

Monument Academy High School FAQs

The following questions were asked at the information meeting on December 5, 2016. Questions will continue to be added as they are asked.

Q: Is the high school something that has been planned?

A: The Monument Academy Board of Education has been operating under their strategic plan. It was outlined in the meeting on December 5, 2017 by the board president, Sonya Camarco, as she explained that the board has been working to complete the strategic goals in the following order:

- Refinancing of the old school bonds - this happened two years early with outstanding rates leading to added financial stability.
- Negotiated a new contract with District 38 - terms led to a ten year contract with no administrative fees.
- True up of teachers compensation in order to place all of our teachers at a more competitive rate among charter schools.
- Expand to grades 9-12

Q: How will Monument Academy High School be different than the already good high schools in the area?

A: MAHS simply will not be for everyone. It is a very unique program. It will be a program that has an emphasis on individualized programs focusing on developing students in leadership. Here are a few stand out characteristics that are unique to our program:

- Leadership Program - every freshman and sophomore will complete for credit our Leadership Academy. This is a corporate-designed program that has been designed by Strata Leadership who is partnering with MAHS to adapt this for our students. It focuses on self-leadership, team leadership, organizational leadership, and community leadership.
- Internships - Every student in their junior or senior year will serve an internship for one semester with one of our community partners. The students will learn firsthand how to serve in the workplace. This will give them an opportunity to test their career interest and add this valuable experience to their growing portfolios.
- Portfolios and Capstones - Students will begin building their portfolio in ninth grade. This will be a fluid project that demonstrates their college and career path. Students will learn skills to become successful and contributing citizens. Capstone projects are required of every senior. These are original works of the student.
- Liberal Arts and Science with an emphasis in Civics with a balance of the visual and performing arts for all students. We want students to find their own passions in learning and grow to the greatest extent possible in high school. We also want them to be able to think for themselves and one day carry on an engaged intelligent conversation with the most knowledgeable individual and offer rewarding contributions to the conversation.
- Fully integrated technology in all classrooms with a continuity of our one-to-one iPad program
- Small class sizes - each grade will grow to 100 students with class sizes of 24 in core classes.

- Unique Student Government - House System based on a student leadership model. It is similar to a restorative justice program with the added support of competition and organization. Students will enjoy becoming part of a House and sharing many memorable activities.

Q: *Will there be a sports program?*

A: We will offer opportunities for athletics. We need to be realistic and grow into a program. The first year we will field the teams we are able to with the students we have but in time, it is the intention to offer a full sports program. We believe athletics provides a perfect opportunity for the students to put into practice the character and leadership training they are receiving.

Q: *What languages will be offered?*

A: Latin, Spanish, and French will be the initial offerings. We are encouraging the freshmen to take Latin their first year in order to fulfill this requirement.

Q: *How many credits are required for graduation and how does this compare to district high schools?*

A: MAHS will require 240 (24 is how they are stated in some schools) credits to graduate. 180 are required by the state. In order to properly compare to other schools, it is important to look at a chart side by side. We do have such charts available for viewing. High schools in our area require 250 (25) credits to graduate. The major difference between other high school requirements and ours are in the **true** requirements of the core subjects. An example would be shown in the electives. MAHS has 40 as a minimum requirement and area high schools have 110 as a minimum. There is a vast difference in the quality of coursework received yearly.

Q: *Will there be transportation?*

A: No. Charter schools do not have transportation provided to them as general public schools do. Our high school students will be able to drive to school if they have their own transportation.

Q: *Will students in Monument Academy Middle School have a seat in the high school?*

A: Yes

Q: *When will Monument Academy High School open?*

A: The hope is that we will be able to open the fall of 2017 with a ninth grade. We will not know with certainty until an authorizer accepts our application. Unfortunately we must state that this is an unknown right now.

Q: *Will this be a District 38 high school?*

A: One of the factors that came out of our charter contract was that the district opened the opportunity for us to charter with another authorizer. We have a window of time to "shop" adjoining districts to see if they would be interested in working with us on our high school dream. At this point we are not positive who will be the authorizer for our high school.

Q: *What is the timeline on knowing when we will open?*

A: Monument Academy administration has now completed everything necessary to present our plans to a district for consideration. This alone is a big accomplishment and representative of many years of planning. We are already working behind the scenes in conversations with many

people. Once our school board is ready, we will submit our application within the window allowed by statute. Once a district receives our application, they have 75 days to review and give us an answer. At that point we can give our parents the definitive answer they desire. In the meantime, we are continuing to press forward.

Q: Where will the campus be?

A: Again, due to the certain unknowns, we cannot give a definite answer. What we can provide is that we have learned some valuable lessons from our existing property of what we do not want! We do have people searching the area for real estate. We are narrowing our search to a five-mile radius of our current campus.

Q: How can I get my student on the list for the new high school?

A: The most important thing you can do right now is to fill out a Letter of Intent. We need to know how many parents are interested. You will see from the Letter of Intent that it does not commit you but gives us an indication of how many students we may have. These forms enable us to plan and prepare.

Q: What about my children who are not old enough for high school? Should I fill out a Letter of Intent?

A: Yes. It is helpful for us to know of your interest and Intent for the future.

Q: Will the students in the high school be required to wear uniforms?

A: No. There will not be uniforms in the high school. There will be a dress code but no uniforms.

Q: Will the students be able to continue with their interest in the arts?

A: A key part of the high school program is creating an environment that is designed around building student leadership and talents. This would encourage their development in the arts as well. Appreciation of the arts is understanding the heart and emotion of education. We will continue what has begun in the middle school with our band, orchestra, drama, dance, choir, and other programs in which students can perform. The visual arts will also be an element of the program.

Q: Will the daily schedule compliment the other school's start time and dismissal times?

A: The schedule that has been drafted has taken Monument Academy Elementary and Middle School schedule in mind. Parents should have no problem with getting to both campuses on time. The school calendars will also be the same.