

Terminology & Acronyms at Monta Vista High School

Term	Description
A-G	Each letter corresponds to a category of classes required for entry into UC or CSU high institutions. A = History, B= English, C= Math, D = Lab science, E = Foreign Language, F=Visual and Performing Arts, G = College Prep Elective.
Academic Court	The courtyard surrounded by buildings A, B, C and the Library
ACT	American College Testing. Standardized test used for applications to colleges. Scores range up to 36 and indicate measures of knowledge in English, Math, Reading and Science www.act.org
American Studies	The junior courses of American History and American Literature are taught together in two class periods in a project based environment with two teachers and 60 students. Homework assignments and projects may be combined between the two.
AP	An Advanced Placement class is a course with college level curriculum, defined and approved by the College Board. The AP course culminates in a national standardized exam (fee is required). Students receiving passing scores (3, 4 or 5) may be awarded college credit by the university they eventually attend. Grades in these courses are used to recalculate a weighted GPA (A = 5 points, a B = 4 points and a C = 3 points)
APES	AP Environmental Science
APUSH	Advanced Placement United States History. The AP version of US History, a course taken during Junior year. Regular college prep US history may be called RUSH.
ASB	Associated Student Body. The student directed school government that organizes school activities, rallies, athletics and events.
ASB Card	For \$95 a student may buy an ASB card that serves as a student ID, provides free entrance to home and away sporting events and various other activities. It includes the cost of a yearbook and a class t-shirt for Homecoming.
Athletic Boosters	Parent group that coordinates fundraisers for athletic needs and organizes volunteers to support athletic events. This is a charitable, tax exempt group (501C3)
AVID	AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is an internationally recognized program designed to prepare students for success in colleges and universities. AVID students enroll in college preparatory classes and in an AVID elective class.
Baccalaureate	Held the Monday before graduation, Seniors wear their graduation gowns, but not their caps, to an evening of speeches, songs and inspiration. It is held in a church because of size, but is not a religious event. It is a very special reflective time when students sit with thier families. The hour long event is followed by a reception sponsored by Monta Vista's PTSA.
Back to School Night (BTSN)	An evening when parents attend each of their child's classes to hear a brief presentation from the teacher on course syllabus and student expectations.
Block Schedule	Tuesday and Wednesday are Block Schedule days in which classes last 95 minutes Longer class times allow for deeper discussions, labs, presentations, and participatory activites.
Boosters	Any group of parents that are organized to support a student class or activity.
Bus Circle	The half circle drop off area in front of the school and next to the administration offices. There is limited visitor parking.
CAASPP	<u>C</u> alifornia <u>A</u> ssessment of <u>S</u> tudent <u>P</u> erformance and <u>P</u> rogress. The new statewide student assessment system. Tests are given in the spring to sophomores and juniors.
CAHSEE	California High School Exit Exam is the test a student must pass in order to receive their high school diploma. Students take the test in the spring of their sophomore year.If they do not pass, have multiple other chances to retake portions or all of the test.
Cheer Team	The Cheer Team is an audition only group that supports the football and basketball teams by leading spirit cheers during games. They also perform at rallies and other school events.
Club Day	This event is held twice a year,when clubs promote membership. They are able to sell food at lunch, with proceeds from the sales benefiting the individual clubs.
College and Career Center	This center in A102 has a wealth of information about colleges, the college application process, and scholarships. The College Career Center organizes informational events for parents and students, as well as hosts visitations from college representatives.
CSU	California State Universities, including our local San Jose State University. 23 CSU campuses are located across California. http://www.calstate.edu
CTE	<u>C</u> areer <u>T</u> echnical <u>E</u> ducation
Daily Bulletin	The MVHS daily announcements that can also be found on the main MVHS website.
Dance Team	The Marquesas is an audition dance team that performs at athletic events, rallies and at competitions.
EL	<u>E</u> nglish <u>L</u> earner
El Estoque	The El Estoque is the student-run newspaper published monthly and also available online.

