



## 2022-2023 YEAR IN REVIEW NEWSLETTER

### The MVCA DIFFERENCE

One of our parents wrote this incredible testimony on the MVCA Difference and with her permission I am sharing it.

*I don't even know where to start with my feelings. I guess the place to start is just GRATITUDE. Last year, we made the decision to change schools for our son beginning the 2022/2023 school year. It was hard. There were teachers we LOVED at his old school, and it's all we had ever known, but it just wasn't a match for our child. The school we picked this year wasn't where I thought I wanted Matt to go, initially. He was accepted at other private schools, and, initially, I tried to control the situation with what I thought was right for his learning style. But, something happened along the way, and God literally spoke to me and said, "Nope. You're gonna let ME direct traffic for once." I turned it over to Him. What I had done wasn't working for our family, and, guess what? God showed off.*

*I met Dr. Minta Hardman and instantly felt connected and peaceful. She said, "We want him here."*

*We want him here...Powerful words for a mama who wasn't sure if her different learner was wanted in other classrooms...We want him here.*

*We took a leap of faith, literally. Sign him up!*

*Then, I met Mrs. Sarah Wasanyi and Mrs. Cinthy Harner. Mrs. Harner did his testing prior to starting the year. Mrs. Wasanyi would be his 3rd grade teacher for core subjects.*

*"We want him here." It echoed. "There is a difference here. It's the MVCA difference." "You'll see."*

*Then, I met Miss Pam Neff who made my son a special cup for his milk and Ms. Christy Sellers who air fried his fish sticks, and Mrs. Luci Walker who had nothing but positive and encouraging words. I found out Ms. Kim Walker would be his art teacher, and she quickly met my son where he was and supported him (he is not an art fan!). I met Miss Tammi Cooke who would be his "Labrary" (Library and Computer) teacher, and I was nervous because he had almost no desk top computer skills. She said, "It's OK. We've got this." We met Coach Gibby at basketball camp and he and my son worked through challenges and formed a special relationship. Mrs. Rachael Mengel worked hard all year to keep me in line 🙄, and he trusted her to care for him when he needed to call Mama or be picked up early. Mr. Thomas Sederstrom greeted him every single day at drop-off (even if we surpassed the 1-hr parking limit 😊). Miss Maddi Sulser and Mrs. Tracy Hogbin also loved my son and he loved them.*

*Off he went...a 3rd grader at Mountain View Christian Academy.....and, oh, did he soar!!!*

*My son has never had any grade less than an A at the end of any school year since Kindergarten in his previous schools. He has also never gotten a classroom or other award for his academic or other efforts. He has been crushed each year when he didn't receive an award or even acknowledgement. He felt...overlooked.*

*This year, he wasn't overlooked. He was honored. He worked so hard, and each time his name was called in the awards ceremony, he literally couldn't believe it. He said, "How am I getting these awards?" His teacher, sitting in front of us who overheard him said, "We see you. We know how hard you are working."*

*"We see you." ..... "We want you." ..... "There is a difference here." ..... "You'll see."*

*They see him!*

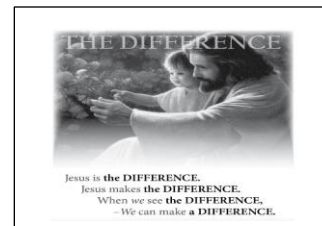
*They want him!*

*There is a difference!*

*I see now!*

*Thank you, Mountain View Christian Academy for changing our lives. I can't wait to see whose lives change next year.*

*Let go, let God. Trust Him in all you do. #mvcaifference*



Thank you for trusting us! Thank you all for being a part of the **MVCA DIFFERENCE!**



## A SCHOOLWIDE CULTURE OF CONTINUOUS GROWTH

This year's annual theme was **Moving Forward** and to be completely transparent, moving forward sometimes feels like 3 steps forward, then 2 steps back, doesn't it? **But that still has us forward one step!** There is no doubt that God is on the move in our school, our culture, our world, our families, our churches, even though at times it doesn't seem like we are moving as quickly as we would like.

