

MANE EDITION

maranatha



mane edition magazine

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MARANATHA'S MI

We are an influential s
innovators, and explore
faith, empowering co-

MARANATHA
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

SO THEN, JUST AS YOU RECEIVED CHRIST JESUS
AS LORD, CONTINUE TO LIVE YOUR LIVES IN HIM.

ROOTED AND BUILT UP

IN HIM, STRENGTHENED IN THE FAITH AS YOU
WERE TAUGHT, AND OVERFLOWING WITH THANKFULNESS.

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7



MISSION STATEMENT

school of collaborators,
ers grounded in Christian
-creators of tomorrow.

A Message from our Head of School

In the rhythm of life, where challenges often demand our attention and energy, finding a balance between action and rejuvenation becomes paramount. Isaiah 40:31 serves as a guiding light in this delicate dance:

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint.”

This verse illuminates the parallels between physical exercise, Sabbath rest, and spiritual renewal, and underscores the significance of personal devotion—a cornerstone of the Christian faith. For me, this devotion takes shape in the quiet moments of each morning, where I dedicate time to reading my Bible, praying, and reflecting on my day, seeking direction from God.

In these precious moments of reflection, I find solace and strength to face the day ahead. Just as the eagle finds respite in its perch, I find sanctuary in the presence of God, allowing Him to renew my spirit and empower me to soar above life's trials and tribulations.

My morning devotion also serves as a microcosm of Sabbath rest—a sacred pause amidst the relentless rhythm of life. In these quiet moments, I experience a profound sense of communion with God, transcending the boundaries of time and space. It is a holy space where I can lay down my burdens, surrender to His grace, and find restoration for my weary soul.

Reflecting on Isaiah 40:31, I am reminded that true strength and endurance come not from my efforts but from placing my hope in the Lord. My morning devotion is not just a routine but a sacred pilgrimage—a journey of faith and surrender, where I lay aside my

agenda and align my heart with God's will.

This verse draws parallels between physical exercise and spiritual perseverance and introduces the concept of Sabbath rest—an integral aspect of the Christian journey. Just as athletes meticulously train and strategically rest, our spiritual lives benefit from intentional periods of rest and reflection.

Consider the disciplined athlete who, in addition to rigorous training, recognizes the necessity of rest days. These moments of reprieve are not signs

of weakness but crucial components of the overall training strategy. Similarly, in our spiritual walk, we are called to active engagement and embrace the Sabbath rest—a time set aside for reflection, worship, and communion with God.

The Sabbath, rooted in the creation narrative in Genesis, serves as a divine invitation to rest and recharge. It is a deliberate pause in the busyness of life, echoing the commandment to remember and keep it holy (Exodus 20:8). In Isaiah 40:31, the promise of renewal is



Deb Larson

not only tied to active hope but also to the intentional act of resting in the Lord.

Picture the eagle navigating the vast skies, symbolizing strength and freedom. Despite their prowess in flight, eagles understand the importance of finding a secure perch for Sabbath rest. Likewise, our spiritual soaring requires moments of stillness, where we can bask in the presence of God and allow Him to replenish our weary souls.

The concept of Sabbath rest, as reinforced in Isaiah 40:31, extends beyond a mere cessation of work. We must cease striving on our terms and trust God's provision. By setting aside dedicated time for worship, prayer, and contemplation, we acknowledge our dependence on Him and open ourselves to the transformative power of divine renewal.

In the hustle and
clamor of life,
embracing Sabbath rest

becomes a counter-cultural act of faith. It is a deliberate choice to detach from the world's demands and immerse yourselves in the refreshing embrace of the Creator. In this sacred pause, we find physical rest and experience the renewal of our spiritual vigor.

As we navigate the ebb and flow of life, let us heed the wisdom embedded in Isaiah 40:31. Let us actively engage in the exercises that strengthen our faith, run with endurance, and walk in the path of righteousness.

Simultaneously, let us embrace the gift of Sabbath rest, finding solace and renewal in the presence of the Lord. By doing so, we can truly soar on wings like eagles, sustained by the perfect balance of disciplined action and divine rest.



PRINCIPALS' CORN

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

When we think of *strength in numbers*, we often think of war. In the Old Testament, God directed Moses and Aaron "...to count according to their divisions all the men in Israel who are twenty years old or more and able to serve in the army" (Numbers 1:3). While the war referenced in Numbers looks different, war is still prevailing. It's a war for our children.

Over the course of this year, parents have consistently come to me and said statements like, "I have no idea where he/she is getting that from." or "We don't allow him/her to engage with that _____. [fill in the blank]" or "I just don't understand."

And, how often as a parent have you thought, "Where is that thinking coming from?", "Where did you hear that?" or "Why are you saying those things?" I know I have.

But then I am reminded of Ephesians 6:12, which reminds us, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this world's darkness, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Additionally, 2 Corinthians 10:3–6 states, "For though we live in the world we are not carrying on a worldly war, for the weapons of our warfare are not worldly but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle to the knowledge of God

and take every thought captive to obey Christ."

If we are to win the battle for every one of our children, then we need to find strength in numbers.

"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up...a threefold cord is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).

While this scripture is often viewed through the lens of marriage, it holds relevance to Maranatha's partnership with every one of our families.

Educational research emphasizes the importance of partnership between you, your child, and the school. An effective collaboration between Maranatha and you has become even more critical.

This partnership includes parents, families, and teachers working together as a strategy to support students' learning and spiritual development. A collaboration like this is very much a Proverbs 27:17 partnership: "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another."

We always believe that God has gifted you to be the expert parents of your children. So, let's work together and find strength in numbers to "Train up a child in the way he should go" so that "even when [they are] old [they] will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6 ESV).

