



The Herald

July 2012

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Advancement and Development



Summer Changes at MCA

Ah.....summertime, and the living is easy! At least that's what the 1935 song composed by George Gershwin for the opera *Porgy and Bess* says. Yes, the living is a bit easier, but things keep moving right through the summer at MCA. Purchases for the coming school year are made and delivered, deep cleaning is completed, and new teachers are hired, just to name a few of the things that go on. This edition of *The Herald* is dedicated to showing you just a few of the changes you'll see when school starts in August. We hope you've had a wonderful summer, and we are certainly looking forward to seeing you next month!



New MCA Faculty Members

MCA has five new faculty members for this coming year. Although many educational systems have been forced to make staffing cuts, MCA has experienced growth during the past year, and the new staff allows for smaller class sizes and the potential for increased enrollment in our middle school.

Each of these new teachers meshes well with the MCA philosophy and looks forward to the coming year. If you'd like to read more about the new teachers, check out this article in the Mount Airy News: http://www.mtairynews.com/view/full_story/19593290/article-Millennium-holds-orientation-for-new-staff?instance=search_results

From left to right:

Brittany Branch will be teaching 7th and 8th grade science. She has a BS in animal science from NC State University and a teaching license through UNC-Greensboro. Since 2010, she has taught eighth grade at Southeast Middle School in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.

Toby Bunton will be teaching 7th and 8th grade English. He is a fifth year teacher with a BA in English from UNC-Greensboro. He uses the Socratic methods of teaching, and excels in the ability to engage students that struggle.

Mike Drury will be teaching 6th and 7th grade history, and he is a recent graduate from Calvin College in Michigan. He holds a teaching degree in history and social studies. Before coming to MCA, he taught regular and honors high school classes, and he has skills in stage sound and lighting.

Martha Arrington is MCA's Athletic Director. A licensed teacher, Mrs. Arrington has a BA in Exercise and Sport Science with Child Development as a second course of study. She has new ideas to implement in our physical education program, including healthy living logs that involve parents, the introduction of new sports through PE classes, and the development of summer camps.

Brett Livengood is currently in his third year of teaching and will be working with 6th and 7th grade math at MCA. He substituted at MCA in 2008-2009 and then taught high school technology classes in Surry County and 6th – 8th grade mathematics classes in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County.

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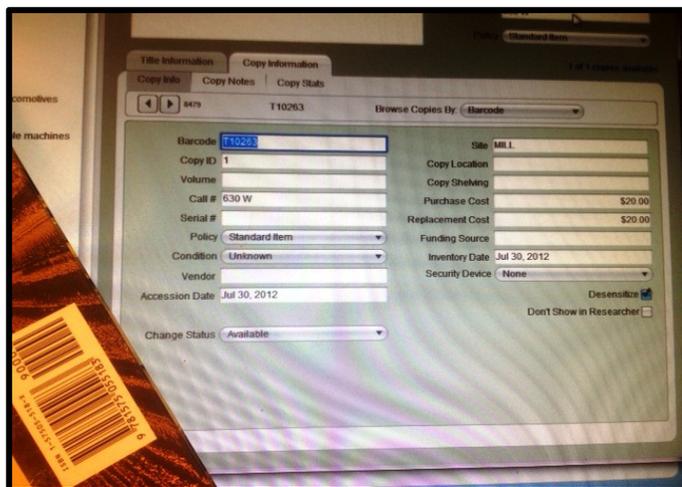


The Sky's the Limit !!

MCA's 1:1 laptop program is reaching to the sky this year. As a natural progression of our laptop program, we're moving into the "cloud." The cloud, technologically speaking, is using a network for data storage, software, and basic computing. Instead of having traditional laptops that use a Windows or Mac operating system as we have for the last seven years of our program, our new Google Chromebooks will allow students to use Google's cloud services applications for documents, presentation development, and other facets of their work. All student work will be stored on Google servers and not individual student laptops. This set-up will provide many advantages for our students. For example, if a student's computer were to crash, homework assignments will be saved in the cloud and not impacted by the crash. Students will be able to access any school work at home from a home computer, and collaboration activities on group projects will be much easier and more reliable.



Google Chromebooks are actually Samsung Series 5 laptops, boasting solid state hard drives, impact resistant screens, an eight second boot-up time, and a nine hour battery life.



This photo shows a screen shot of the Alexandria book cataloging input screen. Every ISBN (international standard book number) from every library book was entered into the system, along with title, author, and MCA bar code information.

The Library at Alexandria

Perhaps it wasn't as devastating as the loss of the Royal Library of Alexandria during Julius Caesar's day, but it was certainly depressing when, during the last month of last school year, the MCA Follett library cataloging system went down and was unable to be repaired. As a result, MCA researched and purchased a new library system called Alexandria. This new system offers ease of use and certain functionality not present in the Follett system. During the summer, all library books were cataloged into the Alexandria system. By the time school starts, student information will be entered into the system, and book circulation will be completed using the new and more flexible software.

Extra Shine for Everyone !

MCA's housekeeping staff always does an outstanding job of doing deep cleaning for the facility every summer, but this summer, they went above and beyond the norm. In the elementary building, hard surface floors were completely stripped of old wax, and several coats of new wax were applied. The result is a mirror shine and squeaky clean floors for our students.



The dividing line between stripped and waxed floors is striking. Hard surface floors in the elementary building, all classrooms and offices, were stripped and waxed, and all other hard surface floors throughout the whole building were cleaned and re-waxed.