



Mt. Vernon High School
Gleaners Food Pantry

Mt. Vernon High School was originally one of five schools selected as a pilot program for Gleaners Food Bank to provide food services in the MVCSC community. Eligible families must have at least one child who is attending a Mt. Vernon district school. The parent may be asked to present proof of eligibility (i.e. student ID number.) This year we are implementing a voucher system where families can obtain a voucher

from their child's school to attend the food bank.

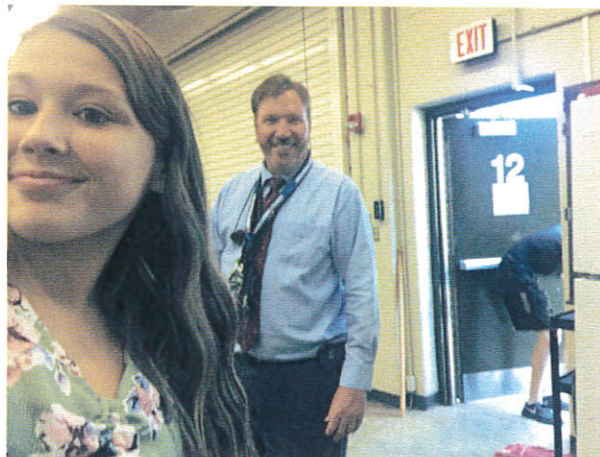


Gleaners Clean Up

Gleaners is a great overall program. Gleaners and the School work together to reach a common goal of providing food for people that truly need it.

The Gleaners Food Bank at MVHS is tentatively scheduled to be open the evening of the first Thursday of each month in 2018- 2019. **Enter through door #12** (west side of the Mt. Vernon High School).

The MVCSC/Gleaners Food Pantry will be open from 4 – 5:30 p.m. at Mt. Vernon



High School, Door #12 on the following days:**Thursday, August 2, 2018****Thursday, September 6, 2018****Thursday, November 8, 2018****Thursday, December 6, 2018****Thursday, January 10, 2019****Thursday, February 7, 2019****Thursday, March 7, 2019****Thursday, April 4, 2019****Thursday, May 2, 2019**

Partnering with Gleaners allows the school based pantry to be different. Pre-bagged or pre-boxed food is not handed out; instead the pantry is set up to resemble a grocery store so students and families are given the option to choose what types of food they would like. There is no red tape to go through for families who visit the school based pantry.

Student excerpts on their Service Learning Gleaners Food Pantry project...**Nate...**

Gleaners Food Bank

At Mt. Vernon High School we have designated a section of our school to set up a food bank with the hopes of improving and providing betterment for our community. Every month, on the first Wednesday, the JAG classes go down to the pantry and throw out tainted foods and pack and sort the remaining quality foods. In the afternoon students

can work there as the families come and get their share from our food bank, providing essential volunteer hours.

Although it's only once a month, it still provides impoverished families the opportunity to freely grab some food so their lives can less be focused on when their next meal is and more on other pertinent issues. Every human deserves to be well fed and taken care of, this is one way Mt. Vernon High School is doing it.

Personally, my involvement is going down there once a month during my third block and sorting out the food for the workers and families later. I take out the spoiled foods and throw them away while also checking for the safe ones. For about an hour and a half, I sort the food and ensure the best quality is being served to prevent sickness. As what good is a food bank if the food is inedible. I enjoy knowing that in one way or another, I am helping those who need help and it hardly takes time out of my day. In fact it's so relieving to know you're making a difference in someone's life. That feeling alone makes the work worth it. As humans it is our duty to help each other and keep everyone afloat in life. This is one way I'm doing this, by helping at our personal food bank with Gleaners at our school.

Leslie...

The community is important. For thousands of years, living within a community was for survival. Together, the people in the community worked alongside one another to make sure everyone had food to eat. They worked together for the betterment of their families. In this day and age, the community is still important, though not as much as it might have been. We might not work together as well or as frequently as we had thousands of years ago, but the community is still an important aspect in our lives.

I did not know that MVHS had a food pantry. I was a junior in MVHS, and the first time I knew that we had a food pantry was walking into my first day in JAG. JAG was in charge of organizing Gleaners Food Pantry. I have been involved with Gleaners for almost half a year now, and its impact on my community still astounds me. Gleaners helps the people of MVCSC, with things that they might need for their survival. The people of my community needed things that they might not have access to. The community is important, and Gleaners Food Pantry opened my eyes to that by helping my community.

The community is an aspect that we as humans have started to let go of. People can survive on their own now, not needing a huge group for their survival. Individualism

has shaped American society, stressing the importance of people to strike out on their own. However, Gleaners Food Pantry and JAG's priority is the community. To help the people within our community, to give them their necessities. Gleaners Food Pantry has shown me that the community is important and that it should be important for everyone.

Sadie...

...Also as a JAG student and class, we have been involved with the setup and teardown of a local food bank, called "Mt. Vernon School Corporation Gleaners Food Pantry". First Wednesday each month we are in school, our class goes down and sets up. We make sure food is edible and on date. We also set it up in a way that looks nice. Then the day after, if there are things that are left over, we dispose of the products and clean up the room so that it will be ready for whatever we need next! Our class helps a lot with Gleaners, which serves for student's service hours, and also helps our class grow together.



Haden...

As part of the Gleaner's program, big grocery or other food-distributing companies donate wares that they don't need anymore, whether it is due to too much stock, food that cannot be sold, etc. Then that food is distributed to a number of places. Mt Vernon High School is one such location. We also put food we get from food drives at our own school into the donations we receive from Gleaner's.

