

MVRHS Parent Newsletter

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School

September 2015

Principal's Coffees



First Tuesday of the Month*
8-9:15am
Library Conference Room

This year's Principal Coffees with Peg Regan will happen on the first Tuesday of the month (*except Sept. & Oct.). We hope to see you there!

***Wednesday, September 23**

(Noli Taylor of the Island Grown Initiative will be joining us this month.)

***Wednesday, October 21**

November 3

December 1

January 5

February 2 (in Culinary Dining Room)

March 1 (in Culinary Dining Room)

April 5

May 3 (in Culinary Dining Room)

June 7

*Coffee, tea and baked goods will be provided.
Casual format... come late, leave early if you need to.*

College Application Night for Seniors

Senior Parents and Students College Application Night

Thursday, September 17
PAC 6:30-8:30 pm



On, September 17th the guidance department will be sponsoring a College Application

Night. Counselors will review the college application procedure for seniors and their parents. It will be an informative night of questions and answers to help you move forward in the college application process.

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents,

This school year begins with 665 students entering the high school. We have 158 freshmen, 171 sophomores, 180 juniors, and 151 seniors. All students were introduced on opening day to the new positive behavior expectations in the student handbook that acknowledge each of them as Students of Merit. All can earn awards and recognition each week through maintaining 100% attendance. In addition, all homerooms will be holding elections for Student Congress, a larger representative group, that will meet with Student Council once a month to share ideas for school spirit, activities, and assemblies.



Advisory will resume this year with topics for discussion that include issues of school culture that arise each month. Instead of having a pre-determined curriculum, advisories will create a dialogue between students and adults about what issues make our high school strong and unique. Topics will be generated by all members of the school community. The interactive nature of these sessions should create clear channels of communication from students to staff and staff to students.

Parent Coffees resume each month. The first is scheduled for 8 a.m. on Wednesday, September 23rd the day before Open House on Thursday, September 24th at 6 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. Suggestions for topics are open. Some parents are considering alternating morning coffee with evening coffees. Let us know if this is a better time for you. All parents are welcome.

School Council will meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 4 p.m. This is the team that creates the School Improvement Plan each year. Again let Ruda Stone know if you have any interest in serving on this vital committee. We would love to have parents of underclassmen get involved for the four years their children are in the high school. Finally, I could not be more honored and privileged to spend this year with your children. For me it is always the students who kept me youthful and motivated even on the longest of school days. Thank you for entrusting all of them to the high school this year. We strive to be worthy of your confidence in us.

Peg Regan, Interim Principal

Trying to Figure out Your Student's Schedule?

Wondering What the Difference is Between Excused and Unexcused Absences?

Curious About the New Behavior System?



You'll find those answers and more in the

MVRHS STUDENT HANDBOOK

Here are a few of the places to find it:

MVRHS.org in the "Student Life" Menu

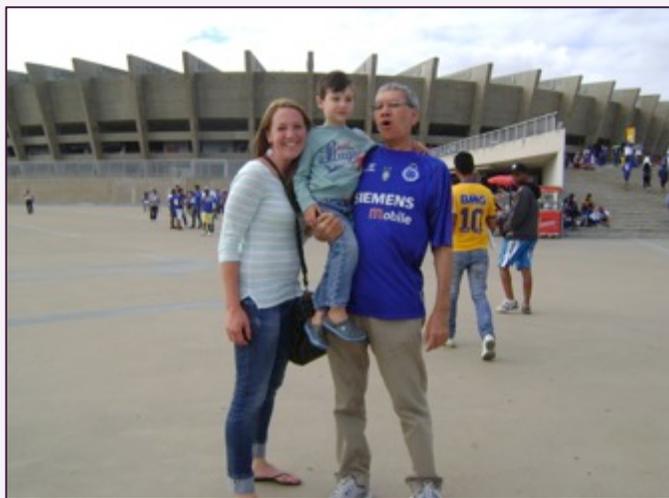
<http://www.mvrhs.org/student-life/student-handbook/>

on Edline in the "Back to School Docs" Menu

https://www.edline.net/dynimg/IMAAA/docid/0x567105520B122524/23/revised%2Bhandbook_201508051135.pdf

Portuguese Enrollment at MVRHS Continues to Grow

As Portuguese enrollment continues to grow at the high school Justine DeOliveira, Spanish teacher and World Language Department Chair, will be teaching a Portuguese course this year. In preparation, Justine spent two weeks in Brazil this summer, visiting her husband's hometown of Belo Horizonte. While there she studied the language and immersed herself in the culture; enjoying the life, food, and of course a soccer game at the Mineirão, where some of the World Cup games were played last year. She very much looks forward to working with Portuguese teacher Jane Sampaio to continue to develop the Portuguese program.



Justine and Her Son with his Great-uncle at the Mineirao in Belo Horizonte

Performing Arts News



Welcome to New and Returning Parents!

The Performing Arts Department is in full swing with classes in music theory, theatre, voice, piano, guitar, and sound technology as well as band, orchestra, jazz band, and choruses. There is room in all the classes for new or returning students! Contact your child's guidance counselor or one of the performing arts staff for information if your child is interested in joining our music/theatre family. Performance classes will perform at Assessment Day on October 28 during the school day. Community members are invited and the schedule will be posted on Edline.



Our musical this year is *Chicago*! Auditions will be held October 28 and 29 after school. We encourage both students and community members to become involved in any of the many aspects of the production: singing, acting, dancing, orchestra, make-up/costumes, set building, lighting, sound – and AUDIENCE. The performance dates are February 11, 12, and 13. Let us know if you are interested in becoming part of the musical team.

Jan Wightman, Performing Arts Dept. Chair

New Approach to Discipline Makes its Debut at MVRHS



There have been changes to the Student Handbook that we would like to bring to your attention. This year will be the first step in the development of a Positive Behavior Intervention



System (PBIS). Section IV of the Student Handbook describes the changes to the discipline processes that will begin this year, and we would like to highlight those changes for you.

- Points are no longer assigned for behavior infractions though a record is kept as before. No behavior grade will appear on the report card.
- You will find a matrix in Section IV of the Handbook describing the positive behaviors we would like to see from students based on three general attributes: be respectful, be safe, and be responsible.
- Students will be eligible for merit recognition for perfect attendance and positive behavior and will also receive recognition from teachers for exceptional progress in school or for being kind and generous to others.
- For behavior inconsistent with the expectations of the school, three levels of interventions are available with positive interventions to support changing the behavior.
- Consequences for behavior infractions are outlined in Section IV with flexibility to allow for responses that result in improved behavior going forward.
- Specific reference to Title IX infractions and consequences has been added.

Our hope is to focus on and highlight the positive behaviors that most students demonstrate and to redirect other students more effectively with a different approach. Please feel free to direct any questions you may have to one of the Assistant Principals.

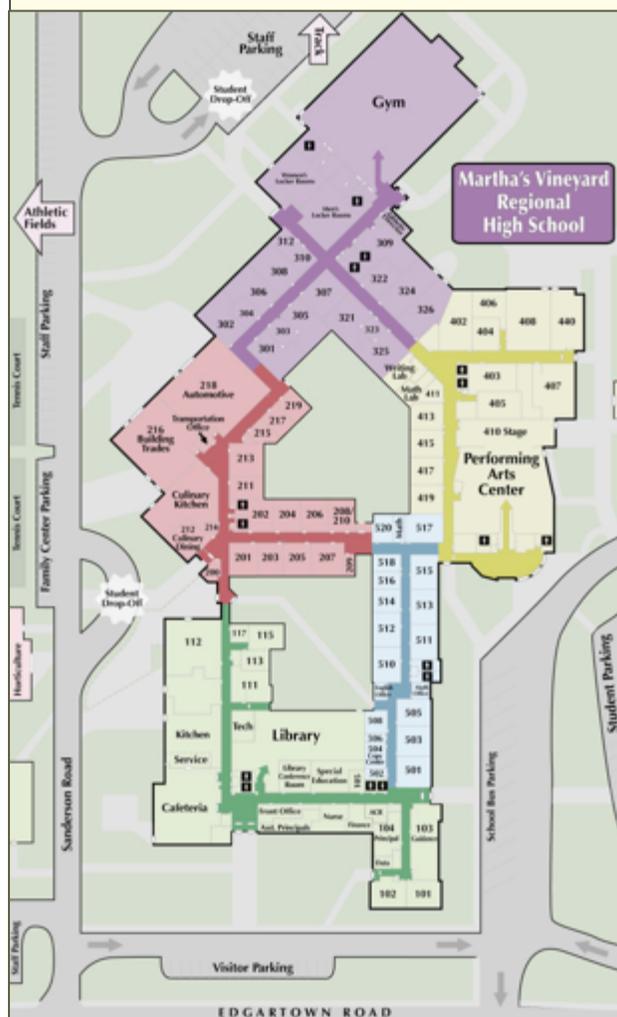
Andrew Berry, Elliott Bennett, Assistant Principals

Back to School Night for Parents

Thursday, September 24th at 6:00pm

Parents Back-to-School Night is seen as an important event for parents who are interested in their child's education. The evening's activities begin with Homeroom starting at 6:00 pm in the Performing Arts Center. Please be on time.

