



# Preparing for the School Year

The Lion's Roar  
Millennium Charter Academy — Events Worth Roaring About



What a busy summer! We are excited to soon have the teachers and students back to see all of the improvements that have been made. The staff has been cleaning and waxing the floor and painters painting the halls. (Note above the before and after photos of the elementary hall with a bright, fresh, new look.). Additional bottle fill stations have been installed in the elementary and the upper school gym, graciously funded by MPACT. The playground equipment has received a fresh coat of paint. The upper school gym now has a Pixelott Camera system, which allows our families to watch live streaming events and games with a purchase of a subscription. Our banners are all up, framing out the beauty of our school. Teachers are coming in and setting up their rooms in anticipation of our lovely students coming in just a couple of short weeks.

## Paideia Room



*Starry Night*, by Van Gough



Paideia room set up



*The Child's Bath*, by Mary Cassatt

The new Paideia room is set up with beautiful artwork of Mary Cassatt, *The Child's Bath*, and Vincent Van Gogh's *Starry Night*. We know, of course, the word "paideia" relates to our Paideia Seminars, student discussions based on the classical Socratic Seminar that features a collaborative, intellectual dialogue with open-ended questions about a text.

Students from kindergarten to twelfth grade are given a text to examine: a poem, a painting, a chart or graph, a short story, an essay, a word problem, a diagram, a map, a sculpture, or the description of a scientific experiment. With the class sitting facing one another, the teacher initiates the conversation to improve students' individual ability to think about and communicate in "a discussion of the ideas, the values, and the forms embodied in [the] products of human art." (Mortimer Adler) When engaged in a seminar, each student also experiences both the thinking process of other individuals and the collective thinking process of the group. Both can provide an educative model for transparent, flexible, and coherent thinking. The Paideia Seminar is also designed to support collaborative discourse, requiring students to practice complex social skills.

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