



# MPA SKYLINER



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

By Remy Guenin

*"I lift up my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip - he who watches over you will not slumber; Indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you - the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm - he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." Psalm 121*

These are comforting words especially in today's world that is fraught with strife and troubles. God's promises are as sure today as they have always been. As we opened the 2021-2022 school year, we received a huge blessing that we have been praying for over the past 3 years. We had an increase in our student population of almost 40%. Our classrooms are filled and our dorms are about  $\frac{3}{4}$  full. It is with grateful hearts that we welcome the many new faces along with the familiar faces of our returning students. Through the hard work of our Marketing Director, Abby King, and God's incredible blessing, we began the school year with 119 students.

This past summer, Maranatha was able to send 60+ volunteers our way to help with renovations to Orchill Hall. Under the leadership of Ernie and Jeanice Riles, much work was accomplished in a 3 week period. Throughout this time period and beyond, Donna Robertson (our wonderful head girls' dean), Glen Robertson (husband to Donna and amazing volunteer and supporter of MPA), and Louie Parra (one of our awesome teachers and jack of all trades), worked tirelessly to complete this project before the start of school. We received the occupancy certificate for Orchill Hall from the county on the 10th of August, just 24 hours before our new students were to arrive for registration. God's timing is always perfect and right on time. A great big thank you to all who contributed to this amazing renovation.

God is good all the time and all the time God is good! *Continued on Page 4.*

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828.667.2535



75 Academy Drive  
Candler, NC 28715

## SENIOR SURVIVAL CREATES MEMORIES

By Emma Boughman, '22

My favorite memory is not the many adventures with my friends or the long bus rides for the trip. Nonetheless, those were all amazing, too. Mine, however, is a memory during camping, where I had woken up in the middle of the night to use the bathroom, then get back to those precious hours of sleep in my tent. My flip-flops squished across the grassy area as I made my way to the pavilion with tired eyes. I had a small flashlight, but by the time I had finished the short walk to the halfway point, the street lights were happy to guide me. As I passed the bus, 200 feet ahead was a substantial figure crossing the road. I did not stop walking, but I kept my eyes on it as it stopped at the other



side and stared at me. It was a beautiful adult deer. I was too tired to remember if it had antlers or not, but I clearly remember the wonder of it all. I had never seen a deer this close, or nature in this light before. It was just me and the animal out in the dark. No one else could see us. It was just the two of us with the memory of the encounter. Then, it ran off.

I have many other breathtaking memories and stories from Senior Survival, and as I was talking about them with my classmates, they mentioned their favorites too. Jesus Prieto enjoyed rock climbing on the second day. "Senior Survival was full of fun memories, but my favorite one has to be rock-climbing," he mentioned. We went climbing on an outdoor rock



formation and an indoor rock-climbing course. Both had their challenges, but we all seemed to enjoy them a lot. Jesus talked about some of his challenges while climbing. "Getting higher up on the wall was difficult at times, but it was a fun challenge," he recalled. "It was the first time I had done anything like that, but I found out that it is something that I really enjoy." I had to agree with him that I felt like there were times on the wall where there was no way I could get up any higher. However, I was able to push that feeling down, and I made it to the top.

Becky Amann mentioned a memory that she enjoyed from white water rafting towards the end of Senior Survival. "My favorite memory was when Pastor Jo dunked Jesse Stein. Jesse had tried to throw him in, but Pastor Jo threw him in instead," she remembered. Pastor Jo had himself and the people in his raft, continually splash other rafts, though he would never admit it. One of our classmates wanted to get revenge by trying to pull the pastor out of his raft. It did not work out well for him. Although we all got a lot wetter than we probably intended to that day, we used that to our advantage and went swimming in-between rapids. We skipped rocks with friends and continued to try and get our classmates under the cold water. The rapids were not as scary as I thought they would be, and that made the river trip even better.

Senior Survival was not what I expected, but in all the best ways. I talked to a lot more people in my class, and did things I have never done before. Continually, I was ignoring the voice in my head that told me I could not do something. That enabled me to go deep into the earth during caving and see great heights while rock climbing. I would not change a single thing from that trip, and I know that my friends and I will cherish those memories we made together for a long time.

## KICKING OFF THE SCHOOL YEAR WITH HANDSHAKE

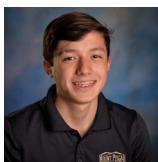
By Gracie McCall, '23

Meeting someone new gives an opportunity to each and every person to add a new path to their life. At handshake, when you interact with someone, you can meet a person you never thought you would. It could be someone that will later tear you apart by hurting you, or maybe someone that puts you back together. There is a possibility that the fifth, sixth, or seventh hand you shook might be someone you will spend tomorrow with or until the end of forever. Count and label your days. You might lose track of them if you are not careful. People can be so special that they feel like your world.