RACHEL DAVID
Lower School Principal



FINANCIAL LITERACY

One of Maranatha's strategic goals is to model and integrate financial education and entrepreneurship skills into existing programming. We intend our students to learn how to be good stewards from an early age by learning life skills such as budgeting, saving, investing, managing debt, understanding credit, and planning for their future. Realizing the importance of these life skills years ago, Maranatha began requiring all MCA high school students to take a semester-long personal finance class as a requirement for graduation in 1999. Currently, only five states have this requirement to graduate high school, and beginning in the 2024-25 school year, Minnesota high school students will be required to complete a course in personal finance. The benefits of students learning these life skills in a K-12 setting are numerous:

Early Financial Education: High school is an ideal time to introduce students

to financial concepts. By learning about budgeting, saving, investing, and other essential topics early on, students develop a solid foundation of financial literacy that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Informed Decision Making: Personal finance courses equip students with the knowledge and skills to make informed financial decisions. Whether understanding the implications of taking out student loans for college or evaluating different savings and investment options, students learn to critically analyze their choices and make sound financial plans.

Prevention of Debt: One of the most significant benefits of personal finance education is its role in preventing debt. By teaching students about the dangers of excessive borrowing and the importance of responsible credit card use, personal finance courses help students avoid falling into debt traps later in life.

Financial

Independence: Learning about personal finance empowers students to take control of their financial futures. They gain confidence in managing their money effectively, setting financial goals, and creating strategies to achieve them. This sense of financial independence is invaluable as students transition into adulthood.

Building Wealth: By understanding concepts like investing, compound interest, and retirement planning, students learn how to build wealth over time. Personal finance education introduces them to the power of long-term financial planning and encourages them to start investing early, setting them on the path to financial security and prosperity.

Lifelong Financial

Well-being: The most significant benefit of personal finance education is its impact on students' long-term financial well-being. By instilling good financial habits and teaching essential money management skills early on, personal finance courses set students up



JOANNA RICHTER
Upper School Principal

for success in the short term and throughout their lives.

Good Stewardship:

God has entrusted His people with financial blessings and learning the importance of tithing, giving, and being responsible with money. Personal finance classes discuss how we store up for ourselves treasures in Heaven (Matthew 6:19-21) and learn how to honor God with our money.

Along a student's MCA journey, they will have opportunities to learn financial literacy skills at each grade level.

From Mini Economy in grade 4 to BizTown in grade 5, and a variety of elective class choices in high school, as well as the required Personal Finance class they will take, there is an intentionally designed and vertically aligned plan to set our students on a trajectory that prepares them well for their future.

SENIOR CAPSTONE SPEECHES

**KYLE
GROVES**
Upper School
Assistant
Principal

On February 15, Maranatha held the 21st annual Senior Capstone Speech Ceremony, which highlighted our five senior finalists in the culmination of two years of hard work.

The purpose of Capstone Speeches is to encourage students to “own” their Christian faith, convictions, and beliefs in the core doctrines of the Bible. Students will show evidence of this by sharing their personal testimony, apologetic convictions, and their present and future life plans.



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S⁸PEECH



CHRISTIAN ACADEMY MARANATHA

Capstone Speeches are part of Maranatha's 11th- and 12th-grade Bible classes. Mr. John Harshbarger works diligently with our juniors and seniors in these classes to help them perfect their speeches. Maranatha also had a parent with a history of public speaking, Mrs. Dorie Jessen, and our High School English teacher, Mrs. Chloe Larson, work with the senior students as they prepared to give their speeches to their class and three judges from the administration.

The speeches are judged based on the Capstone Speech rubric. The top five seniors are then selected to present their speeches at our Senior Capstone

Speech Ceremony, where five guest judges are invited to judge the finalists. Prize money is awarded to all Capstone Speech finalists, with the winner receiving \$1,000.

Due to a three-way tie this year, six seniors presented their speeches at the Capstone Speech Ceremony. One student who was unable to attend the event live delivered his speech via video as an honorable mention. Each of these seniors shared their faith and personal testimony with apologetic conviction as to why they believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

The guest judges had a difficult task ranking

the top six seniors, as each student did an incredible job! Nadia Owens received first place, Matthew Singh received second, and Kate Truax, Carter Greenwald, Autumn Lanari, and Jackson Mueller received honorable mentions. A big congratulations to these six seniors!

Capstone speeches are a highlight at Maranatha! It is an opportunity for our students to reflect on the faithfulness of

the Lord as He works in each of their lives for their good and His glory. Psalm 119:90 declares,

“Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.”

Our seniors did an amazing job proclaiming His faithfulness in their lives through the Capstone Speeches this year.



A Celebration of Black History

JEFF THOMAS Dean of Student Life

On February 22, the MCA Black History Student Committee hosted its Fifth Annual Celebration of Black History. The students on the committee wrote and produced all aspects of the event and were proud to put on an entertaining and educational performance for their peers.

The students brought the audience back in time as Gresyn Rennie and Aaron Freeman performed as Jackie Robinson and

Muhammed Ali in an inspiring spoken word. Guests also visited Africa as a host of students put on a one-of-a-kind fashion show wearing clothing from various countries.

Jordan Flowers-Smith and the worship team blessed us with great music in a time of worship, and Mr. Gerrit Van Otterloo and the Jazz Band performed some jazz hits from the Harlem Renaissance. At the end of the performance, students and staff felt enlightened, entertained, and educated.





Rise

Black History Student Committee

MARANATHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

2024



HOMECOMING

CHERI TOBY Class of 2024

Maranatha Christian Academy had a great 2024 Homecoming themed “All Roads Lead Home.” During the week, students dressed in themed-day outfits, such as Pajama Day, Smurfs versus Minions, Sports Day, Duo or Trio Day, Character Day, and Friday was Spirit Friday, where students showed off their Mustang Spirit.

Staff voted on the best outfits representing the theme. The week included different

activities for the student body, including an upper school door-decorating contest by each discipleship group. Judges voted on doors to see who had the best Mustang spirit door.

A new activity this year was the Stomper art contest. Lower and Upper School art classes designed their best Stomper using different materials. It was so exciting to see how creative our MCA students can be.