At MVCA, we have worked hard to maintain a culture of continuous growth. As a teenager, I remember being challenged by the quote **"Even if you are on the right track, you can still get run over if you just stand still."** We have to keep growing and changing.

Each year, part of our debriefing process at the end of the school year is to do a SWOT analysis and seek input from our students, our parents, and our staff. We then compile our top 3 (*this year we will give a few extras that were right up at the top*). From all of the suggestions we then create "to do" lists and action plans for continuous growth. It was interesting to see what emerged in all 3 group's surveys as our greatest strengths and greatest challenges.

### 2022-23 Greatest Strengths

1. **The Relationships that Form and Exist at MVCA** – In some way, shape, or form, this rises to the top each year. The positive relationships between staff to staff, staff to students, staff to parents, parents to parents, and students to students are very much a part of the MVCA DIFFERENCE and were noted again this year as one of our greatest strengths. *"As iron sharpens iron, one man sharpens another."* (Prov 27:17) We are better people because of the MVCA Community. Thank you!
2. **The Flexibility and Willingness of ALL staff and administration to Serve where needed** – I say it all the time because it is true – *"We have the best staff this side of heaven!"* This team laughs together, cries together, challenges each other, and is always willing to help cover any holes or gaps. Shout out to the MVCA faculty and admin team!
3. **The Number and Variety of Clubs, Sports, and Activities for our Students** – This made me so happy to see this emerge as a top strength! Although we are small, there are so many ways for our students to "plug in" and connect. The elementary Friday afternoon clubs were a hit, our sports programs, the PTF and SGO events, the trips and retreats, the Fine and Performing Arts electives were all ways that our students were able to get involved and grow.
4. **A few Honorable Mentions** – The noticeable changes in our **schoolwide security** with the new buzzers and cameras and unified SRP and the positive change with our **new cleaners** were also mentioned by students, parents, and staff!

### 2022-23 Greatest Challenges

1. **Consistency among the Staff with handling Discipline/Classroom Management, especially in the areas of Cell Phones and Dress Code** – We will be looking at this thoroughly this summer and creating, revising, and implementing some new policies in the fall to ensure that we uphold the standards that we put in place.
2. **Ensuring that we have the Staff and Programs in place to meet the growing Special Needs and Educational Gaps of some of our Students** – This is very important to us as we grow. We are so blessed with Ms. Harner and the Learning Center teacher aides, and we want to make sure that we are able to accommodate our students' ISP's and 504 plans accurately. Pray for us as we evaluate how to tackle this challenge.
3. **All things Lunch** – The challenge of sharing the gym as a cafeteria and shuffling K-12 grade through lunches, recess, study halls, working lunches, elective classes and more in a timely, effective, and organized manner is another area that we will be evaluating.
4. **How to Live with a Christ-centered Worldview in a Culture that is rapidly moving away from Biblical principles** is another challenge that we have been researching and praying for God's guidance in for several years. We trust that He is on the throne and has always been throughout the ages and the waves of change and we will seek Him to stay true to our philosophy, mission statement, core values and statement of faith and to create policies and procedures that will empower our staff and students to stand on God's truths.

Our world is changing rapidly, but praise God we serve the One who is the same yesterday, today, and forever, yet His mercies are new every morning. Thank you sharing your feedback! Thank you for moving forward with us! We covet your prayers as we address these issues and more.

## THE MVCA COMMUNITY

We were made to be in community and that is who we are - **the MVCA Community**. This year from the Back2School Bash to our End of the Year picnic and everything in between, the Development Team, Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF) and the Student Government Organization (SGO) did a wonderful job planning events and activities for everyone to get involved. The Murder Mystery and the Family Sock Hop, along with Grandparents' Day, Thanksgiving Lunch, the Chili Cook off, Conquerors Got Talent, the Apple Blossom Parade and more were all ways for our students and families to cultivate relationships. Thanks to the amazing crews who put all of these events on and to all who came out to support them and make them a success.



