



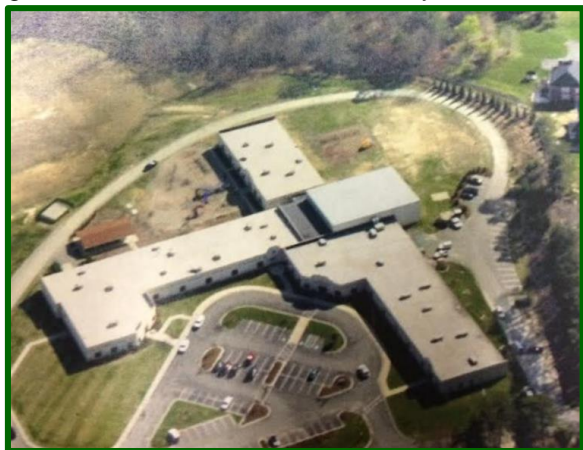
Twenty Years of an Educational Vision

In the late 1990s, several Mount Airy families, wanting a superior quality education for area children, began researching the requirements for starting a local charter school. With many trips to Raleigh and hundreds of hours of work, they founded Millennium Education Foundation. They earnestly desired that the school serve our region as an academic institution focusing on robust academics and moral character development. Additionally, the founders specifically addressed critical thinking skills, attention to individual students, community involvement, and the development of student leadership. The newly formed foundation quickly established committees and recruited additional citizens to help launch the school. Before there was land on which to build a school or even a facility in which to operate, these pioneers recruited students, a director and some of the best teachers in the area. They also mounted a low-key capital campaign, which garnered \$5,000. In late spring Millennium Educational Foundation secured about twenty-two acres of land for construction of a building. Although the new building was not yet complete, Millennium Charter Academy opened for students in August, 2000, renting space from Mount Airy City Schools in their old junior high building which was not being used. Before ninety days had passed, however, the new building was finished, and the students of the new school had a 21,000 square foot, cost efficient, state-of-the-art school building. In that first year, the school served students in grades kindergarten through four. There were thirteen teachers, and one director (principal). Millennium Charter Academy was off and running! The following year, the school added two more teachers and fifth grade.



MCA, circa January 2001. This photograph was made just prior to dismissal. Note the car line. This is also prior to the construction of the lower school gym.

In 2002, with attendance growing and two classes for each of the K-5 grades, the original, and what is now the lower school gym was constructed. In 2003, Mr. Kirby McCrary joined the school as its headmaster. Anticipating the growth that would come, within the year the Board of Directors successfully petitioned the State for grades six, seven, eight, and a total of 360 students. In 2006, to meet the demands of the community, MCA added what is now called wing two (where the library is housed) for grades four and five and what is now called wing three for grades six through eight (where the art gallery is housed). At that point, our facility totaled 63,206 square feet.



MCA, circa 2008. The picnic pavilion is also in place at this point.

Once again, due to the demands of the community, MCA sought approval from the State of North Carolina to expand into high school. That approval was granted in January 2013, and the MCA upper school expansion project began. In the fall of 2014, MCA opened Phase I of the project, with a beautiful new wing complete with glass walls for a commons area providing “casual collegiate” space for our first ninth grade class. Phase II of the project opened in Fall 2017 with seventeen high school classrooms and a beautiful two-story glass walled atrium.



MCA, May 2018. Wing 4, which was Phase I of the high school expansion and now the 7th and 8th grade wing, and wing 5, which was Phase II of the high school expansion are in the foreground. The school now houses grades K-12.

In the spring of 2018, the upper school gymnasium opened, and the floor space of the newest additions nearly doubled the previous facility. Square footage of the entire facility is over 119,000 square feet, and there are over 800 students in grades kindergarten through twelve. Happy 20th Anniversary, MCA! It's been an amazing two decades.

Growth Summary

We grew.....

- from a K-4 school to a K-12 school.
- from zero graduations to having graduated two classes, with approximately 92% of each class continuing on to higher education.
- from 13 employees to over 100 employees, becoming one of the larger employers in Mount Airy.
- from less than 100 students to more than 800 students.
- from one classroom wing to five classroom wings, along with a lower school gymnasium, an upper school gymnasium, two playgrounds, a soccer field, and additional property for a future sports complex.
- from just 56 desktop computers and 13 whiteboards, to over 56 teacher and administrative laptops, 23 computer lab Chromebooks, over 500 student Chromebooks, 34 SMART boards, and 15 classroom TVs
- from having no transportation to having four bus routes that bring over 250 children to school each day.
- from no athletic program to having a full range of sports, including soccer, volleyball, cross country, basketball, cheerleading, softball, baseball, track, tennis, and golf.

Even though so many things have changed throughout the past twenty years, some things have not changed. Our mission remains the same: Millennium Charter Academy is an independent, public school whose classroom is the community, which invites parents, teachers, students, and the community to collectively challenge each child to achieve superior academic standards and to develop the highest moral character. We will expand educational choice with an innovative, student-centered environment producing life-long learners equipped with the knowledge and critical-thinking skills necessary to become leaders in the 21st Century.