We crowned the Homecoming King and

Queen on Monday during a beautiful Coronation ceremony. The nominated students were dressed in gorgeous dresses and handsome suits, while the rest of the student body was dressed in pajamas. How ironic!

On Wednesday, the high school students had a new event called the StudCo Lunch Party. They enjoyed listening to a live DJ while the high school student council and prom committee sold Chick-fil-A and Nautical Bowls during lunch.

Thursday, the Maranatha Student Council brought back a classic MCA Homecoming event—The Dodgeball Tournament! Each

grade in high school had the opportunity to create a team of eight and compete in a lively tournament. The champions for the 2024 Dodgeball Tournament were the senior boys after a nail-biter of a match against the juniors. The sophomore girls pulled off an upset over the seniors.

This brings us into Friday with a full day of fun! Everyone dressed in their best spirit wear! The senior girls raised the bar, wearing their homemade decorated “senior jeans.” Throughout the day, the upper school participated in a brand-new event—Roshambo!

Each upper school student started the day with one beaded necklace. Students played the game Rock, Paper, Scissors





against each other and collected a necklace from the students they defeated.

The teachers also participated, but for a student to play a teacher, that student must have at least five beads. The school gathered for a pep fest in the afternoon, where all the winter sports and players were recognized.

During the pep fest, teachers, asked by the high school student council, and homecoming royalty participated in a game of musical chairs. The game was so entertaining, and the whole school loved it!

Mr. Sally, representing the lower school, was victorious. After musical chairs, the students and staff with 30 or more beads came down in front of the whole school and played the final round of Roshambo. The first-ever winner of Roshambo was—Mrs. Raines!

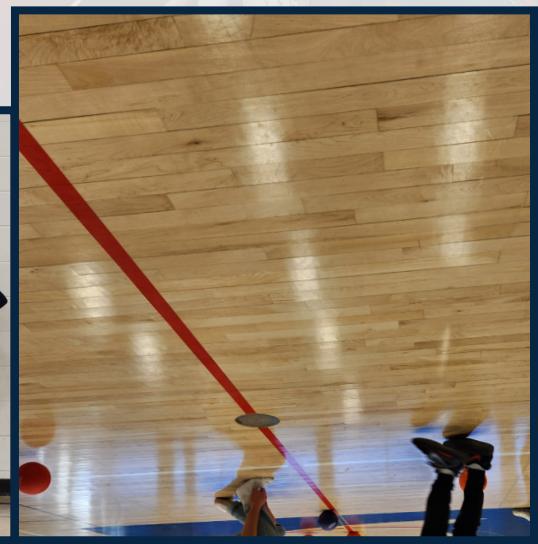
Friday evening highlighted Maranatha's basketball teams playing against St. Croix Lutheran. Our varsity girls played well but unfortunately lost, though the night did not end there. Our varsity boys' basketball team completed the job by defeating the Crusaders! The whole school went

wild as we celebrated the Mustangs win.

Oh, but wait! Homecoming 2024 was not over. Saturday evening, high school students joined together for the Snowco Dance! Students came dressed up and ready to dance the night away with a new DJ and celebrated a fantastic Homecoming 2024 commemorating



**ALL
ROADS
LEAD
HOME!**



Coronation 2024

IZZY ROUCHE Class of 2025

This year, I had the privilege of participating

in the Homecoming Coronation Ceremony. Six students (three boys and three girls) from each

high school grade are selected by their peers

a new twist on announcing who was selected to the court. In mid-December, Mr. Groves, Mr. Mahle, and Ms. Axelberg were chosen to be a part of the "Crown Control" team that went to each classroom in the first three school periods to announce who was elected for

went to the front of the room and unlocked the handcuffs [REDACTED] around [REDACTED] his wrist that were locked to a briefcase.

He opened the briefcase very slowly, put on white gloves, carefully took

Mr. Mahle, carefully and diligently protecting the \$10 Amazon crowns. Coronation this year was absolutely stunning, yet it made sure [REDACTED]

everyone had a good laugh. My favorite part of the coronation was

TOP SECRET

to be crowned princess/ prince and queen/king.

Having attended MCA for eight years, I have seen numerous iterations of the ceremony. The 2024 version was my absolute favorite! [REDACTED]

This year, the administration got creative and worked hard to implement

court. [REDACTED] Wearing a black suit, sunglasses, and an earpiece (to hear top-secret information), Mr. Groves entered the classroom with a [REDACTED]

seriously official look. At the same time, Jamie went around and playfully ensured the students were paying attention and closing their laptops. Mr. Groves

out a [REDACTED] homecoming [REDACTED] sash, and showed the sash around the room while tension rose as students waited for him to announce someone's [REDACTED] name.

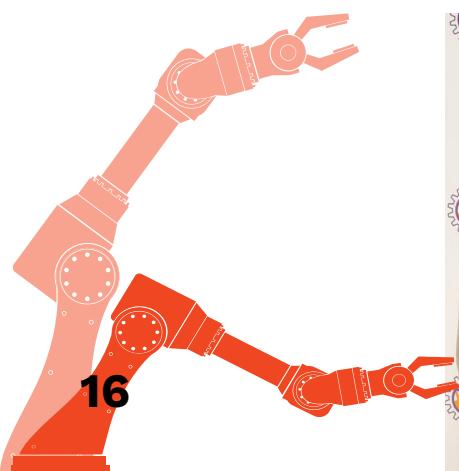
At the coronation were "classified files" of the nominees with false, ridiculous, and hilarious information, along with [REDACTED] the "secret agents," Mr. Rongere, Mr. Barber, and

seeing all of the lovely senior candidates stroll down the path with certainty [REDACTED] and happiness, realizing that they have left behind a legacy at MCA that truly inspires all the underclassmen.

I want to congratulate all the candidates and give a special shout-out to this year's King and Queen, Gavin Kirschbaum and Autumn Lanari.



