

HANDBOOK

FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

MIDLAND CLASSICAL ACADEMY UPPER SCHOOL 2026-27

**ENGAGING MINDS.
PURSUING CHRIST.
DISCOVERING GREATNESS.**



5711 Whitman Drive ♦ Midland, Texas 79705
Phone: (432) 694-0995 ♦ www.mcaknights.org

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MIDLAND CLASSICAL ACADEMY

UPPER SCHOOL

5711 Whitman Drive ♦ Midland, Texas 79705

Phone: (432) 694-0995

www.mcaknights.org

School Hours	Office Hours
Monday-Thursday ♦ 8:15 am – 3:15 pm	Monday-Thursday ♦ 7:45 am – 3:30 pm
Friday ♦ 8:15 am – 12:15 pm	Friday ♦ 7:45 am – 12:30 pm

MCA BOARD MEMBERS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Ken Beattie
Luke Dunn
Tim Dunn
Kevin Sparks

GRAMMAR SCHOOL EXECUTIVE BOARD

Lindsay Dunn
Laura Shuman

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Andy Bayley
Darrell Corzine
Seth Cunneen
Eric DeShan
Shelden Kinnison
Robert Lewandowski
Luke McNeely
Josh Russo
Keith Skaar
Collin Spain
Todd Sparks
Jack Swallow
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MCA VISION

ENGAGING MINDS ♦ PURSUING CHRIST ♦ DISCOVERING GREATNESS

ENGAGING MINDS

Education at Midland Classical Academy is an active endeavor. Students are neither blank slates to be written upon nor empty vessels to pour facts into, rather they are young people brimming with thoughts and ideas of their own. Learning is a team effort. Students are invited to join tutors in the learning process, and this is where exponential growth happens. Our staff draws students out—encouraging them to share what they know, ask their questions, and seek real answers. At MCA the atmosphere of curiosity and the discipline of inquiry are cultivated so that we break through the mechanics of education and allow the subject to intersect the student's thoughts under the supervision of the tutor.

As we biblically consider God's world together in the classroom, through extracurricular activities, and within relationships, the full spectrum of our lives become transformed by divine purpose.

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:2

"...casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" 2 Corinthians 10:15

PURSUING CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the focus and foundation for all that we do at Midland Classical Academy. He is Alpha and the Omega, and it is in Him that we have our life and being. As He is fully God, Jesus is our authority for what is true and what is right. Every subject we learn, every activity we undertake, indeed every aspect of our lives is to proclaim His goodness. At our core, we are a discipleship program that strives to carry out the Great Commission through Classical Education.

"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." Luke 9:23

"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen." Matthew 28:18-20

DISCOVERING GREATNESS

At Midland Classical Academy we strive for greatness. We train our character. We pursue excellence in academics. We compete to the best of our ability. But we believe that true greatness is defined through the teachings and example of Jesus. Greatness is not discovered in the mere development or display of our talents, but through selflessly employing them in humble service to others. MCA exists to teach and to train young men and women to give our utmost for eternal greatness.

"But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant." Matthew 23:11

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

PARTNERING WITH FAMILIES TO DEVELOP CHRIST-LIKE LEADERS

Midland Classical Academy partners with families to develop Christ-like leaders. The educational philosophy of our school is that parents are the primary educators. At MCA parents are invited and encouraged to be involved in their student's journey. While the educational outcome cannot be guaranteed, we believe the single biggest factor in a student's education is the extent to which the parents are involved. When parents enroll their student in MCA, they are committing themselves to engaging minds, pursuing Christ, and discovering greatness as much as their student.

UPPER SCHOOL

When parents enroll their students at MCA, they are committing themselves as well as their student(s). At the Grammar School, parents collaborate with the classroom teacher in a hybrid model where students attend school two and half days a week and receive parental instruction at home the remainder of the week. At the Upper School, parents may have less direct involvement, but their role is no less vital. It is imperative that Upper School parents be actively involved in what is going on in their teenager's life academically, socially, and spiritually.

Communication between parents and tutors is essential and takes place regularly at MCA. Parents and tutors proactively communicate with one another for the benefit of the student. Our tutors are in the habit of informing the parent with accurate information so that the parent can fulfill their role. Parents are promptly informed when their student consistently or dramatically fails to meet expectations. Likewise, because of the highly relational aspect of our educational environment, tutors should be made aware by the parents of any issues or factors that affect the student's performance. Parents need to communicate with their students about what goes on at MCA. Sometimes class discussions over complex issues may need additional sorting out at home.

The best environment for the student to succeed is one where they know that they are loved by their parents and tutors – and that their parents and tutors are on the same team. When students are “dropped off” at school by uninvolved parents, it is much more difficult for them to succeed. They are left without a rudder, and unless they manufacture academic discipline and drive without support from home, they will struggle to meet the demands of our school. The bottom line is that it is of immeasurable benefit to have the school and parents working in harmony in the educational development of each student. Discovering greatness requires great effort by both parent and student. Parents should hold themselves and their students accountable for the work it will take to ensure success.

PARENT SERVICE HOURS / FEES

MCA provides opportunities and requires its parents to serve a certain number of hours at either the Grammar or Upper School for each family. This benefits families in several ways. The work parents perform for the school helps keep tuition costs low and fosters community within the larger school family. Working together gives parents opportunities to meet other parents, tutors, and students. In addition to these benefits, parents who complete service hours with excellence model how to be a servant-leader. There are few things parents can do to effectively communicate more simply and clearly the eternal importance of educating young men and women for Christ than volunteering their time and talents in this endeavor.

We are able to provide a high-quality education with a lower tuition rate because of the minimum requirement of the service hours parents agree to perform as outlined in the table below. If parents decline or are not able to fulfill their service hours for any given reason for the year, they will be required to pay \$50.00 per school service hour to defray the cost of their absence.

PARENT SERVICE HOUR AGREEMENT

SCHOOL	ANNUAL REQUIRED HOURS	ANNUAL COST
Upper School ONLY Parents	50 hours/year (5 hrs./month)	\$2500 (\$50/hour)
Grammar School ONLY Parents	30 hours/year (3 hrs./month)	\$1500 (\$50/hour)
BOTH Grammar & Upper School Parents	60 hours/year Recommended distribution of hours: - Upper: 40 hours/year (4 hrs/month) - Grammar: 20 hours/year (2 hrs/month)	\$3000 (\$50/hour)

Parent Service Opportunities include indoor/outdoor cleaning, building/grounds maintenance, special events, office/clerical work, filing, and more. A list of service opportunities is available on the [website](#). Parents will use [Track It Forward](#) to sign up in advance for service tasks, days, and times and to post hours served. **Any tasks outside of those on the Parent Volunteer Sign-Up must be approved by the Dean of Administration.** If the office staff knows when to expect you, they can set aside tasks for you.

Volunteer hours for extracurricular activities do NOT count toward the required MCA Parent Service Hours with the following exceptions: (a) Parents who drive team members to and from events/competitions may record their driving time toward their MCA Parent Service Hours, after fulfilling their extracurricular hours, but not to exceed half of the required school hours. (b) Parents who have been *approved* to serve as coaches, concession stand coordinator, uniform coordinator, and Robotics' team parent fulfill both extracurricular and school service hour requirements.

Students are not allowed to contribute towards their parents' service hours; however, other adult family members may contribute toward Parent Service Hours. Students working with their adults doing Parent Service hours will earn service hours towards their school service awards.

Parents must record their Service Hours throughout the year on the [Track It Forward](#) website/app. Upper School parents can sign up for service opportunities, log, and track their service hours. Please include the parents' names, day, time, activity, and hours served.

UPPER SCHOOL STRATEGY OVERVIEW

Midland Classical Academy provides a unique culture of education.

Everything we do has purpose and practicality. Every routine is strategic. Nothing we undertake should be disconnected from our aims either in spirit or action. This does not mean we do not sometimes make

mistakes or have no room for improvement, but we strive for intentionality in every word and deed to better attain our transcendent ambitions.

The following sections provide explanation for how some of our more unusual paths are the most direct routes we have found for Midland Classical Academy and their families to Engage Minds, Pursue Christ, and Discover Greatness in an academic setting.

LEARNING DIFFERENCES

This policy applies to all students and teachers in all the classrooms of MCA.

DEFINITIONS:

Severe Learning Disability: Any condition in a potential student which would require a separate classroom, program, and/or staff in order to provide the educational services desired by the parents.

Learning Differences: Any condition in a potential student which does not require a separate classroom, program, and/or staff in order to provide the educational services desired by the parents.

- Due to limited resources, students with a severe learning disability will be admitted to MCA if, and only if, the student's parents can provide any additional resources needed at no extra cost or administrative burden to MCA. Each such case will be evaluated by the MCA Board, and admission will be granted if the Board determines that the student's admission will not unduly tax the staff or facilities of MCA.
- Students who have been diagnosed as having a learning difference will be required to meet the same academic standards as all other students at MCA. These students will be given the same individual instruction and encouragement as their classmates. The parents of such students will be responsible for any necessary academic remediation.

GRADING

No grading system is perfect. Grades are an attempt to quantify and measure a student's progress or scholastic ability in a given subject. Education consists of many variables. At MCA we strive to reflect what we believe to be the most important dimensions of learning and aptitude as accurately as possible in our grading system.

The Upper School's approach to grading has three distinctive characteristics from more conventional grading methods. These characteristics are Mastery, Revisions, and Project & Contribution Grades.

Mastery

Most schools require 70% or more to pass a course. MCA does not follow these typical pass/fail models. MCA adheres to what is best described as a Mastery/Non-Mastery model. To attain Mastery a student must achieve no less than an 85% overall grade for each class. This seems like a high standard because it is. We expect our students to not merely get by in a subject, but to proficiently understand it. We desire greatness for our students. Given a fair opportunity, students generally rise or sag to the level of expectations. If standards are high, students will work to achieve them. If they are low, students will put forth minimum effort. An integral part of an MCA education is training students to be excellent.

Revisions

One of the best ways we learn is from our mistakes. The revision policy at MCA allows students to take advantage of this learning opportunity and correct their mistakes on most project grades. For every 1 point corrected, the student receives .7 points back for their assignment. These revision values are substantial enough to incentivize reviewing and correcting mistakes, but not so high that it devalues effort during the initial work. From an institutional standpoint, revisions are not mandatory. If a student is going to do revisions, they must decide to do it. The grade provides feedback, the tutor provides the opportunity, but as with so much at MCA, the student has the freedom to take ownership of their education.

In order for learning to take place, (which is the transcendent goal of revisions) tutors put in place some sort of deadline for which they can be turned in. The more time separates the initial work from the revision, the less likely it will be that learning occurs. For this reason, MCA encourages students to turn in revisions promptly.

