



MILLENNIUM CHARTER ACADEMY

THE ACADEMIC JOURNAL

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Welcome to our fifth edition of "The Academic Journal," a bimonthly bulletin where you can read about MCA's educational philosophy, instructional methodology, and the various viewpoints and positions of our faculty, staff, students, and families.

SUMMER READING

Readng, as you well know, is the foundational skill to formal education; but, it is even more than an academic discipline. It can open the door to a life of independence, to the discovery of truth, to entertainment, and to personal and spiritual growth.

Our faculty takes great care in selecting the required summer reading, going to great lengths to find just the right selections. Although the particular objectives of each grade level may vary, the primary goals are always to promote literature that feeds the soul—that is the mind, the will, and the emotions, to develop reading skills, and to enrich MCA's academic climate. Working through the process of choosing, the faculty considers the quality of writing, the conceptual content, connections to the curriculum, the reading level, and even the affordability. They also want summer reading to be meaningful, as well as enjoyable. As a result of recently established guidelines, our teachers try to vary the books from year to year and to avoid books whose stories have been made into movies.

When promoting the selections to the students, the faculty may have some type a kickoff during the last days of school. They may read aloud a few pages leaving the students wanting more. In August, they may post on the walls student work dealing with the summer reading. Teachers may run summer book clubs. The older grades may suggest a timeframe for reading the book(s).

MCA will inform parents of specific places where the book(s) can be acquired, including bookstores, libraries, online addresses, and book exchanges. On the last day of school, we provide families the opportunity to buy the required summer reading. For parents, the faculty may also outline the academic goals for each selection.

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The faculty designs ways for their rising class to interact with the reading over the summer. Incoming first graders may rank their books in order of preference. Rising fourth graders may write a brief personal response to a scene from the literature. Rising eighth graders may reply to five analytical questions about their reading. During the first two weeks of school in the fall, each class will address the summer reading through various activities, which may involve literature circles, book celebrations, creative book talks, a character museum, or interacting with another class. The faculty will also assess students' grasp of the reading.

MCA strives not only to develop a student's reading ability, but also to cultivate a desire to read high quality literature where ideas and stories matter, where books engage the mind and the heart. We want to inspire, challenge, and even entertain our students. So, enjoy the summer reading.

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