



# Messenger



## Building the Future

at MVA with new K-5 classes.



How is MVA building the future?

From our Principal, Mrs. Brooke Blanck: "MVA is building the future by helping our students set future goals, be they short term or long range goals. MVA students spend the year taking steps toward accomplishing those goals!"

Welcome to the MVA monthly *Monarchs Messenger*. One of our goals is communication! We work to make sure families have all the tools needed to ensure student academic success. Communication comes through email, FaceBook, Instagram, student landing pages and, of course, this newsletter. You can also always contact our office if you have any questions or concerns.

Another MVA goal is building relationships. This year we are adding Advisory Class each Thursday at 9:30 am. Advisory gives teachers time to check in with students and for them to connect with other students in their grade. Students will earn .25 for the class if they attend 70% of the time.

The theme for this school year is "Building the Future." It is especially appropriate this year with our new K-5 classes and our designation as a separate school in the USD383 school district. As the year progresses, teachers and classes will be discovering how they are building the future for MVA and their communities.

We now have a new mascot! Manhattan Virtual Academy is officially the Monarchs. We choose this because our school is a leader in the world of virtual education. We provide quality, robust learning opportunities for our students, and focus on building leaders for tomorrow's success. At MVA, all of our students are royalty!

Make sure you check your email for information about your student observer accounts. These will allow you to monitor your student's progress and assist them in staying on pace. One of our greatest assets is our families, and we strive to give you the right tools to build student success. We are excited to start building the semester!

# Elementary - Welcome to our new teachers!

Hi, I am Erin Meyer-Gambrel (Mrs. M-G), and I am the 3rd, 4th, and 5th-grade sections of elementary here at MVA. I completed my Undergraduate work at Emporia State University along with my Master's Degree. I also went all but dissertation in a doctoral program at Kansas State University which focused on 21st-century online literacy. Go Cats! I then completed my reading specialist and English as a second language endorsement. I am currently working on my National Board Certification in the area of literacy.

This is my first year with MVA and I taught remote last year for USD #383. I loved teaching in a virtual setting. When I am not working, my husband, Matt and I have two dogs, four cats, a dwarf caiman, and breed ball pythons, so that also keeps us on our toes. I enjoy nature, hikes, spending time at the lake, visiting family, traveling, cooking, baking, and spending time with my nieces and nephews. I am an avid sports fan. I love to watch Kansas State football and basketball, cheer on the Minnesota Vikings and Kansas City Chiefs, as well as the Royals. I love to listen to audiobooks, and yes, audiobooks are considered reading. :)



Hi, I am Lori Rice and I teach K-2 Elementary and K-12 gifted here at MVA. I was born and raised in Kansas, completing my Bachelor's Degrees in Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education at Kansas State University. I have taught elementary for the past 25 years at Wamego. This next year I will complete my masters degree at Emporia State in gifted and talented.

My passions are STEM education, social studies and helping each student find their unique perspectives and talents. When I am not working I stay busy with three kids. My 21 year old is in the Air National Guard working on his pharmaceutical degree at KU, my 14 year old is a freshman with a passion for sports, medicine and friends, and my 10 year old will be in fifth grade working on developing his golf skills and coding languages. We live with my parents in a multi-generational home which allows for family and fun. I love to read, run, do puzzles and spend time with family and friends.



Lydia Huninghake is not new to MVA, but she does have new responsibilities. She will be the K-7 Special Education teacher. She says, "My experience working in the Special Education world has taught me how to build relationships with students and teachers so we can work together to achieve emotional and academic goals. Virtual teaching has been an exciting learning curve that has broadened my technology skills and I want to continue to learn how to be even more effective in the virtual setting.



# News you can use for - Middle School



Tracy Ridey - High School SPED, Technology & Art Teacher

Hello! My name is Tracy Ridey. This will be my twenty fifth year of teaching. I taught at Manhattan High school for 11 years, taught at another school for 11 years, then returned to the Manhattan district 3 years ago. I taught virtually last year through covid and am looking forward to teaching at MVA this school year. I earned my Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education through Kansas State University as well as my Masters degree in Adaptive Special Education. When getting my degree I couldn't figure out what I wanted to teach because I enjoyed a lot of things. My certifications are K-12 Art, 5-12 Mathematics and Computers and 6-12 Special Education. While teaching in Derby I was also fortunate enough to co-teach an acting class for several years. I feel very blessed to teach in such a wonderful school with amazing educators.

I grew up about an hour north of here on a farm. I love all kinds of animals. I currently have 3 dogs and 4 cats in two different houses. We have 3 children, a daughter who is 17 and twins who are 14 years old. All my children will be in high school this year. My husband and I split time between helping my Dad and working in Manhattan with my children.

## 6th - 12th Office Hours - Thursdays from 10:30 - 11:30 am

Office hours are designed to support students when they have questions or concerns. You can come in to meet virtually with any of the teachers. This is a great time to ask questions or get additional support. One of the first questions we will ask if you fall behind or are contacted due to low grades is, "Are you attending office hours for help?"



## WAYS TO RECOVER FROM STRESS

by WholeHearted School Counseling



EXERCISE  
(JUST MOVE!)



