band and choir achievements, our students shined on stage, in galleries, and at festivals. Their creativity and dedication, supported by our passionate Fine Arts staff is truly a blessing and it's easy to see why it's such a point of pride for our school and community.

I had the opportunity to speak with a community group last week and I shared with them that after seeing the 5th Grade Musical this school year I told my wife that if you could bottle that up and share it with others who don't attend our schools they would be blown away and we'd quickly be filling more and more homes! And that's just the tip of the iceberg and one small example of all that our students are accomplishing. It is truly amazing and a blessing to be a part of all of it. All of these things are only possible because of the collective efforts of our amazing teachers and staff, our families, our School Board, our extremely supportive community and our incredible students who again and again rise to the challenge.

As we head into summer, I want to again thank you for an unforgettable first year. I am truly proud, blessed, and humbled to be able to be charged with leading our District.

Wishing you a safe, restful, and joyful summer break!

Mr. Leeman

2025 SCHOOL DISTRICT RETIREES

ANN WATTLEWORTH



Official title: Special Education Para

Years of service: 33 years
(13 years at Rapid City, South Dakota; 2 years at Papillion, Nebraska)

Years of total service to Mount Vernon: 18 years

Retirement plans: To travel and spend more time with my soon to be 90 year old mother, Marj Whitley.

Parting words to share: It's not the number of years we work

but the number of lives we touch. I grew up with a severely disabled sister who didn't walk or talk. She taught our family a lot in life and my love for the special ed children come from the love and special life I had with Carla. I have loved my 33 years of working with special-ed children. They have touched my life in so many different ways. I hope I have done so in return.

ALUMNI MERCHANDISE FOR SALE



The Mount Vernon Alumni Association, in partnership with local business Causeteam, will offer new alumni merchandise for sale this summer. The project will serve as a fundraiser for the Alumni Association while providing comfortable and quality T-shirts and sweatshirts to alumni and friends. T-Shirts can even be branded with your class year on the back! Great for reunions and graduation gifts.

Interested in purchasing yours? Check out our Causeteam page at:

<https://www.causeteam.com/causepages/detail/mount-vernon-alumni-association>



ALUMNI

SPRING/SUMMER 2025

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATION UNDER THE MOUNT VERNON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION

525 PALISADES RD SW MOUNT VERNON, IA 52314

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IS THIS THE RIGHT ADDRESS FOR THE PERSON ON THE ADDRESS LABEL? If not, please let us know by calling Julia at 319-721-7953 or emailing alumni@mvcisd.org

PARENTS, 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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John Pospisil '66, Vice President
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Kim Mortensen Konkowski '81, Director
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HERE'S HOW to support the Alumni Association...

ONLINE

at www.MVAlumni.org

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

OR BY MAIL

return form & your check to:

MV Alumni Assoc., 525 Palisades Rd, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

Yes, I'd like to make a contribution:

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

in memory of/in honor of _____

YOUR SUPPORT AND DONATIONS PAY FOR THESE ANNUAL EXPENSES:

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

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

Homecoming Reception approx \$300

Database Software \$2,800 and more

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

2025

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

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

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Country if outside USA _____

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

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ALUMNI Association

Thank you!