February 5, 2024

Dear High School Parents,

I hope you have been staying safe and warm as we experience a snowy and cold start to our second semester of school. Our campus looks more and more like an Alaskan school yard each week, as the 10-foot mounds of snow in our parking lot attest.

I will address the cold weather challenges to our car line at the end, but first I would like to share some of the exciting news from the first two months of the calendar year.

**Fulfilling the Promise**

It continues to be an exciting and momentous year as the Monument Academy community brings to fruition the long-time dream of those visionary and courageous individuals who imagined MA’s tradition of excellence extending into a ***four-year high school***.

This is our first year of fulfilling this audacious promise of creating a full 9-12 High School, and this year has indeed witnessed ***many*** firsts.

Our school achieved acceptance into the premier athletic league in the state, The Colorado High School Athletics Association (CHSAA).   We have enjoyed the first season of girls basketball.  Our student population saw our first *Daniel’s Scholarship* Finalist.  And MAHS is celebrating our first college and university acceptances, including admission into The Colorado School of Mines. The list could go on and on.

Yet perhaps most importantly, our students continue to thrive as individuals and succeed in ways that demonstrate their commitment to excellence and their dedication to one another.

As I have written before, our theme this year has been *Civitas*, the Latin word for citizenship, and it is a theme derived directly from our school’s mission, vision, and philosophy.  Civitas embodies the dual concepts of a person’s rights as a citizen, but also their responsibilities to an entity larger than themselves - their community, their country, and even this world.

Frequently this school year I’ve encouraged students to reflect on the sacrifices their teachers and this staff are making to deliver to them a world-class education, and to consider what they will do with that rich academic inheritance.  “Take what you learn here,” I have challenged them, “and positively impact the world.”

I wholeheartedly believe they will do so.

**Graduation!**

Our *Founding Freshmen*class is now in the last semester of their senior year, and we are thrilled to be in the final stages of preparation for their graduation ceremony which will take place on Saturday, May 18th at 10 am.

The planning and preparation for this day began over 12-months ago and has involved *eight different groups and planning teams* who have contributed to this effort.  Invaluable input and support has been provided from students, parents, the staff, our supportive School Board, and our terrific PTO.

We are earnestly hoping for a beautiful spring day in Colorado as our ceremony will be held outdoors on our East Campus patio outside our south entrance, with the expansive view of the front range and Pikes Peak in the background (in case of inclement weather we will shift the ceremony into our gym). We hope to see you there!

**Carline and Parking**

My thanks to all the parents and student drivers who are taking great care and driving with slow caution through our carline and parking lot. I am frequently outdoors during morning drop off and afternoon pick up monitoring students, and I am grateful for the patience our families display on a regular basis.

Here at East, we know well the construction challenges that exist in and around our West campus, and we are pleased to support our families as they navigate that short-term difficulty en route to what we trust will be an improved carline for elementary.

Here at East, I would ask our families to be aware of two minor cautions as we accommodate the large amount of snow and snowmelt in our lots.

Please use extra care in moving through carline as portions of the far (north) end of the main parking lot are temporarily impeded with snow mounds. This may require a constricted or modified loop during drop off and pickup. We will endeavor to have staff on hand to monitor and assist traffic flow.

To maximize safety, please watch for icy areas and decrease speed in the parking lot. The melting of our large snow drifts has resulted in shallow streams of runoff, which can freeze overnight and cause very slick conditions.

As always, thank you for trusting us with the education of your children.

Warm regards,

*David W. Kennington*

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| A blue and yellow logo  Description automatically generated | **David W. Kennington**  Principal  Monument Academy High School |