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el Valador	The name of Monta Vista's yearbook. The cost of the yearbook is included in students' ASB card purchase.
ELA	English Language Arts
FAFSA	Free Application for Federal Student Aid must be completed by all students desiring to apply for financial aid at colleges. It may also be requested by colleges who may consider awarding a merit scholarship. https://fafsa.ed.gov
Flip Block Days	7:35 am start, 95 minute period day with an early release at 12:45 pm
FUHS Foundation	Fremont Union High School Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) that supports all 5 high schools in the district. http://fuhsfoundation.org
FUHSD	The Fremont Union High School District includes Cupertino, Fremont, Homestead, Lynbrook and Monta Vista High Schools as well as various educational options programs http://www.fuhd.org
GPA	Grade point average. An A earns 4 points, B; 3,C:2, D:1 point. Add all points earned each semester and divide by the number of classes taken. See weighted GPA for honors and AP calculations.
Hole in my schedule	Students who are taking less than 7 classes and have a period during the middle of the day with no scheduled class. . These students may study during that time, apply to be a Teacher's Assistant, tutor other students, or with parent permission, get an off-campus pass from the office to leave campus during the period.
Homecoming	Homecoming is the traditional celebration week when alumni "come home" to Monta Vista. It is a week of school spirit and rallies that ends in a football game and a Homecoming dance. Students vote for a prince and princess to represent their class and the entire school selects a Homecoming King and Queen.
Honors	Honors courses are the most rigorous of high school curriculum (unlike AP which is college level curriculum). These classes can be used for calculating a weighted GPA.
IEP	Students in Special Education have an Individual Education Plan. It is a legal document that It identifies the student's learning needs, the services the school will provide and how progress will be measured.
Infinite Campus	Infinite Campus is the name of the student information system used by Monta Vista.
Junior Prom	A special dance held in the spring and organized by the Junior Class Officers.
Junior Varsity (JV)	Junior Varsity or JV is the lower level of play in a sport.
<i>La Pluma</i>	Literary Magazine
LCAP	Local Control and Accountability Plan is a critical part of the new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). Each school district must engage parents, educators, employees and the community to establish these plans.
LeGos	Learning Goals
Mascot	Monta Vista's mascot is the Matador, a Spanish bullfighter. There are two costumed mascots that attend sporting events, Monty the Matador and El Toro the Bull.
Naviance	A software program available to all students and families providing valuable information about colleges and universities. Most college applications are submitted through Naviance.
Open Campus	Monta Vista High School has an Open Campus for lunch, allowing students to leave campus to eat. They may go home, to a restaurant or to other locations as long as they travel safely and arrive back on campus in time for their next class.
Powder Puff	A special class competition event where girls play flag football and boys are the cheerleaders. This is held over a number of days during lunch, typically in the spring.
Prom Bid	A Prom Bid is the ticket for attendance at prom. Each student must have parents sign their approval in addition to paying the individual prom fee. Students wishing to bring a date from another school must have that student and their principal sign a permission slip prior to purchasing a ticket.
PSAT	Preliminary SAT, given to juniors in October: qualifying test for National Merit Scholarship Program
PTSA	Parent Teacher Student Association is a 501(c)(3) charity, and a part of the national PTA. It is a group of adults and students who work to enhance the school and support staff and activities with funding and volunteers. http://www.montavistapta.org
Rally	A special time when students participate in school spirit and celebration of Monta Vista activities.
Rally Court	The courtyard surrounded by the Library, Gym, Art building and Student Union.

