

Some Principles of MCA

From a Student's Point of View

The ideology that founded MCA is much the same as that which founded America. It centers around personal responsibility, which holds each student accountable for his or her own success or failure. MCA teaches using the 'Socratic Method'. This emanates from the Greek philosopher Socrates and how he taught, or rather how he guided his students in learning. He would engage them on a topic, then step back and allow them to carry out the discussion, and formulate their own arguments. He would occasionally have to put them back on track, but he still let them do the majority of the talking. This is exactly how MCA classrooms work. We don't have teachers or professors, we have tutors who don't so much teach or lecture, but guide us towards learning. This is an excellent method for encouraging personal desires for learning and interaction because it allows students to interject their own personalities and experiences into discussions. For that reason, the classes are designed with as few students as is feasible, so that each student is presented with the same opportunity to speak his or her mind in class.

Another aspect of MCA that encourages Freedom is the class schedule. Our schedules are designed with ample amounts of free time during the day to give students the Freedom to choose how to spend their time. MCA gives us the Freedom to either do homework or spend time with friends. The difficult thing is that we must always be conscious of the cost of our actions. The cost of our Freedoms as MCA students is that we are given complete control over whether we pass or fail. With our loose schedules, we must develop the maturity to see that we finish our homework in a timely manner, or we will see that our grades suffer accordingly. MCA doesn't hold us accountable for what we do with our Freedom, we must hold ourselves accountable.

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