



Summer Flyer #5: August 14, 2016

Upcoming Events:

- 8/15 - Parent Info Night @ 6:30 pm (Parents only)
- 8/17 - First Day of School - Minimum Day (Note: 8/17, 8/18 and 8/19 are all Minimum Days)

Dear M.M.C.A. families,

With three days to go before school starts, I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some more information as we get ready for school with our 5th Summer Flyer.

Parent Information Night (PIN) is on Monday, 8/15/16 in our Multi-purpose Room at 6:30p.m. PIN is a great opportunity, especially for new families, to get introduced to our instructional teams, our parent groups, some of our student programs, as well as gain information about our volunteer opportunities. Parking during evening events at MMCA is limited. In addition to the school parking lot, parents may also use the parking lot of the adjacent St. Augustine Church and the parking lot at Margaret Azevedo Park next door (we have a path from the church parking lot to our school).

New Website:

We went 'live' with our new website this past week! It's a great resource for parents to obtain information about our school. Please check it out at <http://www.mmcharter.org> and let us know what you think via emailing us at our mmca@mmcharter.org account.

2016-2017 Parent Orientation Handbook:

Paper copies of our 2016-2017 Parent Orientation Packet, which has all of the "operational basics" of going to school at MMCA, will be distributed at Parent Information Night. The Handbook also has basic information about some of our other programs, like Garden Docent, Art Docent, Athletics, After School Enrichment Clubs, 4H, PTA and much more. Electronic copies of the 2016-2017 Parent Orientation Handbook are available here:

http://media.wix.com/ugd/72cec9_42865f5cb98a48e98a28e7e218072d89.pdf

School Calendar:

The updated 2016-2017 school calendar is available on our website, as well as our Google Apps Current Events calendar. If you have a school-related event you'd like on our Google Apps calendar, please contact Mrs. Brown at cbrown@mmcharter.org.

Lunch and Snack Food Policies:

At MMCA, we like to emphasize healthy foods for snacks and lunch, as well grace and courtesy during lunch. For example, we ask for each of our students to bring (2) *cloth napkins daily for lunch* (one is used as a placemat). More details about our Lunch and snack policies are available here:

http://media.wix.com/ugd/4b8266_f66aaa7ad3234e31a286bcd19d9c6be2.pdf. In addition, we also like to teach the kids about recycling, composting and minimizing their waste during lunch. We encourage the use of re-useable tote bags, fabric sandwich containers and Tupperware for student food.

School Uniforms:

While we'll have some spirit days and free dress days (heads up: first free dress day will be Wednesday, August 24th), MMCA is a 'school uniform' school. A copy of our uniform policy is available here:

http://media.wix.com/ugd/4b8266_f8c2ffe62ee94ff3be48e88e101f9277.pdf. Explanations of the Uniform Policy and how it will be enforced are in the updated Parent Handbook (linked above). We're currently soliciting bids from multiple vendors to be our new MMCA uniform clothing supplier. Once we've picked the new vendor, we'll send you the information.

Student School Supplies Update:

New parents: One of our traditions at MMCA has been to bulk buy the core student school supplies on behalf of our families. We've done this for two reasons:

1. To save you the time, energy and hassle of going to several different stores to pick up all of the items on our published school supplies list; and
2. To save you SIGNIFICANT \$ by bulk-buying these supplies on your behalf.

The 2016-2017 school supplies list for each grade level is now posted on our website. Our ACTUAL cost for these supplies is over \$70 per student. We are going to continue the promotion we did last year related to school supplies - *Buy early and save! Purchase supplies for: \$60 now through - 8/26; and \$70 8/27 and later.*

2016-2017 Before/After School Care Packet:

The 2016-2017 Before / After School Care application materials have been updated for this school year, and are available at the link below. If your children need care before/after school, please make sure you have the appropriate paperwork turned in before the start of school. Please contact Mrs. Brown (cbrown@mmcharter.org) if you have any issues with downloading the paperwork from the website. <http://www.mmcharter.org/blank-mw9kc>

Volunteer Recruiting:

During P.I.N., the classrooms, the P.T.A., and programs like our After School Clubs, Garden Docent and Art Docent will be recruiting parents to fulfill various volunteer positional needs. As you know, at MMCA we have a 40 hour per family volunteerism policy – we need your help! At the school level, we're looking to recruit some parent volunteers to assist us with the morning drop-off (8:15a-8:30a), and we're willing to DOUBLE your hours to get more volunteers for this task! If you're interested, please contact Mrs. Brown at the office at cbrown@mmcharter.org or sign up on our website: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4aa4a62ea7ff2-morning>

Staffing Updates:

This is my 16th year at MMCA. Between our K-8th grade teachers, Children's House teachers, Intervention and Special Education Teachers, Before/After Care Teachers, Custodians, Lunch Supervisors and office staff, we've got (40) employees working together to make the best possible educational environment for our kids. Of this group, the super-majority have been on staff @ MMCA for 5+ years. I am extremely grateful for this level of continuity, and how we've been able sustainably grow and expand our program over the years.

In that spirit, I'm very pleased to be welcoming back to MMCA Michelle Kelley to our teaching team. Mrs. Kelley will be teaching in our Red Room this year. Mrs. Kelley had previously taught at MMCA in our Yellow Room prior to moving to New York a few years ago. Pam Sherman is taking a disability-based early retirement. I think it's fair to say Mrs. Sherman would prefer to still be teaching, and she's very disappointed that her current health is preventing that.

Second, I'd also like to welcome Teresa Halbert to our teaching team. Mrs. Halbert will be teaching with Kristy (Sherman) Mitchell this year. Mrs. Halbert comes to us from Western Placer Unified School District, where she taught both 4th and 5th grade these past three years. Robyn Fratessa will still be a big part of our MMCA community moving forward, but as a friend and parent. Robyn is going to be the founding Director of the new Goddard School Infant / Toddler / Preschool program that will be opening up in a few months.

Carpool Requests:

As you saw with earlier Summer Flyers, we'll publish carpool requests for parents in our Flyers. If you have a carpool request that you would like published in our weekly flier, please email the information to Cynthia Brown at atcbrown@mmcharter.org

Class Rosters:

Our class rosters will be posted at one of the booths on Parent Information Night and subsequently outside the main office on Monday (8/15) after 3:30 p.m. Each summer, I receive several questions with regards to my strategies for setting a class roster. My overall goal in developing any class roster is to try to establish a balanced classroom looking at these primary factors:

1. behavior
2. academic ability
3. gender
4. grade level

While I will take parent requests into consideration, there will be circumstances where I will not honor all parent requests, particularly when doing so would lead to an unbalanced classroom.

Thank you everyone, and if I don't see you at PIN, I'll see you Wednesday morning on the 1st day of school!

Sincerely,

Mr. B.