



The KNIGHT TIMES

Mount Vernon City School District Newsletter

Volume X: Summer 2018

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2018!



Mount Vernon High School



Thorton High School



Thorton High School



Mount Vernon High School



Mandela/Zollicoffer High School

BY THE NUMBERS

- Number of graduates: 392
- Number attending college: 336
- Number joining the military: 6
- Amount of money awarded in scholarships by colleges and organizations: **More than \$6.1 million**
- MVHS valedictorian: **Peace Oji**
- MVHS salutatorian: **Ruby Acquah**
- Thornton valedictorian: **Adrienne Brown**
- Thornton salutatorian: **Jeanette Illescas**
- Mandela/Zollicoffer valedictorian: **Queen Boswell**
- Mandela/Zollicoffer salutatorian: **Shaquan Lowe**



DISTRICT RAMPS UP CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

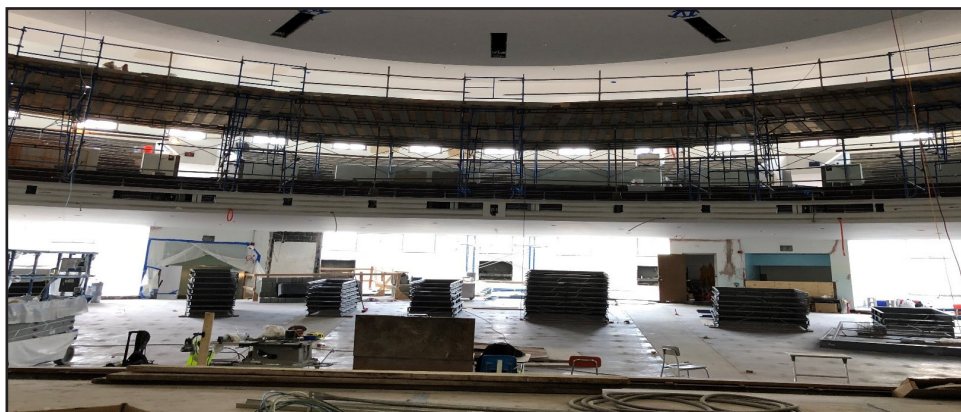
Now that students and teachers have left for the summer, Mount Vernon's schools are buzzing with activity. The third and largest phase of the Mount Vernon City School District's construction work from the 2016 \$108 million bond is well underway.

Students coming back to classes in the fall will see more improvements in their schools, which are the result of the four-year project that is enabling the School District to accomplish its 20/20 academic vision.

This summer, the School District is working on renovations at its three theme-based high schools – The Mount Vernon High School, The Mount Vernon STEAM Academy and the Performing Arts Magnet School – which will open in September.

Thornton's auditorium is being restored to its original 1930s historical condition. It will be the focal point of the new performing arts school. Renovations include restoration of seating, wall repair, new paint, new flooring refurbishing of the stage, new curtains, new lighting and new air conditioning. Renovations are being done throughout the building. They include fresh paint and new flooring. A black box theater, accessible elevators and renovated bathrooms will also be complete by September.

At Pennington Elementary School, construction of a wing of 12 new classrooms is continuing. The wing will house



the seventh and eighth graders. The project is expected to continue into the beginning of the school year, so those students will start their year in the modular classrooms, which have been in place and will be removed once the permanent classrooms are open. The general improvements include new science laboratories/classrooms and a library/media center. The school will have new ball fields, basketball courts and updated parking by September.

"The \$108 million bond is making it possible for the District to implement the 20/20 Vision," said Superintendent Dr. Kenneth R. Hamilton. "It is allowing the District to provide environments where students have the opportunity to pursue their dreams at any grade level."

For a complete story about the District's bond renovation projects, visit www.mtvernoncsd.org

STEAM ACADEMY TO OPEN IN SEPTEMBER

High school students in the Mount Vernon City School District now have the opportunity to explore one of several exciting pathways to graduation with three schools of excellence that will open in September. One of those schools is The Mount Vernon STEAM Academy, which will emphasize a curriculum of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math.

Students will be allowed to focus on areas of specialty that include art, architecture, engineering, web design, robotics and energy systems.

From the \$108 million bond, the School District is working on \$8 million of structural work, including roofs and repointing of brickwork. The project will begin in August and is expected to last two years. So, in September, students will see scaffolding at the building and sections closed off for construction.

In addition to the physical changes, the academy's new principal, Sharon Bradley, along with a team of administrators, are continuing to develop the school's integrated curriculum this summer. The curriculum will have STEAM principles as well as meet the requirements of a New York State high school education. Bradley was instrumental in transforming Thornton into a high school in 2007.