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Running of the Bulls (ROTB)	The Monday and Tuesday prior to the start of school in August, students come to the campus for photo IDs and to return important forms. Freshmen and new students are given tours of campus by student leaders who can also answer their questions about MVHS.
RUSH	"Regular" College Prep <u>U</u> nited <u>S</u> tates <u>H</u> istory
SAT	The SAT used to stand for Scholastic Aptitude Test, but now is simply known as a college admission exam. There is a fee to take the exam and the student must schedule their own testing. http://sat.collegeboard.org
SAT 2	The SAT 2 or SAT Subject Tests are optional tests in specific content areas such as Physics, US History, Chinese. These tests require a fee, typically are about 60 minutes in length and are requested or recommended by some colleges. http://sat.collegeboard.org/about-tests/sat-subject-tests
School Site Council	SSC is a group of parents, administrators and school staff that meet monthly to administer some of the state funds provided to the school. This group serves in an advisory capacity on a variety of issues. Parent representatives are elected at Back to School Night.
Schoolloop	Schoolloop provides parents with a way to communicate with the student's teachers and can also provide parents with a more daily view of student's homework and progress. It is set to send a daily email to registered parents with student's assignments and progress as well as news and announcements from the school.
Senior All Night Party (SANP)	A group of parents organized as a 501(c)(3), charitable, tax exempt organization to plan, organize and execute the Senior Graduation Night Party for Seniors each year. http://www.mvsanp.org
Senior Awards	Held the week prior to graduation, this evening event recognizes Seniors who receive scholastic, athletic, activity, and community recognitions.
Senior Ball	A formal dance that is typically held in May. Prom and Ball are terms used interchangeably. Tickets (bids) are bought by each individual and permission forms must be completed by parents and by students who do not attend MVHS. Bus transportation is typically a part of the ticket price.
Senior Night (Sports)	The final home sporting event of each season. It is dedicated to the seniors who will be graduating, and there is typically a special recognition of each player and his or her family.
Smarter Balanced	The name of the company that has developed computer adaptive standardized tests for California students. These tests are held in the spring. After a trial in 2014, the first tests that will provide scores back to students and schools will be in 2015.
Spirit Week/Day	Spirit week is the week of Homecoming as well as other weeks throughout the year. Each Class develops a skit/dance as well as decorates the gym for a spirit filled rally.
Student Lot	The student parking lot is on the west side of campus, with the solar panels. Students must have a parking sticker displayed on their cars in order to park on campus.
TA	Teacher Assistant. Students may ask to "TA" for a teacher during a period when they don't have a class.. They earn elective credits for being a TA.
Tardy	Being late to a class is being Tardy. Teachers report tardy students to administration. Excessive tardy arrival to class can result in consequences.
Teacher Work Day	A day when teachers meet for training, and students do not attend school. Typically the day after finals are completed is a teacher work day so that grades can be calculated for the semester.
TurnItIn.com	A website that allows students to submit their work electronically. It checks student work for plagiarism. Typically a teacher will ask students to submit their papers to turnitin.com by a certain day and time. The day and time stamp must be submitted to the teacher.
Tutorial	A 30 minute period each Thursday when students can meet with a teacher, work with peers, go to the Library, etc. This is time to be used to support learning and to get additional help.
UC	University of California - a group of 10 university campuses in California. http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/
Unexcused Absence	When a student is absent from school for a class period or entire day without a valid excuse. Illness is a valid excuse. The state of California allows only a few reasons as "valid": illness, bereavement, court appointment, medical appointment.
Varsity	Varsity refers to the highest level of competition in a sport.
Verdadera	Alternative newspaper focusing on challenging teen topics
WASC	<u>W</u> estern <u>A</u> ssociation of <u>S</u> chool and <u>C</u> olleges is the group that monitors schools, verifying that schools are providing the education that the state mandates. http://www.acswasc.org

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Weighted GPA	When calculating GPAs, all Honors classes and AP classes are worth an additional point. Thus an A is worth 5 points, a B is worth 4 points, a C is worth 3 points. When applying to colleges, students can report a weighted GPA.
Winter Formal	A formal dance typically held in December
World Core	The sophomore courses of World History and World Literature which are taught in a more traditional classroom environment, one period with the World History teacher and another period with the World Literature teacher. The two teachers collaborate on activities and assignments. The students in the World History class are the same students in the World Literature class .
World Studies	The sophomore courses of World History and World Literature which are taught in a project based environment with team teachers with the same group of students taking one class right after the other. Class size is 60. Homework assignments and projects may be combined between the two.
Yearbook	El Valedor. It is a large book capturing the year in photos. Students get the book at the end of the school year and typically have their friends and classmates autograph its pages. A yearbook is included in the price of the ASB card.

