



Monument Academy

East Campus

A School of Excellence Since 1996

January 6, 2023

Dear Monument Academy High School Families,

We have enjoyed an *excellent* start to the second semester here at the East Campus, and I am pleased to bring you my first principal letter of 2023.

As staff and students returned this week, they brought with them palpable excitement and energy. For three days the building has been alive with learning and vibrating with enthusiasm. So, if you need a morale boost or want to renew your esprit for the new year, please drop in for a visit or volunteer to fill one of guest teaching/substitute positions.

In this new calendar year and as we look ahead to the spring semester, I would like to talk about the culture I see flourishing at the high school and the shared vision we are pursuing toward what I am confident will be a bright future.

As a small, high-performing, classical, charter school, we endeavor - every day – to build a tight-knit, academically focused community where each student is valued for their unique contributions.

Please see below for how we aim to provide this personal, individualized education to every student and a rich and enjoyable high school experience.

Culture and Community

There has hardly been a week this school year where we have not had a parent or grandparent in the building serving as a guest teacher/substitute – sometimes at the last minute! When a staff member wakes up with a fever and must call in sick, the first call made by Mrs. Ritschard, our executive secretary, is often to our parents.

I am grateful and appreciative to be in such a parent-involved school community, an element which adds immense value and gravity to any school. I also listen and value your feedback. We are currently reviewing the SAAC Parent Survey, which many in our community completed over the break.

A clear trend in that survey was a desire for increased frequency in detailed communication. To that end, and starting today, we will aim to release the *Lynx News* on weekly basis. On most Fridays, you can look to your inbox for that newsletter.

Student Performance and Rigor

Today we provided students hard copies of their high school transcripts which have been updated with semester-1 grades. We made the decision to send home transcripts, vice report cards, for two reasons. First, transcripts display grades for any college or CDLS courses completed during a student's Independent Study period (if I.S. was part of their schedule).



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Secondly, transcripts display the full scope of a student's high school academic progress, which is particularly important for our Juniors. This weekend, I recommend parents take the opportunity to review the transcript with their child and discuss the plan and progress toward graduation.

Remember, our current graduation requirements are found in the 2022-23 MA Course Guide, which can be accessed on our website under Schools/High School.

In terms of student performance, I am proud of the rigor I witnessed in our courses last semester, and I am impressed with the number of our students who rose to meet that challenge and achieved success. As we know, the world outside of this Academy will provide even steeper peaks for our graduates to summit. Therefore, we endeavor to continue building a school which provides an engaging environment, tailored so that each student may develop into the very best version of themselves.

To that end, remember in mid-April our students will have the opportunity to take the PSAT or SAT exam.

These are important tests for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the SAT provides the first opportunity for students to meet the Colorado graduation requirement to demonstrate proficiency in Math and English. The PSAT exams also provide us valuable student performance data and help assess the extent to which students are on track for meeting graduation requirements.

Classical Education

Last semester we focused on the *Trivium* and *The Great Conversation*, as our community explored what it means to provide a truly classical education.

This semester, we will begin to examine the concept of how we determine the *Good*, the *True*, and the *Beautiful* in this world. A group of teachers is completing a book study with me of Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, and if you desire to get an advanced look at the philosophical and intellectual origins of these ideas, we would invite you to read that classic work.

Lastly, I thank you for the sacred trust you place in me and my staff to provide for the well-being of your children. Our most important role is to shepherd these young scholars from adolescence to adulthood, and I am grateful for the opportunity to do so.

All my best,

David W. Kennington

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Principal

Monument Academy High School

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