



Millennium Charter Academy

High School Profile 2021–2022

Character Scholarship Community

Developing intelligent, virtuous young men and women, who lead in a constitutional republic and who pursue truth, goodness, and beauty

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Overview

A K-12 school located in Mount Airy, NC, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Millennium Charter Academy was founded in 2000 and serves the educational needs of students within an approximate fifty-mile radius. Admissions is based solely on availability of seats. Approximately 15% of our student body participates in low-income programs. The ethnic and racial diversity of our student body is roughly the same as the neighboring area. MCA's charter is secured through 2025.

In keeping with MCA's goal of education to develop intelligent, virtuous citizens who pursue truth goodness, and beauty, our students are encouraged to take courses geared toward a thoughtful, meaningful education rather than to choose courses based on their ability to increase one's GPA.

Academics

MCA, a public, college preparatory school, offers a comprehensive, classical liberal arts course of study built around the Trivium and Quadrivium as articulated through the Western tradition. Ultimately, study focuses on the perennial questions of the human experience. The curricular integration of the humanities and the sciences along with the great ideas from antiquity to the present serve as a powerful context in which students mature intellectually and morally.

Students take six, 55-minute, yearlong classes, and they are graded on a weighted, 10-point scale. All courses are taught at the honors or AP level, except those for students with specially designed instruction. In this rigorous academic environment, MCA recognizes graduates with a weighted 3.5-3.74 as Cum Laude, 3.75-3.99 as Magna Cum Laude, and 4.0 or higher as Summa Cum Laude.

Student Life

Millennium Charter Academy offers a comprehensive athletic program to enrich our students' lives: soccer, volleyball, basketball, track, tennis, cross country, golf, baseball, softball, and cheerleading. To participate students are required to maintain a C average in all classes. MCA is also a member of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

MCA provides other enriching activities, such as after-school courses in fine arts, National Honor Society, student government, clubs geared toward astronomy, chess, singing, dance, travel, weightlifting, medical professions, and the outdoors, as well as interscholastic competitions, such as Science Olympiad, Mock Trial, Quiz Bowl, National History Day, math competitions, and various national writing contests.

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Awards

In 2014, Hillsdale College awarded Millennium Charter Academy the Henry Salvatori Prize for Excellence in Teaching. This award (and \$25,000) is given annually to one charter school in the U.S. whose teachers exhibit a strong commitment to classical education in the great Western tradition and to the teaching of virtue and citizenship throughout the curriculum.

Features

Capstone: The Senior Capstone, a full credit course, is the culmination of a student's training in rhetoric at Millennium Charter Academy. It consists of three parts: 1) a short biography that summarizes the student's growth of character and goals for continued growth, 2) a cultural artifact (a performance, the crafting of an object of beauty, the organization of a service project, or other demonstration of cultural impact, and 3) an oral thesis defense.

Clusters: Juniors and seniors may elect to focus in one of three clusters: arts and humanities, STEM, or entrepreneurial study. Electives include courses such as Journalism, Theater, Computer Technology and Design, Economics, Instrumental Music, and Vocal music.

Dual Enrollment: Juniors and seniors can earn college credits through dual enrollment in the local community college.

Advanced Placement: Calculus AB, Computer Science, Environmental Science, United States History, and Chemistry.

Colloquium: Three to four times a year high school students participate in an academic seminar of a broad field of study, such as "Body, Mind, and Soul: How Shall We Live?" or "The Great Dance: Finding Ourselves in the Universal Story." For up to five days at a time, students engage in lectures, conversations, related skills, thinking, and making.

Paideia: These seminars foster critical and creative thinking through Socratic style questioning, intellectual coaching, and mastery of information. This process begun in kindergarten teaches essential skills for a democratic society and for human flourishing.

Student Government: In keeping with our vision statement, which says a citizen "rules and is ruled," through the government the students become better equipped to self-govern, to lead, and to take responsibility and ownership for all facets of life in upper school through the seven councils: governing, service, honor, student life, athletics, house, and literary.

The Numbers

577	SAT ERW average
593	SAT Mathematics average
1170	SAT average
21.5	ACT average composite
73	CLT ¹⁰ average
61.2%	NC EOC Biology proficiency
62.5%	NC EOC Math I proficiency
73.9%	NC EOC Math III proficiency
76.6%	NC EOC English II proficiency
752	Student body enrollment
144	High school students

25	Units for graduation
1	Senior Capstone Project
1	Fine Arts Survey
1	Health and Fitness
2	Latin or Spanish
3	Electives
4	Sciences
4	Mathematics
4	Mathematics
5	Hist/Geo, Econ, Civics
4	English