Monta Vista Parent Teacher Student Association (MV PTSA) Terminology

Program	Description
Challenge Success	Challenge Success is a Stanford-based program founded on the belief that our society has become too focused on grades, test scores and performance, leaving little time and energy for our kids to become resilient, successful, meaningful contributors for the 21st century. Monta Vista has partnered with Challenge Success to create our Challenge Success team which is comprised of representatives from all stakeholder groups: students, teachers, counselors, parents and administrators. Our goal is to define the success of our school as fostering a compassionate, inclusive, and collaborative community of academically engaged learners.
Career Night	Professionals speak at Monta Vista on four nights spread throughout the year. Each night has a different topic: Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math; Science, Arts, & Trades; Healthcare & Life Sciences; Business, Government & Non-Profits
Educational Events	Each year the PTSA hosts at free educational talks for the parents and students. We invite outside speakers, as well as internal staff and students to help all of us understand more about ourselves, our relationships and the issues that concern us.
Explore Career	The Explore Career program helps students decide what careers they want to pursue. Two specific events are hosted in alternating years: Career Night Speakers Series in 2016 and 2018, and the Job Shadow Program in 2017 and 2019.
Honorary Service Awards (HSA)	Each year the Monta Vista PTSA honors dedicated volunteers in our community for outstanding service to children and youth. Recipients of the award are nominated by PTSA members.
Hospitality	The Hospitality Committee hosts several events throughout the year for the MV Teachers and Staff. The main events are Welcome Back Breakfast and the Staff Appreciation Lunch. Other events hosted are Back to School Night refreshments, Baccalaureate, Pre-Senior Ball snacks, Custodial Staff lunch, and refreshments for other events
Job Shadow	An excellent opportunity to explore a career by observing and interacting with professionals at their work place. Participating students get a first-hand, insider's look including the academic skills and experience required, responsibilities, tasks, benefits, challenges and rewards.
PSAT/SAT Prep Classes	MVHS PTSA offers PSAT and SAT classes on the Monta Vista campus to help students prepare for the PSAT and SAT tests. Students/families benefit from the convenience of these classes that are taught after school by our very own MV Math and English teachers. It is the best deal in town, costing significantly less than commercial prep programs.
PTSA	Parent Teacher Student Association
PTSA Funding Grants	The PTSA provides financial grants to staff and student clubs. The grants may be used for supplies, activities, equipment or fees that fall outside the school's budget. Funding for grants come from parents' donations to PTSA, membership dues and other fundraising activities.
PTSA Newsletter	Monthly communication sent to the MV Community. We report on events sponsored by MV PTSA at Monta Vista. Highlight on-going programs.
PTSA Service Award	Every year the PTSA Service Award Scholarship is awarded to one senior who has volunteered his or her time and energy to the school and the community.
Reflections	The Reflections Arts Recognition Program is a national arts recognition and achievement program for students. Since 1969, over 10 million students across the nation have taken part in this popular PTA program. The Reflections Program provides an excellent opportunity for students of all ages to unleash their creative talents and express themselves imaginatively to create art inspired by the annual theme and receive positive recognition for their original works of art.
Unsung Hero Award	The "Unsung Hero" Award is given annually to the unlauded, unrecognized individual who quietly makes a difference. This individual does acts of kindness for those in need or in pain (physical, emotional or psychological). This individual goes above and beyond the definition of his/her role with no expectation of pay, praise or recognition. MV PTSA will award ascholarship to the deserving individual.