



Victoria Hoagland



Ashton Hunt



Jakob Hunter



Everett Janda



Sydney Jones



Jake Kadlec



Kean Kamerling



Leah Kaminsky



Aliya Keaton



Lauren Kephart



Brady Ketchum



Connor Klinkhammer



Isabelle Krapfl



William Kutcher



Walker Lawrence



Jonathan Loughren



Molly Louwagie



Sydney McElree

FRESHMEN



2.



3.



1.



4.

1. Grabbing a ball off the floor, freshman Sage McVay prepares to throw a dodgeball and get herself back in the game during PE class. 2. Presenting their chosen projects, the Mount Vernon freshman class shares a piece of MV history with community members. 3. Freshmen Valjot Boyal, Matthew Erlandson, Nicholas Emig, and Elena Gonzalez work together on a packet in Earth Science. 4. Filling their plates for lunch, Sydney McElree and Adam Vig go through the line at the all school picnic on May 17.





Jillian McGuire

Sage McVay

Jayden Meeker

Elizabeth Meier-Gast

Juan Mendoza

Brooke Miller



Maxton Moellering

Ariana Moore

Ellen Morf

Lillian Morrissey

Benjamin Moss

Kassidy Mudd



Elizabeth Niehaus

Aidan Nosek

Anna Nydegger

Sydney Parks

Masen Pelley

Kayden Pendergrass

## RHOMBERG JOINS MUSTANG FAMILY

By Lauren McCollum

It took over four years to unite a family from Mount Vernon with brothers from Haiti. The Rhombergs began the adoption process in 2013, and now this year one of their sons, Nelson, joined the Mount Vernon High School family.

"The adoption process was a little over four years long, so as the time for Nelson and Jackson to come home was getting closer, I was very nervous," said junior Annie Rhomberg, "I was worried about how they would react to our family and I didn't know how the community would respond to them. It was a scary feeling knowing that my family was going to forever change. Of course I was excited and anxious as well."

Moving from Haiti to small town Mount Vernon one and a half years ago has changed Nelson Rhomberg in many ways. As a freshman, Rhomberg has already made a lot of great memories he will carry with him for the rest of his life.

"My favorite part of moving to Mount Vernon is definitely being able to go to school, because in Haiti we did not get that opportunity," said Nelson. He loves getting to meet new people and expand his vocabulary in the English language every day.

"My favorite aspect of his personality is by far his humor," said Nelson's sister Annie Rhomberg. "He is very

sarcastic and never fails to make anyone in our family laugh. I also admire his work ethic. He works harder than anyone I know, and he always strives to be the best he can be," said Annie, a junior.

"His learning has been a complete exponential growth pattern, just blossoming every day he walks into the classroom," said math teacher Mary Young, "He has already been understanding more language-wise than even three months ago, and I am so very impressed with his positive attitude!"

Coming from Haiti, Rhomberg has continually struggled to be around pets, specifically dogs, which were much more aggressive where he grew up. He explained that he is trying to adjust now since a lot more people are around and own them in Iowa.

"It's really cool to hear about his experiences from Haiti, and he fit in so well with our friends right away," said freshman Jayden Meeker.

Sports have been a big part of Rhomberg's life ever since he moved here. As Rhomberg attended more athletic events, his want and need to try all of them grew quickly. He really enjoys sports, and plans on continuing to practice to get better as time moves forward. In the fall, he played football, and is also on the basketball team.

"Qualities of Nelson that I admire are his compassion for others, his desire to improve, and his devotion to family and faith," said associate Bill Thomsen.



Nelson Rhomberg and Jayden Meeker

Layout by Lauren Hauser