



MPA SKYLINER



Principal's Message

WELCOME BACK STUDENTS!

By: Remy Guenin

“And let us consider one another in order to **stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another and **so much the more as you see the Day approaching.**”
Hebrews 10:24 & 25 NKJV

It is with a grateful heart that we were able to open our doors for this special 2020-2021 school year. We have been blessed with 86 students, of which 79 are on campus and 7 are distance learners. Our classes have been in session since August 10 and, so far, we have been able to have amended versions of Senior Survival and Trash Night. We have also recently been able to start our intramurals program. As we look ahead, we know there will be a continued need for flexibility and patience with our schedule as we seek to overcome the challenges we are facing.

Moving forward, it is important to remember the verses that were shared at the beginning of this message. As we see the day approaching, do not forsake the assembling of ourselves together. God, in His infinite wisdom, saw that these last days would be very divisive (Satan's work not God's). He knew we would need not only to grow in our relationship with Him but that we would also need each other more than ever to continue to lift each other up as we journey through these difficult times.

Our students and faculty are excited to be here and we are so excited that Jesus lives in our hearts here at MPA! Through Him, nothing is impossible and the deep joy we have in our relationship with Him will sustain us through the days ahead, come what may!

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Student Life

SOCIAL DISTANCING HANDSHAKE

By Alex Boughman, '24

Handshake is a time, at the beginning of the school year, where we all gather together and get to meet everyone. But before any of this happens we have a pizza supper and the Student Association makes a grand entrance. Each officer introduces themselves and talks about their position. Then the staff introduce themselves to the students.

After that, we separate into our classes and do a little activity to get to know everyone in our grade level. During this time, we typically introduce ourselves with a fun fact and then play some games like charades or ninja. We then all get into a big circle on center campus to pray. In past years, we have held hands but this year we had six foot long ropes to hold that connected each person without touching.

Finally, everyone gets into a line and greets each other. Although we would normally hug while going through line, we had to wave to greet each other this year. It really is an amazing experience here at MPA and a great way to start off a new school year.



Student Life

TRASH NIGHT FUN

By Emma Boughman, '22

Every year, the Mount Pisgah Academy Student Association hosts an annual "Trash Night" on the first weekend of school, so that the students can bond with their classmates. Trash Night is the night where classes come together to compete against each other by bringing random items from their dorm rooms or homes. Whichever class brings the most items, called by the staff, from their corner of the gym to the middle first, wins.

It is a pretty competitive night, filled with class spirit and adrenaline. However, I was afraid that this year might be different. You see, this event is usually held in the gym, and students can often get crowded together. But, because of Covid-19, the school needed to make some adjustments. I was not really sure how we would even be able to have Trash Night, but the staff used some creativity to carry on the tradition.

The night of, we headed up to the field and had the event outside. We wore our masks and sat farther away from our classmates, but the adrenaline was still there. I have to say, I was not really sure how fun that night was going to be, however, it was the best Trash Night I've ever attended.



"I ALWAYS LOVE HANDSHAKE! THE SA ENTRANCE WAS REALLY COOL AND CREATIVE! I MISSED HUGGING KIDS AS THEY CAME THROUGH LINE! CAN'T WAIT TILL COVID-19 IS GONE!"

- NANCY PARRA, ASSISTANT TREASURER



"HANDSHAKE WAS DEFINITELY DIFFERENT THIS YEAR BUT I'M GLAD THAT WE COULD ALL BE TOGETHER AND IN PERSON."

- NATHAN SETTLEMYRE, '21



"HANDSHAKE THIS YEAR WAS DIFFERENT BUT IT SERVED THE SAME PURPOSE FOR ME - A REMINDER THAT THIS IS THE MINISTRY FOR ME!"

- NEPHTHALI MYRTHIL, ASSISTANT BOYS' DEAN



Student Life

CLASS ON CLASS FALL PICNIC

By Alex Boughman, '24

Fall Picnic is a fun class-on-class event held every school year on Labor Day. Classes are cancelled and everyone plays in teams to win points for their class. This year we played softball, sand volleyball, and badminton.

