



The Herald

January 2013

A Publication of the MCA Office of
Advancement and Development



The Millennium Charter Academy High School

History

Since the MCA Middle School opened in 2006, almost on a weekly basis prospective parents have inquired about the possibility of a high school. Until the fall of 2011, the answer was always, "There are no plans for a high school at this time." At that time, however, an MCA parent approached the Board of Directors with a petition signed by over two hundred people, asking that MCA add grades nine through twelve. As a result, the Board formed a committee to study the feasibility of adding a high school. This committee met at least twice monthly, with much research conducted outside the meetings in order to complete their task. On September 18, 2012, after a feasibility committee report to the Board of Directors, the Directors voted unanimously to apply to the North Carolina State Board of Education to extend MCA's charter to include grades nine through twelve. The school's leadership submitted a proposal to the State Board of Education (SBE) on October 4 of last year. Permitted by state regulations to write an impact statement in response to our proposal, Surry County Schools and Mount Airy City Schools did so, basically protesting the expansion. In a letter to the SBE, MCA refuted those statements. Then, on January 11, 2013, the NC Office of Charter Schools informed MCA that the SBE had indeed approved the expansion request and that classes could begin in Fall 2014. Consequently, in January of this year, the Board of Directors renamed the feasibility committee the High School Development Committee to begin the process of actually creating and opening the high school.

"We are about to introduce to this community a high school education about which they have never dreamt, except for in the minds of our own MCA families."

-- Kirby McCrary,
Headmaster

FAQs

Where will the new high school be located?

Although several scenarios are being investigated, the Development Committee believes the most logical location will be on or adjoining the current campus. Academically, financially, logistically, and for the sake of the school's philosophy this solution seems most prudent. It would allow for the sharing of ball fields, administration, and staff. It would be convenient to parents with children in various grades, and it would also help unify the staff under one educational vision. However, all possibilities are being explored, including refurbishing an existing building inside the city limits of Mount Airy and purchasing new land adjacent or nearby the school.

"Our vision is that the knowledge and skills our students develop at MCA will prepare them to take college by storm. The character they develop at MCA will prepare them to excel in all of life."

-- Erik Moledor,
MCA Board of Directors

Will the high school negatively impact K-8?

One thing that the MCA Board of Directors has made clear from the very start of the inquiry process is that the high school will in no way, shape, or form negatively impact the existing school in funding, staffing, facility, curriculum, or any other facet of the educational process.

MILLENNIUM CHARTER ACADEMY OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

500 Old Springs Road Mount Airy, NC 27030

336.789.7570 (p)

336.789.8445 (f)

www.mccademy.com

mca@mccademy.com



What kinds of classes will be offered?

The high school will offer a full curriculum of honors level and higher classes, including AP classes. Elective clusters will also be offered to juniors and seniors.

What electives will be offered?

Elective classes will be offered in three broad areas: STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), business and entrepreneurial, and arts and humanities. There will be various courses within each area available to the students as elective courses.

Where will the money come from to start the school?

The Development Committee is considering TeamCFA, a network of charter schools dedicated to the mission of student achievement, academic excellence, measurable results, and bringing school choice to more students and their families. (As an aside, the Challenge Foundation, which funded our current science lab, spawned TeamCFA.) Banking and government institutions may also provide support in the form of a loans and grants, as may private donations. Once the school begins, the same per pupil allotment (from tax money) common to all North Carolina public schools will supply ongoing funding.

How many students will be in the high school?

The current plan calls for an initial fifty students in ninth grade, with an additional fifty students for each of the three subsequent years, making the enrollment two hundred students by the time the twelfth grade is added.

What about an athletic program?

Athletics will play a large role in the high school. Scheduled to start in 2014, are soccer, volleyball, basketball, softball, track and field, and cheerleading, all at the junior varsity level. The school will add more each following year. Currently, there aren't any plans for a football team because of student body size and expenses, but it could be a possibility in the future.

Will the students be given computers like the students in middle school?

Current plans call for the implementation of a BYOD (bring your own device) program for the students, such as is implemented in many colleges and even businesses. Most students of high school age already have a device, whether it is a smart phone, tablet, slate, or laptop, that is internet ready and would allow them to complete homework assignments. Of course, in this scenario, MCA would be most willing to work with students that did not have access to a device. It is also possible that a one to one laptop (or other device) program in the high school could still be implemented.

“Expanding MCA to include a classical high school will allow us to fully implement our vision by employing a deep and rich curriculum that will move each student toward the ideal of wisdom and virtue.”

**-- Pamela Braley,
MCA Dean of Students,
Dean of Academics**

"I am truly excited about going to Millennium's High School. There's always that flutter of anticipation when I think of going there and being the first freshman class. I love our curriculum, and all the freedoms that we have at Millennium."

-- Sarah Shepherd, 7th grade

How will we find out more information about the high school as things progress?

There are many ways that information will be disseminated. Currently, the Development Committee is creating a blog that people may reference online to get the latest updates. Of course, we will still use our current methods of e-mail updates, as well as our monthly publications of *The Academic Journal*, *The Lion's Roar*, and *The Herald*.

There will be a high school update session at the annual second trimester MPACT meeting on Thursday, February 7, 2013, beginning at 6PM. Before the meeting, from 4PM to 6PM, come experience the MCA art show and enjoy edible art created by our students!