



# Monument Academy

## East Campus

*A School of Excellence Since 1996*

February 8, 2023

Dear Monument Academy High School Families,

Last week our community gathered together on the East Campus to celebrate and reflect on the fact that we are preparing to fulfill the long-standing promise of establishing a 9-12 Monument Academy High School.

This fall, as you know, our *founding freshmen* will enter 12<sup>th</sup> grade, becoming MA's first senior class and achieving the vision of creating our own four-year high school. It took a great deal of tenacity and perseverance to arrive at this moment, and I am personally very grateful for the years of total effort devoted by our full community to arrive at this accomplishment.

I am especially pleased to share that our families and community are honoring that effort with enrollment projections that reveal we are on track to *double* the size of the high school next year.

That news is galvanizing and compelling! In response, we have been busy finalizing contracts for our modular units (work which is scheduled to commence over Spring Break), forming hiring committees to select the best teachers to join our team, and perfecting our 12<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum.

It is truly a thrilling time to be a part of Monument Academy, and I invite you to read on for more details about the exciting future that lies ahead for us.

### **Envisioning a Four-Year Academy**

Last month I met with my Parent Advisory Group, and that team provided me valuable insights and institutional knowledge about how a four-year high school was originally envisioned and how we can best fulfill and advance MA's mission and vision.

One focus of this group was to advise and inform decisions on the Senior Seminar and Rhetoric graduation requirement. Ultimately a decision was made to have our seniors complete a project where they explore what they believe is *good*, and *true*, and *beautiful* in life. This is a journey many classical schools embark upon because it embodies what ancient Greeks referred to as *eudaimonia*, or the pursuit of happiness and human flourishing.

We intend to take this journey in what will be called the *Senior Capstone Project*, and to move this requirement from a stand-alone class and incorporate it into the 12<sup>th</sup> grade English course.

### **An Individualized Student Experience**

At MA High School, we desire to create a culture where every student is treated as a unique individual who becomes fully equipped to go confidently in the direction of their dreams.

In that sense, our students do not attend a typical school.

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Instead, like Plato's original Academy, they have joined with a small, dedicated group of scholars who have formed a tight-knit community which seeks to have everyone flourish as human beings.

To that end, we are continuing to develop a defined, rich, and challenging classical and college preparatory academic program.

We recognize not all students may choose to attend college after graduation, however the knowledge and skills we aim to instill in our students will serve them well in any career field in which they choose.

In terms of a personalized high school experience, my *Student Advisory Group* held their first meeting with me this week and their initial task was presented – to create a student survey to be sent to their fellow classmates at the end of the month. The purpose of this survey is to gather feedback on students' academic and social experience to date.

Additionally, Student Council has prepared a parent survey regarding a proposal to allow students to access their cell phones during the lunch period for a trial period (high school only). I am intrigued and encouraged by the careful thought and contingency planning the students are undertaking to mitigate the risks and maximize the benefits of this proposal. Look for that survey soon!

### **Course Registration**

Course registration for 2023-2024 school year will begin this month. The 23-24 Course Guide will be posted online next week on the MA website under the SCHOOLS/High School tabs. We are pleased to offer a slate of new electives and Advanced Placement courses, including many in the area of Information Technology.

During Academy Time next Tuesday, students will receive registration instructions, guidance from our school counselor, Mrs. Davis, and a paper copy of the registration form.

We encourage parents to review their child's course selection with an eye on progress toward graduation. Graduation requirements and a sample four-year academic plan can be found in the Course Guide. A parent signature on the form will be necessary before the student is registered for classes.

I will close by saying that my staff and I are grateful to be trusted with the education of your children, and I am honored and proud to be in the position of principal at this magnificent school and to be given the privilege of helping us cross the finish line into a full four-year Academy.

All my best,

*David W. Kennington*

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Principal  
Monument Academy High School

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