Ultimately, revisions serve three purposes: they make the 85% standard more attainable; they provide students with an opportunity to learn from their mistakes, and they build character in the student. Oftentimes revision work is where the most lasting learning takes place.

Math and Science Test Revisions and Retakes

If a student scores below a certain standard on a test (70-80%, depending on the class), he/she is required to revise all missed problems and then retake a test (“revise and retake”) with comparable problems. If the student scores above the standard on the second test, then he/she will not be able to revise this test and the grade will stand. If the student again scores below the standard, he/she must repeat the process on a third test. The third test is NOT revisable. A student is not able to take any future tests until this process is completed. Students and parents should feel a strong sense of urgency any time they need to retake a test, as this process can slow down progression with the rest of the class. Since math is a highly sequential subject, MCA believes that this process is what will help students to build on a solid foundation as they progress through their education.

Project & Contribution Grades

Grades at MCA are divided into two basic categories: Project and Contribution.

Project and Contribution Grades are weighted differently at different stages in the student's career. In 7th and 8th grades project grades count for more, allowing students an adjustment period to adapt to the logic and rhetoric-based classes.

	Project Grade	Contribution Grade	Total Grade
7th Grade	90%	10%	100%
8th Grade	80%	20%	100%
9th-12th Grades	70%	30%	100%

Project Grades - Project Grades measure the student’s performance on traditional types of assignments. Project Grades consist of the material work students turn in (i.e., tests, papers, quizzes, homework assignments, projects, etc.) But while Project Grades, to a degree, quantify the knowledge or skills

acquired in a particular course, their scope does not consider the extent to which the student's mind was engaged in the class. MCA believes an engaged mind is essential to authentic learning.

Contribution Grades – Contribution Grades evaluate and score students on their level of engagement in the learning process. Contribution Grades play a particularly vital role within Classical Education and the Socratic Method. Because our classes are discussion-based, they heavily rely on the students to willingly contribute by sharing their ideas, asking questions of their own, and courteously listening to the contributions of their peers. If a student is unwilling to contribute, they not only deprive themselves, but also do a disservice to other members of the class who stand to benefit from their input. Contribution Grades essentially measure a student's character and effort in a class.

Contribution Grades primarily consist of Daily Contribution Grades and may include Grammar Quizzes, Engagement Notes, and other assignments.

Daily Contribution Grades are the primary measurement in this category. Daily Contribution Grades measure important but less tangible aspects of the student's education. These include a student's material and mental preparation for class; positive contribution of thoughts/opinions/questions during class time; focused engagement on class activities or objectives; an attitude that is open to learning. Because the Greatest Commandments are to Love God and to Love others (Mark 12:29-31), a student's respectfulness of God, tutors, and their peers is a prerequisite for receiving a satisfactory and/or positive Daily Contribution Grade. In other words, a lack of respect can disqualify an otherwise good Daily Contribution Grade.

While tutors vary in their expectations to suit the needs of each class, all grades for Daily Contribution are entered daily or weekly. They typically consist of a score of 10 points per hour of class; unless the nature of a particular class time warrants a lesser score (5 points per hour). Daily Contribution Grades are non-revisable.

Daily Contribution Grades are measured along the following scale:

10	outstanding
9	good
6-8	needs improvement
0-5	serious problems are occurring

In addition to Daily Contribution Grades, tutors may also evaluate a student's preparedness for class by administering a brief Grammar Quiz. Grammar Quizzes measure and incentivize recognizing basic key facts that are necessary to know beforehand to discuss the subject matter appropriately. Grammar Quizzes should be worth no more than 50% of a normal Daily Contribution Grade – i.e., no more than 5 points.

Grammar Quiz grades should be entered and returned swiftly (by the next class day). Grammar Quiz grades may be revised within a tutor-determined time period with each correct revision receiving 70% of its original value.

Tutors may also assign students to take Engagement Notes to be completed during class and collected at the end of class for evaluation. If a tutor assigns Engagement Notes, the tutor must be clear as to the

expectations of what and how these grades will be measured. Engagement Notes should be worth no more than 50% of a normal Daily Contribution Grade – i.e., no more than 5 points.

Engagement Note grades should be entered and returned swiftly (by the next class day) and may or may not be revisable at the tutor's discretion.

Tutors may also devise additional means and methods to evaluate and grade a student's contribution, but these assignments should not replace the Daily Contribution Grade, nor exceed 50% of their normal value.

GRADING GUIDELINES: AN EXPLANATION OF THE MCA GRADING SYSTEM

A student's work will be evaluated by an objective standard in each class rather than being compared with the work of other students. Our grading system is designed to emphasize the development of character, leadership, and achievement in our students rather than to draw comparisons between students. By insisting that students strive until they achieve a required level of accomplishment (85 or higher), we believe that, among other things, we are encouraging MCA students to pursue excellence in all endeavors. We intend for excellent communication to be maintained between parents and teachers, and for parents to be aware as quickly as possible when their student is having difficulty in a particular subject. Parents may check their student's progress daily by going to the school website and logging into FACTS Family Portal. In addition, students in all grades will receive a report card via email at semester-end and year-end. Report cards will denote both numeric grades and letter grades. In addition, students will receive one of the following statuses according to their level of achievement:

“MQ” (Mastery with Honor Qualifying) concerning Upper School students, represents a grade of 92.5 or higher at the end of the first semester. This signifies a student's eligibility for an honors credit if he or she chooses to do an approved project.

“MH” (Mastery with Honor) concerning Upper School students, represents a grade of 92.5 or higher at both the end of the first semester and the end of the year along with an approved Honors Project. This signifies honors credit for the course. (*See “Honors Credit” below.*)

“M” (Mastery) concerning Upper School students, represents a grade of 85 to 92. Mastery for Grammar School students, grades first through sixth, is 85 or higher. At the semester, this signifies that the student is on target to achieve mastery. At the end of year, this signifies that the student has achieved mastery and received credit for the course.

“NM” (Non-Mastery) for all first through twelfth grade students, represents a grade below 85. At the semester, this signifies that the student is **not** on target to achieve mastery. At the end of the year, this signifies that the student **did not** receive credit for the course.

As a general principle, students must achieve Mastery (85 or higher) in all classes to be promoted to the next grade or given credit for high school classes. In some circumstances, a junior high student may be given a “C” for Completion in a non-credit course in which the student has not achieved Mastery, the student must have achieved a grade of 80% or higher, demonstrated a sufficient effort in pursuing the course material, and made adequate progress toward Mastery to allow the student to advance to the next course. At the sole discretion of the Deans, with input from the tutor and parents, a limited number of “C” courses may be allowed to apply toward promotion, and the student will enter an academic contract for the following school year.

Numerical Grade	Letter Grade for Transcript	Grade Points Earned for Transcript
96.5-100	A+	4.0
92.5-96.4	A	4.0
89.5-92.4	A-	4.0
86.5-89.4	B+	3.0
84.5-86.4	B	3.0
Below 84.5	Fail	0.0

ENROLLMENT POLICY & GRADUATION PLANS

Midland Classical Academy is committed to recovering classical education and the Christian worldview and to partnering with parents in the education of their students. We are committed to our vision to Engage Minds, Pursue Christ, and Discover Greatness in both the academic and extracurricular settings. While we believe it is best for students to follow the Classical curriculum plan, we realize there are rare instances where students are not able to complete all 28 credits required for the Classical Graduation Plan.

MCA offers three ways for students to be enrolled as a student at MCA: As a Full-Time student on the Classical Graduation Plan or the Foundational Graduation Plan, or as a Part Time student. All 7th and 8th grade students are enrolled either as a Full-Time Classical student or a Part-Time student. There is no Foundational option for Junior High students.

All incoming 9th graders are required to declare themselves as a Classical student or a Part Time student. If any currently enrolled High School Student at MCA wishes to change from the Classical Graduation Plan to the Foundational Graduation Plan, he/she must meet the requirements outlined under the Foundational Graduation Plan Policy for consideration. Acceptance is dependent upon Dean's approval.

Classical Graduation Plan

Students enrolled in the Classical Graduation Plan are enrolled in all available high school classes and will receive a Classical Graduation Diploma upon completion of the required 28 credits.

Classical students are eligible to participate in MCA sponsored extracurricular activities, RT groups, High School Retreat, and American History Trip. Classical students may apply to be an RT leader and Senior Assistant. Participation and acceptance in all activities are dependent on meeting the academic and character requirements outlined for the activity.

Required Credits for Classical Graduation Plan

4 English credits
4 Math credits
4 Social Studies credits
4 Science credits
3 Bible credits
2 Foreign Language credits
1 Speech credit
1 Fine Arts credit
1 Logic credit
1 Senior Project credit
2 Senior Elective credits
1 Physical Education credit

Foundational Graduation Plan

Students who apply and are accepted into the Foundational Graduation Plan are enrolled in four or more eligible high school classes and will receive a Foundational Graduation Diploma upon the completion of 22 or more credits.

Acceptance as a Foundational student requires a separate Foundational Graduation Plan Application and is dependent upon Dean's approval. A Classical student may apply for the Foundational Graduation Plan at the conclusion of the fall or spring semester of their 9th grade year. New student applicants entering 10th, 11th, or 12th grades may also apply for the Foundational Graduation Plan.

The Application, Student Letter, and Tutor Letters of Recommendation, along with Dean's discretion of the student's total body of involvement at MCA, are part of MCA's evaluation on whether a student is a good candidate for the Foundational Graduation Plan.

Foundational students are eligible to participate in MCA sponsored extracurricular activities, RT groups, and High School Retreat. Foundational students may apply to participate in the American History Trip and to be an RT leader. Participation and acceptance in all activities are dependent on meeting the academic and character requirements outlined for the activity.

Required Credits for Foundational Graduation Plan

4 English credits
3 Math credits
3 Social Studies credits
3 Science credits
1 Speech credit
1 Fine Arts credit
1 Senior Project credit
3 Elective credits
1 Physical Education

Part Time Students

Students who apply and are accepted as a part time student are enrolled in requested courses based on availability and pre-requisite requirements. Acceptance as a Part Time student requires a separate Part Time student application and is dependent upon Dean's approval. Parents are responsible for managing their student's course credits. Students will be provided with a transcript for the courses completed at MCA; however, they are not eligible to receive a diploma or graduate from MCA.

Part Time students are not eligible to participate in any MCA sponsored extracurricular activities. Part time students are eligible to participate in an RT group. Part time students may apply to participate in all other MCA activities, such as RT leader, High School Retreat, American History Trip, and Senior Project, if they meet the requirements outlined for the activity.

