

# MCAA NEWS

## FEBRUARY 2023



### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Our 7th and 8th grade students just completed writing letter #3 to their pen pals! This year, the students have been exchanging letters with professionals in STEM fields. They have received two letters so far and expect to have two more rounds of letters from their STEM pals. The most recent letters from pen pals focused on pathways to careers -- which colleges they attended and how they made the decisions to study in their chosen fields. The students researched their pen pals' universities and included some of what they learned in their responses this past month. Our next letter opening day is scheduled for Friday, March 3rd!

### A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for trusting us with your beautiful kids! It's exciting to see what is possible when we all work together. Our SGA is about to start regular meetings with administration to share plans and discuss the future of MCAA. Our high school teachers are collaborating to create a project-based learning model. Our middle school is planning to start their own SGA so they can learn about leadership and get more involved in school planning. We just had the entire Fine Arts department work together to put on the most amazing play, *Almost Maine*. I loved every moment of the play! Our kids have so much talent. We have enthusiastic, innovative teachers who are looking for new programs and new ways to support our kids and community.

Dr. Patton Furman

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

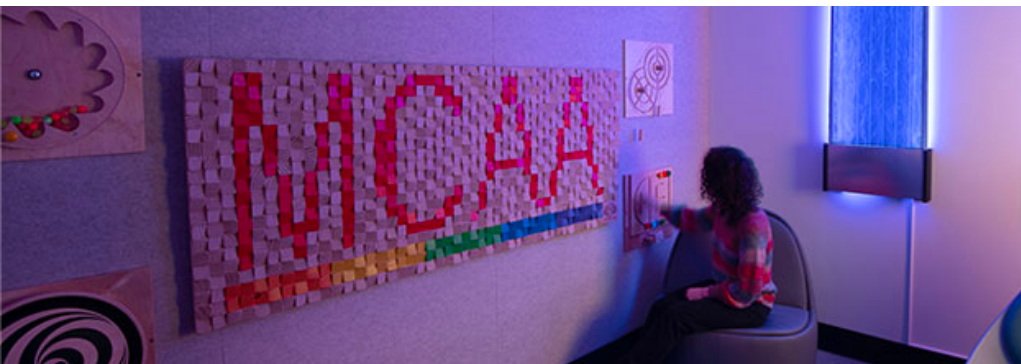
February is Black History Month. MCAA has been working hard since our doors opened to be an inclusive space, and during the month of February we want to shine a light on the importance of continuously educating ourselves.

On February 23, we will have T. Marie King join us to speak to all of our students. T. Marie King is Director of Youth Pathways and Experiences with Jones Valley Teaching Farm, in Birmingham Alabama. King is also an advisor for the creation of equitable spaces. She's an expert in facilitating difficult conversations and challenges audiences through her lectures to do the necessary self-work to become a part of active communal change.

King is a trained Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation facilitator through the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and a trained Empathetic Facilitator through Create Forward. In December 2022, she co-produced and released her first full-length documentary to worldwide audiences on the unsung hero and civil rights icon the Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth. The documentary was premiered and released on Alabama Public Television and can also be viewed on PBS.org worldwide. King holds a B.A. in Urban and Global Economic Development, and a M.A. in Leadership and Divinity.

### UPCOMING DATES

Feb 17 Teacher PD-- no school  
Feb 20 Presidents Day-- no school  
Feb 23 School Assembly  
Feb 24 Early Dismissal 1PM  
Mar 3 Early Dismissal 1PM  
Mar 10 Teacher PD-- no school  
Mar 14 11th Grade ACT  
Mar 17 HS Book Talk and Signing  
April 10 ACAP Testing Starts  
April 14 Prom  
May 19 Graduation



# MEET OUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

## Seniors

Zed Segars  
Oliver Baugh  
Alex Herron  
Rhydian Gonzales  
Rory Alvis  
Plum Savage

## Sophomore

Eliza Julian  
Alex Pepke  
Riley Francis  
Tyler Black  
Doti Mastin  
Leah Harris  
Kathryn Linderman  
Xander Bowser

These students were elected by their peers to work to improve the school in a multitude of ways. Mx. Faulkner and Mr. Evans have been working with these students all year with the hope that they will be able to assist in cultivating a community that we are proud of, a community where student voices are heard. They will also be leading their own campaigns and events to benefit the school. SGA has been taking steps to sit down for conversations with our administration so that they can be the voice of the student body.

## Juniors

Kelly Mays  
Oliver Parson  
Lance Simpson  
Carter Burton  
Markus Gardner  
Kameron Cazeau  
Abs O'Donnell

## Freshmen

Daniel Ammons  
Lilla Mwenja  
Ren Pradham  
Neo Nix  
Jaydin McMillian  
Buddy Waldrop  
Elliot Grisaffi

## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

This is Kathleen Durkin one of our new Social Workers! She is striving to build relationships with all of our students and give them the skills that they need to succeed in life. Since coming on in January she has been hard at work meeting students and learning about how to better support them. If you want to learn more about what Kathleen is doing for the school and our students, set up a time to chat with her by emailing [kdurkin@mcaabhm.org](mailto:kdurkin@mcaabhm.org)



## SENIOR REMINDERS

Graduation will be May 19th, students will receive 5 tickets each for graduation.

If you have not paid your senior dues please make sure to drop that off to Ms. Benoit or Mr. Hugh in the front office. Senior dues are \$250, and checks can be made out to MCAA.

# PEER HELPERS LOVE MONTH

This month our Peer Helpers are dedicating their efforts to a campaign called Love Month! They are working together with the school to raise awareness around self care and hygiene. The Peer Helpers are hosting a Hygiene Drive through the end of the month to make sure that our students and others in need have the proper tools to take care of themselves. Throughout the rest of the month they will also be raising awareness around mental health, self care, and empathy. Contact Daniel Evans for more information at [devans@mcaabhm.org](mailto:devans@mcaabhm.org).



## MCAA MERCH

Get your MCAA merch today! All proceeds go back to the school!



## LOOKING TO CONTACT A STAFF MEMBER?

Looking to get in contact with a staff member? Check out our website to find their email address!