MINDFUL  
BREATHING



A GOOD CRY



CREATIVE  
EXPRESSION



BIG HUGS



ENOUGH SLEEP



LAUGHTER



BE IN NATURE

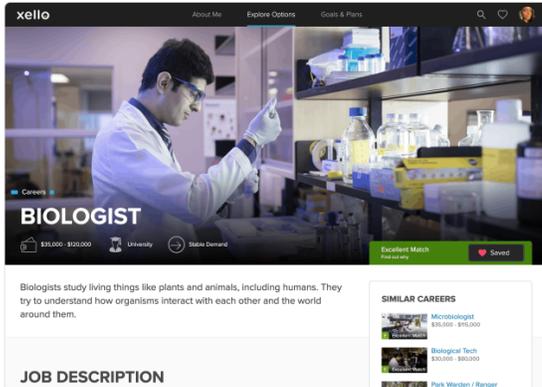


CONNECTION

# High School- September is the month to ...

kick-off Xello and prepare Students for a Successful Future.

More than any other program, Xello helps middle and high school students of all backgrounds, abilities, and aspirations become future ready.



EXPLORE OPTIONS

## Vibrant Career and College Profiles

Students explore hundreds of career and college options that align with their assessment results. Engaging content written at a grade 6 level, rich photography, and real-world interviews provide an authentic glimpse into their future and the critical knowledge to make informed decisions and plans



Parent Information: <https://xello.world/en/middle-and-high-school/>

## 6th - 12th Advisory - Thursdays at 9:30 am

Advisory provides time and space for the advisory teachers to check in with students each week. In Advisory, students will also explore a variety of topics depending on their grade level including, but not limited to, ways to be successful in life and school, a personality styles assessment, a strength finder assessment, career exploration activities, self-regulation, self-efficacy, growth mindset, college exploration, individual plans of study, scholarship information, and other fun activities to get to know everyone in their grade level Advisory. High school students earn 0.25 elective credit if they attend 70% of the advisory sessions and/or watch the recording and complete the activity and attendance assignment using the form link provided in the recording.

## Counselor's Corner

**Seniors** --- > Review your iPlan, College/Career planning or need support in other areas.

Make an Appointment:

<https://calendly.com/mvacounselor>

Virtual Vibes Website:

<https://tscounseling.weebly.com>

ACT tests are scheduled throughout the year. Go to [act.org](http://act.org) to sign up at a location near you. Use CEEB code 170013.



## SEPTEMBER

- Sept. 1: 6 hour log in day
- Sept. 3: All school assembly
- Sept. 5: Permanent zero
- Sept. 6: No school
- Sept. 7: Last day to add class
- Sept. 9: Back to School night
- Sept. 11: ACT test
- Sept. 20-21: Parent/Teacher conferences
- Sept. 17: ACT registration deadline
- Sept. 22: 6 hour log in day Sept.



# MVA Clubs for Fall 2021

Club Name	Meeting Day	Meeting Time
<b>Astronomy</b> - We will talk about our solar system, the galaxy, and the universe!	2nd Wednesday	2:00 - 2:30 pm
<b>Culture Club</b> - Explore different cultures, their customs, practices and beliefs.	2nd Wednesday	11:00 - 11:30 pm
<b>Gaming Club</b> - Join other gamers to hang out, talk about games, and discover new ones	3rd Thursday	12:30-1:00 pm
<b>Harry Potter</b> - Everything Harry Potter!	2nd Wednesday	2:30 - 3:00 pm
<b>Lunch Bunch</b> - An opportunity for students to virtually get together to talk.	Every Monday, Wednesday	12:00 (noon)
<b>Photography</b> -Share your interest in photography and learn new photo techniques.	2nd Thursday	12:00 - 12:30 pm
<b>Yearbook</b> - Join us to plan and design the 2021-22 MVA Digital Yearbook.	2nd Thursday	12:30 - 1:00 pm

We love to recognize our students and the amazing things they do both in school and out in their communities, so **feel free to send your student's information to us to share.** Thank you to all the students who let us share their stories!

## Student Spotlight



Elora Lane-Olivier (above) has her school space set up with everything she needs for Kindergarten v-classes and activities.

Lola Vogel, 6th grade (right), is pictured with her barrel horse and her dad. She says, "This is my first year of MVA. I live in Mattfield Green on a ranch with my 3 siblings and parents. And I enjoy rodeo."



Izabella Del Chiaro, sophomore (below), is pictured with her barrel and pole horse, boomer that she's had since I was 9. Bella says, "We learned everything together and has made it possible for me to achieve all my dreams on the rodeo road. He holds a very special place in my heart, and will forever be my best friend."



## Manhattan Virtual Academy

2100 Poyntz Ave

Room E146 Manhattan, KS 66502

Phone: 785-587-2100 ext. 8073

Email: [ronnao@usd383.org](mailto:ronnao@usd383.org)

Website: [manhattanvirtualacademy.org](http://manhattanvirtualacademy.org)

FaceBook: [www.facebook.com/MVAKansas](http://www.facebook.com/MVAKansas)