ROBOTICS RETURNS



S TO STATE



MATTHEW SINGH Class of 2024

Over the past four years, I have participated in Maranatha Christian Academy's High School Robotics Team. As a senior this year, I was the team captain. To some, robotics may seem like an easy activity that students can take part in after school to pass the time after a long day. At least, that is what I thought it was before I joined the robotics program four years ago as a freshman. I did not expect to compete at the state level against teams across Minnesota. I originally just wanted something to do in my free time to help prepare me for a future career in engineering, but little did I know that there was so much more on the table.

This year was a wild ride. At the start of the season, teams worldwide were introduced to a new game filled with numerous engineering challenges. It served as the criteria for each team to build their robot and set the stage for an exciting and competitive season ahead. The theme of this year's game was CenterStage. Teams were tasked with the design challenge of

building a robot capable of picking up hexagon-shaped "pixels" and scoring them on a vertically angled board located at the back of the field. As soon as the season kicked off, M-Tech Dark Matter, the name of the senior team that I was on, began brainstorming ideas and solutions to tackle this challenge. As we continuously built and improved our robot, we met with numerous engineering professionals to receive feedback on our progress and refine our design.

Although building and designing the robot to the best of our ability is crucial to compete in the challenge, teams are also tasked with reaching out to the local community and businesses and motivating others to participate in the FIRST Robotics Program. This season, Ashley Wolford and I were tasked with managing team outreach and connecting with our local community. One unique idea we had was to host LEGO Engineering workshops across libraries in the metropolitan area. In doing so, we wrote and developed a workbook titled "Liv and Leo's LEGO® Adventure" that children could follow. This book guides kids

through the engineering design process in a fun and exciting way that they can connect with. Toward the end of our season, we published this workbook on numerous self-publishing websites to make it available to youth worldwide.

At the state competition, we were nominated for several awards in each design, build, and outreach category. However, we ultimately fell short and did not advance to the world championship. This past robotics season has been an adventure. From staying after school until 11 p.m. to complete part iterations to researching how to publish a book, I genuinely had fun. I am grateful to have participated in such an amazing program. I am so thankful for the continuous support our coaches and mentors provided us this season. Their guidance helped us navigate the challenges of robotics and taught us valuable lessons in teamwork, perseverance, and problem-solving. Participating in Robotics has given me so many opportunities, life experiences, and friendships that will last a lifetime. I am excited about what the future has in store!

READY, SET, GO!

Middle School Robotics



OWEN MARVEL

M.S. Robotics

Coach

A Decade of Innovation and Growth!

Our middle school robotics program, a cornerstone of our STEAM education, celebrated its impressive 10th anniversary this year! As one of the founding members, I am proud to have witnessed

its evolution from its inception to the thriving program it is today.

This season, our program soared to new heights with the participation of a record number of students from 4th to 8th grade. These students comprised four teams: M-TECH Earthbots, M-TECH Waterbots, M-TECH Airbots, and M-TECH Firebots. Each team consisted of

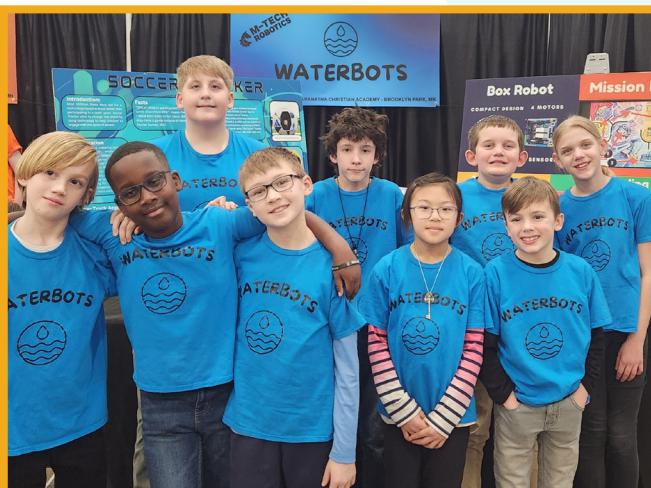
diverse students who exemplified exceptional dedication and skill, honing their talents through rigorous preparation and a series of challenges for their regional competition. Their hard work and perseverance culminated in a historic achievement as two of our teams, M-TECH Waterbots and M-TECH Firebots, advanced to the State Championship for the first time.

championship offered valuable learning opportunities and a chance to connect with like-minded peers. While they may not have clinched the top spot, they left the competition with their heads held high, proud of their achievements and grateful for the unforgettable experience.

As we reflect on this remarkable season, I am incredibly proud of our



students' achievements and the growth of our program. This season has been more than just about robotics; it has been about fostering teamwork, problem-solving, and perseverance in our students. We are excited to build upon this season's success and continue inspiring the next generation of innovators and leaders in STEAM!



Middle School Athletics



CHAZ MAHLE **Assistant Athletic Director**

Maranatha's middle school athletics programs had eventful fall and winter seasons and saw healthy participation across the board. Once again, Maranatha featured a boys' Junior Varsity (JV) and girls' Varsity middle school soccer team during the fall and two middle school volleyball teams (Varsity, B). During the winter months, boys' and girls' basketball showcased two teams apiece at the Varsity and B levels, respectively. Maranatha Middle School athletics has been blessed with many team successes and would like to highlight the following teams' seasons during this 2023–2024 school year.

Girls' Middle School Soccer (Varsity)

The girls were coached by a couple of familiar faces, with head coach Mr. Alec Winn and assistant coach Mr. Matthew Winn returning. The team remained in the Varsity League of the NSPSL and saw its fortunes flip from last year, finishing the regular season with a record of 4–1–2. The girls earned a first-round bye during tournament play and then traveled to the number two seed Providence Academy. Maranatha would go on to upset Providence Academy by a score of 4–0, which advanced our Mustangs to the championship game. The girls showed up ready to play but fell short, losing by a score of 1–3 to Heritage Christian Academy, ultimately placing them second in the NSPSL. As the season wore on, it was evident that the girls had found cohesion as a team with a strong desire to play for one another. Congratulations to our coaches and middle school girls who made this soccer season one to remember!