The schedule of the evening allows parents the opportunity to follow an abbreviated schedule of their child's classes. Unlike the regular 85-minute block, these classes will run only 10 minutes. Teachers will go over the general goals and activities for the year in each class. Formal individual conferences can be scheduled with teachers for another time. Take advantage of this opportunity to see the world your child inhabits every day and meet the people who teach them. It's one of the best ways to build that all-important home-school connection.



Here's A Link to the MVRHS Building Map at MVRHS.org:
<http://www.mvrhs.org/?s=map>.

The New MVRHS Library

Plans to improve the MVRHS Library continue to move forward, but we need your input! Last spring, as part of our school improvement plan to develop a 21st-century learning environment for the library, we hired Fielding Nair International, a world leader in educational space design, to provide us with a conceptual design. Their design, including a 2-minute 3D-walkthrough, is on our website (<http://goo.gl/KJRxAy>). This provides us with a point of conversation as we move toward a shared vision.



For our students, as well as for learners of all ages on the island, the new "Global Learning Center" will provide a variety of spaces and

resources for both active and quiet learning, for both individual and group learning, maximizing collaboration, and better connecting us to the world. It includes, for example, outdoor learning spaces, a variety of rooms for working in groups of all sizes, exhibition spaces, and comfortable seating, all designed with specific learning styles in mind. The new space will be a goldmine for all teachers to better provide their students with the spaces and resources necessary to teach to the best of their abilities.

If you are interested in learning more, have questions, suggestions, or would like to join our advisory board, please let me know: kmcgrath@mvyps.org.

Kevin McGrath, Library Teacher

Financial Aid Night for Senior Parents

Tuesday, November 10
MVRHS PAC 6:30-8:30 pm

The guidance department will be sponsoring a financial aid night on Tuesday, November 10 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the MVRHS Performing Arts Center. A financial aid specialist from MEFA will review the financial aid process and distribute materials necessary to receive financial aid from private sources, public sources, and colleges. He will review the forms that need to be filled out in this process. Also, discussed that night will be the local scholarship program and the process of applying for substantial monies awarded to our seniors and graduates from our own community.

Monsieur Bonneau Presents at the AATF National Convention



Pierre Bonneau, a French teacher at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School since 2009, was an active participant for the sixth consecutive year in the *American Association of Teachers of French* (AATF) annual convention this past July. Established in

1927, the AATF is committed to promoting the study of French languages, facilitating the implementation of national and state standards in classrooms and improving the training of French teachers. It is the largest national association of French teachers in the world with nearly 10,000 members.

The 28th AATF National Convention was held in Saguenay, Quebec, from July 8 to July 11 and offered more than 120 workshops and presentations to improve French teaching and promote the study of French. During the event, 500 French teachers shared their classroom experiences and were treated to music, excursions, and guided tours highlighting the Quebec French culture.

This year, Monsieur Bonneau presented his unit on "Fairy Tales" to show how his French III students used the two French past tenses ("imparfait" and "passé composé") in a creative and engaging setting. His one-hour presentation was very well received by his national audience...

"M. Bonneau's session was a treat and a reflection of the speaker's perfectionism and dedication to the profession. His activities were incredibly detailed and offered the audience highly interesting pedagogical tools that could be adapted to all levels of French. I will definitely attend his sessions at future AATF conventions."

"À mon avis, la meilleure session de tout le congrès! Et puisque c'était la dernière session, voici la morale: Tout vient à point à qui sait attendre! Merci pour les ressources, les idées et les tuyaux pour un bon projet amusant, intéressant et facilement faisable à faire avec les élèves de Français III."

A Busy Summer for Elaine!

Summer is a time of regrouping, finding another focus and finally having time to reflect on the year asking those huge questions: What was learned? What is best forgotten? Now there is time to think about the child not reached, the content too cumbersome and the glorious moments that every teacher loves when the student brings something new and fascinating into the mix. For the history department, it's been a time of celebrating family and embracing travel.

I spent four weeks in Ireland gazing out to the remote western Islands on a misty morning hoping to get to Iniskea and see the largest seal colony in Europe or sharing music and dance with family, neighbors and friends. From Ireland, it is very cheap to go to anywhere in Europe and so we flew courtesy of Ryan Air to Rome where we spent six days in 100 degree heat in a city that has been unchanged for 1500 years. Staring up at the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, I understood what genius means and what the impact of the Renaissance on the world has been. Though I have taught AP Modern European History for many years the full impact of the power of European thought during the 16th century on the minds of people became very clear to me. The sense that one gets is endless possibility.... Anything is possible from the glorious mural maps of the known world to the scenes from the bible and from Greco/Roman mythology. The world's most famous sports stadium, the Coliseum, stands still as it has for 1,000 generations and it is so easy to imagine the lions, the gladiators and the self indulgent emperors deciding their fate.



