

ORGANIZATION OF  
MT. VERNON COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
1955-19<sup>56</sup>~~65~~

October 3, 1955

# Junior College—Yes or No?

THE VOTERS OF MT. VERNON will, on October 29, make a decision that may change the future of many high school students of Mt. Vernon for years to come. Their votes will decide whether or not the King City will become the third Southern Illinois town to establish a junior or two-year college.

A junior college would be greatly beneficial to the scores of students who can't afford to go to college because of the cost of living out of town and the high tuition. It would give many pupils an opportunity to obtain a good education, and increase their chances for obtaining a high paying job.

A junior college would offer general courses in academic subjects and would prepare a student for two more years in a larger university.

In years soon to come, college enrollment will be almost double. Many pupils will be turned away because of this overflow condition. To solve the problem of crowded universities, junior colleges should be established.

Mt. Vernon has always been known as a leader among towns and cities of our state, and now boasts of one of the finest school systems in Illinois. Shall this leadership end? If, you the students of Mt. VTHS, are proud of your school system, then it is your duty to encourage the voters of Mt. Vernon to cast their ballots for progress and vote for the new junior college.

The state has already approved Mt. Vernon as a suitable site for this institution. All that remains now is the voting, and to move toward better education those ballots must be marked "yes."

October 20, 1955

## District to Vote On Establishment Of Junior College

Oct. 20, 1955  
The long-cherished dream of a junior college for Mt. Vernon may become a reality next year if the voters of the district approve.

On Saturday, Oct. 29, the voters of Mt. Vernon Township High School District will be asked to authorize the Board of Education to establish a junior college as a part of the Mt. Vernon Township High School.

The project has the enthusiastic approval of the Illinois State Department of Education, and if the voters say "yes," the board hopes to add the 13th year in 1956 and the 14th in September 1957.

In Southern Illinois there are already two junior colleges being operated by high schools. These are at Belleville and Centralia. Centralia Township Junior College was established in 1941 and has grown steadily in enrollment. It now has 227 students.

Since a large number of questions have been asked about the junior college, Principal Arthur Miward has prepared the following list of questions and answers:

**Question.** Who may attend for college credit?

**Answer.** Any graduate of a certified high school who meets the requirements for his specific course.

**Q.** What is the cost to students?

**A.** No tuition is charged students who live in Mt. Vernon Township High School District 201. Those living outside the district will pay tuition. All students will pay the customary laboratory fees, etc., which are charged in all colleges.

**Q.** Where will the college classes be held?

**A.** In the same buildings now being used for high school.

**Q.** Will new buildings be needed?

**A.** No new buildings will be needed in the foreseeable future. The State Department of Education says we have excellent facilities and will need no new permanent buildings at this time.

**Q.** Who will teach in the junior college?

**A.** Teachers will come from the high school staff. Some will teach both high school and college classes. Many of our teachers are qualified for college teaching since we have one of the best prepared staffs in the state.

**Q.** What courses will be offered?

**A.** Pre-engineering, pre-medicine, pre-dental, pre-commerce, legal, liberal arts and sci-

ences, music, pre-nursing, business, trades, and possibly others.

**Q.** Can these credits be transferred to another college or university?

**A.** Yes. The same textbooks and courses of study which are used at the University of Illinois will be used here, and students can transfer credits to most colleges.

**Q.** What about terminal education? Will students be able to complete two-year courses of study?

**A.** Yes. In business, retailing, trades, etc.

**Q.** How do we finance the college?

**A.** The greater amount of the cost will be paid from existing funds. Belleville and Centralia have been able to finance their programs in this manner.

**Q.** How is this possible?

**A.** No additional buildings will be required. Few additional teachers will be needed. The bill passed by the Illinois Legislature this year provides for a flat grant of \$100 for each junior college student in regular attendance. In some adult classes the state pays two thirds of the cost of instruction.

**Q.** Why does the ballot contain the establishment of a maximum tax rate of 1 7/8 cents for junior college purposes?

**A.** The 1951 law concerning the establishment of junior colleges requires that the people of the district establish a maximum of 1 7/8 cents when they vote to establish a junior college.

October 27, 1955

November 3, 1955

# Mt. Vernon to Be Location of Junior College in '56

Nov. 3, 1955  
A special election held Sat. Oct. 29, residents of the Mt. Vernon Township High School district voted in favor of a junior college. The vote was 204 for and 88 against, or a ratio of 25 to 1. Twenty-four of the ballots were spoiled.

Possibilities of a small library, lounge, and a recreation center for junior college students have been discussed.

It is estimated that about 400 students will enroll the first year and that the enrollment will be 200 the second year.

In January, surveys will be made on the number of students expecting to enroll and the courses they plan to take.

In the weeks to come, officials in Mt. VTHS will visit some of the leading junior colleges to see how they operate. Among these are Centralia, Belleville, Springfield, and Joliet.

As of yet, no special committees have been appointed for any work on the junior college. Arthur Milward, principal at Mt. VTHS, said that it is too early for any specific plans to be presented.