## GOD, GRADES, GAME *(submitted by Heather Harbin)*

That's the motto of our **MVCA Conquerors** sport teams! MVCA was blessed to be able to field the following teams this year: cross country, volleyball, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, boys' basketball, girls' basketball, baseball, cheer, track, flag football, and golf club. It was another fun year of watching our students grow as leaders and athletes, on and off the field. **We had 104 student athletes this year represent the school and the Lord well.** We are thankful for all of the parents and community members who volunteered their time to coach and mold our young people.

Also, many of our athletes traveled to the Dominican Republic as part of the annual mission trip and were able to use their **love of sports** to connect with the people of the DR.

Special congratulations to these individuals and teams for their accomplishments: **Scholar Athletes Award Winners** - Eli Shettel and Jocelyn Mengel. **Highest Team GPA** - Varsity Baseball. **VMSC Conference Tournament Runner-Ups** - MS Girls Basketball.

We look forward to having all of these same sports again next year. Please contact Mrs. Harbin ([heather.harbin@ccmv.com](mailto:heather.harbin@ccmv.com)) if you are interested in helping with any of our sports programs. **We can't do what we do without all of our volunteers!**

To sign up/express interest for next year's teams, please fill out this survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/hWJ9Y8vvt>. This helps us determine the number of kids interested in playing a sport so that we can schedule accordingly.

## FINE & PERFORMING ARTS

Shout out to our K-5 grade music students and the secondary drama team for 2 incredible performances this year – **A Ceramic Christmas & A Broken Hallelujah.**



*"No, in all these things we are more than Conquerors through Him who loved us."* Romans 8:37

## TRIPS & RETREATS

Field Trips, Secondary Leadership Retreats, Drama Retreat, Jr/Sr Christian College Tour, Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic, and the Senior Trip are all amazing opportunities for our students to serve the Lord, travel, gain confidence, build relationships, and grow. All of these events were great successes this year and are purposeful components of our program to shape the hearts of our students.







*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation...the old is gone, the new has come!*  
2 Cor 5:17



## SPIRITUAL FORMATION

A note from the Campus Minister & Bible Teacher Mr. Eckert:

Mountain View Christian Academy works very hard to help students to **develop personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ** and to promote spiritual growth. Each year I, as the campus minister, offer spiritual and other forms of counseling to the student body. This year seventeen students chose to participate in spiritual counseling. I also offer personal one-on-one and group Bible study. Twenty students chose to participate in various faith-building and discipleship Bible studies and I did a spiritual mentorship with four boys. I offer baptism Bible studies for students who want to give their lives to Christ. This year we had twenty-one students participate in the study. Of the twenty-one students who did the study, thirteen of them gave their lives to Christ and were immersed into Christ.

Mountain View Christian Academy also provides numerous opportunities to promote **spiritual and servant leadership**. This year we brought back the chapel praise band. Three students participated in leading worship for the student body. We had six different students give devotions at our retreats this year and two students who gave messages. And we also had student leaders facilitate our chapel discussion groups. This year we saw tremendous growth in our student body and watched with excitement new leaders develop. We are very proud of our student body and the servant leaders they are and continue to become.

Please pray for our students to stay in the word and stay connected through the summer months. Children's and youth ministry activities will go on throughout the summer at the Church of Christ at Mountain View! Come and worship with us!

## ALL IN A DAY AT MVCA

I truly cannot convey enough what an **honor and a privilege** it is for MVCA that you trust us with your most treasured possessions – your children. We do not take that responsibility lightly. Having the incredible blessing of working with our wonderful students, staff, and parents is one of my greatest joys and I personally am so appreciative of the love, prayers, support, encouragement, and involvement that you give as the **MVCA community**.

Our **committed faculty and staff team** was comprised of 30 paid and volunteer individuals this year and collectively represent almost **475 years of experience** working with children! They are highly qualified individuals who pour themselves into the lives of our students daily. We are so blessed!

Our **student body of almost 200** K-12 graders are amazing and we learn so much from them every day. No matter where we go with our students, we receive compliments on their behavior and attitude. Are they perfect? Of course not! But do they have **hearts for the Lord** and each other? Absolutely! We witness it every day as we watch them grow. Their energy and laughter will be missed through the summer months!

