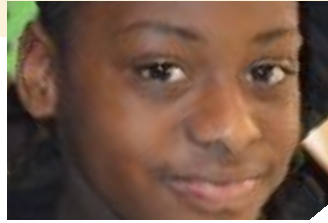




# THE ACADEMIC JOURNAL

Philosophy, Pedagogy, and Perspectives 9.15.17



Welcome to our forty second edition of "The Academic Journal," a bimonthly bulletin in which you can read about MCA's educational philosophy, instructional methodology, and the various viewpoints and positions of our faculty, staff, students, and families.

## *Classical Education*

Over the next several issues of the "Academic Journal," we will offer explanation and insights into MCA's classical education: what it is, why we choose this path, and how we pursue it with integrity. We start here with the school's vision and the introduction. We hope you are enriched.

*Our Vision: As a natural advancement of our stated Mission and Goals, Millennium Charter Academy will develop citizens of virtuous character who think well and, as leaders, contribute to our communities, our nation, and the world. Our students will understand that a good citizen rules and is ruled; is independent, yet simultaneously in relation with others; and, is grounded in an honest search for knowable, universal truth, goodness, and beauty. To foster this model of citizenship, we will maintain our delivery of a robust, liberal arts curriculum, deepen our implementation of classical education, and continue our principle-based discipline grounded in love for the individual and respect for the corporate good, as well as a belief in redemption and growth. Through these means, we will increase our attention to developing the following characteristics of citizenship in our students: 1) an awareness of themselves as members of a community, from local to national to global; 2) a devotion to intellectual and moral integrity, including an ability to fashion credible ideas and to argue logically; 3) a respect for the rule of law; and 4) an appreciation of American constitutional republic.*



Millennium Charter Academy's vision statement declares that one of the ways we will reach our goal of developing virtuous citizens who pursue truth, goodness and beauty and who think well and lead in a constitutional republic is through deepening our implementation of the classical model of education.

The very phrase "classical education" may conjure visions of children running around in togas mumbling Latin conjugations, or desks nailed to the floor in perfectly straight rows with students listening raptly to teachers holding forth about the days of old. Others understand classical education to mean, "the way I was taught in school."

Such a picture of classical education does not exist at MCA. Students leave the buzz of hallways to enter classrooms where teachers have engaging lessons displayed on digital screens. Classrooms are filled with lively discussions, challenging projects, and group activities.



Classical education is not stuck in the past, but rather builds upon the past to refine the understanding of the present; we see farther when we stand on the shoulders of giants. Students who have listened to classic fairy tales may be better able to understand the good and evil present in the world. Students who have read the code of chivalry from the Middle Ages may be better mannered in today's world. Students who have studied the American Revolution may be better equipped to understand present-day conflicts. Students who understand the principles of the Greek city-state may be better able to comprehend the principles of our constitutional republic. To understand the great ideas of history and literature is to be a person who is prepared to lead in the present day.



*Flammarion Wood Engraving*

Classical education has a strong and sure foundation, while the outworking of it takes many forms. Classical education at Millennium Charter Academy is deep, rich, warm, and vibrant. It is built on both democratic and moral principles that work together to form the lives of those who embrace its precepts. It leads to its intended end: the formation of the virtuous citizen.

*Pamela J. Braley*, Upper School Director