**"I think every handshake is the start of something new."**

- Markalah Telemaque, '23



**"I really like how we have handshake every year because we're able to see everybody we missed and the new faces at MPA"**

- Liam Brown, '23



## TRASH NIGHT BONDS THE CLASSES

By Abby King, Marketing Director

The lights turn down, the video begins to play. Memories from the last four years of high school flash on the screen as the seniors secretly hide outside of the gymnasium. As the film ends, the lights switch on and the seniors run in screaming and yelling. They are pumped and excited for their final Trash Night experience, coming in hot and ready to win. They finish their entrance by running around the center mats, screaming their class year.

Excitement fills the room as the event begins. The first item is called and each class scrambles to find it and run the object to the center mats. For those who have not had the privilege of attending one of Mount Pisgah Academy's annual Trash Nights, it is one of the biggest events of the school year. The students collect as many random items as they can from their dorm



rooms and trek them all down to the gymnasium. Each class takes a position in one of the corners of the room and gets set up. Once the event begins, items are called and classes earn points by being the first class to bring the requested item up to the mat. Items called may include a red crayon, a signature from Mr. Guenin, a loaf of bread, or even a bicycle. If a class has the item, they must quickly locate it in their area and give it to their runner. Just because a class member gets to the mat first does not necessarily mean they receive the point as every item is subject to different rules. Some classes get creative if they do not have an item, which is what makes the game more fun. As the night came to a close, the classes were close, but the sophomores pulled out a win. To celebrate, they got to run out to center campus and ring the bell!

**“ TRASH NIGHT HAD A LOT OF FUN AND EXCITING MOMENTS, ESPECIALLY WHEN WE HAD TO CARRY PEOPLE TO THE MAT! ”**

**- GRACE RUSSELL, '23**

## GUESS WHAT I DID THIS SUMMER!



**EMMA FRANK, '22**

"My mom and I flew to Washington to visit my sister and her husband, then I flew to California to visit more family. While I was there I went camping, went to the beach, had many train rides, and did tons of baking. The remainder of the summer I stayed at home, playing with my dog and making good food!



**LIAM BROWN, '23**

"I played and practiced soccer at the field for part of the summer. When I wasn't playing soccer, I was working in the kitchen at a local restaurant near my house. And on my off days, or in my spare time, I would go hang out with friends and just enjoy the summer. It was a really great summer and a nice break."



**JAILYN PINEDA, '22**

"This summer, my grandpa died but it actually had a great outcome. My father had not been with all of his siblings in one room in six years. They live in Mississippi, Indiana, Virginia, North Carolina, and Honduras. We had visited them each, individually, but had not been all together in a long time. It is hard to get everyone in the

same place, but my grandpa's death brought everyone together. They prayed together, cried together, and sang songs in honor of their dad. It was an unforgettable time. It was a sad time, but you could see their pain leaving with laughter and shared memories of when they were kids. I was not close to my grandpa but hearing the stories about him, and being there, was almost like he was there with us. I was able to catch up with my cousins and even meet new family members that I had not met before. Although I am still saddened with my grandpa's passing, it was a blessing and a beautiful opportunity. I had a really good summer, it truly was."

*Principal's Message, Continued.* It is with great anticipation and a deep sense of gratitude that we look forward to an amazing school year, one in which we have already seen God's hand moving. We know that it is a great blessing to be able to do the work God has called us to do to prepare children to engage in God's service! We have faced challenges and, no doubt, we will face more in the future but we know that we can overcome all of the difficulties thrown at us through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In this edition of the MPA Newsletter you will see pictures of our students engaging in the traditional "Trash Night" and experiencing friendship, fellowship, and fun! This night always has a bonding effect on our classes at the beginning of the school year which draws them together for the remainder of the year and beyond. Much laughter and fun was had and it was refreshing to see so many smiling faces!

Spiritual Life

## MEET OUR NEW STAFF

By Abby King, Marketing Director

It is always challenging when staff members move on to new opportunities. But God always provides and this school year, Mount Pisgah Academy was blessed with five new staff members. Each and every one is excited about the mission of MPA - *to love, educate, and disciple students for God's service*. Learn more about our new staff below.



**WINSTHON ALVIS**  
CHOIR



**STEVEN GREEN**  
BIBLE III, HAND BELLS &  
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



**BETHANY JOHNSON**  
ENGLISH I & ACADEMIC  
SUPPORT COORDINATOR



**DENISE SCROGGS**  
NURSE

"My trip to MPA started with a Maranatha trip to renovate the girls' dorm. Finding out about the need for the school nurse prompted me to join the wonderful staff here. Interaction with students is the best part of my job. I enjoy educating students on healthy living through taking care of mind, body and soul. It is awesome to be able to pray with students and encourage them."



**TARA TELLO**  
ALGEBRA I, ALGEBRA II, GEOMETRY, INTERMEDIATE  
ALGEBRA, & PRECALCULUS

"After working as a missionary in South America for many years, I am excited to continue a life of service as a missionary at MPA. My greatest desire is for students to be presented with a beautiful picture of a God who is worth loving."

