

## MCA Joins the North Carolina High School Athletic Association

MCA is always about improving. In 2012, as we considered adding a high school, school leadership, including the Board of Directors, began investigating the advantages and disadvantages of joining the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, or NCHSAA. This fall, the school applied and was granted membership into the NCHSAA as an independent member beginning in July, 2019. This edition of *The Herald* addresses some of the reasoning, advantages, and misconceptions of this conference change.

Initially, MCA will be an independent member of the NCHSAA, and we will remain independent for at least two years. This will provide us leeway in determining with which schools we compete. At the end of this two year period (2021-2022 school year), MCA will have the opportunity allow the NCHSAA to place us in a defined conference as an entire school or to place only the sports that are ready for conference play into the conference.

One main advantage of joining the NCHSAA stems from the unfortunate fact that the number of schools in our current association, the Carolina Athletic Association for Schools of Choice (CAASC), is dwindling rapidly. Over the last two years, the CAASC has gone from sixty teams to only thirty-one, with additional schools planning to leave in the coming year. If we remain in the CAASC, our student athletes will have to travel even farther than our current trips to North Wilkesboro and Burlington. Many of the schools from our current association, the Carolina Athletic Association for Schools of Choice (CAASC), and in our current conference have joined the NCHSAA. Even though we could still compete against these teams without the NCHSAA, there is discussion about forming a new NCHSAA conference made up of just charter schools from our regional area. Additionally, in the NCHSAA, we will be able to gain more control over scheduling, providing a more balanced schedule for our athletes and generally only two games per week.



**Wil Danley** brings the ball down the court as our men's team played Miller's Creek in front of a packed house during a special afternoon game. MCA basketball always means a great game, great concessions, and always a great time!



Another key advantage of the NCHSAA is that it will provide fair competition with schools of our own caliber or just slightly above. Not only will this strengthen our athletes, it will improve our entire athletic program for team sports. As an aside, we are happy to report that in individual sports such as track, cross country, tennis and golf, MCA athletes are already performing equal to or even above results posted by NCHSAA!

Other advantages of the NCHSAA are less tangible, yet nonetheless quite important for our students. Since the NCHSAA is widely known and respected, it can elevate the value of MCA athletes in the eyes of recruiters from colleges and universities, while also providing our students more opportunities for association level awards and recognition. Additional advantages of the NCHSAA include scholarship opportunities, student leadership conferences, summer camps and retreats for our student-athletes, which the CAASC does not offer, and clinics for our coaches, providing them with new contacts and skills for helping our students.

GO LIONS!!



The MCA cheer team won 2<sup>nd</sup> place recently at the CAASC state tournament, which for the first time, was hosted at MCA. Congratulations to our team on such an important win!