HONORS CREDIT

Mastery with Honor

Midland Classical Academy offers honors credit, referred to as “Mastery with Honor”, but we offer no “honors” classes.

From a practical standpoint we do not have the staff to teach multiple levels of credit, but more importantly, we have at least two philosophical reasons for this. First, we do not wish to segregate so-called “smart students” from “average students” because this does not promote unity and inclusive relationships. Second, we desire our honor students to stretch out, take initiative, and enhance their abilities to teach themselves and serve others.

Mastery with Honor credit for a class is given to those students who

- receive a minimum grade of 92.5 at the end of each semester.
- receive a minimum contribution grade of 85 at the end of each semester.
- demonstrate character befitting an honor student (1 Corinthians 10:31).
- complete a tutor-approved, 20+ hour project (MH Project) that advances the student’s knowledge or skills in the subject while serving either the school or the community in some capacity.

All 7th-12th grade students who meet the above criteria may complete MH projects. All 8th-12th grade classes are eligible for honors credit. Seventh grade classes are NOT eligible for honors credit, but MH projects completed in 7th grade will be considered for MH Awards and provide valuable experience for the student. The only course not eligible for a Mastery with Honor project is Senior Project.

As a student fulfills these requirements in a class at MCA, they receive a Mastery with Honor designated by an “H” for the class. Mastery with Honor applications and a nominal fee are due at the end of October. The projects themselves are due at the end of March with two scheduled checkpoints in between the application and final deadline.

We have found that awarding honors credit this way engages student’s minds and incentivizes the development of values such as love of learning, self-governance, academic excellence, and service to others.

Honor Roll

Midland Classical Academy places students on the honor roll who have received three or more “H” credits in a single school year while mastering (85% or above) all six of their classes.

Graduating with Honor

Students graduate with Honors from Midland Classical Academy if they have met the normal graduation requirements and made the Honor Roll four out of five years during 8th-12th grade.

STEM ENDORSEMENT

Students who are interested in the fields of science, math, and/or technology have the opportunity to pursue a STEM Endorsement as an MCA full-time student. In addition to course requirements, there are Mastery with Honors project and participation requirements that must be met in order for a student to receive a STEM endorsement in Math, Science, and/or Robotics on their final transcript. STUDENTS MAY QUALIFY FOR MORE THAN ONE STEM ENDORSEMENT. The vision of this opportunity is to provide an adequate representation and credit for the hard work and diligence the student has displayed during their course of study at MCA.

Requirements for STEM Endorsements

STEM FOCUS	SCIENCE	MATH	ROBOTICS
MCA REQUIRED COURSES	Biology Chemistry Physics	Algebra 1 Euclidian Geometry Algebra 2 Pre-Calculus	Engineering as a part of the robotics curriculum & active team participation
ADDITIONAL CLASSES REQUIRED FOR STEM ENDORSEMENT	Any 2 senior science electives such as Advanced Physics, Astronomy and Anatomy	Any 1 senior math elective such as Calculus or Financial Math	4 years of active robotics participation
MH requirements	Student must complete one SCIENCE MH in a senior level course. PLUS 1 additional SCIENCE MH project (grades 10-12) OR 2 additional math or science MH projects (grades 10-12)	Student must complete one MATH MH in a senior level course. PLUS 1 additional MATH MH project (grades 9-11) OR 2 additional math or science MH projects (grades 10-12)	1 Robotics oriented MH project in grades 10-12. (This MH must highlight engineering or design elements)

DUAL CREDIT

Midland Classical Academy is partnering with Christian Hall International (CHI) and their university partners to offer dual credit courses.

Upon the completion of each course and any additional CHI requirements, students will earn 3 college credit hours from the university. The credits are transferable to many but not all academic institutions of higher learning throughout the United States.

CHI's dual credit classes will follow one of two models:

1. Concurrent Model – students submit CHI assigned work through the CHI portal. This work is supported by MCA classroom instruction and curriculum.
2. Collaborative Model – certain MCA tests/assignments will count toward college grade and/or credit.

Students and parents will receive more information about enrolling with CHI in dual credit classes.

SENIOR PROJECT / SENIOR THESIS

Senior Project

The most unique class at MCA is the Senior Project class. Senior Projects are a required course for MCA graduates taken during the senior year. Students are assigned to assist a tutor in an MCA class or other highly involved project. In this endeavor, they are given many different responsibilities including teaching, entering attendance and grades, generating assignments, running errands, and grading assignments. These specific responsibilities are discussed and agreed upon at the beginning of the year and are catered to the needs of the class and tutor, as well as the senior's abilities and interests. Tutors and their senior assistants meet once a week to go over upcoming responsibilities and or concerns.

For most students, their education comes full circle during their Senior Projects as they carry the mantle of servant leadership in an academic setting. Their efforts in this class greatly benefit their tutors by sharing the load, and it greatly benefits the younger students by setting an example of what a responsible senior looks like. Seniors benefit from this experience by gaining a whole new appreciation for the education process. It also serves as a major step toward becoming a responsible, self-governing individual, ready to take their place in the larger world. Finally, as this project is undertaken, the tutor is able to disciple the student each step along the way, encouraging them, critiquing mistakes, and providing the patient wisdom and love necessary for such growth to occur.

Many lasting relationships have deepened and formed during this experience. At the end of the year the tutor shares some brief remarks about the character of his or her senior assistant during Senior Celebration.

Senior Thesis

One component of the Senior Project class is the Senior Thesis. The Senior Thesis or Senior Oral is the culmination of the student's career at Midland Classical Academy.

Each graduate is required to research, write, memorize, and deliver a ten-minute speech that demonstrates an in-depth understanding of their subject and relates the topic to other fields of study and to life. In preparation, seniors are required to conduct research such as reading a reviewed book in the purview and interviewing an expert in the field. After writing and crafting their speech under the supervision of their Senior Project Tutor, students publicly deliver their oral before family, friends, peers, the community, and a panel of three tutors. Following their speech, the student sits down at a table across from the panel of tutors who then probe the student with questions regarding their thesis and character.

What is demonstrated during this public dialogue is the student's ability to intellectually and emotionally grapple with a topic. The entire oral presentation lasts between forty-five minutes to an hour. The student's oral is graded along the following categories: scholastic ability, application to life, delivery, responses during the question period, and research requirements. Grading is conducted by staff members in the audience or on the panel.

Senior Orals at MCA are accompanied by the pageantry and ceremony befitting such a landmark event in the student's life. They are as much a final test of the graduate's academic growth as they are a celebration of their scholastic achievement.

CODE OF CONDUCT

All students are assumed to be exhibiting the godly fruit of self-control. We anticipate working with students who are characterized by joy, honesty, and diligence. For this reason, upon enrollment, we require that each student affirm that he or she will maintain the highest standards of honesty and behavior in all work done for Midland Classical Academy. All students will be asked to sign the following.

Pledge of Academic Honesty

I have read and understand the Midland Classical Academy Code of Conduct. I pledge my honor, with God as my witness, to commit myself to the practice and preservation of these standards of academic honesty as long as I am a student of the academy.

As such, the following actions are considered serious violations of our Honesty Policy.

1. *Directly copying someone else's work visually, orally, electronically, or otherwise.*
2. *Use of disallowed devices on assignments such as notes, smartphones, books, etc.*
3. *Getting test questions or essential information from another student who has already completed an assignment that will later be taken, such as a test or quiz.*
4. *Any other activity that the tutor has explicitly described as cheating or academic dishonesty.*

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (A.I.) POLICY

Artificial Intelligence programs are tools that can be used beneficially or harmfully. To the extent that MCA uses these A.I. tools, we desire to use them and instruct our students to use them beneficially. It requires the classical virtue of "Wisdom" to discern the difference between what is beneficial and what is harmful.

Among MCA's core values is "Engaging Minds". Everything we do, including our use of A.I. needs to be in harmony with this value and to cultivate within students the skill of being able to "think for themselves".

MCA offers the following principles for tutors & students to follow as they navigate A.I. in their academic domains. MCA tutors will create and clearly communicate their own instructions for A.I. usage in their classrooms and for their assignments. Students should practice integrity, honesty, and humility in their use of A.I. as in all their work.

- Principle 1: *Why to use A.I.* - A.I. should only be used by a student to equip them to better understand the material and to learn in a way that facilitates their critical thinking skills.
- Principle 2: *When to use A.I.* - Tutors will explicitly and clearly communicate which assignments a student may or may not use A.I. tools to assist in their learning.
- Principle 3: *How to use A.I.* - Tutors will explicitly and clearly communicate the method in which it is acceptable and not acceptable for the student to use A.I. tools.

Unacceptable uses of A.I. may be considered a violation of MCA's honesty policy and subject to disciplinary action.

TURNITIN POLICY

Turnitin is an internet-based service and tool that promotes academic integrity and original thought from students. Turnitin screens for similarity (plagiarism) and detects unauthorized A.I. usage in writing.

MCA requires that all students in Great Books II, III, IV and Senior Lit classes to submit their major written assignments through Turnitin. Tutors of these classes will train their students how to use Turnitin during the first three weeks of the school year and/or before any major writing assignments are due.

MCA tutors will use the feedback provided by Turnitin to:

- 1.) Hold students accountable for academic honesty and original thought.
- 2.) More effectively coach our students in their writing.
- 3.) Determine if a violation of the honesty policy has occurred and disciplinary action is warranted.

Turnitin is a tool. It is not a replacement for wisdom. The feedback Turnitin provides will not to be used to render automatic judgments regarding MCA's honesty policy. Tutors and Deans will continue to use their wisdom to make these decisions. But Turnitin's feedback will be able to provide tutors and deans additional information and data points as they make these determinations.

- Tutors will continue to grade physical hard copies of papers that are handed into class.
- Tutors will not submit a grade for major writing assignments in RenWeb/FACTS until the student has submitted their work through the appropriate Turnitin channel. If the assignment is not posted through Turnitin by the tutor's deadline, the tutor will enter the grade as missing -0- into RenWeb and will explain that it has not been submitted in the comment section for that assignment.
- The tutor will have a discussion with the student about the integrity of their work under one or more of the following scenarios:
 - The Turnitin Similarity Report comes back with 25 % similarity or greater
 - The A.I. detection reports A.I. usage (this will only apply for assignments where ai was not permitted.)
 - The tutor believes such a discussion would be beneficial
- The next course of action – encouragement, coaching, further investigation, academic discipline will be determined following this conversation. Parents will be notified, per MCA policy, if academic discipline is likely.

Note: A high Similarity Report or a positive A.I. Detection are not automatic indicators that honesty policy has been violated. Likewise, a low Similarity Report or a negative A.I. Detection are not automatic indicators that there is not a violation of MCA's honesty policy.