Student Feature

## STUDENTS ASSIST WITH FLOOD CLEANUP

By Abby King, Marketing Director

On Tuesday, August 17, the Greater Asheville area experienced severe rainstorms and torrential rain. Students and staff experienced minimal power outages and minor flooding. Meanwhile, staff who had errands to run off campus had increased travel times due to flooding that caused closures on Smokey Park Highway, the main road off which MPA is located. The flooding forced all residents living off Monte Vista Road to travel along one road, causing major slow-downs and delays. However frustrating power outages and traffic may be, MPA was blessed compared to other locations in the Asheville area.

Homes in Canton and Haywood County experienced the most damage with severe flooding caused by the river that flows through town. Residents had flood waters rising in their homes, while vehicles and trailers were transported in the waters. As the waters receded, the devastating damage became more visible. Mount Pisgah Academy students and staff wanted to help with the efforts. On Friday, August 20, MPA Juniors and Seniors volunteered to travel to Canton to assist with flood clean-up. The students cleaned out mud from homes and washed off the outside of houses. With so much left to do, more students headed out on Sabbath to assist in the local area.

Not only were the residents grateful for the help, but the experience changed the perspectives of our students. It is easy to become frustrated with minor power outages and having to walk to class in the rain. Meanwhile, others are suffering from damaged homes and being surrounded by mud. One student shared her outlook on the experience. "Seeing all the furniture and items outside of the houses was surreal. On campus we had been complaining about the stairs and sidewalks being flooded, but that was nothing compared to this," said Emma Boughman, '22.



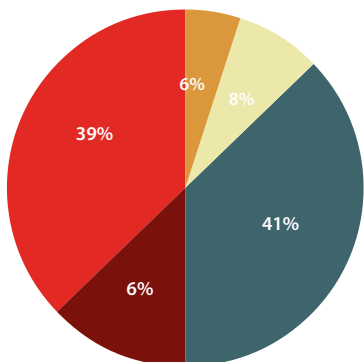
# ENROLLMENT INCREASES BY 38%

By Abby King, Marketing Director

Following the graduation of the class of 2018, which had over 50 students, MPA has seen a decrease in enrollment each school year. The 2017-2018 school year started with 131 students, while the most recent school year (2020-2021) had only 86 at the beginning of the year. A variety of factors played into the gradual decrease in enrollment.

As the recruitment season for the 2021-2022 school year began last fall, staff and students were determined to see Mount Pisgah Academy grow. Through school visits, direct mailings, word-of-mouth marketing, on-campus recruitment events, and more, staff and returning students worked hard to spread the word about the hidden gem in Western Asheville. Daily prayers were offered, and God abundantly blessed our campus by allowing it to grow.

Applications soon began flooding in and inquiries arrived daily. Full-time staff members remained busy with campus tours and check-ins throughout the summer. On registration day, August 15, Mount Pisgah Academy had 119 students enrolled for the 2021-2022 school year. This represents a 38% increase from last school year and the highest enrollment since 2018. MPA is incredibly blessed to have so many high-quality and talented students on its campus this school year. It is wonderful to have students from so many different backgrounds, as well. Our population includes students from not only North and South Carolina but also California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Virginia. We also have several students from Bermuda. Check out the statistics below to learn more about our student body.



SA President's Message

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR SA PRESIDENT

By Josh Bedwell, '22

Hello everyone, I am so excited for this school year and hope you are, as well! It is an amazing honor to be your Student Association President this year, and I look forward to working with all of the SA students to try and make this the best year possible.

This school year our theme at Mount Pisgah Academy is to "Start a Fire" for Jesus in our hearts and on our amazing campus! I believe that it will be awesome to see that take place here with all the wonderful students and staff we have. I look forward to making this year the best it can possibly be!

## CALENDAR

Sept 15-19	Homeleave Break
Sept 23-24	View Southern
Sept 26 - Oct 1	Junior History Tour
Oct 8-10	Parent Open House Weekend
Oct 16	Freshmen/Sophomore Church
Oct 16	Late Night Softball
Oct 17-24	Senior Class Trip
Oct 20-24	Homeleave Break
Nov 5-6	Carolina Conference Youth Rally
Nov 13	MPA Touring Weekend

## YOUTH RALLY 2021

We invite you to join us for our upcoming Carolina Conference iMPAct Youth Rally, November 5-6! We have an incredible speaker coming who will inspire young people in their relationships with Christ. Jackie James is the new pastor of the University City SDA Church in Charlotte. Before moving to Charlotte, he was a pastor in Washington state. Pastor James will be discussing the topic of being "All In" and how we can be all in for Christ in everything we do. Additionally, Southern Adventist University's Engage Ministries will be visiting to provide contemporary Christian music for our programming. Free lodging and food are available all weekend. Register today to reserve your spot at [www.pisgah.us/events](http://www.pisgah.us/events)