

A Time of Thankfulness and of Giving

This past year has been unlike any in recent memory with challenges that weren't even imagined last year at this time. At MCA, we've worked hard to keep our standards high. We are staying true to our vision of creating intelligent, virtuous citizens who can lead and be led in a constitutional republic, and who seek truth, goodness, and beauty in all that they do. The pandemic has made this more difficult as our instruction now has to be delivered in-person, live streamed, and via recordings; our students and faculty must be distanced from each other, even when in person; and our cleaning routines have increased many times over in many different ways. Additionally, as with almost every school in the nation, enrollment numbers have declined as people have chosen to home school as their personal schedules dictated the need for it.

Just like many other businesses impacted by the pandemic, MCA has had to purchase various extra items, such as personal protective equipment, thermometers, disinfectants, three types of sanitizers (hands, playground equipment, and surfaces used for eating), extra computers, and extra internet bandwidth for streaming classes. Even though there has been limited government funding for some of these items, our school has incurred many new and increased expenses to provide items needed for the additional methods of learning and to keep our students as safe as we know how.



We want to thank you, our parents, for your incredible support during this time. Your words of encouragement whether in person, via notes in folders, or through kind emails have meant so much to so many people. Surprise gift cards left on desks, spice cake bags in the car line, or even fried bologna sandwiches delivered unexpectedly have encouraged our faculty and staff. The response to our request for donated lunches has been incredible. Not only have your donations directly helped students that need them, they have relieved a financial burden for the school. What a wonderful way to make such a difference in our community!

Often as years come to an end and the holiday season is in full array, people are encouraged to give, some because it is a season of giving, and some because it is a period of thanksgiving, some because realizing one's own personal blessings becomes an encouragement to give to others, and some because giving to others can also reduce personal taxes. We hope, if you consider giving at this time of year, that you will remember Millennium Charter Academy. Why give to a public institution, you might ask? The reasons are many. As a charter school, MCA only receives approximately seventy-five percent of the funding given to conventional public schools. We get no capital funding from the state to assist with our recent building expansion, nor do we get any proceeds from the educational lottery system. Our per pupil allotment is the sole source of our funding. More importantly, however, is that your donation will help us fulfill our vision and our mission to challenge the individual, to develop young men and women who live responsibly and make wise decisions, who know how to lead and when and whom to follow, and who strive to embody what is good, true, and beautiful. In short to provide an education like none other in this area.

There are different ways in which you may choose to help us financially. One of the most effective ways to help our school is through a direct donation. No amount is too small or too large. Millennium Charter Academy is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, so donations made directly to the school may be used as a tax deduction, and our finance



office will be glad to receipt your donation accordingly. Funds donated to the school will be used for purchasing reading materials and other educational supplies, keeping our technology running and up to date, assisting with COVID related expenses, or helping us take care of expenses directly related to daily operations. You can rest assured that any funds received will be used honorably.



Another way to help, and one of the easiest, is to continue to donate meals for students on the free and reduced lunch program. Even though your donations cover lunches for this year, any donations in excess of this year's program will automatically be allocated to help families next year. Every cent of your donation will go directly to students in need. To donate a lunch or several lunches, simply select that menu option when you order your child's lunch. You'll find the donation option listed on the first Tuesday of each month, or you may simply donate directly to the school.

Another way to help is through Amazon Smile. This method won't cost you anything. Rather than shopping though Amazon.com, shop though Smile.Amazon.com and select Millennium Education Foundation as your charity of choice. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to our school. This will not change the price or availability of any items, and you'll find the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. A half-percent doesn't sound like much, but with online shopping becoming more of a way of life for more people, pennies add up!

Again, thank you for all the support you've already given, and for your greatest gift of sharing your wonderful children with us. We wish you a healthy, peaceful and joyous holiday season, and we hope that if you do feel inclined to give, you'll consider Millennium Charter Academy in your plans.