"There is much work that needs to be accomplished as we create a new school for the Mount Vernon community," Bradley said. "I am excited to be building this new high school and excited for our Mount Vernon residents and students as they will see something truly special in the world of education."

For a complete story about the new Mount Vernon STEAM Academy, visit www.mtvernoncsd.org

DISTRICT BEGINS RECONFIGURATION OF SCHOOLS

The Mount Vernon City School District has begun the reconfiguration of its elementary schools. The process will be performed in three phases.

Phase 1: September 1, 2018

Students who had been in the sixth grade at Columbus School, Grimes School, Holmes School, Lincoln School, and Parker School during the 2017-18 school year will remain in their home school for seventh grade in 2018-19.

Students who had been in the sixth grade at Traphagen School during the 2017-18 school year will go to Pennington School for seventh grade in the 2018-19 school year.

Students who had been in the sixth grade at Hamilton School and Williams School during the 2017-18 school year will go to Benjamin Turner Middle School for seventh grade in the 2018-19 school year.

Graham School and Pennington School will continue as Pre-K-8 schools in the 2018-19 school year.

Rebecca Turner School (Pre-K-5) and Benjamin Turner Middle School (Grades 6-8) will continue as campus schools in the 2018-19 school year.

Phase 2: September 2019

Students who were fifth graders in Hamilton School, Traphagen School and Williams School during the 2017-18 school year will remain in their home school zones for seventh grade in 2019-20.

MVHS POOL OPENS TO THE PUBLIC DURING SUMMER

The Mount Vernon City School District opened the Mount Vernon High School pool this summer to host family laps and swimming.

The pool is available to the public on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. School District residents interested in enjoying the pool will need to bring proof of residency and pay a fee of \$5 per person per visit. Four lanes of the pool will be available for open swimming and two lanes will be open for lap swimming only. Children 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Swimmers with flotation devices must be within an arm's reach of a supervising adult. Only U.S. Coast Guard-approved flotation devices will be allowed.

For more information about family laps and swimming, contact ariullano@mtvernoncsd.org.

Students who are in the seventh grade in September 2019 at Grimes School, Lincoln School, Columbus School, Holmes School and Parker School will remain at their home school for eighth grade. This is contingent on the Pennington School addition being completed, at which time some neighborhoods may be redistricted. Redistricting means your current home school zone could be changed in order to accommodate for adequate space for students to complete Pre-K-8 in their neighborhood schools.

Please note: Phase 2 is subject to further review, as there are some unknown variables that may impact the timeline (for example, building readiness, New York State approvals, etc...). These variables may result in further modifications on an as-needed basis.

Phase 3: September 2020

The school building currently known as Mandela/Zollicoffer High School will be converted to a new elementary school.

At this time, a city-wide redistricting will occur to ensure that all schools are able to accommodate the district reconfiguration to Pre-K-8 schools.

Parents and guardians should anticipate communication from the student's respective school principal regarding specifics to the neighborhood school. They should also follow the District website and Facebook page for information and pivotal updates on the implementation of the 20/20 Vision and the reconfiguration of the District's schools.

For a complete story about the District's pool opening, visit www.mtvernoncsd.org



Mount Vernon City School District
165 N. Columbus Avenue
Mount Vernon, NY 10552

Board of Education

Wanda White, President
Arlene Torres, Vice President
Serigne M. Gningue
Rosemarie Jarosz
Micah J.B. McOwen
Darcy Miller
Stanley Russo
Adriane G. Saunders
Israel Williams

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 5140
White Plains, NY

ECRWSS
Postal Patron
Mount Vernon, NY



Register Now for Free Full Day Pre-K for 4-Year-Olds*

SLOTS REMAINING – SEATS WILL BE FILLED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

There are a few openings for FREE full day Pre-Kindergarten classes through the Mount Vernon City School District.

Graham Elementary • Williams Elementary • Parker Elementary
Traphagen Elementary • Mount Vernon High School**

Give your child a smooth transition into Kindergarten with the School District's FREE full day Pre-K program, which will explore Reading, Math and Classroom skills necessary for the next level in their early education.

How to Register: Starting Monday, July 9

Rebecca Turner Elementary School, 625 South 4th Avenue

8:00 - 11:30 a.m. — Monday - Friday

5:00 - 9:00 p.m. - July 9, 11, 12, 23-26; August 20-23, 27-30

* Children must be 4 years old by December 1. Bring your child's birth certificate, immunizations, a current lease or deed, a utility bill and a picture ID.

** Graham will have bus transportation available.

For further information: Call the Pre-K Office at (914) 665-5077.

