

As we continue the home learning journey, we would like to remind families about our partnership with [Bark for Schools](#). A free platform that helps mitigate online risk, Bark alerts schools and families about potential issues related to students' online presence. Please click [here](#) to read more about our partnership with Bark for Schools.

Mount Vernon families in grades 3-12 will receive an invitation directly from *Bark* to create a free account for the **Bark for Schools Family Alert Dashboard**. (Families who have already created this free account will not receive the invitation). After creating this optional free account, families will receive alerts if issues are detected on a child's mountvernonsschool.org email account or within Google drive documents. This alert system is an additional alert above and beyond the monitoring system already in place at the School, where administrators receive notifications upon potential concerns due to student online activity. Receiving these alerts at home will help gain insight into what a child is experiencing online. Families may use these opportunities to start conversations with children and emphasize the importance of open, honest communication.

*Bark* provides all of the above for free as part of their give-back program and is available to all K-12 schools and districts in the United States. Families may also enable **Bark's product for families**, which monitors texts, email, YouTube, and more than 24 social media platforms for potential safety concerns on your student's personal accounts. **Mount Vernon has secured a 20% discount on the monthly cost**, which is \$7.20 per month / \$79.20 per year to cover an unlimited number of accounts, devices, and children. The upgrade is available after signing up for the free *Bark* for Schools Family Alert Dashboard (see above).

We appreciate the opportunity to partner with our parents in order to provide the most effective tools possible to ensure the success of all Mount Vernon students.

Sincerely,  
Katie Cain  
Director of Instructional Technology  
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