



The Herald

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So, Now What?

During Summer 2017, just one year ago, MCA was in the throes of construction, counting down to the opening day of school, while dozens of workers finished floors, painted walls, installed phones and internet lines, and completed wiring, lighting, and the myriad of other tasks required to complete the new high school building. Before that building was even finished, however, construction was well underway on the atrium, which was completed in early January, and the new gym, which was completed this past April. It seemed as if the tasks of approving colors, selecting floor tiles and determining which window styles were needed would never end! Fast forward to this summer, and all of a sudden, everything is complete. There are no more building committee meetings, no more decisions on where the stripes should be painted in the parking lot, and no more problems on how to interface the phone system from one building to another. The building projects, although very rewarding and even very enjoyable, created a veritable storm of “extra” activity literally for months, but again, almost suddenly, everything is complete. So the question begs, now what?

The answer: A LOT!

In our lower school, we are continuing to refine our delivery of the *Core Knowledge Language Arts* program, or CKLA. This reading curriculum for grades kindergarten through five was introduced last year. Teachers in all grades were very pleased with the progress made by students. Mrs. Joy Parsons, MCA kindergarten teacher, remarked, “I can’t wait to see how the students I have this year perform on their end of grade tests when they are in the third grade! This curriculum is certainly setting them up to be successful readers and to have a good understanding of reading and writing.” This coming school year, now that teachers have had a year of experience with the new curriculum, its delivery will be even stronger for our students.



MCA's new gym is open for workouts, events, and games. Photo courtesy of Omega Construction.



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Lower school teachers will also receive additional training in our *Everyday Math* curriculum. *Everyday Math*, developed at the University of Chicago, is geared to help students understand the concepts of mathematics as well as to help them know basic facts. This in turn, enables students to think logically, to see various means to an end, and to apply their knowledge to other real life situations. This training for our teachers will help ensure our lower school students have an even deeper grasp of math and receive a sound foundation in mathematical concepts.

The curriculum continues to advance in our upper school. For grades six through eight, students have the opportunity to take new and different electives. There are some very exciting choices this year, including forensic science, multi-cultural art, mysteries of the body, one hundred years of Broadway, and many more. For a look at all the electives and their descriptions, go to our website at [2018-2019 Electives Descriptions](#). This is a great way for our pre- and early teen students to explore various areas of interest.

The curriculum and offerings in our high school also continue to grow. We are now offering five advanced placement (AP) courses: AP Literature, AP Government and Politics, AP Calculus, AP Biology, and AP Earth and Environmental Science. Advanced placement courses allow high school students who score well on the final exams to obtain college credit for the courses at participating universities, which includes most state universities. High school students will have access to fifteen clubs and competitions. Clubs include Mock Trial, Get Active, Quiz Bowl, Glee, Classics, Astronomy, Dance, Science Olympiad, Writing, Travel, Weightlifting, and Math Help. Students can participate in multiple clubs and competitions simultaneously. Additionally, students may “dual enroll” at Surry Community College for certain classes, where they will receive both high school and college credit for these courses. Furthermore, students may participate in real-time, online classes through the North Carolina School of Science and Math, which will enable them to take classes that are not offered locally.

MCA Athletics is booming! All summer long, student athletes who participate in cheer, soccer, volleyball, basketball, track, and cross-country have been able to participate in open gym sessions using the new court and weight room to improve their skills and to get ready for the coming seasons. Volleyball camps were opened for students in both lower and upper school. Additional coaches are in place, and all our athletic teams are poised to take on the competition and have winning seasons. It’s going to be a great year for the Lions!

As our school has expanded in size, so has our need for custodial and maintenance services. MCA has contracted with the Budd Group from Winston-Salem, NC. The Budd Group brings considerable experience, staffing, new equipment, and many efficiencies for keeping our facility clean and beautiful. They provide services from 7:30 AM to 9:00PM each day, covering all five classroom wings, and both the lower school and upper school gymnasiums.

As you can see, our work didn’t stop with the completion of our new buildings. Frankly, putting up the walls was the easy part. Now that we have this beautiful facility, the real work of educating our students can continue even more in earnest. Now what, you ask? Now we grow. The future has never looked brighter!