MaKenzie Young at the Site for Emma Maitland, World Lightweight Female Boxing Champion on the African American Heritage Trail

Returning to the Vineyard, I worked with the Heritage Trail tour director, Rachel Araujo, and between us we operated a very busy tour schedule. The travelers included the Mayor of Newark, Ras Baracka and his entourage and Congresswoman Barbara Lee.

We will all be bringing our experiences and stories to the table for our students as we prepare for another year. The freshman students will be traveling the Heritage Trail, the Brazilian History class will be preparing for the annual Brazilian American Friendship Lunch and working collaboratively with the Portuguese language class to prepare for their trip to Harvard, the Irish History class plans a trip to Ireland in April 2016, the 100th anniversary of the Irish War of Independence, and the Global History students will be engaged in trying to make sense of the complicated world that they will inherit. It's a new year with lots of new and exciting ideas and projects that each year are enhanced by teachers' passion and students' creativity. We are looking forward to a great year, getting to know our students and celebrating our community.

Elaine Weintraub, History Dept. Chair

SAT 1 and SAT Subject Tests: Dates and Registration Deadlines

You must register online (use your existing College Board account user name and password) or come into guidance and get the registration materials. Those students who will be taking the test with extended time need to see their individual counselor to receive the registration materials to meet the deadlines.

TEST DATES:	Oct. 3,4	Nov. 7,8	Dec. 5,6	Jan. 23,24
REGISTRATION DEADLINES:	Sept. 4	Oct. 9	Nov. 5	Dec. 28

PSAT Testing: Wednesday, Oct. 14 in the MVRHS Cafeteria, 7:40am

PSAT administration will be on the morning of Wednesday, October 14 in the high school cafeteria. Students can sign up in guidance beginning Wednesday, September 16. The cost of the test is \$15.00 paid by cash or a check made payable to MVRHS. The majority of our juniors are encouraged to take this test. It is a practice SAT (the test used in the college admissions process) which will help us examine your test taking ability and areas you may need to work on. For the top scorers, it is used to determine eligibility for the National Merit Program. Take a look at this preliminary SAT at the www.collegeboard.com website. If you have any question, please contact your guidance counselor.

Updates from Career & Technical Education

The **CTE Exploratory** program welcomed about 100 students from the freshman class. Each of the students will rotate through each of the program areas including freshman skills. The program areas include Automotive, Building Trades, Culinary Arts, Health Assisting, Horticulture and Maritime Sciences. Freshman Exploratory students will enjoy an exposure to each of these career paths along with a rigorous academic program.

Work Study and Mentorships

There are more than 35 junior or senior students who have elected to participate in either work-study (paid position) or Mentorship (unpaid) program. These students are working/shadowing in a variety of work experiences on the island.

Program Advisory Meeting

The bi-annual Program Advisory meeting is scheduled for October 19. If you are looking for an opportunity to be more involved, we are reaching out to members of the business and trades communities to work with us as program advisory committee members to enhance our career & technical programs. We want to draw on the knowledge you have in your field of expertise!

Each program advisory committee meets 2 times during the school year to review employment trends, equipment, curriculum, and generally advise our staff on how to best prepare students for college and careers within the program offerings.

If you are interested in serving on a program advisory committee, please do not hesitate to contact Barbara-jean Chauvin, CTE Director (bchauvin@mvyeps.org or 693-1033 x122)



Digital Connectors Program Returns to the YMCA



Alex's Place at the Y is pleased to announce our next **DIGITAL CONNECTORS** program for teens ages 14 -19. This has been a popular program over the years, sponsored by Comcast.

The ideal student is one for whom digital literacy, computers, IT, financial literacy, and a shot at Cisco A+ Certification is of interest.

Those teens who are advanced in tech may not find this program of interest - but in particular Freshmen and Sophomores who may not have tech in their academic schedule or are in programs such as Alt Ed may find it a good fit.

Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from 5 - 7 pm. We provide laptops to those who do not have their own. At the end of the program (it runs the entire school year) teens who have completed it will receive a new laptop and more as part of their graduation.

We will also provide a light dinner at each meeting.

Please help us pass the word along - we need 15 students enrolled to go forward!

Students simply need to go to our website: <http://www.alexspacenet.net> and complete the pre-registration form and submit on line, then we will contact them directly to set up a short interview.

