

MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Excellence and Equity For All Children

Equal Opportunity Employer

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June 10, 2014

Over the last five years the Martha's Vineyard Youth Leadership Initiative (MVYLI) has made a significant commitment to our Vineyard youth and our Island community. They need our support.

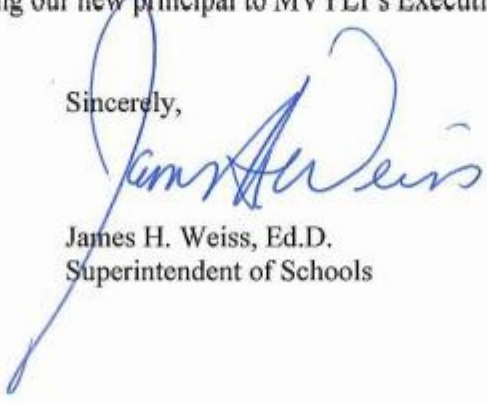
Each year at MVRHS Class Night in June, MVYLI presents scholarships to ALL seniors who have participated in their year-round program. This year there were thirteen seniors! Each year the number grows. Word is out that this is a great program! What is most significant is that for some of these students, it is the only scholarship they receive. While it might be a small scholarship, it provides them with an invitation to this important night, and the respect and admiration of their fellow students. They stand together on the stage and receive applause.

Offered free to all Vineyard youth, it has become an important addition to our island. MVYLI uniquely helps to equalize the playing field. Through their College Prep & Field Trip program, students have the opportunity to visit colleges, some for the first time. They have individualized meetings with department heads, college professors, laboratory and research TA's, and admissions counselors. Through MVYLI's Job Shadow Day Program, students discover the world of work, and meet people in their expressed fields. This helps focus their studies and motivates them to excel in school; helps clarify their goals and career path and college choices; and helps direct them to future opportunities: meaningful summer jobs, internships, apprenticeships.

MVYLI has developed several major projects that have benefited the Vineyard community. I'm especially pleased with how MVYLI youth were actively involved with the Forum we hosted in 2010 at the MV Hebrew Center, Minorities in Our Schools on Martha's Vineyard. They took initiative and worked hard to create a Multicultural Assembly with Charlayne Hunter-Gault that benefited all MVRHS students, and the community.

I look forward to introducing our new principal to MVYLI's Executive Director, Marianne Larned, and continuing a positive relationship.

Sincerely,



James H. Weiss, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools