



# MT. VERNON

## COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

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**Dr. Shane Robbins**  
Superintendent of Schools

August 24, 2017

We had an unfortunate incident involving one classroom of 1st grade students at McCordsville Elementary School this week surrounding a debate on religion. In response, the classroom teacher crafted a letter on expectations and sent it home to parents. First and foremost, board policy #8800 outlines religious expression at school by students. To simply summarize, MVCSC employees can neither advance nor inhibit religious views. Trying to limit a student's view on religion is a violation of a student's first amendment rights. However, if the discussion becomes an academic disruption, then as a district, we can intervene to maintain the integrity of the educational process while at the same time being sure to not violate a student's constitutional rights.

It is the position of the Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation to respect the diversity of our students. In doing so, we will address sensitive topics with compassion while maintaining the integrity of our academic environment. Our goal is to build bridges with our patrons and not put up roadblocks. I believe this was a learning experience and an opportunity for us to improve as a school district.

Sincerely,

*Shane*

Dr. Shane Robbins, ATC, LAT  
Superintendent of Schools