Girls' Middle School Basketball (B team)

Maranatha's middle school girls' basketball (B) team recently finished their 2024 winter season led by coach Mrs. Morgan Diaz, and what a season it was! The girls faced an uphill challenge with just seven members on its roster. This challenge meant plenty of playing time for everyone while allowing no substantial rest for the weary or tired. They started their season going 2–1 in the first three games, outscoring opponents during this three-game stretch by a score of 90–59. It was apparent that lack of determination or conditioning would not be a factor, as our girls won the next four regular season games in dominating fashion. The Mustangs finished with a record of 6–1, earning them the second seed going into tournament play. In the first round, the Mustangs secured a convincing victory versus Fourth Baptist, advancing in the tournament where they defeated St. Vincent De Paul in a nail-biter

by a final score of 24–23. Next, they faced number-one-seeded St. Raphael in the Championship game. Our Mustangs made a valiant effort but ultimately finished the tournament in second place.

We look forward to seeing what this group of girls will do next basketball season!

It has been a privilege to witness firsthand our middle school student-athletes compete and grow together this past fall and winter season. With spring rapidly approaching, the athletics department is filled with excitement as we look forward to cheering on our middle school baseball and softball teams out at Zane Sports Park.

**GO
MUSTANGS!**



Girls' Basketball



AUTUMN LANARI Class of 2024

This year, the Maranatha girls' basketball team had an entirely new coaching staff. The team got off to a rough start due to a demanding schedule and a young team, but the girls pushed through to end the regular season and were second in the Skyline Conference.

The girls were exciting to watch; their team chemistry grew as the

season progressed, and they received a few late additional players who completed their mix. Heading into the playoffs, they had a 15-10 record. Their season ended in the section quarterfinals against Jordan High School.

Captains Autumn Lanari, Janiya Wright, and Olivia Lanari led the team and kept them accountable for accomplishing their goals and executing plays. The diversity of strengths on the court made for a well-rounded and strong team. Heather Sheehy and Janiya Wright led the team in points, while Autumn Lanari,

Olivia Lanari, and Zaniah Hunter played key roles in the team's success. Throughout a season of hard work and laughter, the girls grew closer together, becoming a second family.

The Maranatha girls' basketball team grew so much since the start of the year, which was memorable for seniors Janiya Wright and Autumn Lanari and left the underclassmen excited for the next season.



Boys' Basketball



GRESYN RENNIE Class of 2024

This season, the Mustangs boys' basketball team was looking to replace many seniors who played key roles last year. Additionally, the team started the campaign with a new coach. This 2023–2024 team was comprised of a majority of underclassmen and a variety of personalities.

The team was full of talent, but reigning in all the egos and personalities to make one team was the main challenge. Seniors Datrell McCrimmon, Drew Balentine, Gresyn Rennie, and Carter Greenwald made up the team's backbone and helped lead the

boys to an impressive 21-7 record. Achieving this was not easy, especially considering that the Mustangs were undersized against most teams.

Even so, the boys persevered and fought hard in every game. With a solid offensive presence and fast guards, the Mustang boys could overwhelm their opponents with speed and teamwork.

As the season was nearing the end, the boys had high hopes of a deep run into post-season play, even though they were playing in one of the most challenging

sections in the state.

Unfortunately, the boy's season was cut short after a loss to Holy Family. Although the team had loftier goals for the season, it was one to remember. After starting the season with a new coach, Matthew Shepherd, and much uncertainty, the boys achieved an amazing record and grew closer as a team and a family.



MCA MCA MCA MCA

SWIM TO STATE





BRADY LANDSTAD & MASON KRINGS Class of 2026

The Osseo Boys Swim and Dive Team had an amazing season this year. At the start of the season, MCA swimmers Brandon Kot, Mason Krings, and Brady Landstad set a goal to break the 200-medley



relay school record. At the season's first meet, the boys won the 200-medley relay by a landslide, but they were a long way from their goal. From that point on, they knew their goal would be very difficult.

Halfway through the season, the boys went

to compete at True Team. They swam some of the best races of their lives, swimming near their best times. However, the meet's highlight was upsetting Wayzata in the 400-freestyle relay by .42 seconds! They were ecstatic knowing they had just out-swam one of the fastest relay teams in the state.

Soon, it was time for the 5AA Section Meet. The boys were ready! They broke the school record in the 200-medley relay with a time of 1:38.42, which qualified them for the state meet along with the 400-freestyle relay. Mason Krings was the Section Champion in the 100 breaststroke and swam the 100 butterfly, qualifying for state in both of his individual events. He even broke his previous school record in the 100 butterfly!

Brady Landstad made finals in his 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly, earning himself a spot on the podium and receiving medals in both races. Brandon Kot took home two individual medals after swimming the 200 IM and 100 backstroke in finals. With these great swims, Osseo placed 4th at Sections. This feat

was the highest Osseo had ever placed at the Section Tournament. The Osseo boys were also the only team to win the "Academic Gold Award" with an average GPA of 3.76!

Finally, it was time for the MSHSL AA State Championship Meet at the University of Minnesota. The boys knew they would have to swim very fast if they were going to make the Finals at state. Luckily, they did, and they ended up placing 15th in both the 200-medley relay and 400-freestyle relay. Mason broke the 100 breaststroke school record, placing him 15th in the state and 17th in the 100 butterfly.

Overall, the three MCA swimmers, Brandon Kot, Brady Landstad, and Mason Krings, had an exceptional season and look forward to setting new goals and seeing what they can accomplish next year!

TAKE YOUR MARK!

Girls' Hockey



EMMA GREENWOOD Class of 2026

This past season, I played girls' hockey for the Osseo-Park Center (OPC) who Maranatha partners with a coop. It was my second year with OPC hockey, and one of the highlights was definitely the scrimmage fest we attended in Duluth!

Traveling together as a team gives us all a chance to get to know new team members and catch up with the girls

from last season.

We had so much fun during this year's trip, skating hard, laughing, and exploring! The season was filled with ups and downs regarding our success on the ice, but I learned a lot.

