

*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.



Introduce yourself

My name is Amanda Bierschenk.

This is my 19th year teaching and my 15th year at MVHS!

My Bachelor's degree comes from Penn State & my teaching certificate in secondary social studies comes from the University of Pittsburgh.



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Curriculum Overview--AP Government

This is designed to be a college level Government and Politics course that will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret US politics and the analysis of specific examples. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute US politics. While there is no single approach that an AP US Government and Politics course must follow, students should become acquainted with the variety of theoretical perspectives and explanations for various behaviors and outcomes.

- The class is designed and taught through Project Based Learning Strategies
- Students have the opportunity to earn college credit if they pass the AP Exam on May 1, 2023 (scoring 3, 4, or 5)
- Students have the opportunity add a total of 1.0 to their GPA calculation.
- **The successful completion of this course is required for high school graduation.** *In other words, your student MUST pass this class to graduate!*

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AP Government Units of Study

- I. **Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy**
- II. **Unit 2: Elections**
- III. **Unit 3: Legislative Branch**
- IV. **Unit 4: Executive Branch**
- V. **Unit 5: Judicial Branch, Civil Liberties & Civil Rights**

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Curriculum Overview: Honors World History, 1500 CE to Present

Students study the world from 1500 CE through the present. The course weaves together the skills and content of both history and geography so that students may learn how both affect the world around them. Regions of study include North and South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Students continue to refine and expand critical thinking skills, practice decision making and problem solving, and formulate questions to guide research. Additionally, students will apply social science skills – historical thinking, geographic analysis, economic decision making, and responsible citizenship – to course content.

This course is required for graduation and includes a verified credit for graduation.

0.5 GPA boost

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Units of Study in World History, 1500 CE to Present

- Unit 1: Why and How We Study History
- Unit 2: World Religions and Global Geography
- Unit 3: Asian and Sub-Saharan African Empires
- Unit 4: European Renaissance and Reformation
- Unit 5: Age of Revolutions
- Unit 6: Industrial Revolution and Imperialism
- Unit 7: World War I and Interwar Period
- Unit 8: World War II
- Unit 9: The Cold War
- Unit 10: Interdependence and Post-Colonialism
- Unit 11: Globalization and the 21st Century

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Recommended Supplies for Class

For both courses:

- **1 two inch binder**
- **Pen/Pencil**
- **Highlighters**
- **School issued laptop and charger**

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One-to-One Technology

To better support your child's educational experience, all Mount Vernon High School students are required to have a device to include: personal or school laptop, chromebook, and/or tablet. **Phones do not meet this requirement.** Students must have regular access to a computer and the internet to complete various activities and stay abreast of electronic classroom updates.

Cell phones in Grades 9-12 - Phones, earbuds, air pods, and other listening devices must be silenced and put away during all instructional periods. Students are prohibited from using phones, tablets, and other mobile devices in restrooms and locker rooms unless there is a medical emergency or necessity. Parents/guardians, multi-disciplinary team members, or other persons with knowledge of students who require access to personally owned devices as an accommodation shall make requests for such accommodations through their respective multi-disciplinary team.

Parents, please follow [this link](#) to give permission for your student to access supplemental tech tools. These tools are critical to creating an effective, engaging virtual classroom experience.

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Procedures and Routines for the Classroom

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MRS. BIERSCHENK'S CLASSROOM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Be a PRO!

- **BE PREPARED.** Classroom participation is a vital component of student success. Students are expected to come to class ready to participate with their laptops/devices, pen/pencil, and agenda book/calendar. Optional supplies: binders (with loose-leaf paper), Take care of your bathroom, locker, **AND** counseling needs **before or after** class. Reminder: students may not use the restroom during the first 10 minutes and last 10 minutes of each class period.
 - **BE RESPECTFUL TO YOURSELF AND OTHERS AT ALL TIMES.**
 - **BE ON TIME.** In your seat and ready to learn when the bell rings.
- Disruptions during instructional time will not be tolerated. In the event that a student does not come to class prepared or chooses to disrupt the learning process of other students, that student will be subject to consequences as mandated by the teacher and/or administration.



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Honors World History 2: Grading and Assessments

Formative Assessments 40% (includes: quizzes, classwork, binders, warm-ups, homework, exit tickets)

Summative Assessments 60% (includes: essays, unit projects, tests)

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. The grade earned at the end of the school year will indicate the level of achievement in accordance with the POS or other designated curriculum.

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.

Final Exam: All courses will give a final exam or, preferably, a culminating activity, which may count as a maximum of 10% of the final grade. Senior final exams will be given on scheduled senior exam days; likewise, underclassmen final exams will be administered on underclassmen exam days at the end of the year.

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AP Government Grading and Assessments

Formative Assessments 30% (Project Based Assessments, Quizzes, and homework)

Summative Assessments 70% (Multiple choice tests & Free Response Questions)

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.**

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CELL PHONE POLICY

Mount Vernon High School faculty and staff want to partner with parents and students to maximize the learning experience in classrooms. Starting this year, phones must be silenced and put away during all instructional periods. **Majors are prohibited from using phones, tablets, and other mobile devices in restrooms and locker rooms unless there is a medical emergency or necessity.** *Parents/guardians, multi-disciplinary team members, or other persons with knowledge of students who require access to personally owned devices as an **accommodation** shall make requests for such accommodations through their respective multi-disciplinary team.*

Cell phones can be used when it is necessary to complete a class assignment or project under the teacher's explicit direction. **Violation of this school expectation could result in a disciplinary action.** Lost or stolen electronic devices are not the responsibility of MVHS.

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