And **our parent constituency** is like no other! Wow, do you guys work and give so generously of your time, talents, and resources to make MVCA who she is! **Thank you sincerely for your partnership!**

From Kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade...from early care to the classrooms to lunch and recess to sports and extracurriculars to chapel to after care to trips to events...**it is a busy place at MVCA**. But when it is all said in done, we are partnering with you to raise up a generation of young men and women who are *morally sound, well rounded individuals equipped to transform society*. **Our future is bright!**

***Let's keep moving forward together claiming God's promises for our children, our country, and our world!***



## LESSONS LEARNED FROM SOME OF OUR 2023 GRADUATES *(submitted by Trudy Keiter)*

In Senior Thesis class, I asked our students to reflect upon the 3 greatest lessons they have learned throughout **high school**, not academic lessons, but life lessons. As I read their papers and heard their final presentations at year's end, I recognized some distinct themes that permeated each of their writings and speeches.

**Ella Drury's** theme was **love**—first love for herself and then love for others. She wrote, "I decided ... to devote some time to bettering myself and to taking care of myself in the best way that I could mentally, physically, and spiritually. ...My **spiritual health** was ...the **most important** element of that, because my mental health improved so much." Part of that self-care includes "making sure the people you keep around are worthy of your efforts and that they are not negative influences in your life." She added, "I want to be defined by the **things I love**. I don't want to be held back by the old wounds that haunt me." And as she spoke in her oral presentation, her newfound confidence led her to say, "I have learned how to take care of myself and to know who I am in God's eyes—I am **fearfully and wonderfully made**." What a tremendous lesson to learn before embarking into her present world that wants people to question at every turn who they are and why they are here!

**Gratitude** was **Eli Shettel's** theme. He wrote, "Sometimes we need to go through the hardest times to get back to the happy ones. Sometimes we need to have nothing to truly appreciate having something. Sometimes we need to give rather than focusing on what we can receive."

First, he thanked **God**. "God deserves all the glory. He has blessed me with so many different good times, opportunities, and talents in life that I would not be where I am today if it were not for Him. In the end, God is all that matters, and we should appreciate what he has done for us/what we have."

He thanked his **teachers**. "I would not be who I am today if it weren't for the Christlike attitudes and actions of all involved there (MVCA). My teachers have become **mentors** for me, and some of them have become **great friends** that I can trust... I would not be the Christian I am today if not for the selfless effort of the MVCA staff and faculty."

In his oral presentation, he thanked his **parents**. "Mom, "without you, I don't know who I'd be." "Dad, I am lucky to have been blessed to have you as my dad and friend, and you are one of my favorite people."

Eli has given himself a wonderful gift -learning how to be grateful for everything God has given. This mindset is a sharp contrast to the entitled attitude of many young people today!

**Do what you love** was the theme that **Blake Grey** highlighted in his written and oral presentations. Blake finds satisfaction in so many areas that he is finding it difficult to choose just one. He referenced Ecc. 3:12-13 that says, "That each of them may...**find satisfaction** in all their toil—this is the gift of God." He continued, "We should all do what we love and **do it for God** so we can use the life he gave us to the fullest and leave with no regrets." In his speech, Blake said, "I want to do it all. I want to be somebody my kids, my parents, my friends can say, 'He was one of a kind.'" It's so good to know that our students leave us embracing that fact—that each of them is **uniquely gifted for a purpose** in this world.

**Cole Gheen's** writing and his speech centered on **work**. He wrote, "I value work because my family is very proud of our **work ethic**." And what a work ethic he has! He left school daily to go to work and worked every weekend, too. He is a great asset to his family business. He added, "Managing my time will be less stressful after high school because I'll have more time to work with." In his final oral presentation, he expressed his gratitude to his parents for the work ethic they instilled in him. "I want to **thank my dad and mom** for pushing me when I didn't want to be pushed. I do more adulting than most normal 17-year-olds." That is so true for this hard-working and enterprising young man.

