



The Herald

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From the Office of Advancement and Development:

A Brylcreem Education?? by Lu Ann Browne



Some of you may remember the old slogan for Brylcreem, a hair care product for men, that claimed “a little dab’ll do ya!” While that may be true for Brylcreem, it is not the best approach for education, although there are those that might opt for that approach because of work ethics or scheduling.

At MCA, our faculty strives to educate the whole child. Our curriculum helps make this possible with the integration of Core Knowledge with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, the conceptual basics of Everyday Math, the inquiry based approach of science, the hands-on approach to teaching language and social studies, and the instruction of technology and the arts. Homework is also an integral part of the educational process. Some

schools utilize classroom scheduling that cuts back on the amount of instructional time so that homework becomes class work. While this may seem very inviting in today’s busy environment, it has negative repercussions by obviously reducing classroom time and eliminating the reinforcement of lessons learned. Research has documented that schools that require regular and meaningful homework assignments increase the academic performance of their students.

MCA uses homework to provide opportunities for practicing skills introduced in the classroom, problem solving, and enhancing creativity. Homework helps develop organizational skills that will carry through to high school and beyond. Homework provides a window for parents to observe what is being taught in the classroom and to know what their children are learning, and it even provides a great opportunity for discussion of various topics at home. It also allows teachers to monitor the achievement of their students.

So, will a little dab do ya? Maybe, if you’re slicking back your hair, but if you’re wanting a quality education for your child, you need more than that. At MCA, with the robust curriculum, philosophy, pedagogy, and yes, even homework, our children are most definitely NOT getting a Brylcreem education.

“Skill to do comes of doing...” --Ralph Waldo Emerson

Changes for the MCA Science Lab

Because we were able to shift classrooms, the MCA science lab has been freed up from being a full time classroom, and is now open to the entire school for use. The MCA science lab is a high school caliber lab, conducive to safe and orderly hands-on experiments and projects.





Meet Our New Faculty



Left to right: Angie Umstead, Christie Marsh, Matt Elder, Mandy Haymore, and Ann Moore enjoy their New Hire Orientation. Photo courtesy of Morgan Wall, The Mount Airy News



Mrs. Pam Braley, Dean of Middle School Students and Dean of Academics and Pedagogy, addresses the new teaching staff. Photo courtesy of Morgan Wall, The Mount Airy News

Mandy Haymore (Middle School Science)

With her Masters degree and National Board certification, Mrs. Haymore is also NC licensed in middle grades science and math. She has held no less than six positions of leadership and was a reference point for her former principal, who sought her counsel on numerous issues. She was also awarded "Teacher of the Year" in 2009-2010.

Ann Moore (Middle School English)

Of all the candidates interviewed, Mrs. Moore has been singularly focused on teaching at MCA. She is certified in all subjects, kindergarten-sixth grades and in middle school English language arts. She graduated with a Masters from Appalachian State University with 3.9 GPA and most recently taught for the Surry County Schools. She also has a minor in history and love for that subject, as well.

Matt Elder (Middle School History)

In 2010, Mr. Elder finished his undergraduate degree in English and history. During this past year, he continued his studies at the University of Pittsburgh where he earned his Master's degree (and a 4.0) in English writing, history, and his teaching. During that same year he student taught economics, government and political science, and social studies at Canon-McMillan High School in Pittsburgh, assuming a full teaching load for a full year, despite the fact that the university required only three classes and a portion of the year. He is experienced and interested in helping to coach soccer, track, and swimming.