Tony Lombardi



Cindy West and Five MVRHS Students Travel to El Salvador

This summer Spanish teacher Cindy West traveled to El Salvador with 5 MVRHS students as part of the U. S. Dept. of State Ambassador Program. The MV Times did a wonderful story about the trip in their August 6th issue. If you missed it, click on the link below to read more.

<http://www.mvtimes.com/2015/08/06/island-students-and-teacher-learn-summer-lessons-in-el-salvador/>

This picture (from the Times article) is of the American group and their host families during the final dinner of the trip.

SEPTEMBER AT ALEX'S PLACE

Alex's Place

The Premier Space for Teens and the Community.
www.alexspacenet



SEPTEMBER EVENTS - CLOSED 9/4 - 9/7

drop in hours - mon.-fri. ~ 2 - 6 ~ saturday ~ 4 - 10



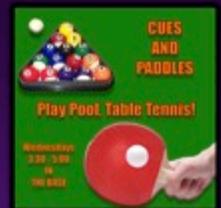
COMMUNITY OPEN STAGE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH 8 pm
ALL AGES - TEENS FREE - PUBLIC \$5.00

CUES & PADDLES

WEDNESDAYS - 3:00 - 4:30 IN THE BASE
BEGINNING SEPT. 16TH

Music, pool, table tennis, games and more



COMCAST DIGITAL CONNECTORS

GET A DASH ON THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION. JOIN THE WORLD'S MOST INFLUENTIAL AND SUCCESSFUL. ADDING THE POWER OF THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION TO YOUR LIFE. ENJOY A LIFTED FEEL. MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.

JOIN DIGITAL CONNECTORS TODAY



Digital Connectors is a unique 10 month program designed to help teens ages 14-19 gain their voices on digital devices, social networking, creating content, building leadership. Adding the power of the digital revolution to your life. Enjoy a lifted feel. Make a difference in the world. Digital Connectors is free for teens 14+ and has limited enrollment. Registration form is now on line at www.alexspacenet. Questions? Please call 508-696-7771 EXT 128.

COMCAST DIGITAL CONNECTORS

REGISTER NOW AT ALEXSPACENET

10 MONTH PROGRAM
WEDNESDAYS FROM 5 - 7 PM
AGES 14 - 19 WELCOMED - LIMITED SEATS
FREE - SPONSORED BY COMCAST

MV SONGWRITING WORKSHOPS

SAT. AND SUN. SEPTEMBER 19 & 20th 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

VISIT: marthasvineyardsonwritingfest.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION - FREE SPOTS FOR TEENS.

Martha's Vineyard
Songwriting Festival

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK. ~ TWITTER @alexspacel ~ INSTAGRAM #alexspacel



ALEX'S PLACE IS FOR TEENS AGES 13+ AND IS FREE OF CHARGE
THANKS TO OUR DONORS, FRIENDS, AND SUPPORTERS. THANK YOU!
CALL 508 - 696 - 7771, EXT 128 FOR MORE INFORMATION.



Alex's Place

The Premier Space for Teens and the Community.
www.alexspacenet



OCTOBER PROGRAMS & EVENTS

drop in hours - mon.-fri. ~ 2 - 6 ~ saturday ~ 4 - 10

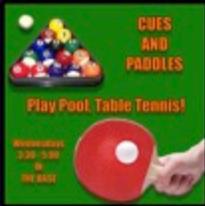


Alex's sYsters ~ For Teen Girls
Monday Oct. 5th & 19th ~ 5 - 7 pm
Discussion, Fun, Friendship.

ANIME CLUB ~ The Art of Anime!
Wednesdays - 3:30 pm



In the Living Room. Video, Discussion & More



CUES & PADDLES

WEDNESDAYS - 3:00 - 4:30 IN THE BASE

Music, pool, table tennis, games and more

KONNECT ~ For Teen Boys

Saturday Oct. 10th & 24th 5 - 7 pm

Dinner, Discussion, Pool, Ping Pong



COMMUNITY OPEN STAGE

FRIDAY, OCT. 9th & OCT. 23rd (special nite)

8 pm ALL AGES - TEENS FREE - PUBLIC \$5.00

AFTER HOMECOMING COCOA - NITE
FREE COCOA, SNACKS, & MORE



VISIT US ON FACEBOOK. ~ TWITTER @alexspacenet ~ INSTAGRAM #alexspacenet

ALEX'S PLACE IS FOR TEENS AGES 13+ AND IS FREE OF CHARGE
THANKS TO OUR DONORS, FRIENDS, AND SUPPORTERS. THANK YOU!
CALL 508 - 696 - 7171, EXT 128 FOR MORE INFORMATION.



OCTOBER AT ALEX'S PLACE