After we receive the donated food, then comes the organization of the food. Usually we will put grains in one section, fruit and veggies in another, and so on. However, we have to go through every bit of food we receive. Because some of the donors are giving away food they cannot sell, we end up with moldy or bruised produce or pastries. We have to go through all of the food to ensure that everything we give away is safe to eat.

Then comes the actual event. We allow families in our school corporation to come into the room with the food, sign in, and then they may take all they need for the upcoming month. However, we can only provide food for families inside the school corporation. After the event, we have to throw away all the food that wasn't taken, as per Gleaner's regulations. This allows families to benefit from an organized food distributor as well as give Students volunteer hours they need for JAG corporation requirements.

Taylor...

My Gleaner's Involvement

The entire JAG class has been partnered with Gleaner's for around 5 years. So there has been countless successes involved with Gleaners. Gleaners is a food pantry that families that have students that go to this school that can go through. The families that go through don't make much of an income, so Gleaners allows them to come through and grab some good food so they have extra help to feed their families. This is helpful because, more families than you'd think don't live in luxury and have a ton of income. By Gleaners allowing them to come in, it could possibly be helping them have more money to live on for that week.

What I have done with Gleaners though, is pretty helpful. I have gone down to the Gleaners room and helped stock the food and organize it so it was ready for the families to come through. Even though that doesn't sound like a lot, it actually does help because if our classes wouldn't go down to stock and organize, then there'd be no order to the program.

I feel the things we've done through Gleaners and the other things we've done is extremely helpful to society and sho

uld be continued to be spread throughout all schools. Some schools may not have JAG class which is pretty upsetting to me, JAG is a wonderful system that helps you as a student and also helps society. This has been my involvement in the Gleaners program and JAG.

Alyssa...

At the beginning of the school year I did not contribute enough to Gleaners food pantry. Now, third nine weeks into the school year, I contribute as much as I can. Whenever we

go down to the agriculture room for Gleaner's in Jag I help clean up, straighten everything up, organize all of the foods, etc. I make sure everything is very neat and looks very nice for anyone coming in.

There is a lot of food that needs to be straightened up and organized so it is appealing to the eye as people come in. If the food sets out, we aren't very organized, and it looks very messy, I wouldn't want to keep going to get food. So, I make sure to have all the food organized and looking well.

I make sure to always have something to do in Gleaner's and contribute as much as possible. Especially now more than ever before.

Parker...

...My involvement in the project and watching it grow to what it is as of right now is impressive. Seeing how it's reforming and promoting small businesses, I can't say I'm not proud to have witnessed this. The students that have worked towards this goal was founded solely on teamwork, which is inspiring. The Mental Health Project was our main focus, but along the way we've strived for diversity in our awareness program.



Morgan ...



An example, would be Gleaners; They work hand in hand with the school to provide for lower income families by serving food for their homes. The food is fresh, and we clear them before setting them up for public consumption. This has been something that JAG has done for years. It's definitely a worthy cause due to the amount of people that

actively use this opportunity funded by the school. It's heartwarming to think of the people that will benefit from this.

We also do small personal projects to come up with ideas for future fundraising materials. Each of us plan, prepare and even make our projects come true through and present them to the class. This benefits the students as well, as it help develop our public speaking skills. In short, JAG is a phenomenal program that truly assists students bloom into their best selves through creativity and learning...

Students are available to work in the Gleaners Food Pantry 30-90 minutes per month. This school year they started in August, 2018.

Gleaners food bank is an organization housed in Mt. Vernon High School. It is stocked with many non-perishable items and sanitary supplies for families in the Mt. Vernon school district. Once a month, the school receives a shipment of cans, pre-cooked box meals, fruits, vegetables, and even pastries. The MVHS JAG program helps stock the food pantry. On the first Thursday of every month, families in the Mt. Vernon school district can come in to the food pantry and get food to help feed their families. I think that this is amazing because there are some people out in the world that are not lucky enough to have a steady job, and even then, sometimes it does not pay well. I love the idea of the food pantry because it helps the less fortunate families in the Mt. Vernon community.

Lydia...

Gleaners Food Bank to provide food services in our school community. Families in our school community are eligible to participate if one student is attending the Mt. Vernon school district. Many families get to benefit from our food pantry. When our JAG class goes down to Gleaners, we get to be involved by stocking food on shelves, dispose of expired food and clean the room. Not only does it helps others but it helps us work together as team to do something nice for a variety of families. It's been a great experience to be able to help for a good cause.

Ginny...

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Erycah...

My experiences with Gleaners

I have been in JAG for a year now and it's very good for people because JAG is all about you. I did not know that MVHS had a food pantry. I was a senior in MVHS, and the first time I knew that we had a food pantry was walking into my first day in JAG. JAG was in charge of organizing Gleaners Food Pantry. I have been involved with Gleaners for almost half a year now, and its impact on my community still astounds me. Gleaners helps the people of MVCSC, with things that they might need for their survival.

The people of my community needed things that they might not have access to. The community is important, and Gleaners Food Pantry opened my eyes to that by helping my community. The people group is a perspective that we as people have relinquished. Individuals can make due alone now, not requiring a colossal gathering for their survival. Independence has molded American culture, focusing on the significance of individuals to strike out without anyone else.

However, Gleaners Food Pantry and JAG's priority is the community. To help the people within our community, to give them their necessities. Gleaners Food Pantry has shown me that the community is important and that it should be important for everyone.

MVHS JAG students have logged 338 service learning hours on this project so far this year. This project will continue through May of 2019.

Current 2018-2019 Mt. Vernon High School JAG roster/members: