
Mount Saint Agnes Academy

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Over the years there have been ongoing requests from parents, teachers and potential parents to have smaller class sizes at the elementary level at MSA. In light of the new curriculum implementation and the manner in which it is taught, another review on class sizes was recently completed.

We strongly believe that providing intervention support at an early age will decrease the number of students requiring additional support as they develop academically. Smaller class sizes will provide such intervention for all learners and assist in the building of strong literacy and mathematical foundations. To that end, effective September 2010, we will be dividing the enrolled Kindergarten students into two classes and will provide smaller class instruction for Language Arts and Mathematics in Grades 1 and 2.

For the 2010/11 school year, the Board of Governors' mandate was to accomplish the above-mentioned changes using existing resources. Focusing internally was the only way such a change could be effected without impacting tuition fees. In this regard, while our current number of teachers will be maintained, certain program changes will result in changes within our Faculty.

The Elementary Specialist Art position will be dissolved and a second Kindergarten teacher will be engaged. This decision was based on the fact that our current curriculum uses an integrated approach building art into the core subjects as described in the Programs of Study. Because of this integration, the Elementary Art instruction will be provided by the classroom teachers.

It is never comfortable removing a faculty position and it is with regret that we will be saying goodbye to Heidi Smith. We are extremely grateful and appreciative to her for her many years of dedicated service and wish her all the best as she moves forward on her new path.

We will also introduce an initiative to promote the learning of Science from the early grades through the secondary grades. Students from Grades 2 to 5 will experience a more

hands-on, inquiry approach to learning the units of study as outlined in the curriculum. The majority of science instruction will be done in a smaller class size format by a specialized science teacher. Pending immigration approval, Jennifer Toope has agreed to take on the instruction of the elementary science for Grades 2-5 as well as the Grade 6 science. In addition, our Middle School Team will welcome Sandra Abraham as the Grade 6-8 math teacher.

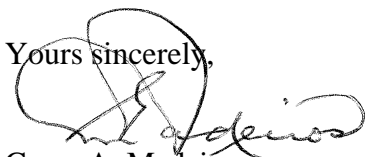
As you are well aware, space at MSA is at a premium; therefore plans to reallocate instructional space are currently under consideration. The existing elementary art room will become an additional instructional space to accommodate the smaller instructional groups for Grades 1 and 2, as well as the science instruction. The Uniform Shop and Kindergarten classroom will be renovated to accommodate the second Kindergarten classroom. The Uniform Shop will find its new home in Woodmont.

Our ultimate goal is to offer smaller class sizes as students progress from Grades 1 through 5. Therefore, addressing facility and staffing needs will be on-going as we continue to strengthen the educational programs at MSA. To this end, a cross-functional team, comprised of Finance, Facilities, Academics and Administration will be created to continue the review and to provide recommendations to the Board regarding all aspects of this ongoing initiative including: class sizes, HR implications, infrastructure, costing and time frames.

This is all about the students. We are driven to provide the best possible learning environment and opportunity for them. If we are to be successful in this mission, recognizing the importance of constant review and improvement is critical to all involved. We recognize that change is not always comfortable; however, we have assured our Administration, Faculty and Staff that the Board is committed to provide the support and resources needed to be successful in meeting our goals. We look forward to your ongoing support as we continue to enhance the educational experience of your child/children.

Should you have any questions about any of the above mentioned changes, please do not hesitate to contact me or our Principal Sue Moench.

Yours sincerely,



Garry A. Madeiros
Chairman, Board of Governors