Belleville has combined its junior college and high school bands and there is the possibility that Mt. Vernon would do the same, although the music department would have the decision to make.

February 2, 1956

## Announce Plans Of Junior College

More than 150 interested seniors filled out questionnaires for the Mt. Vernon Community College in a Senior Class Assembly, Jan. 31. The assembly was called to explain plans for the college and to determine how many seniors were interested in attendance.

The curriculum of the college has been set up to include many subjects that universities have. These include engineering, liberal arts and sciences, pre-nursing, pre-medical, pre-dental, pre-commerce, pre-education, and pre-law courses will be offered.

To be enrolled in the junior college, the applicant must have graduated from an accredited secondary school, and have a minimum of 15 units of credit. Students who have not graduated from high school, but who satisfy the admission committee, may also attend college.

Residents of School District 201 may attend the college and pay no tuition. Tuition for out-of-district students will be between \$100 and \$250. In most cases, the fees for various courses will be less than \$10 per course.

As a recreation center for college students, a temporary building is to be erected on the parking lot. The school library facilities may be used, and also the public library. For sudden illnesses, the health office in the high school will be used.

Student activities, clubs, pep events, and student government will be organized after the start of school.

May 24, 1956

## Seniors Plan for College; 142 to Further Education

With graduation near at hand, many local seniors are looking forward to college.

Of 142 seniors who are planning to further their education, 82 have decided to attend the Mt. Vernon Community College. Only 13 seniors have chosen State University.

Oct. 29 - Only six days after the big anniversary celebration, Mt. Vernon took another step forward in the field of education. District voters approved a new community college by a 2204 to 88 count.

## College to Have Athletic Program

An athletic program, consisting of basketball and possibly baseball, has been planned for the new Mt. Vernon Community College next year.

Mt. Vernon will be a member of a five-team basketball league that is to be organized at Centralia, September 17. League members are Centralia, Belleville, Lincoln, Springfield, and Mt. Vernon, all Illinois two-year colleges.

Coach J. D. Shields said that the local college plans to schedule from 14 to 16 games next year with schools within 150 mile radius. Plans for non-conference games are being made now. The local team will have half of its schedule filled with league contests.

The Mt. Vernon cagers will also enter the Centralia Invitational Tournament in late December. This year's tournament was a four-team affair but may be expanded next season.

Enough interest is shown in baseball and tennis will be placed on the sports agenda.

May 24, 1956

## Community College Attracts 82 of Present Senior Class

MAY 24, 1956

Of the 82 students who have elected to attend Mt. Vernon Community College, only four plan to major in the field of medicine. Carole Russell and Jack Newton will take the pre-med course, Sue Thomas plans to study medical technology, and David Lustig will study to be a pharmacist.

A number of seniors will take courses preparatory for engineering. These include Dolmar Diel, Billy Forst, Ronald Eller, Allan Liebbetter, Jackie Runnels, Bryan Talbott, Donald Ray Bailey, and Jim Piercy.

Interested in preparation for various other occupations are the following: Joe Harlow, electrical engineering; Jeanne Morgan, physical education; Robin Smith and Curtis Grothoff, agriculture; and Clark Durrwachter, teaching and industrial education.

Others in the miscellaneous group and their interests are: Richard Rogers, chemistry; Richard Wagner, architecture; and Carl Thompson, drafting.

### Elect Liberal Arts

Seniors taking liberal arts and science courses are Richard Graham, Ray Bravard, Gary Sweetin, Arlene Millmaker, Carlyn Duncan, and Larry Reeder.

Eight planning to take courses in business training are: Paul Davis, Pat Cromcans, Carol Jean Webb, John Perry, Pat Heidreich, Jerry Clemens, Shirley Dillingham, and Ada Taylor.

Aspiring to become accountants are: Paul Dean Schweninger, Charles Edwards, Larry Niekrenz, Ronald Howard, and John Robert Lynn.

Music majors will be Jo Ann Bullock, Carolyn Sue Boster, Beverly Neal, and Linda Burge.

### Pian Teaching Careers

Seniors planning teaching careers are the following: Robert Allen Gray, Mildred Baker, Karen Canterbury, Catherine Runnels, David McCann, Gene Fairchild, Sherry Smith, Sharon Lomax, Claudia Edwards, Betty Coleman, Lucy Baker, Kay Stewart, Charlene Sutton, Mary Ann Tate, Alice Douglas, Ada Taylor, and Virginia Spittler.

A number of students planning to take the general curriculum are as follows: Tommy Johnson, Richard Stone, Charles Mullinax, Juanita Courtois, Judy Johnson, Doris Braddy, Ed Ryder, Gary Ellis, Ed Elliott, Edie Wood, Glenn Burnett, Merwyn Dobbs, and Jerry Richey.

Maxine Taaka, Perry Vanni, Kay Stewart, Joyce Chase, George Humphrey and Stephen Clinton.