

STEVE THE CUSTODIAN

By Leah Kaminsky

Five a.m. comes along, and the chirping of the alarm starts to blare. High school custodian Steve Miller is up hours before any student even thinks about opening their eyes. By 6 a.m., he is rolling into the high school. All throughout the day wiping down tables, mopping, sweeping, and sanitizing; keeping this school squeaky clean until 3 p.m., unless there's an athletic event to prepare for and clean up after. But there's so much more that Steve brings to his job.



Steve Miller

Miller graduated from Lisbon High School in 1983. Two weeks later, he was off to basic training for the army. He was what is known as a cable dawg in the military, installing and maintaining wired phone communication systems for nine years. He returned back to Lisbon and became the custodian at his old high school. He has now been a custodian for 33 years, 14 at Mount Vernon.

Some people might categorize being a janitor as a boring job. But it is what you make of it. And Steve makes the most out of everything he does.

"When you work by yourself for years, you have to do something to entertain yourself," Miller said about his contributions that go beyond cleaning. As some may know, Steve makes various creative cakes for students' birthdays. That actually started with cupcakes at Lisbon.

He upped his game at Mount Vernon. Nicole Theobald ('20), received three cakes during her high school years. "They always had layers with the frosting cutting the middle with strawberries on the top," Theobald said, "It was really nice knowing that someone cares for students and wants a good relationship with them. I don't know any other janitor that makes cakes for people."

You will always find Steve with a smile on his face. He uses jokes and sarcasm to interact with students and spark smiles on all faces. "As long as they smile for a half a second, even if they're having a bad day, it's a good day," said Miller.

He lives to give laughter and joy to everyone around him.

"He will call me funny names or take my water bottle when I'm not looking. It really is a bright spot when I'm having a bad day," said senior Alice Conroy.

He has lived in Lisbon his whole life. He spends his time gardening plants and flowers. His front yard is flooded with colorful flowers. He also loves photography and baking. He is surrounded by people at school. It is at home where he can sit back and relax. He does have a couple cats to keep him company as well.

"Steve Miller is not only dedicated to his actual job but manages to know and interact with just about every single student that comes through the building," instructional coach Tawnua Tenley said. "He attends practically all of the sporting events and other events as well, and he manages to do it all with a smile."

Whether it is getting a smile back in the hallway, or an intercom that Steve is needed in the office for a "special" clean up, we can count on Steve Miller.



Angela Achenbach



Bonnie Ahrens



Heather Allen



Alaina Appley



Dr. Greg Batenhorst



Caitlin Bienemann



Valerie Binsfield



Michelle Boyden



Robin Brand



Steve Brand



Jessika Brokel



Lesly Bruner



Matt Burke



Jenifer Carstensen



Brenda Champeau-Oakley



Chris Chapman



Miranda Chapman



Amy Deeb



Sue Deibner



Ann Dew-Hansen



Joy Edgerly



Jackie Engelbrecht



Sean Flockhart



Paul Fugate



Joann Gage

Mary Hale

Katie Heeren

Valerie Horton



Susan Hoyler

Michaela Just

Brett Karkosh

Ned Kelly



Suzette Kragenbrink

Megan Krapfl

Ben Kuker

Timothy Larson



Laura Lopez De Pena

Trista Lynner

Margo Massey

Steve Miller



Lori Moss

Kevin Murray

Erica Nichols

Stephanie Olney



Preston Pedersen

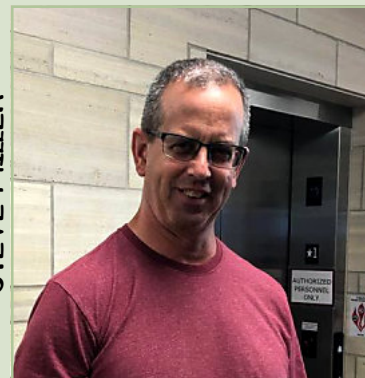
Leann Pisarik

Marcia Purington

Tabitha Rasmussen

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT MVHS?

STEVE MILLER



"Interacting with the students."



STEPHANIE TIMM



When you get older its nice to be around younger people with different ideas. I learn more from the students than they ever learn from us.

Customer is allowed to have objects outside of the margin.

TRIM LINE

TRIM LINE