

Millennium Charter Academy

High School Profile 2017–2018



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, 50-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 3.8-4.099 as Cum Laude, 4.1-4.399 as Magna Cum Laude, and 4.4 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, fencing, baseball, softball, and cheerleading. To participate students are required to maintain a C average in all classes.

MCA also provides other enriching activities, such as National Honor Society, Interact Service Club, an outdoor club, the student government, and after-school courses in fine arts, as well as interscholastic competitions including Science Olympiad, Mock Trial, math competitions, and various national writing contests.

MCA is a proud, founding member of the Central Carolina Conference for Academics, Athletics and Arts, bringing together sixteen schools throughout the Piedmont region of North Carolina.

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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 United States 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 any other demonstration of a way in which the student has impacted the culture, 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, Advanced Computer Technology and Design, Economics, Instrumental Music, and Vocal music.

Advanced Placement: U.S History, Earth and Environmental Science, Literature and Composition, Government and Politics

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 six councils.

The Numbers

629	SAT ERW average	24	Units for graduation
592	SAT Mathematics average	1	Senior Capstone Project
1221	SAT average	1	Fine Arts Survey
22.7	ACT average	1	Health and Fitness
98	NWEA MAP Reading national percentile	2	Latin or Spanish
89	NWEA MAP Math national percentile	3	Electives
96%	NC EOC Biology proficiency	4	Sciences
85%	NC EOC Math I proficiency	4	Mathematics
93%	NC EOC English II proficiency	4	History
859	Student body enrollment	4	English
170	High school students		