For softball, the day started with the sophomores playing against the seniors and the freshmen playing against the juniors. After they played those first games, the third and fourth place classes would play for third and then the first and second place classes would play for first. The Junior Class ended up winning the championship game for softball.

Volleyball was the next sport, progressing similarly to softball and ending with the Junior Class winning the volleyball

championship! Lastly, badminton was separated by gender, as well as class, and the Freshmen Class won both the guys' and girls' games!

The whole day was a lot of fun for everyone. The student association served free snacks all day. They also hosted a 5K race in the morning with Jonathan Wolff ('24) placing first and ended the day with a giant slip-and-slide on center campus. It was an awesome Fall Picnic!



Student Life

HOW THE CAFETERIA STAFF ARE KEEPING US SAFE

By Abby King, Marketing Director

With COVID-19 continuing to alter life on our campus, the cafeteria staff has had to implement new protocols for serving, traffic flow, dining room etiquette, and cleaning methods. To minimize the spread of the virus, cafeteria staff are serving all food items. In the past, students have been able to serve themselves by picking up their own condiments, fruit, sandwich components, etc. Now, cafeteria workers ask each student what they would like and place it on their tray for them. Additionally, disposable plates, utensils, and cups are being utilized.

While waiting in line, students are requested to maintain adequate social distance, while also wearing masks. This is aided by fun directional stickers placed on the floors and stairs.



“ The MPA cafeteria is taking precautions to keep our students safe during the Covid-19 pandemic. We are trying our best to give our students the safest environment to eat in and still have it be an enjoyable experience.

- Philip Thomas, Cafeteria Director ”

Students are also being funneled through the cafeteria in one direction only. In previous years, congestion would occur in the main stairwell as students tried to enter and exit the cafeteria using the same door. Now, students enter the cafeteria on the left and exit on the right. The same process occurs when students are disposing of their trash and returning their trays. While in the dining room, students are required to keep their masks over their mouth and nose unless seated at their table eating. Table occupancy has been reduced to four per table, as opposed to the traditional eight. Picnic tables and benches are also available outside for students to enjoy their meals on weather permitting days.

Despite these guidelines, the cafeteria is a space on campus that is continually filled with smiles and laughter. Students are content talking with friends over a nutritious meal. We recognize the time and effort that has been put in to ensure the safety of our students this school year in all areas. Special thanks to our Cafeteria Director, Philip Thomas (pictured far left), and Assistant Director, Kristen James (pictured left), for all their hard work to ensure the safety of our students.





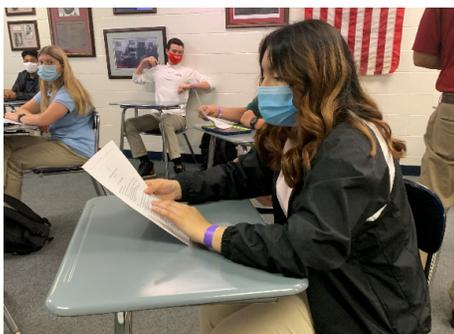
Academic Life

DUAL ENROLLMENT CLASS OPPORTUNITIES

By Abby King, Marketing Director

Mount Pisgah Academy prides itself on preparing students mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually for the future. One way that MPA does this is by enabling students to earn multiple college credits in various ways at a fraction of the cost of taking them on a college campus. Some students who take advantage of these dual credit classes have entered college as sophomores and have graduated up to a year early from their university. Mount Pisgah Academy hires faculty with master's degrees or doctorates who are trained and capable of instructing college level courses. Our faculty work with our partnering universities to ensure that our students are meeting university standards in their coursework and learning. MPA is proud to partner with Advent Health University, Southern Adventist University, and Washington Adventist University for our in-person college courses. Classes offered on-campus include the following: Adventist Heritage & Mission; Anatomy & Physiology; College American History I; College American History II; College Composition 101; College Composition 102; Developmental Psychology; and Jesus and The Gospels.

COLLEGE AMERICAN HISTORY I



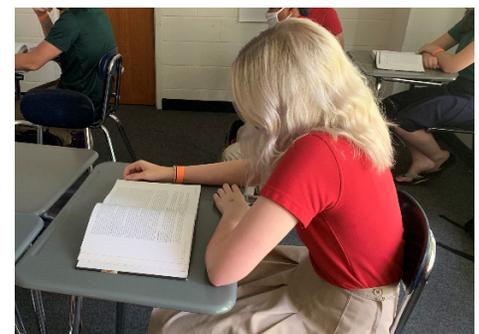
In this course, Bruce Bellchambers, leads students in discussion and learning about the political, social, constitutional, and cultural development of the United States from the colonial era to 1877, with particular emphasis on the theme of liberty in the American experience and the conflicts over its meaning that culminated in the Civil War and its aftermath, the Reconstruction Era. Students will also take College American History II.

JESUS AND THE GOSPELS



Jesus of Nazareth, as He is described and characterized in the four gospels of the Bible, is the focus of this course. This course is designed to encourage a personal encounter by the student with the reality of Jesus and the scriptures through scholarship and experience. This course also provides an opportunity for participants to explore and understand the Scriptures, fostering a basis for a response to their claims.

COLLEGE COMPOSITION 101



Students learn to craft thought provoking persuasive essays, writing a total of at least 3,500 words spread out across at least three essays. After completion of the course, students should feel adequately prepared to enter college and successfully write A-worthy essays for their various courses. Students taking this course will also be enrolled in College Composition 102 for the second semester, completing their college writing requirements.

Dorm Life

CREATING A COMMUNITY

By Brianna Kittleson, Assistant Girls' Dean

When I was in high school, I went to a day academy so I did not experience dorm life until I went to college. I did not know exactly what to expect when it came to dorm life for high schoolers. In college, there was something special about living with your friends and I can see it is the same no matter the age. The comradery that living in a dorm creates often leads to life-long friendships and that is what we hope for our residents.

A sense of community in the dorm is very important to us. We want each one of the girls to feel like they have a safe space in which they can be surrounded by peers who uplift and support them, as well as staff who have their best interest at heart.

The residents have opportunities to not only grow friendships but grow spiritually through daily dorm worship. It is a time for the girls to come together and talk about their day and worship God with their peers. It also helps to instill a spiritual environment in the dorm. The residents learn responsibility by running the dorm store or being part of Girls' Club. Through these experiences, they

learn how to work together by planning things like the Christmas Banquet or game night in the dorm.

We recently voted in our Girls' Club officers and they are already hard at work. They have begun collecting ideas for the banquet and are great about making each girl in the dorm feel included in the decision making. They want to hear what the girls have to say and the ideas that they bring to the table, even if they are not an officer.

This year is off to a great start so far and despite the restrictions COVID-19 has created, I know God has His hands on MPA and our dorm residents.



Dorm Life

BRINGING NEW LIFE TO ORCHILL HALL

By Abby King, Marketing Director

Prior to this summer, the girls' dorm sidewalks and patio were crumbling and in need of repair. An executive decision was made to utilize a portion of the yearly capital improvement funds from the selling of Pisgah Valley to fund the renovation. New concrete sidewalks and patio were poured and the patio was also stamped to give it a textured rocky appearance. Additionally, the sidewalks were made to be handicap friendly. This is a huge benefit which makes the dorm more accessible to students and/or family members with injuries or special needs. It also makes it easier for anyone moving luggage in and out of the dorm. We were also blessed to have the assistance of alumni and friends in updating the

landscaping surrounding the dormitory. We would like to give special thanks to Kitty Ratzliff who painted the entire chapel and freshened the walls in the exercise room. Kitty also donated several items to the girls' dorm for the assistant dean room. Additionally, our girls' dean,



Feature Piece

EXPERIENCES AS A DISTANCE LEARNER

By Emmie Lee, '22

Returning home for Spring Break only to be suddenly forced into finishing school online at the end of last year was not a welcome adjustment. I spent the last couple months of my sophomore year as an online student. For the first semester of this school year, I decided to continue distancing learning to better protect myself and my family during the pandemic.

Being an online student at MPA versus my experience on campus is definitely very different, but my teachers have still found ways to let me be interactive in my classes and with my classmates. I'm not just viewing the class. I'm able to participate in class groups, class discussions, and (thanks to the share screen option on Zoom) even watch videos right within the class time. As well as classes, I've also been able to view school-wide events such as SA Handshake and Trash Night. It's not the same as being there in person, but at least I can still enjoy it even from home! I am so thankful for all the attempts the staff have made to help make the online students still feel like a part of the school and, most of all, for allowing us to have this option.

ENCOUNTERING GOD

By Jo Ottinger, Chaplain

In this year of unexpected realities, we are constantly seeing God in various and meaningful ways! Social distancing and face masks have challenged our efforts toward a family dynamic here on campus. It seems the students and staff of MPA have said, "challenge accepted!"

Each Friday night, the MPA family comes together to begin the Sabbath in the Auditorium where social distancing is possible. The music, as always, has been inspiring, worshipful, and motivational! Although most vespers this year have seen Pastor Jo speaking, we have also enjoyed several local pastors bringing an encouraging message.

The student body just experienced a modified Church on the Mountain last weekend. After loading up the buses, we headed to Pink Beds for Church and then had sack lunches. Then we headed up to the Parkway to hike Mount Pisgah. Most students made it all the way up and enjoyed the fantastic view on such a wonderful late summer day! Once everyone made it back down to the parking lot, we had some fruit and snacks and water as we relaxed on the grass overlooking the valleys. We could not leave this place without closing the Sabbath together in the beauty of God's nature. It was a high Sabbath to be sure!

I am so thankful to be on these hallowed grounds where you can hear students talking about Jesus to their friends and praying for each other about various needs. I'm watching as God shows up on His campus in these odd and much more quiet times of Covid.



SA President's Message

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SA PRESIDENT

By Gavin Perez, '21

Hello everyone! I am so glad that each and every one of you decided to come to MPA this year.

It is such an honor to be your SA President. I am so excited for what SA has cooking up. I think you guys are going to love it! We have such a great group, and everyone is passionate about being able to serve a school that we love and care about. I feel confident that, despite the current situation the world is going through, our year is going to be out of this world!

This year we did something new: we picked a theme for SA. The purpose of the SA theme is to provide a message that we as a group aim to resonate throughout the year. Our SA theme is "Rise up!", as we feel that it is important during these times to rise up against the obstacles life may throw at us every day. We also feel that by bettering each other as a school family, our spirits can also "rise up!" Don't forget to rise up!

If you have any suggestions or comments for the year, please feel free to speak to me! I love hearing feedback from you guys! Remember, rise up!



"I HAVE FOUND THAT THE SPIRITUAL ATMOSPHERE HERE ON CAMPUS, ESPECIALLY DURING CHURCH AND VESPERS, IS VERY REAL. IT REALLY UPLIFTS ME WHEN I SEE IT"

- RACHEL HAMPTON, '23



"GOD HAS TOUCHED ME THROUGH MY FRIENDS THIS SCHOOL YEAR."

- JAKE STEINER, '24

CALENDAR

September 16-20	Homeleave Break
September 22-24	View Southern for Seniors
October 3	Softball Tournament
October 5	Virtual College Fair
October 9-11	Parent Open House Weekend
October 12-16	Week of Prayer
October 21-25	Homeleave Break
November 6-7	Youth Rally - CANCELLED
November 7	Fall Festival - CANCELLED
November 13	Faculty Family Vespers

PARENT OPEN HOUSE

We invite all parents of current students to join us for our upcoming Parent Open House, occurring October 9-11. We are so excited to host this event so that you can see what your children have been working on over the past two months. We appreciate being able to partner with you in ministering to your students. Events throughout the weekend include the following: performances by choir and hand bells; free Sabbath lunch for all; Student Association activity on Saturday night; Parent Teacher Conferences; and a Junior Class car wash fundraiser. **Please RSVP on our website for the weekend so that we can plan accordingly.** We cannot wait to have you on our campus soon!