

Mount Vernon High School Home of the Majors

"Majors achieve and thrive together with purpose and pride."



#ProudMajors

Admin and Counselors

(Shift to the Alpha Model)

Admin <i>Administrador</i>	Alpha <i>Asignación por Apellido</i>
Karen Boyd	A-Der
John Shaffer	Des-Lay
Lashonda Reed	Laz-Ram
Gina Brooks	Ran-Z
Adrian Williams	CSS & STEP

New Alpha <i>Nueva Alfa</i>	School Counselor <i>Consejero/a Escolar</i>
A-B	Bryce Green
C - Ev	Niasharee Frater
Ew-Hop	Ericka Jeter
Hoq-Mc	Mary McAlevy
Md-Pie	Camille Moore
Pif-Sli	Melissa Mentzel
Slj-Z	Paul Guillion
CSS & STEP	Karen Mazzocoli
ESOL Level 1 and 2	Catherine Samper

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P.R.I.D.E.	IB Learner Profile	WITHIN OUR SCHOOL
Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicators Inquirers Knowledgeable Reflective Thinkers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majors walk with a purpose and; with the goal of arriving to class on-time. Majors aim to Majors are available to engage in all aspects of the learning process. Majors advocate appropriately when they need assistance (academic, behavior, social/emotional). Majors communicate with teachers and plan in advance for when they are not in class and to follow up on lessons missed.
Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balanced Caring Communicators Principled Reflective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majors use appropriate tone of voice, word choice/language and body language. Majors are mindful of their environments and conversations. Majors respect the boundaries and personal space of others. Majors greet each other and return greetings to others. Majors follow the expectations set forth by teachers in their classrooms & the SR&R.
Integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balanced Communicators Open mindedness Principled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majors are truthful and courageous enough to communicate with staff/peers. Majors are responsible and accountable for their actions and success. Majors are mindful of others and respect diverse perspectives. Majors are aware of their behaviors and how their behaviors can impact others.
Determination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicators Inquirers Knowledgeable Risk-Takers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majors are committed and present in the moment. Majors follow through with assigned tasks. Majors complete tasks to the best of their abilities. Majors persevere through difficult situations, tasks, conflicts and roadblocks and promptly communicate with teachers/staff for assistance.
Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balanced Inquirers Communicators Knowledgeable Reflective Risk-Takers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majors show maximum effort in all that they do. Majors strive to create balance between school and home and minimize distractions. Majors self-reflect as they grow and develop into life-long learners. Majors are able to self-regulate their actions in order to accomplish goals. Majors are team players and are always willing to lend a hand.



Mr. Absher - US/VA Government 10

- **Born in Washington, D.C.**
- **Grew up in Maryland**
- **I come from an athletic family, so athletics have always been a part of my life**
- **After high school, I chose to pursue college football**
- **I was on the roster at the University of Mississippi as a Quarterback and Tight End but injuries forced me to stop playing**
- **Finished my bachelor's degree at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, FL where I graduated Cum Laude**
- **Received my master's degree in Leadership in Teaching from Notre Dame of Maryland University in Baltimore, MD with a 4.0 GPA**
- **I started at Mount Vernon High School (MVHS) in January of 2022**
- **I am also an assistant Varsity football coach here at MVHS; I help coach the Receivers**
- **I am excited to teach for a full school year here for 2022-2023; Go Majors!**

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Curriculum Overview

Government 10 will examine the structure and functions of the American system of government, including state and local governments. The course focuses on the decision-making processes of American democracy, including the student's role as a citizen. It will incorporate the requirements of the Fairfax County Public Schools program of studies in the following areas: civic life, political culture, principles of American constitutional government, public policy, civil liberties and civil rights, and skills for participating in civic life.

- o **Unit 1: Affirming Student Identity & Why and How We Study Government**
- o **Unit 2: Origins & Foundations**
- o **Unit 3: The US Constitution & Federalism**
- o **Unit 4: Political Parties & Policy & Campaigns & Elections**
- o **Unit 5: Legislative Branch**
- o **Unit 6: Executive Branch**
- o **Unit 7: Judicial Branch**
- o **Unit 8: Rights & Liberties**

The successful completion of this course is required for high school graduation.

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Recommended Supplies for Class

- A marbled composition notebook
- A pen, pencil, and highlighter
- Computer/tablet, and charger

Textbook:

Our class will use an online textbook Magruder's American Government, Virginia edition. (Pearson). Students will also be given supplement readings which include both primary and secondary sources.

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Procedures and Routines for the Classroom

For all students I ask that they:

- **Be Prepared, Respectful, and On Time**
- **Cell Phones and Earbuds Put Away at all Times**
- **No Charging Cell Phones**

****Even though we have these general class norms, each class participated in an activity where the students shared what other class norms they would like to see in our classroom. Each student's ideas were heard and as a class we narrowed down these student developed norms to three (3) others. These are in addition to the norms above and I plan to laminate and post in the classroom each class's norms as we strive toward a positive and inclusive classroom culture together.****

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Grading and Assessments

- **Formative Assessments 40%**
- **Summative Assessments 60%**

If a student turns in an assignment and earns an F (63% or lower), the grade will be recorded in SiS as an F and will equal 0.7. If a student does not turn in an assignment, it will be coded as NTI (Not Turned In) in SiS and will equal 0. Work marked as NTI can be submitted until the end of the unit.

Grades will be determined by a student's proficiency level on common standards-based assessments, benchmarking, and rubrics based on the type of learning each essential standard requires to support student engagement.

Assignments will be graded and grades will be posted within 7 school days after the due date with the understanding that major projects/papers may require additional time to ensure quality feedback.

There will be a final exam that will count as 10% of the final grade.

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Attendance

- **It's important to have your child let me know ahead of time if they know they will be absent; this allows me to prepare materials that can be worked on without having to make-up an assignment upon their return (Excluding Tests, etc.)**
- **I understand if an absence is unplanned - things come up**
- **In all cases of absences though, I will always post classwork and other assignments on Schoology**
- **On Schoology there will be various folders for each unit of the course and I will provide details of where to find an assignment, if need be - so please always check Schoology**

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Communication

You can contact me through the Remind App in addition to my email address, which is raabsher@fcps.edu

In order to sign up for Remind, you must text the below class code to 81010

Period 5: @mvgov10pd5

Period 7: @mvgov10pd7

Period 2: @mvgov10pd2

Period 4: @mvgov10pd4

Period 8: @mvgov10pd8

I look forward to a successful school year!

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