Junior High Turnitin Guidelines

- No 7th or 8th grade classes/students will be required to submit their work through Turnitin preemptively.
- 7th and 8th grade tutors may, at their discretion, ask for a digital copy of student's work for the tutor to submit through Turnitin and evaluate to determine if follow-up (and/or if an honesty policy violation has occurred).

Seniors Thesis

Seniors will also be required to submit the first and final copies of their written thesis through Turnitin. This will be administered through Senior Admin.

DRESS CODE POLICY

Students attending Midland Classical Academy are expected to comply with the following guidelines for student attire:

General - Midland Classical Academy is a workplace for students as well as for tutors. Students should dress in such a way as to demonstrate their respect for the school, their fellow students, the tutors and the staff.

Enforcement - The tutor will determine if there is a violation of the dress code, either in fact or in attitude. Students will be asked to rectify their appearance as quickly as possible up to waiting in the office for a parent to bring different clothes or taken home to change. Cheerful, consistent compliance is expected; grumbling and challenging attitudes will be subject to disciplinary action.

The student or the parents may appeal a dress code violation decision to the Executive Dean, Dean of Administration, or MCA Board for future attire choices. However, disciplinary action for not complying with instructions to rectify attire when directed to will not be appealable even if the student is found to have not been out of compliance with the dress code policy.

STUDENT DRIVER POLICY

Students who drive to school are expected to do so responsibly. Special attention should be paid to other students in the parking lot before and after school. Driving to school is a privilege that may be revoked if necessary.

Student Parking

Students are not allowed to park directly in front of the Library or in spaces marked "Visitor." Students may park in front of the gyms, on the east side of Whitman Dr. or in the baseball field lot. Do not block Fire Lanes!

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones, iPods, iPads, laptops, and other electronic devices create more responsibility for the owner. If the owner uses an electronic device irresponsibly, the device may be confiscated during a class or until a parent can pick it up. Tutors may also require all electric devices to be put in a centralized location during class. Cell phones are not allowed to be used in the Library.

Smartphones provide a near limitless buffet of conveniences to our lives, but it is no secret that they also can be a harmful distraction from the things that matter most. Because MCA values the skill of thinking above the regurgitation of facts, the advent of smartphones can be particularly threatening to the mission of MCA – especially “Engaging Minds.” Thinking requires time, focus and energy. Smart phones’ constant barrage of notifications and texts (not to mention the temptations of games, social media feeds, endless scrolling, etc.) often intercept and undermine students’ thoughts before those thoughts can hatch. In light of this, MCA wants to provide a sanctuary from such distractions for our students. We realize that this policy may occasionally be an inconvenience to parents when you are trying to reach your students. But we ask that you consider the upshot, which is the enhancement of your son’s and daughter’s capacity to think well.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

The goal of Midland Classical Academy is to help our students become godly disciples of Jesus Christ. We hope the need for discipline will rarely arise, but if it does, the tutors will determine the kind and amount of discipline. The discipline will be administered in the light of the individual student's problem and attitude. All discipline will be based on biblical principles e.g., restitution, apologies (public and private), restoration of fellowship, no lingering attitudes, etc. To maintain consistency, the staff will discuss biblical standards and school policy concerning discipline. If a staff member is unable to satisfactorily deal with a discipline problem at the Upper School, the matter will be brought to the Dean of Students. The student and parents may meet with the Dean of Students to determine the nature of the discipline. The Dean may require restitution actions with the aggrieved parties, restoration actions with the aggrieved parties, parents’ attendance during the school day with their student, or other measures consistent with biblical guidelines which may be appropriate. Examples of these actions would be similar activities students currently do such as lunch/afternoon duty or academic projects. To increase clarity and accountability, the student may be asked to enter into a contract with the parents. Student contracts may set forth specific expectations of behavior or conditions upon which the student may either maintain enrollment at MCA or continue to have a pending graduation plan. A member of the Board of Trustees shall approve any contract entered into leading to termination of a student’s right to attend MCA. A student may be expelled at the sole discretion of the Board of Trustees for either a violation of the Policies of Midland Classical Academy or a violation of a contract pursuant to this policy. Expulsion due to a violation of the Policies of MCA shall require approval of the Dean of Students, as well as the Board of Trustees. Should a student be expelled from the school, there shall be no refund of any tuition or expenditure already paid, and the family shall be liable to pay any further contracted tuition for the remainder of the year. No corporal punishment will be administered. It is vital for parents and students to realize that maintaining an orderly atmosphere is critical to the learning process. As in all other areas of education at Midland Classical Academy, love and forgiveness will be an integral part of the discipline of a student.

Academic Honesty Violations: Midland Classical Academy maintains strict standards for academic honesty and handles violations internally, involving only the student, parents, tutor, and Dean of Students. Disciplinary action follows a three-strike system: the first and second strikes result in a zero on the

assignment and increasing consequences, while a third strike leads to expulsion. Academic Strikes are cumulative across all classes and the career of each student.

Note on Expulsion: The Midland Classical Academy Board of Trustees realizes that expelling a student from school is a very serious matter and should always be carefully dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Forgiveness and restitution are fundamental to our total discipline policy; however, should a student and his/her parents not be able to make satisfactory progress toward eliminating behavioral problems, the student will be expelled.

Serious Misconduct: If a student commits an act with such serious consequences that the Board of Trustees deems it necessary, suspension or expulsion may be imposed immediately. Examples of such serious misconduct could include acts endangering the lives of other students or staff members, perpetrating or threatening gross violence, violations of civil or criminal law, or any act in clear contradiction of scriptural commands for moral conduct (Galatians 5:19-21). Students may be subject to school discipline for serious misconduct that occurs after school hours and/or away from school grounds.

Re-admittance: Should the expelled student desire to be readmitted to Midland Classical Academy at a later date, the Board of Trustees will make a decision based on the student's attitude and circumstances at the time of reapplication.

GRIEVANCE POLICY

The objective of this policy is to establish biblical guidelines for the resolution of disputes and grievances in the operation of Midland Classical Academy. These guidelines are to be followed whenever there is a dispute or grievance concerning any aspect of Midland Classical Academy's operations between any two parties connected in a direct way to the school. This includes students, parents, staff, volunteers, and board members. It is expected that we conduct our communications with one another in such a way that Christ is honored in all we say or do, including what we choose to post on social media and how we talk with one another.

Conflicts should be resolved at the lowest level possible, in accordance with Matthew Chapter 18. If you have a dispute or grievance with a tutor/teacher, coach, extra-curricular sponsor, other student, other parent, or board member, you must first meet with the person involved. If an agreement cannot be reached, both parties should then approach the next level of authority.

Students/parents to tutors/coaches:

- The student and/or parents must first present all concerns about a class to the tutor or coach. If the student presents the concern, a respectful demeanor is required at all times.
- If the problem is not resolved, the student, parents, and the tutor or coach together may bring the concern to the Academic Dean or Athletic Director, as applicable.

Parents/patrons to school administration/athletic director:

- If parents or patrons have a grievance or dispute about the general operation of the school (apart from the operation of a class), they should first bring their concerns to the Executive Dean/Dean of Administration/Athletic Director, as applicable. If this does not bring satisfaction, any concerns may be taken to the Board.
- This procedure applies to members of the Board who are acting in their capacity as parents or patrons and not acting as representatives of the Board.
- If a parent has a dispute with a coach or athletic director, the parent should wait 24 hours before addressing with the coach or athletic director unless the issue is relating to serious misconduct.

UPPER SCHOOL HOURS

We can only guarantee your student's admittance into the building during these hours and when staff are present. Unless your student has an early morning athletic practice the building will not be open earlier.

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday ♦ 7:45 am – 3:30 pm

Friday ♦ 7:45 am – 12:30 pm

Upper School Regular Schedule	
Period 1	8:15 am – 9:10 am
Period 2	9:15 am – 10:10 am
Period 3	10:15 am – 11:10 am
Period 4	11:15 am – 12:10 pm
Lunch	12:15 pm – 1:10 pm
Period 5	1:15 pm – 2:10 pm
Period 6	2:15 pm – 3:10 pm

Upper School Delayed Schedule	
<i>See "Inclement Weather Policy"</i>	
Period 1	10:00 am – 10:35 am
Period 2	10:40 am – 11:15 am
Period 3	11:20 am – 11:55 am
Period 4	12:00 pm – 12:35 pm
Lunch	12:40 pm – 1:35 pm
Period 5	1:40 pm – 2:15 pm
Period 6	2:20 pm – 2:55 pm

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This policy is designed to encourage student attendance at school. At school, a student is exposed to various types of instruction in each class or subject. Because of the nature of classes at Midland Classical Academy, each class period should contribute significantly to the curriculum objectives; therefore, it is necessary to encourage student attendance in all prescribed classes. However, in recognizing the authority of parents over their children, we understand that parents may decide that it is in the best interest of their student not to attend school on a particular day.

Students enrolled in a class at Midland Classical Academy are expected to attend all prescribed class sessions. Parents and/or the student may not choose how many class sessions to attend.

A record of attendance for each student will be kept.

ABSENCES

Parents must inform the school if their student will be absent for any reason. **Call the office at 432-694-0995 or email upperschoolnurse@mcaknights.org prior** to the absence or on the morning of the absence. If a student is absent without prior notification by a parent, the school will call the parent to determine the validity of the absence. A tardy will be marked at the discretion of the individual tutors. Students or parents should contact the individual tutor to report reasons for tardiness as soon as possible.

In the event an Upper School student is absent for more than one-fourth (1/4) of the class sessions during a semester, the student's parents must meet with the tutor and Dean of Administration to determine whether the student will receive credit for the class. Additional and/or make-up work may be required.

Upon request from parents, the Executive Dean, Dean of Administration, or Board may waive requirements set by provisions of this policy. In doing so, the Deans and Board should consider the student's mastery in all subjects, attitude toward work and study, and disciplinary record at school.

Missed Assignment Due Date Guidelines: In the event of an absence, an extension will be given. The extension will not exceed the number of school days missed during the absence. Due dates will be established by the teacher or class tutor. Students must complete all work assigned during their absence. However, the teachers or tutors may, at their discretion, excuse the students from any portion of the assignments missed. Students will receive full credit for submitting assigned work. **Note:** It is the student's responsibility to find out what work was assigned. In the case of extended illness, it is recommended that the student or parents contact the tutors directly to find out what assignments were or will be missed.

LEAVING CAMPUS

Midland Classical Academy has no system, and no intention of establishing one, for monitoring whether a seventh through twelfth grade student remains on campus. Midland Classical Academy assumes no responsibility for the parental oversight of its students.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If school is postponed or canceled due to inclement weather, information regarding school hours will be posted on MCA's website, www.mcaknights.org. You will also receive a text message/email from the school Parent Alert system. Information concerning weather conditions may be listed on the following television stations: 2, 7, 9, and 24 Unless there are extreme conditions, MCA will proceed with school as scheduled. It is rare that MCA needs to cancel school. On occasion, we may determine for the safety of those travelling that a delayed start is necessary. The delayed start will always begin at 10:00 am with the day ending at 3:30 pm. (See Delayed Schedule.) In the event of inclement weather that does not cause a school cancellation, parental discretion should be used to determine whether your student should attend school. Please call the main office if you have any questions or need further information.

SOCIAL POLICY

MCA encourages appropriate social activities and may sponsor such activities throughout the year. The Board of Trustees, at its sole discretion, will determine which events are appropriate.

One of the primary goals of MCA is to assist parents in developing outstanding character in their students. The Great Commandment to "...love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39) embodies the most supreme of all character qualities next to one's love for the Lord. Furthermore, the quality of Christian love is the governing character quality for both Christian relationships and one's relationship with God (1 John 3:10, 16, & 4:20). It follows that the term "socialization" should encompass Christian love as the proper "social" behavior toward others.

Relationships among boys and girls provide an outstanding opportunity to practice respectful, encouraging, and loving behavior. Rather than the common notions about “romance as love,” we believe the foundational definition of love is found in I Corinthians 13: 4-7, and is the measure of the actions of the students toward one another:

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres” I Cor. 13:4-7 (NIV, 1984).

This biblical standard of “love” in principle, excludes the common practice of focusing on the emotion or physical attributes of a member of the opposite sex as an instrument of entertainment. Therefore, we will actively discourage any activities or actions that promote such “unsociable” and unloving behavior. Included in such unloving behavior are the following examples: comments which denigrate others, inappropriate behavior or comments which measure the worth of others based on an improper emphasis on physical characteristics or capabilities, rude or vulgar language, etc.

In light of this Great Commandment to “love others,” MCA seeks to cultivate both the environment and attitudes that encourage practical growth in exercising this type of Christian love as our basic social policy. Therefore:

- Any behavior between students which violates this principle of Christian love will be discouraged.
- Every social event, however, should not only promote Christian love (which builds one another up), but each event shall also encourage the standards described in Philippians 4:8: *“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things”* (NIV, 1984).

The Board of Trustees, at its sole discretion, will determine what events comply with the above Social Policy.

RELATIONAL SKILLS

MCA will seek to promote biblical virtues in the area of relationships, with emphasis on biblical principles. MCA seeks to train students in relational skills through implicit as well as explicit means. Some classes, such as Rhetoric, place major emphasis on such skill. In other classes, discussions may lead to subjects that provide opportunity for students to develop a biblical, and therefore effective, understanding of relational skills. The staff also seeks to promote the development and practice of effective, biblically sound, relational skill development outside the classroom. Set forth below is a philosophy and/or strategy the MCA staff intends to utilize in promoting such skill development. We solicit and desire to be of one mind with parents on this subject and accordingly welcome parent communication and feedback relating to this subject. However, we realize that in some cases the parents will not agree with parts of this philosophy. In keeping with our commitment to parent ownership of the education process and recognizing that parents may disagree with this philosophy, we therefore recognize that when students are off campus, they may not comply with these philosophies.

I Corinthians 13 Friendship

This is not intended to be an exhaustive study on what the Bible says about friendship, but rather a brief outline of certain pivotal principles. Both I Corinthians 13 and Jesus' description of the "greatest commandment" are familiar passages, but each has much to offer on this subject.

What is I Corinthians 13 Friendship?

John 15:13 states that no one can have any greater love than to lay down his life for a friend. This might be viewed as the ultimate definition of friendship. Perhaps I Corinthians 13 could be viewed as the steps one takes toward those ultimate friendship commitments. The first thing to notice about this chapter of the Bible is that emotions are never addressed. This does not necessarily mean that emotions must not play a role or that emotions are to be excluded. It does seem to indicate that this ultimate friendship love is defined by actions taken rather than the feelings of the one taking the action. Following is a brief review of some of the active characteristics identified in what might be considered the consummate treatise on friendship.

Love is patient... Patience is, of course, a fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22). It is interesting that the first characteristic noted for effective friendship is patience. The very definition of patience indicates that there is an irritant present. No patience is required when all circumstances are harmonious. It is when an acquaintance is annoying that the opportunity to employ this I Corinthians 13 definition of friendship takes wing.

Therefore, the MCA staff will endeavor to promote a culture in which students bear a receptive attitude toward those with whom they have significant differences. This might include taking the time and effort to question or challenge a fellow student in his thinking, rather than simply shooting him down. In the event a fellow student is out of line, it might include a rebuke that is offered with dignity and respect for the fellow student. It definitely excludes grouping an undesirable student into a category that is then ridiculed or persecuted by another group. For example, the action of a student in categorizing fellow students as "nerds" or "jocks" for the purpose of categorical opposition and ridicule has no place in this biblical definition. If a student has difficulty dealing with a fellow student due to differences based on student interests, backgrounds, or even personalities, the MCA staff will endeavor to promote the development of patience in that student.

Love is not jealous... God calls Himself jealous when His bride, the church, chases after other gods. Therefore, we would take this not to be the godly kind of jealousy that desires exclusivity of relationship, such as in marriage, that is proper and in the best interest of those concerned. Rather, this appears to refer to the kind of exclusivity that seeks to possess another person for one's own self-serving purposes. Therefore, the MCA staff will seek to encourage students to avoid creating barriers that might inhibit the broad development of friendships. This could include groupings, or "cliques," that seek to exclude and/or denigrate "outsiders" as a primary tenet of the group's purpose. This could also include inappropriate "best friend" or inter-gender relationships that are based on exclusivity and possessiveness.

Love's characteristics... "Love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, it does not take into account a wrong suffered." (NASB) This passage describes characteristics any of us would love to have in a friend, recalling the admonition in Hebrews to "stir up one another to love and good works." (ESV) The MCA staff believes that by emphasizing friendship, in the sense of exhibiting this type of behavior toward those who don't necessarily have anything to offer to us, the students have a terrific opportunity to develop godly character. We believe this can provide a solid foundation in their future endeavors, whether it is in their family, community, or business.

Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness... We will diligently seek to encourage students to applaud and encourage only righteous and godly behavior.

I Corinthians 13 Friendship is Unnatural

After reading the foregoing, it should be clear that this describes an ideal rather than an existing state of being. It requires, at a minimum, a lot of dedication and hard work to be a real friend. In reality, it probably requires supernatural empowerment. A student who develops these skills in his formative years will be, in our opinion, substantially equipped for leadership in the home and in the community.

Relationships Based on Physical Attraction

Unlike the previous section where a sketch of the I Corinthians 13 friendship ideal is proposed, initiating relationships based on physical attraction can be effortless. God built a physical attraction between the genders that is mysterious and powerful. This attraction can create emotional fireworks that can be exhilarating for a while. However, without the I Corinthians 13 style of relationship as a foundation, these relationships will inevitably falter.

It seems clear in Scripture that the ideal model is for young men and women to contain their physical desires that lead toward physical, sexual union until marriage. Unlike I Corinthians, in which we are admonished to “pursue love” (I Cor. 14:1 ESV), in the case of physical attraction, we are admonished to “flee” and “control” such urges until the appropriate timing, in marriage. When a young man and woman are in a station of life to pursue marriage, Scripture seems clear that the physical relationship is then to become an integral part of their marriage.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, it seems fitting for MCA staff to continually encourage students to develop I Corinthians 13 friendship skills and to avoid bypassing such opportunities by pursuing relationships based on physical attraction. Accordingly, social discourse and intermingling of all kinds of students will be a positive opportunity. Younger and older students, men and women, math-oriented and language-oriented students may all benefit from the opportunity to practice I Corinthians 13 friendship skills with one another, since these differences are likely to lead to circumstances that require skills like patience and forbearance.

Conversely, social groups that identify “members” by modes of dress or actions and seek to differentiate themselves from other students in a derogatory manner should be discouraged or disallowed. Similarly, it seems apparent that when the powerful, but temporal, intrinsic inter-gender physical attractions are cultivated, the opportunity to develop the difficult, but sustaining, supernatural I Corinthians 13 friendship skills will most likely be substantially compromised. Therefore, MCA staff will encourage inter-gender relations to remain at a I Corinthians 13 friendship level, given that MCA students are not expected to be at an age or station of life to pursue marriage.

Our belief is that the easiest way to promote this distinction is to discourage any “mock marriage” type of commitments. In a marriage, each spouse is committed to the other, and exclusivity is essential. Biblically, this commitment is ideally broken only by death. Our society has invented various forms of “temporary marriage”, whereby a couple is exclusive, and pursues mutual “enjoyment” of physical and emotional intimacy. We view this sort of arrangement as a barrier to the aforementioned development of the spiritual discipline that we are admonished to pursue in Scripture. We believe that by pursuing this “supernatural” rather than “natural” course, students have the opportunity to develop skills that will lead to real, fulfilling marriages, complete with the physical relational pleasures, as well as terrific ministry opportunities that could otherwise be missed.

We hope to promote these principles without reverting to making many rules. We ask, and require, that students do not display physical intimacy appropriate for married or engaged couples, such as kissing, caressing, embracing, and holding hands, etc. while on campus. We also intend to address any pattern of clothing that is designed to create exclusions or divisions among students, as the need may arise.

FIREARMS ON CAMPUS - SCHOOL GUARDIAN PLAN

Texas State Law (Texas Penal Code Title 10 Chapter 46), Federal Laws, & potential other local laws prohibit the possession of a firearm on the school premises, at all school-related activities, and in school vehicles except by written authorization of the institution. Each licensed gun holder is responsible for understanding and following the applicable laws related to carrying. The policy to obtain written authorization to carry firearms on the premises of Midland Classical Academy for private citizens is outlined below.

Midland Classical Academy has instituted a School Guardian Plan as a practical application to provide an extra level of safety to the students and campus of MCA. School Guardian participants receive written consent from MCA allowing them to possess a firearm on the school premises. Each participant in the School Guardian Program must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Must be a full-time employee of MCA
- Maintain a valid Concealed Handgun License
- Must take a psychological exam every 5 years
- Must qualify annually at the same distances and rounds in the Texas License to Carry Test
- Must shoot a minimum of 50 rounds per month of practice with a handgun
- Must take an active shooter course approved by the Board of Trustees
- Must submit and pass any random drug tests
- May only have frangible handgun or Winchester #1/Federal #4 buckshot ammunition on campus
- Must keep any firearm secure at all times

Each School Guardian must be approved in writing by the Executive Dean and one other Dean (Approvers). No candidate who completes all requirements shall be entitled to be included as a School Guardian Participant without written approval, which shall be at the Approver's sole discretion of candidates who meet the minimum requirements. A list of participants in the School Guardian program will not be made available to the public but will be shared with the Midland Police Department or Midland Sheriff's Department, as well as MCA leadership. School Guardian participants will be volunteer participants and qualifying and being selected in the program shall not create an obligation to keep a firearm on campus at any time.

Written permission may also be granted by any two Deans or one Dean and an Administrator for firearms to be brought onto campus for education or ceremonial purposes (e.g., hunter safety classes, color guard presentations, etc.).

ILLEGAL DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Because our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, the possession, use, or distribution of illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco product(s) is/are prohibited, and it is also a violation of the law to do so on campus

or at any associated school events. The Executive Dean, Deans of Students, or Dean of Administration of MCA reserves the right to conduct routine and random checks for illegal drugs anywhere on campus (including vehicles in parking lot) with reasonable suspicion, as defined with the Deans. Violation of this policy will be dealt with by the Deans whether the events occur on or off campus and whether or not the parents have knowledge of the activity. Any reasonable grounds or discovery of actual illegal drug use or sales will be referred to the Midland Police Department or Midland County Sheriff's Department by the Executive Dean.

STUDENT HEALTH

MEDICAL CONDITIONS & MEDICATIONS

Parents should notify the nurse of allergies, asthma, medical conditions, medications (both scheduled and as needed), or special instructions regarding their student. Medical Forms may be found on the website under Resources/Forms & Files. Action Plans must be completed and signed by a physician and signed by a parent. A Medication Form for the administering of *prescription medications* must be signed by both a physician and a parent. A Medication Form for the administering of *over-the-counter medications* must be signed by a parent and the medications must be supplied by the parent. All Medical Forms must be turned into the office before the first day of school.

ILLNESS

Your student will be sent home during the school day for a fever greater than 100.0°, vomiting, and/or diarrhea, respiratory symptoms, suspected pink eye or unexplained rash. Your student may not return to school until they have been fever-free and symptom free for 24 hours WITHOUT the use of medication. If your student becomes sick at home, please follow these same guidelines, and keep your student home. In the event of a Covid related circumstance, the situation will be reviewed, and a plan of action determined.

HEALTH SCREENING

MCA provides vision, hearing, spinal, and acanthosis nigricans (pre-diabetes) screening for various grades, which is determined by Texas law. Vision, hearing, and acanthosis nigricans screening is performed for 7th graders and for any new student that MCA does not have the documentation of a previous screening. Spinal screening is performed for 7th grade girls, 8th grade boys, and any new student that MCA does not have the documentation of a previous screening. Parents will be notified by email when their student will be screened. The information should also be on the calendar and in the weekly newsletter. These screenings are usually performed in the fall. Only abnormal results will be communicated to parents, usually within 3-4 weeks after the screenings.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Texas law requires all students of public and private schools to show acceptable evidence of current immunization history prior to attending school. If your student needs an immunization, you will be notified by the office. Additional immunizations are usually required between 6th grade and 7th grade.

PHYSICALS

All students are required to have a current health physical on record each year, whether or not they participate in a sport. Please use the Physical Form found on the website. Many clinics in the area perform school physicals. It is best to schedule your student's physical early.

SCHOOL TESTING

MCA offers the PSAT 8/9, PSAT/NMSQT, and the SAT School Day, provided by the College Board.

The PSAT 8/9 is given in March to all 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students. Score reports provide a large amount of information regarding the areas where your student excels, as well as areas needing improvement. Students 13 years of age and older will be able to create an account with the College Board to obtain their scores and see this information. The fee for this test is paid by MCA. Your student is not required to take this test, but it is beneficial for them.

The PSAT/NMSQT is given in October to all 10th and 11th grade students. Juniors taking this exam may be eligible for a National Merit Scholarship depending upon their test score. Scores are available on the College Board website if students have created an account with the College Board. The fee for the test is billed through FACTS. Your student is not required to take this test, but it is beneficial for them.

The SAT School Day is given in the spring to 11th and 12th grade students who elect to take the test. Students will be given an opportunity to sign up through the MCA office. Students do not sign up on College Board for this particular test. They will obtain their scores on the College Board's website. The fee for this is billed through FACTS.

Additional information about these tests is available on www.collegeboard.com. The SAT and ACT tests are also provided at Midland College and Odessa College throughout the year.

P. E. CREDIT

Due to Texas state standards for high school graduation and state university requirements, MCA requires each student to have one P.E. credit. Because MCA does not offer a P.E. class, each student must participate in one athletic activity during high school. *Tennis, golf, powerlifting, track/field and the RYPT Program require 2 seasons of participation to earn 1 P. E. credit. All other sports require 1 season of participation. Intramural flag football does not qualify for a P.E. credit.* Any other activities that might count towards a P. E. credit must be submitted to the Dean of Administration and Athletic Director for approval.

STUDENT SERVICE AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

MCA students are encouraged to serve their school and community. They have the opportunity to earn awards for hours spent in service. Students serving 25 hours for the benefit of the school will receive a **School Service Award**. A **Community Service Award** can also be earned by serving an additional 25 hours to benefit the community. Students may earn a Community Service Award ONLY if they have also

earned a School Service Award. Students should ask Tutors or Office Staff for opportunities to earn school hours. Community hours must be accompanied by a letter of explanation signed by an adult supervisor. Recognition of service hours will be awarded at the year-end Awards Ceremony. Students must record their service hours in the Student Service Hours Binder in the Front Office. The document with signed proof of community service should be inserted behind their binder page. If service hours are not recorded in the binder, they will not be credited to the student.

LUNCH & AFTERNOON DUTIES

All students are required to help with clean up at the end of the lunch hour and after school two weeks during the school year. Each week, the students who are responsible for the upcoming week's duties will be announced at Friday Assembly. Students will also receive an email reminding them of their service week. Both Lunch and Afternoon Duty last one week. A student may have the jobs on two different weeks or on the same week. A tutor or staff member is always assigned to supervise Lunch & Afternoon Duty. Any questions or conflicts should be directed to the staff member on duty or to the Dean of Administration.

Lunch Duty is at 1:00 pm sharp. Students on duty must be in the Lunchroom every day during their assigned week. Duty usually only takes about 15 minutes and *includes pushing in all chairs at all tables, wiping down all tables, cleaning microwaves, gathering trash from campus and taking to dumpster, and moving backpacks and papers to Lost & Found.*

Afternoon Duty is after school at 3:15 pm. Students on duty should report to the Lunchroom every day during their assigned week. *Afternoon Duty includes wiping down tables, gathering trash, and taking to dumpster, stacking chairs on tables, sweeping the lunchroom and hallway, and placing stray personal items in Lost & Found.*

Friday Lunch/Afternoon Duty happens promptly at 12:15 pm. *In addition to regular Lunch and Afternoon Duty tasks, students must also mop the floors, collect any lost/left items and put them in Lost and Found, and vacuum or dust the Library.* Always ask if anything else needs to be done. You will be rewarded for your service!

At the end of each week, students who have satisfactorily completed their week of service and served all 5 days will receive a coveted **Golden Ticket**. If you have a conflict, you may find a sub, but for only 1 of the assigned days. Golden Tickets are academic bargaining chips for school assignments. Students should ask each of their tutors what they might receive for turning in their Golden Ticket.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost and Found items are kept in the Lunchroom. Valuable items (cell phones, wallets, money, jewelry, etc.) may be kept at the Front Desk in the Library. All items not claimed by the end of each semester will be donated to charity. All of a student's belongings should be clearly marked with each student's name. Office staff will return items to students that are marked. Parents will not be called to retrieve their student's lost items. The student is responsible for keeping up with his/her belongings.

STUDENT LOCKER POLICY

Lockers are available outside the Practice Gym for students to rent each year. Students must provide their own lock and turn in a signed *Locker Agreement Form*.

Midland Classical Academy offers school lockers as a service to the student body. Lockers will remain the property of MCA. Thereby MCA retains the right to search or confiscate materials from lockers. MCA also has the right to revoke locker usage from a student found violating the locker policy. Students utilizing lockers are to be good stewards. Students are responsible for all items in their locker and should not possess any material prohibited by the MCA code of conduct. Lockers should remain locked when not in use.

Students will be asked to clean out lockers before the last week of school and notify the administrative staff when cleaning is complete. Any student withdrawing or expelled during the course of the year will do this in conjunction with their departure.

Students will not receive their report card/transcript until their locker has been cleaned out and inspected by the administrative staff. Students will be financially liable for any damage inflicted on lockers as determined by the Dean of Administration.

Locker Assignment Procedure

Locker sign-ups will be available during Orientation or during school hours in the Office.

1. Student must submit a *Locker Agreement Form* to MCA. This form indicates that the student agrees to the *MCA Locker Policy*.
2. Student must bring a lock that will keep their locker secure at all times once it is issued to them.

STUDENT LIFE

Midland Classical Academy attempts to promote a culture that encourages inclusiveness, excellence, responsibility, and spiritual growth. Below, is a brief list of the activities available to our students. If you have questions, please call the office and we will be glad to provide you with further details.

ROUND TABLE GROUPS

RT or Round Table Groups are designed to foster fellowship, encouragement, accountability and mentoring between students at MCA. All 7th –10th grade students are assigned to an RT group which consists of an adult sponsor, senior/junior leaders, and a group of equally distributed 7th through 10th graders of the same gender. During the year, the RT leaders meet with their RT groups to go to lunch, have movie nights, Bible studies, and other group activities. The goal of these groups is to make new friends, promote servanthood and provide the opportunity for older students to mentor younger students. RT Groups are designed to foster an inclusive environment at MCA by eliminating traditional class cliques.

Round Table Groups are initiated at the beginning of each school year at RT Night. This crazy, costumed kick-off introduces Round Table leaders and sponsors to their new group members.

HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

The Upper School at Midland Classical Academy goes on a High School Retreat each September generally in the Texas Hill Country. Students in grades 9-12 go to camp for a week of relationship-building, biblical teaching, and interactive activities. The junior and senior RT leaders leave for camp on Monday and come back on Friday while the sophomores and freshmen depart for camp on Tuesday and return to MCA on Friday. The students enjoy games, camp activities and many opportunities to slow down and get to know their classmates and tutors. Teaching times are led by tutors and all activities are facilitated by MCA and camp staff.