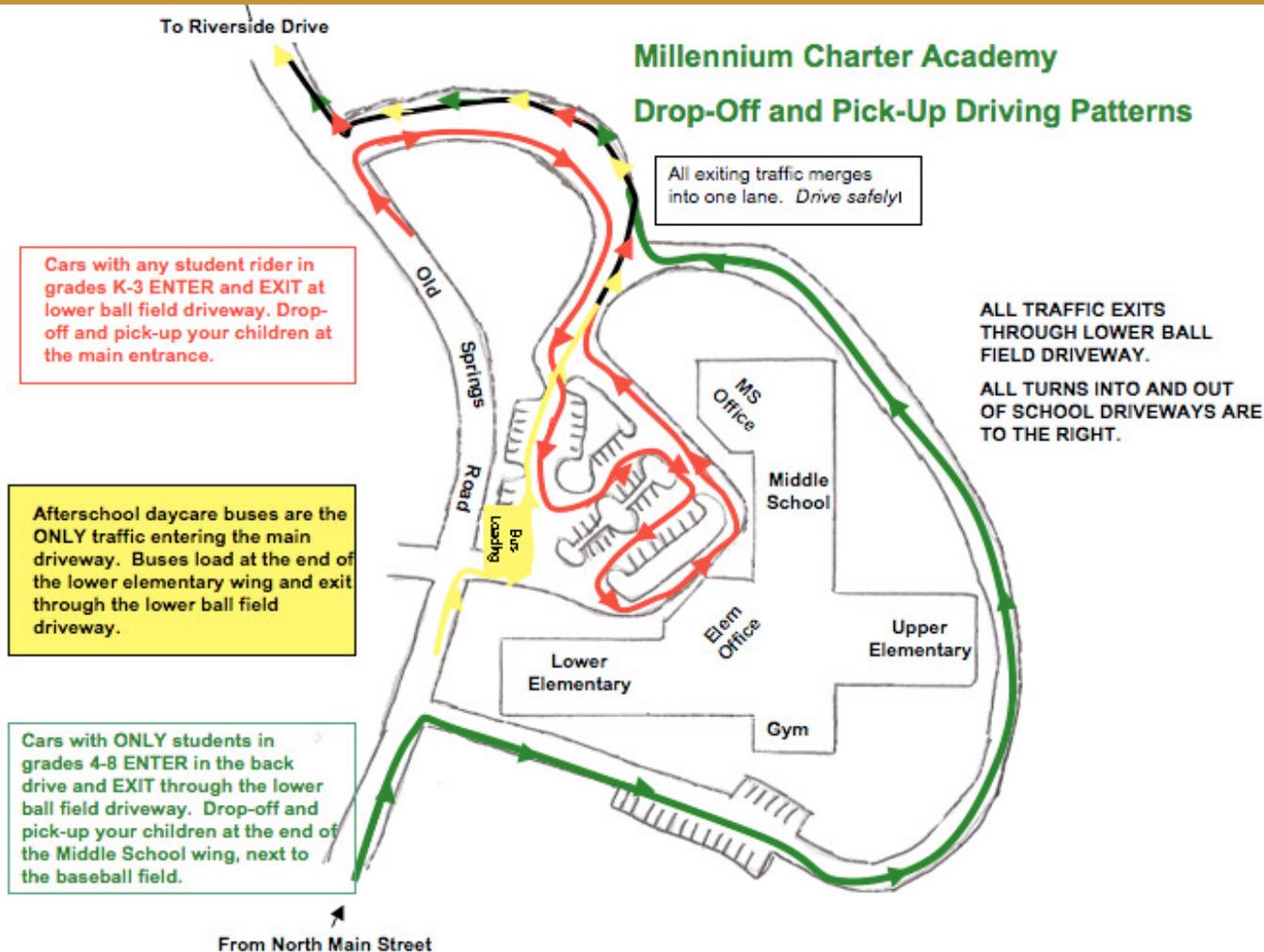
Angie Umstead (Second Grade Teaching Assistant)

Mrs. Umstead has enthusiastically and ably substituted for us in K-8 for more than five years, and she currently serves on the Board of the Athletic Booster Club. As most of us already know, she regularly brightens the day of those around her and is willing to tackle most any situation. She is the mother of two MCA children, one in elementary school and one in the middle school.

Christie Marsh (Second Grade Teaching Assistant)

Mrs. Marsh is very familiar with the school's operation, being a long-time parent and having served as a regular substitute, a regular volunteer, and a member of the Lion's Watch (our before/after school care) staff. In the past, she has also served energetically on MPACT. If she sees anything that needs doing, she just does it, and does it well. Many of our current elementary teachers and TAs, furthermore, frequently request that Mrs. Marsh be their substitute should they be out. She is also the mother of a child in Upper Elementary.

To read more about the new hire orientation process, check out this link in *The Mount Airy News*:
http://www.mtairynews.com/view/full_story/14879200/article-New-faculty-members-welcomed-to-school?



Drop-Off: 7:30 – 8:00 AM: Students may be dropped off for school from 7:30 to 8:00. If you need to drop off your child earlier than that, please contact the school about enrollment in The Lion’s Watch, MCA’s before and after school program. Children in the school will wait in designated areas before being released to their classrooms just before 8:00. Remember that the children’s instructional day begins promptly at 8:00 AM. Be sure that your child is in his/her seat and ready to begin by that time. Delays can sometimes occur in the drop-off line when many people choose to drop students off at 7:55 AM, so please plan accordingly. All children, K-8, will be counted tardy after 8:00 AM.

Pick-Up Time: 2:30 – 2:45: Thank you for following our two traffic patterns described above for pick-up, just the same as you do for dropping off. This procedure allows us to load sixteen cars at one time and to get cars off the street as soon as possible. Please do not pick-up your child at back door entrances, as this jeopardizes their safety, as well as that of other drivers. Out of consideration for your child, as well as the faculty and staff, who still have much work to accomplish before they can go home, please be sure that you have made arrangements for your child to be picked up no later than 2:45.

No Left Turns: Only right turns should be made into and out of school driveways. The Mount Airy Police Department is enforcing the posted “no left turn” signs in order to prevent traffic from backing up in our parking lot and on Old Springs Road. Please do not make any left turns into or out of any school driveway during the hours of 7:30 – 8:30 AM, or 2:15 – 3:15 PM. We also urge you be considerate of our neighbors. Do not block their driveways or street entrances. If you are in a line of cars on Old Springs, and you see a neighbor trying to turn onto the road, out of courtesy please yield the right of way.