I will take away many new friendships, life lessons about overcoming challenges, and a lot of personal growth.

I can't wait for next season!



Boys' Wrestling

ELLIE MEISSNER Class of 2024

One of the most rewarding aspects of being a manager for the Osseo wrestling team is being able to witness how united and close everyone is to each other. The joy that the wrestlers brought to the team seemed to make every 10-hour tournament day so much fun. Not only was the team united, but they also knew how to have fun and lock in when it was time to compete. You would think that being one of the few people from a private school entering a public school environment would have been very intimidating, but everyone was so inviting; making my commitment to this team was a great decision. It was also exciting to see some of the students from Maranatha excel and grow through the co-op. For example, Paul Solberg made varsity as an eighth grader and almost qualified for the State Tournament, taking third in Sections.

Some of my best memories were meeting new people, developing great relationships, and witnessing these wrestlers grow together as a family. Every year I've managed this team, I have gotten closer and closer with everyone including the coaches, wrestlers, and the other managers from Osseo. The bond that I developed with these people has left a lasting impact on me. As I move on to new experiences, I know that I will truly miss the sense of belonging and the memories that I created from Osseo wrestling.





Spreading Joy.

Creating Connections.

**JENNA GLOEB
JOHNSON**
Vice President
Middle School
Divisional Chair

The Parents With Purpose leadership team is happy to share with you some of the activities and events we've been a part of, which have spread joy throughout our school community and deepened the connections that make MCA such a cherished place for our children and families.

One of the highlights of our year was the Christmas Blessing. Imagine the excitement as we distributed 132

envelopes filled with cash to our dedicated MCA staff, thanks to the generosity of approximately 140 families who participated in the optional gift-giving initiative. It was a beautiful reminder of the spirit of giving that thrives within our community.

Our monthly Moms and Dads Coffees have been well-attended events that offer a relaxed setting for parents of all ages to come together, share stories, and support each other. We're excited about the upcoming Moms' Potluck and Dads' Top Golf events in the spring.

The Homecoming game brought another layer of joy with our Face Painting booth and Coloring table, hosted alongside Rainbow Party Arts. The smiles on the students' faces were priceless and helped make the game a fun and memorable experience.

Behind the scenes, PWP has been supporting classroom parties, helping to create unforgettable moments for our children. These parties, organized by our wonderful homeroom parents and grade-level representatives, add so much joy to the school year.

Looking forward, we have various

opportunities with which you can get involved. There's no shortage of ways to contribute; your support is invaluable.

Joining PWP has been one of the most rewarding experiences. It's more than just volunteering; it's about being part of a community that cares deeply about creating a nurturing environment for our kids and showing appreciation for our staff. If you're looking to make a positive impact and meet some fantastic people along the way, I encourage you to reach out.

We'd love to get to know you!



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MCAParentsWithPurpose@gmail.com



Let's DANCE!

3rd Annual Sweetheart Dance

**MICHELLE
YACKEL
Events Director**

With their dates joyfully along for the ride, 177 of our young ladies from Pre-k through Grade 8 gathered in the Fellowship Hall for Maranatha's Third Annual Sweetheart Dance. This evening holds a special place for the staff and regular volunteers who play a pivotal role in making this event happen. It is precious to see the girls taking their dates' hands to join them on the dance floor and witness the sheer joy of the dads, uncles, grandpas, and other male guests who were honored to be invited. Experiencing those precious moments firsthand and hearing the giggles and gratitude in the guests' voices as they leave for the evening is a blessing not taken for granted.

February 9 was full of fun music, photo ops,

crafts, and light-up accessories, adding to another unforgettable evening. One exciting addition to this year's dance was the DJ—a fellow Maranatha dad, Brian Lansing, of Mic Drop Entertainment. The dance floor was packed the entire evening, with only a minor break to catch a breath. During the middle school dancing session, DJ Brian hosted a "Dad Joke Off" that had guests laughing and daughters cheering for who they felt delivered the best dad joke.

Warning: Maranatha is not responsible for any eye rolls received after the deliverance of a dad joke heard during the Sweetheart Dance.



ANNIE Jr.

CAST

Annie: Ella Ashe (6)
Oliver Warbucks: Gavin Kirschbaum (12)
Miss Hannigan: Israel Roueche (11)
Grace Farrell: Nadia Owens (12)
Rooster Hannigan: Eli Marvel (12)
Lily St. Regis: Noelle Reider (9)
Duffy (orphan): Angelina Giron Shefveland (7)
July (orphan): Annie Grace Nelson (9)
Kate (orphan): Lola Shaw (6)
Molly (orphan): Elsie Weisbrod-Tran (6)
Pepper (orphan): Mia Jones (7)
Tessie (orphan): Adaoma Okoro (7)
Orphan: Scarlett Campbell (6)
Orphan, NBC Trio: Anna Winn (8)
Apple Seller, Ensemble: Josiah Osgood (6)
Bundles McCloskey (laundry man), Ensemble: Isaac Brown (6)
Lt. Ward, Ensemble: Josiah Sunde (8)
Bernice Healy, NBC Trio, Ensemble: Jordan Flowers-Smith (12)
President F.D. Roosevelt, Dog Catcher, Ensemble: Simon Harper (7)
Drake (butler), Ensemble: Ethan Flanagan (9)
Annette, Ensemble: Emelia Nelson (9)
Cecille, Star-to-Be, NBC Trio, Ensemble: Sadie Maes (9)
Mrs. Greer, Ensemble: Kiera Hoven (9)
Mrs. Pugh, Ensemble: Brianna De La Peña (10)
Radio Station Manager, Ensemble: Katelyn Matheson (8)
Sandy: Peggy Reider



Director: Wayne Matthews

Assistant Director & Choreographer: Joshua Peterson

Musical Director: Ryan Knight

Scenic Designer: Craig Toquam

Scenic Artist: Kari Nelson

Technical Crew: Matthew Singh & Amelia Cromer

Annie Jr. is a part of THE BROADWAY JUNIOR COLLECTION™

**Based on "Little Orphan Annie"® By Permission of The
Tribune Media Services, Inc.**



WAYNE MATTHEWS Director

The story of 'Little Orphan Annie' began nearly 140 years ago in a poem by James Whitcomb Riley in 1885. In 1924, "Little Orphan Annie" debuted as a daily comic in the New York Daily News, written by Harold Gray, and would later become a radio drama series in 1930, with the first film version released in 1932. It wasn't until 1977

that Annie would be produced on Broadway as the musical we know and love today.