Each year, the seniors must think long and hard to write about difficult topics such as who they are, what they have learned, who they want to be, who they want to marry, and what they want to do. Those thought processes lead to some great acknowledgements, some great plans, and some great conclusions like the ones above. What a joy it is as educators to be able to listen to their words of wisdom, their words of appreciation, and their excitement for the future as they leave our halls for the last time ready to **love themselves and others**, ready to **give thanks**, ready to **do what they love**, and ready to **work hard**! Thank you to the class of 2023!





**MOUNTAIN VIEW**  
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

## Dates for the Academic Year 2023-2024

Meet the Teacher Night.....Aug 24  
 1<sup>st</sup> Day of School.....Aug 28  
 Labor Day-----Sept 4  
 Fall Break/Columbus Day... Oct 9  
 Veterans Day/In Service....Nov 10  
 Thanksgiving Break.....Nov 20-24  
 Christmas Break.....Dec 21-Jan 2  
 Teacher In Service.....Jan 2  
 1<sup>st</sup> Day Back in 2024.....Jan 3  
 MLK Day/In Service.....Jan 15  
 Winter Break.....Feb 16-19  
 Easter Break.....March 29-April 5  
 Apple Blossom Holiday.....May 5  
 Memorial Day.....May 27  
 High School Graduation.....May 31  
 Kindergarten Graduation...June 4  
 Last Day of School.....June 5

For more information about these dates or other activities at Mountain View Christian Academy, visit [mvca.ccmv.com](http://mvca.ccmv.com).



## SUMMER PROGRAMS

**Summer School Enrichment** - This program is for students who need the academic rigor of a summer program to help prevent retention and/or to enhance learning to ensure success in the next grade placement or for a secondary student to earn a credit for high school. Language Arts and Math skills will be the primary focus of study for elementary.

**Dates** – June 26 – July 28, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Focus and Teachers**

**Lang Arts** – Tuesdays and Thursdays (taught by Ms. Cinthy Harner)

**Math** – Mondays and Wednesdays (taught by Mr. Aaron Burhoe)

**Cost** - \$350 per class or \$550 for both

Please call the office at 540-868-1231 if you are interested in the **Summer School Enrichment** program.

**Summer Child Care Camp** – The summer child care program that we have offered for the past 2 summers will be going back under the auspices of our sister ministry, Training His Tots Christian Day Care. Please call 540-869-2941 for more information about that program.

**Dates** – June 12 – August 25, 2023

**Times** – 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Cost** - \$180 weekly to include lunch and field trip costs

**Basketball Camp** – Camp will run from 9 am to 3 pm and will likely be divided into the following *groups (grade level groupings may change depending on numbers/interest level at each grade):*

**1st-4th** - 9:15am-10:45am

**5th - 8th** - 11am - 12:30pm

**9th - 12<sup>th</sup>** - 1pm - 3pm

**Cost:** \$50 (before July1)/ \$75 (after July 1)

## ADDITIONAL SUMMER DATES

**June 12-16** – MVCA Office will be closed.

**June 19** - The office will open for summer hours from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**June 22** – Diagnostic Testing For New Students (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

**July 4** – School Office closed/No Summer Enrichment

**July 11** – Summer Institute (6:00-8:00 p.m. - Worldviews Training – for parents, support personnel, and new and select staff)

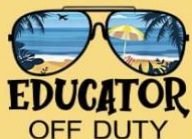
**July 18** – Summer Open House (4:00 to 8:00 p.m. – Tell your MVCA story and invite your friends!)

**Aug 8** – Summer Open House (4:00 to 8:00 p.m. – Tell your MVCA story and invite your friends!)

**Aug 10** – Diagnostic Testing For New Students (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

**Aug 15** - Summer Institute (6:00-8:00 p.m. - Discipline Training – for parents, support personnel, and new and select staff)

Watch for additional information on these events via email or call the office.



### MVCA Summer Office Hours

9 am – 3 pm

**CLOSED**

June 12-16 and July 4