DISCOVERING GREATNESS CLASS AND KNIGHT NIGHT

Engaging minds, pursuing Christ, and discovering greatness are the basic tenets Midland Classical Academy holds dear.

Believing that our students will go places far and wide upon graduation, MCA affords them the opportunity to take part in our Discovering Greatness program so that they can be confident as they go out to represent the Kingdom.

In this program, the students continue their pursuit of quality servant leadership skills through learning about etiquette, which derives from French for “ticket.” This ticket gives us the privilege of interacting with others, and it allows each of us to pursue Christ in putting others first by showing them consideration and serving them.

Students also put into practice the servant leadership tenets that were learned during their sophomore Rhetoric class. This includes exploring their spiritual gifts and personality types, as well as those of their classmates, in order to become a cohesive group of leaders for MCA who can also reach out and impact our Midland/Odessa community. Additionally, it provides a chance for feedback as they become first year RT leaders in the MCA community.

The students will be introduced to leaders in the wider Permian Basin community who will help them become acquainted with the values and needs in our local area. This will, prayerfully, allow the students to find the places God has for them to serve in their community and see why He has placed them in the Permian Basin and at MCA for such a time as this!

“But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.” Matthew 23:11

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45

The culmination of this class is **Knight Night**. This Junior-Senior Banquet is a celebration honoring our seniors and recognizing participation in Discovering Greatness during the junior year. Students are required to meet the participation and attendance expectations in Discovering Greatness during their junior year as a requirement for attending Knight Night. This formal dinner and festivities is a night not to be missed and also a night which younger students look forward to.

WEEKLY ASSEMBLY

Assembly is a weekly activity at Midland Classical Academy when the school comes together to worship, learn, play, and listen to announcements. The purpose of assembly is to give the students a chance to unite as a student body. Assemblies vary from week to week, ranging from student performances, group activities, guest speakers and tutor testimonies, to a host of other activities. Assemblies are often student-led and student-organized.

INTRAMURAL FLAG FOOTBALL

During the fall semester all male students are invited to participate in Intramural Flag Football. This activity is a student-led activity led by the senior guys. Teams are selected through a draft, and games are played on Friday afternoons. NOTE: Flag Football does NOT count towards a student's P.E. Credit.

GAME GUILD

All students are welcome to join other students and tutors after school on Friday once a month to play challenging board games and enjoy pizza. Engage your minds in some friendly competition!

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

PHILOSOPHY

Midland Classical Academy considers the extracurricular activities it sponsors to be an integral part of the learning experience for students and accordingly encourages wide participation.

With the primary mission of MCA being focused on assisting parents in developing their students into Christian leaders who walk with the Lord in a manner that impacts the world for Christ, our extracurricular activities provide an outstanding opportunity to put the principles learned in the classroom into action. Our culture worships fame, achievement, and personal glory. In contrast, MCA seeks to

pursue success in a manner which is distinctive from that of our culture, and which will accomplish drastically different results.

Effort

MCA's extracurricular programs provide an ideal opportunity for students to learn to put forth maximum effort, even when the flesh is weak.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 says, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might." Ephesians 2:10 says, "We are created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we might walk in them." Paul says in I Corinthians 9:24, "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it." Colossians 3:23 says, "Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men." In all these (NKJV) passages the need for diligent effort is apparent.

Character

MCA's extracurricular programs provides an ideal opportunity for students to practice walking by faith, denying the flesh, and walking in the spirit.

Romans 8:28-29 says that God weaves all things together to conform us to the image of Christ. Galatians 5:22 lists the fruit of the Spirit that we exhibit as we allow Christ to live through us.

Joy: When we experience disappointment in meeting our desires, whether it be playing time or outcome, we have the opportunity to learn to focus on the greater goal of becoming like Christ. This allows us to experience joy in times of unhappy circumstances.

Peace: When we are confronted with belligerent opponents, a biased official, a heckling crowd, or even uncooperative teammates, we have the opportunity to learn to focus on the fact that Christ as the great judge will bring all to right, and His rest becomes our peace.

Patience: When we are frustrated in achieving our desires - the development of personal ability, performing at less than our capability, overcoming injury, not being utilized by the coach/sponsor in the manner we desire, not getting recognition we think we deserve, etc. - we have the opportunity to focus on the biblical principle of Rom. 12:18 (NIV) to make sure that "as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

Goodness, Kindness, Gentleness: As we focus on giving our all for Christ for the eternal rather than temporal rewards, we can become more like Christ by walking in the newness of life as He has made us new creations. We can then view our competitors as our best allies because they are creating the environment that allows us to progress toward our goal. We can view the officials and the rules as great friends because they are providing an opportunity to achieve our ultimate objective in life. We can view our teammates as essential elements in developing our character. As this occurs, our behavior towards others exhibits these traits of Christ.

Self-Control (Discipline): As we are pushed beyond our limits by our teammates, opponents, and coaches/sponsors, we have the opportunity to learn to trust in Christ for our sufficiency rather than reverting to the flesh and making excuses or placing blame on others. We also are allowed the opportunity to resist the temptation to cut corners as we submit to the rules, even when we could get away with non-compliance.

Since each player, team member, coach, sponsor, and fan will reflect on MCA and what we stand for, we will agree to hold each other accountable to a standard of behavior that reflects the foregoing philosophy toward other teams, officials, and each other. Any participant, coach, sponsor, or fan who becomes an obstacle to the implementation of this policy shall not be allowed to participate. Midland Classical Academy is a member of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) and will abide by all the rules and regulations of TAPPS.

ELIGIBILITY FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

MCA's policy is that each student involved in athletic or extracurricular activities must maintain an 85 grade-point average for each class. Throughout the year, there are four designated Academic Checkpoints at which grades will be evaluated for meeting this standard. Check the school calendar on mcaknights.org for Academic Checkpoint dates.

At each Academic Checkpoint students who are not mastering (85 or above) one or more of their classes, are ineligible to participate and/or travel with the team for any games, meets, or extracurricular events for a minimum of two weeks. *

Following the mandatory weeks of ineligibility, the student will be declared eligible when his/her grade point average returns to an 85 or above. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with the administration (office) when their grade-point average has reached 85 or higher. The administration (office) will confirm that the student is eligible and will communicate the updated eligibility status of the student with the Athletic Director and coaches. Once the student is eligible, the student's eligibility status will not be evaluated again until the next checkpoint date. *

***Exception: If at any point the student's grade falls below a 70 in any class, they will not be eligible to practice or participate in any event until the grade is above a 70.**

If your student participates in athletics or extracurricular activities and is struggling academically, please remind them to communicate with their tutors for a plan of action. All revisions and missing assignments should be turned into the tutors at least one week before the Academic Checkpoint. Tutors have one week to input grades. *Communicate to dominate!*

FEES FOR PARTICIPATION

A participation fee is required for each student participating in an extracurricular activity. Additional fees will be billed for travel expenses and a sports trainer, when applicable. All fees for extracurricular activities will be processed through [FACTS Family Portal](#). The Upper Student Fee Schedule may be found on the website under Tuition & Fees.

PARENT SERVICE HOURS FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Parents of students participating in extracurricular activities are required to fulfill a specified number of volunteer hours per student per activity. Volunteer hours for extracurricular activities are **in addition to** the required MCA Parent Service Hours. The extracurricular hours required vary depending on the activity or sport. There are a variety of opportunities to fulfill service hour requirements, including mentoring, team transportation, set-up, tear-down, score keeping, tickets, concessions, etc. Parents who drive team members to and from events/competitions may record their driving time toward their MCA Parent Service Hours but not to exceed half of the required school hours. Parents who have been approved to serve as coaches, concession stand coordinator, uniform coordinator, and Robotics' team parent fulfill both extracurricular and school service hour requirements.

FUNDRAISING FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Fundraising is vital for the success of our extracurricular programs. Donations are used to cover the cost of equipment, supplies, uniforms, team apparel, travel expenses, technology, facilities maintenance, and other equipment that will help our students improve their skills.

ART & ACADEMIC TEAM

The TAPPS Art & Academic Team is open to 9th-12th graders who wish to compete in various academic areas. Academic areas range from Mathematics, Science, Spelling, Writing, Prose/Poetry, Acting and Oratory Speeches. Artistic students can showcase their artistic talents through various media such as drawing, painting, and sculpture. Students attend TAPPS District and State Meets during the spring semester. It is a fun and exciting way to spend beneficial time sharpening your academic and creative skills.

Participation Fees	Travel Fees (when scheduled by school)
\$150 for High School	\$5 for trips less than 2 hrs \$10 for trips more than 2 hrs \$35 per hotel per night

ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

MCA offers the following sports teams during the school year for students in 7th-12th grades, including junior high, junior varsity, and varsity teams. MCA is a member of TAPPS and adheres to their rules. All MCA coaches volunteer their time to coach our students.

Baseball	Men's High School
Basketball	Junior High & High School
Cross Country	Junior High & High School
Golf	High School
Power Lifting	Junior High (non-competing) & High School
RYPT Athletic Training	Junior High & High School
Swimming	High School
Tennis	Junior High & High School
Track & Field	Junior High & High School
Volleyball	Women's Junior High & High School

Participation Fees	Travel Fees (when scheduled by school)	Trainer
\$100 for Junior High \$150 for High School	\$5 for trips less than 2 hrs \$10 for trips more than 2 hrs \$35 per hotel per night	\$6 - \$12 depending on sport

CHOIR

The Lady Knights Chorus is open to 7th-12th grade girls who wish to perform in a choir concert each semester. Students in this ensemble will have the opportunity to compete in All-Region Choir competition in 7th and 8th grades and in the All-State Choir competition process in 9th-12th grades during the fall semester. They will also have the opportunity to compete in a small private school Solo and Ensemble competition in the spring. Choir is an excellent way to build community across grade levels and to build confidence as students perform and compete. The Lady Knights Chorus meets weekly on Fridays from 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Participation Fees	Travel Fees (when scheduled by school)
\$100 for Junior High & High School	\$5 for trips less than 2 hrs \$10 for trips more than 2 hrs \$35 per hotel per night

ROBOTICS

The Midland Classical Academy Robotics Club was established to inspire students' interest and participation in science and technology. By competing in robot-building competitions, students work alongside adult mentors to fundraise, design, program, and build a working robot that performs tasks specified in the competition rules.

The MCA Robotics Club is a student-led organization and is open to all MCA students, grades 7-12, with or without previous robotics experience. Team members will gain experience in logical reasoning, problem solving, marketing, and teamwork.

MCA robotics teams participate in the First Tech Challenge (FTC) and TAPPS for 7-12th grades and mentor grammar school robotics teams. Teams meet at designated times throughout the week and compete 2-4 times a year. Participation is voluntary and high school robotics may fulfill STEM endorsement and senior elective requirements for graduation.