Today's Audiences still connect with the story of a mistreated and overlooked little girl who is invited to spend two weeks away from the orphanage on a wealthy estate and eventually adopted into a family of people who loved her.

Set in the Depression, one of the most challenging times in our nation's history,

Annie is a story of hope, resilience, keeping one's chin up, and not giving up despite what life brings. The lyrics of Annie's song describe it best;

**"When I'm stuck
in a day that's gray
and lonely, I just
stick out my chin
and grin and say,
the sun'll come
out tomorrow. So,
you gotta hang on
'til tomorrow -
come what may."**

Working with Annie's excellent cast, parents, and crew has been a joy! I am very proud of their work in bringing this story and these characters to life!

I also loved working with all the wonderful and amazing people who have made Annie a success! I have been so impressed by all their willingness and support! This production truly could not have happened without them!



THANK YOU!

maranatha
CHRISTIAN
ADVENTURE

CHRIS BARBER
Development
Director

The Maranatha Community Partner Program is one of the most popular ways to grow the Maranatha Fund by establishing partnerships with the community to strengthen our

programs, family engagement, and student success.

Relationships with our MCA family businesses are highly valued as they offer both support to the school and marketing exposure for the partnering companies; by

working together, the school and the organizations enjoy exceptional value. We asked Aaron Hall, MCA Parent and Community Partner, why he sponsored MCA as a small business owner and what he appreciates as a parent.

This is just one of our Community Partners' testimonies about why they support Maranatha. If you want to learn how to invest in the next generation of Christian Leaders, please call me.

Chris Barber
763-488-7936

**Your continued support of
Christian education through
the Maranatha Fund positively
impacts students and families.**

AARON HALL

MCA Parent and Community Partner



As a business owner, I sponsored Maranatha Christian Academy for one important reason.

It's not the tax deduction. It's not being part of a business community. It's not even the clients and advertising received by sponsoring. It's quite simply this.

I want to be part of the work Maranatha is doing.

We need to teach students to be more like Jesus, to do as he did, to become disciples of Christ, and to apprentice more effectively in the way Jesus Christ teaches us to love others, to speak with wisdom, and to live our lives.

It's not easy for a parent to raise children today, but Maranatha partners with parents. They help accomplish more with the students than we, as parents, could do alone.

I believe that the investment in Maranatha is an outstanding financial investment in

what God is doing and being part of how God changes people's lives, encourages them, comforts them, and equips them for the future that each student has ahead in their lives.

We want to be part of the good work that Maranatha is doing.

Thank you to
ALL of our
wonderful
community
partners!



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Michael



Michael A. Matheson
CFP® CFS, CRPC® CDFA™
Founder and President

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Advice

A path, developed together as a team, tailored to your specific goals and financial situation.

Guidance

We serve as your reliable guide throughout your financial voyage, utilizing life simplifying and straightforward tools to assist you in making well-informed financial decisions in all areas of your financial life.

Direction

We look forward to the future with optimism, motivation, and inspiration while maintaining a vigilant focus on the present. Our client connections are built for the long haul, and our direction evolves alongside your journey through life.

Reach out today for a commitment-free, 30 minute 'Ask Anything' session to discover how we can be a game changer for you and your family!



the Michael Matheson Group

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VELOCITY



1965
Custom Mold & Design (CMD) is started in New Hope, MN

1972
Teamvantage Molding is founded in Forest Lake, MN

1973
MMD Medical is established in Brooklyn Park, MN

1994
Paradigme Engineering is started in Becker, MN

2008
CMD Precision Manufacturing Group is formed in Forest Lake, MN

2003
Teamvantage acquires CMD to offer mold tooling and metal machining

2008
CMD establishes PMG to focus on machined component, fixturing and contract manufacturing

2017
Teamvantage acquires Paradigme Engineering to expand the tooling and design division

2022
Teamvantage acquires MMD Medical to offer end to end solutions, including precision machining and injection molding

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A photograph of a young girl with curly hair, wearing a yellow top, playing with a toy construction set made of yellow blocks and colorful rods. A speech bubble in the top right corner contains the text "SHOP ONLINE LEGACYTOYS.COM PICK UP IN STORE".

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- With sound financial planning and education, we help our clients make well-informed decisions and hope to establish trusting and long-lasting relationships. We look forward to helping you create a personalized financial plan that is deeply rooted in your beliefs, addresses your hopes for the future, and evolves with you and your family over time.
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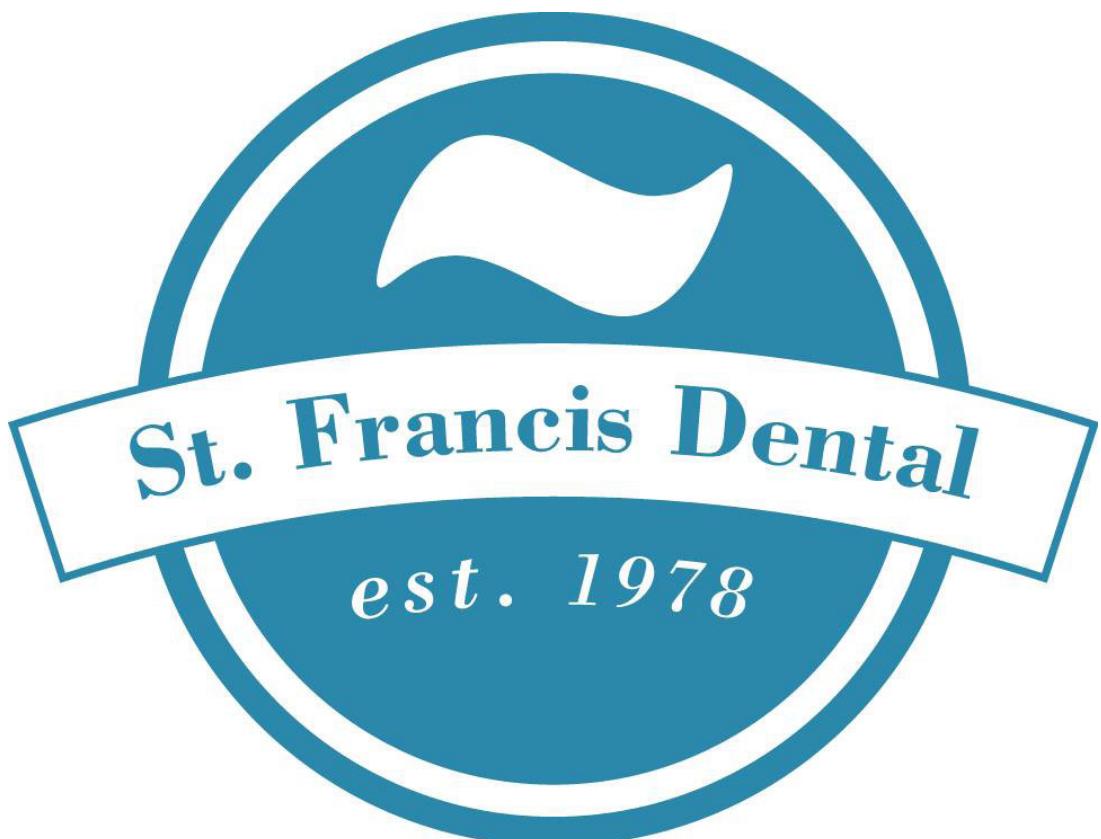
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Food stations, drinks, and desserts provided

Scan to register



Alumni Past & Present

JOSHUA DEJONG Class of 2022

Joshua graduated from Maranatha Christian Academy in 2022. After graduation, he went to work alongside his father and sister at Profile Industries, where they manufacture sorting equipment for companies in the agriculture, medical, and industrial material markets. Joshua will be the third generation in the family business. Running the product development sector requires experience in 3D designing, creating, and implementing solutions. Fun fact: He was able to run this position with the help

of MCA's Computer Design class, where he obtained a certification in Solidworks.

In his personal time, Joshua has developed skills in welding, go-kart racing, simulation racing, and, surprisingly, cooking. He has also been organizing and creating a community for motorcyclists, car enthusiasts, and automotive-orientated people to come together and share their similar interests. At the same time, he evangelizes by sharing his faith in Jesus with the community. Joshua believes 2024 will be his greatest year with the Lord so far.



PAUL REDMAN Class of 2010

Paul graduated from MCA in 2010 and attended the University of North Dakota. During college, he earned his private pilot license while double majoring in Air Traffic Control and Aviation Business. Paul was a manager in the Air Freight and Logistics industry through his early 20s and obtained the remainder of his flight ratings during his free time. From 2018–2021, he moved to Scottsdale, Arizona, to work as a flight instructor and build flight hours with the ultimate goal of becoming a third-generation airline pilot in the Redman family. Paul passionately started his airline career in 2021, upgraded to Captain on the 737 for

Sun Country Airlines in 2022, and now has his dream job, flying for Delta Airlines.

Paul currently lives in Edina and plans to become a young "snowbird" soon, with his eyes set on returning to Scottsdale each winter. In his free time, he enjoys golfing, boating, and traveling the world using his flight benefits.

Pictured is Paul and his Grandfather Roy, a retired Northwest pilot who, at the age of 92, was able to pin the Delta wings on Paul. They are in front of a 1930s biplane restored by RARE Aircraft, a world-renowned restoration company started by Roy and operated by three generations.



ALUMNI HOMECOMING

COREY BIANCHI-ROSSI Chief Advancement Officer

Maranatha is committed to pursuing a vibrant and robust Alumni Program. As part of this endeavor, the school issues a regular electronic newsletter and has Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn pages committed to the Maranatha Alumni. Additionally, the school publishes this Mane Edition magazine three

times per year. It sends it to the alumni on file who indicated they would like to receive the magazine.

Every year, we have seen participation in our community-building events increase.

This year, the school hosted its Second Annual Alumni Basketball Game. We split the alumni into two teams, and they competed for four entertaining quarters. This year's MVP was

John Szwaja, Class of '98. His stellar performance included numerous points from beyond the arc, a dunk, and a couple of blocks. The current Boys' Varsity Team played a crucial part in the game, serving as coaches, scorekeepers, and announcers. Ice bags were offered when the game was finished, and the players said goodbye until next year.

During Homecoming 2024, All Roads Lead Back Home, the school

hosted its Annual Mustang Meetup. This year, the event moved into a new location, which proved to be a smart decision to accommodate the most people we have ever had attend. Alumni enjoyed reconnecting, great food, and a few entertaining basketball games that ended in a split, with the boys victorious and the girls putting in a great effort. We cannot wait for next year!



COMING



Get Connected.

If you (or any other alumni you know) want to stay connected with MCA, please follow or join the following social media channels. You can also indicate if you want our electronic newsletter and Mane Edition.

  
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NEWSLETTER

Please email alumni@mcamustangs.org and include your full name (maiden name if your current name is different than when you attended) and email address*

MANE EDITION

Please email alumni@mcamustangs.org and include your full name (maiden name if your current name is different than when you attended) and mailing address*

*Please include your graduation year and phone number to complete your information.

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CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2024

Prekindergarten Celebration
Thursday, May 30 @ 6 p.m.

Kindergarten Graduation
Thursday, May 30 @ 7 p.m.

High School Commencement
Friday, May 31 @ 6 p.m.