Participation Fees	Travel Fees (when scheduled by school)
\$100 for Junior High & High School	\$5 for trips less than 2 hrs \$10 for trips more than 2 hrs \$35 per hotel per night

YEARBOOK

The Yearbook Team is open to all Upper School students. Writing, designing, and photography skills are involved in the production of the yearbook. Students gain communication and salesmanship skills by reaching out to the businesses in the community for purchases and advertisements. Students who serve on the Yearbook Team will be led by a parent coordinator and may count their hours towards School Service Hours with approval of the Yearbook Sponsor and the Dean of Administration.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Drivers of MCA school vehicles, both staff and coach or parent volunteers, must be 25 years of age to drive a school vehicle. Each driver is required to read the Transportation Policy and have on file a signed MCA Vehicle Driver Responsibilities form and a copy of their driver's license.

Both staff and coach or parent volunteers who drive students other than their own children in their personal vehicle are required to read the Transportation Policy and have on file a signed MCA Personal Vehicle Form and a copy of their driver's license.

All school vehicles are inspected on an annual basis, and vehicle state registration is kept up to date.

FUNDRAISING

MCA has two required school-wide fundraisers each year in order to keep tuition costs down. Dollars raised from these fundraisers are part of the school budget; therefore, all students are expected to participate. Students have a set dollar amount of sales to meet that is deducted from their FACTS account when they receive the fundraiser.

SCHOOL-WIDE FUNDRAISERS

A Knight to Remember Dinner and Auction is held during the fall semester. Silent and live auctions are held every year at A Knight to Remember. All auction items are collected through donations of businesses, families, and friends. Auction items include services, merchandise, and gift certificates. Contact the office to donate anytime! This event also provides many opportunities for parents to earn volunteer hours.

The **school-wide Raffle** will be held during the spring semester for all students, kindergarten – 12th grade. This event also provides many opportunities for parents to earn volunteer hours.

OTHER FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

AmazonSmile - When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your selected charitable organization. Select Midland Classical Academy as your preferred organization so MCA will earn 0.5% of eligible purchases.

Target Credit Card - If your family holds a Target credit card, a percentage of the purchases made on the card can be designated to MCA. Call the number on the card to set it up for our school's account.

Office Depot - When you check out at Office Depot, mention MCA and 5% of your purchases will be designated for MCA. Periodically the school will receive a check.

AWARDS CEREMONY

Awards night is held each year on the Thursday night before graduation to honor academic, character, service, and athletic achievements. The program is emceed by the senior class. Awards and recognitions include tutor/staff recognitions, student service awards, athletic achievements, art & academic achievements, and MH projects. The evening culminates in a student-created slide show.

GRADUATION & SENIOR CELEBRATION

Graduation is held on the Saturday afternoon following the last day of school for all MCA graduates. All MCA families and friends are invited to attend. A Senior Celebration is held for all seniors who completed a senior project and their families the Friday night before Graduation.

EXPECTATIONS FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES & RESOURCES

LUNCHROOM EXPECTATIONS

The Lunchroom, located in Building D across from the game gym, is a common space where students may talk freely, work in groups, complete homework at their leisure and eat their lunch. All students are expected to clean up after themselves and to use the space appropriately.

If a student is unable to maintain this standard or does not act accordingly, they may be asked to leave the Lunchroom, may be restricted in using the Lunchroom, or may be asked to visit with a staff member regarding their behavior per the discipline policy.

STUDY HALL EXPECTATIONS

The Study Hall, located in Building A, is a common space where students may talk at a moderate volume, work in groups and complete homework at their leisure. The use of cell phones and computers are allowed for schoolwork only. No food or drink is allowed in the Study Hall. Only water is permitted in a closed container. All students are expected to clean up after themselves and to use the space appropriately.

If a student is unable to maintain this standard or does not act accordingly, they may be asked to leave the Study Hall, may be restricted in using Study Hall, or may be asked to visit with a staff member regarding their behavior per the discipline policy.

LIBRARY EXPECTATIONS

The MCA Upper School Library is a quiet space where students can work on homework, read, and study without distraction or interruption. A maximum of 4 students may sit at a table at a time. Talking is restricted to conversation regarding assignments and coursework and should be kept at a low volume. The use of cell phones* is not allowed in the Library. No food or drink is allowed in the Library. Only water is permitted in a closed container. All students are expected to clean up after themselves and to use the space appropriately.

If a student is unable to maintain this standard or does not act accordingly, they may be asked to leave the Library, may be restricted in using Library, or may be asked to visit with a staff member regarding their behavior per the discipline policy.

***Cell Phone Policy in the Library**

MCA requires students to silence and stow their cell phones when they enter the Library. Students will be expected to leave their phones stowed away while they are in the Library. If MCA faculty and staff see or hear students' phones in the Library, the phone will be confiscated and placed at the front desk. Students will be able to retrieve their phones at noon (if it was taken up that morning), at 3:15 pm (if it was taken up in the afternoon), or when a student leaves campus for the day. Parents may call the main office at any time to locate or contact their student.

The Library also houses a number of reference books, fiction and non-fiction titles which may be of use in their studies. Computers and printers are also available for students to use for schoolwork only.

Library Book Policy

Any books that are not designated as a Resource may be checked out from the Library for an unspecified period of time. Students must check out the book at the front desk before removing it from the building. Students are responsible for the proper care and prompt return of any book borrowed. Library books are governed by the same policy and rules as textbooks. If books are not returned by the end of the semester, fines may be issued for the full replacement cost of the books.

Students may borrow textbooks or library books to work on assignments while in the Library. Students may NOT borrow textbooks for use in class if they forget to bring the textbook issued to them.

Reference Books

All Reference books must remain in the Library and may NOT be checked out or taken out of the building. Most of these books are encyclopedias, dictionaries, atlases, historical sets, or Biblical reference sets. Students may use these books while in the Library.

COMPUTER USE

Every student is assigned a unique login name and password which allows them to utilize the computers in the Library. The front desk always has the list of names and passwords. A staff member is available to provide assistance.

Username: **lastnamefirstname**

Password for Accounts Created 2021 to Present: **Knights-_____** (4-digit Student ID#)

Password for Accounts Created Before 2021: **_____** (4-digit ID#)

See Front Desk or FACTS Family Portal for last 4 digits of ID#.

Computers are to be used only for school-related projects. Students misusing computers may have their computer access disabled.

STUDENT EMAIL

Every student has a school-issued web-based email account. These accounts are available for new students on their first day of school. In any web browser, navigate to **office.com** and use the following to login:

Email Address: **lastnamefirstname@mcaknights.org**

Password: **Knights-____** (4-digit Student ID#)

Password for Accounts Created Before 2021: **____** (4-digit ID#)

See the Front Desk or FACTS Family Portal for Student ID Numbers.

PRINTER & COPIER USE

Students may print school-related assignments and reference materials from the computers in the Library. Students should select the Printer named Upper-Library and retrieve their paper from a staff member at the front desk. There is no fee for printing student-authored pages or class assignments. \$.05 per page will be charged for printing multiple pages from the internet with heavy graphics.

Copier Use: Students are not allowed to enter the workroom or use the copier. However, copies of school-related assignments and notes may be made by staff members at no charge. Just ask at the front desk.

OFFICE WORKROOM & SENIORS

Students are not allowed in the Workroom in the back of the Office Suite, with the following exception: Seniors are allowed to utilize the Workroom to work on their Senior Project Classes. Seniors must be doing work for their Senior Project Class or for their Tutor in order to use the Workroom. Seniors will not be allowed to socialize or work on any other classwork in the Workroom.

TEXTBOOK POLICY

Textbooks: Some textbooks and folders received by the student from MCA remain the property of Midland Classical Academy. These books will have a bright yellow tag that reads "Property of Midland Classical Academy," a barcode on the front, a number on the spine and a name plate sticker on the inside cover. These materials are checked out to each individual student, by name, who becomes responsible for their care and preservation during the year/semester. Students are required to return all these textbooks at the conclusion of the class or assignment, at the direction or request of the Dean of Administration, tutor or staff, or if the student leaves MCA.

Purchased Books & Spirals: Other books and all spirals received by the student from MCA are paid for by the student and will remain the property of the student even after the class is completed. Most books used for Great Books classes, along with a few books for other classes fall into this category. All spiral notebooks are also paid for by the student. All these purchased books are labeled with each student's name on the front cover or inside page. Please, DO NOT return them to the school.

TEXTBOOK RULES

ALL hardback books **MUST** be covered!

1. Students are not to write, underline, or highlight textbooks (use sticky notes/tabs). Students will be fined for marking in books.
2. Textbooks are checked out under the student's name. (See inside cover.) Books are barcoded and linked to each student's account. YOU are responsible for YOUR school materials, even if someone else damages them. Your name inside = Your responsibility.
3. Students are to protect all materials from damage. **If you notice a problem with the textbook when it is checked out to you, let the staff know within the first week** so you are not held responsible for the damage. If your book begins to fall apart from regular use in the middle of the year or semester, please bring it to the front desk. We will repair or replace it if possible.
4. All textbooks and materials checked out to the student must be returned in good, usable condition, **with the barcode still attached** to the book or material at the end of a class.
5. Any textbook should be returned as soon as your class is finished with them. It is permissible to keep books if you are still using them, but do not start a collection under your bed or in your car! You may be restricted from checking out more books until past ones are returned or paid for, if lost.
6. If a textbook or material is lost or irreparably damaged, the student is required to pay the full replacement cost for the textbook or folder.

TEXTBOOK PENALTIES

Seniors will not be given their diploma until all textbook obligations are met.

Report Cards, transcripts and school privileges will be withheld until all materials are returned or fines/fees have been paid.

Fines & Fees

Graffiti, Highlighting, Writing: \$5-100% of Cost

Lost or Destroyed/Unusable Textbooks: 100% of Cost

INFORMATION SOURCES

Your Email, Text Messages, and Voicemail

Classical News – Emailed every Thursday to families & staff

TrackItForward – Volunteer opportunities and parent service hour log

www.mcaknights.org

- School Calendar
- News & Announcements
- Resources & Forms – Including this *Handbook*
- MCA Staff Contact Information
- Detailed Information about Grammar & Upper School

FACTS Family Portal

- Student Grades & Schedules
- Student & Family Contact Information (Demographic Form to update contact info.)
- MCA Staff Contact Information

Extracurricular Athletic Information

SportsYou Website & App – sportsyou.com

Schoolwide Social Media	Athletics Social Media
  mca_knights @MCA_Knights	   classicalathletics @mca_athletics ClassicalAthletics

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