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*Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain. Psalm 127:1*

Highlights

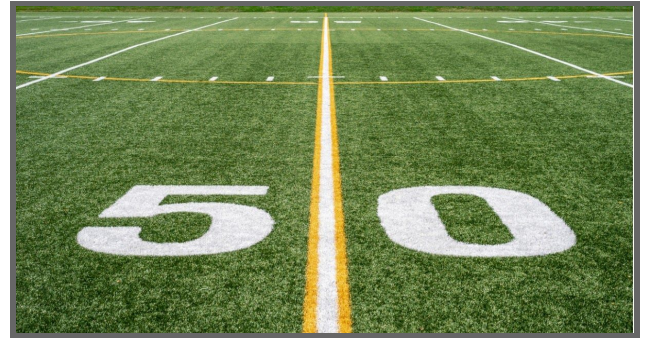
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Halftime!

By Ms. Manuela Katt

The Lord is doing great things! We have officially closed out the 2nd quarter of the school year and God has been so faithful. As we look back there's much to be thankful for and as we look forward there's much to continue seeking and waiting on God for.



We are thankful for remaining open for in-person instruction despite COVID rates rising in NYC and many neighborhoods surrounding Inwood being designated as yellow and orange zones. We are grateful to our students, families, and staff for continuing to show endurance and perseverance in the face of restrictions and the demands of both our hybrid and fully remote learning programs. We were blessed by a virtual Christmas spectacular that showcased our students in creative ways as traditional music classes are still on hold.

We look forward to welcoming more of our Independent Instructional Program (fully remote) students for in-person instruction this upcoming quarter. Please keep our benchmark assessments to gauge learning, at the end of February, in prayer. We commit to praying for our families who will be re-enrolling starting February 1st and for our prospective families who will be applying starting March 1st, for the '21-'22 school year. As always, we pray that our students and families continue to experience the love of God through all we do at MCA!

At the end of December we shared exciting news about plans to open a high school in the near future and an exciting real-estate development plan in the works with Manhattan Bible Church. As plans and proposals are developed, we are grounded in this truth: *Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.* (Psalm 127:1) Please join us in both thanking God for His abundant mercy and favor, and in continuing to seek Him for His will for MCA's future.

Parent Voice

Mr. & Mrs. Gomez-Rea, Parents of Noah (6th Grade) and Nathan (2nd Grade)

Both of our sons have attended Manhattan Christian Academy since 2018. Our oldest son Noah started in 4th grade and is currently in 6th grade and our youngest son Nathan, started in Kindergarten and is now in 2nd grade. They both love MCA so much.

The main reason we chose MCA was due to the many challenging changes that were and are still occurring in the public-school system, many of which are against our Biblical beliefs and Christian values. As Christian parents, we recognize that spiritual growth is the most important element in our daily lives. Here at MCA our children are getting both the Christian and academic education where they can continue to grow spiritually while being in a safe environment.

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What we appreciate most about MCA's is their mission to educate children to serve and lead by knowing God and understanding His world. We also appreciate the excellent communication provided by the staff/teachers. We value the love and support demonstrated to the students and their families during these uncertain times, especially throughout this Covid-19 pandemic. MCA has excelled in providing words of wisdom: to pray, remain united, stay strong and rely on God, as He is the one who's in control and has promised to comfort and sustain us during all the difficult phases of our lives.

Although we know that biblical knowledge starts in the house, we recognize that MCA has been an extension of our family's values. We give God the glory to see how our children have grown day by day in God's knowledge. MCA complements our purpose and goals as parents to observe our boys deepen their faith in God and develop new talents.

One of the many memories that I hold dearly and will always testify to is the way God brought us to MCA. Before we had our second son, our main concern were the changes overtaking our social and public-school systems. We prayed for guidance and direction knowing that in prayer there is POWER. One day about five years ago, I heard about MCA from a member of our church and we called and scheduled a visit. Dr. Bonifas, the principal at the time, gave me a tour of the school and took his time explaining the benefits of a Christian education. He was very informative, thorough and spent more than an hour with me and I took that to heart. I left that day with a strong conviction that my sons would one day attend MCA!

Things took a different turn in 2013, and we couldn't go forward with our plans but the desire and urge never left my heart as challenges escalated in the public-school system. Every time I drove by MCA, on the Major Deegan ExpressWay, I would stretch out my hand towards MCA and declare, "One day my boys will go there, Lord!". Sure enough that day came in 2018 when my prayers were answered and we are so grateful, honored, and humbled that our boys became part of the MCA family. We see this institution as a place of spiritual growth and training for all the future Apostles, Pastors, Teachers, Evangelists and Prophets of God. [Ephesians 4:11]

It has been an honor for us that our children attend MCA! We know that this school offers more than a great education, it offers the opportunity for students to learn to serve and lead by knowing God and understanding His world.

MCA Alumni

Check out [MCA's Facebook Alumni page!](#) Here's an alumni highlight, Aaron Matos:



Aaron Matos attended MCA from '06-'14 (K-8). Currently, he attends Lehman College and prior he completed a program at ELIM Bible Institute and College called Launch. This one-year program provides students with a solid spiritual foundation. Aaron loves the book of Proverbs and his favorite verse is Proverbs 28:16, *"A ruler who lacks understanding is a cruel oppressor, but he who hates unjust gain will prolong his days."*

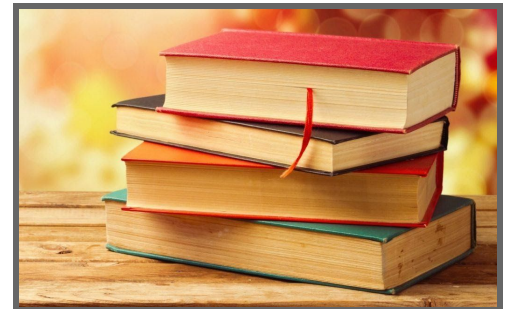
His favorite MCA memory was meeting his best friend Aidan Claudio in Kindergarten. They are still best friends today!

Aaron's advice for current and future MCA students: "Take advantage of the Godly wisdom and counsel being poured into you by your loving teachers and

staff members. It's easy to neglect these principles entering high school, where freedom and popularity can corrupt your mind. Always remember who you are in Christ and where you came up from."

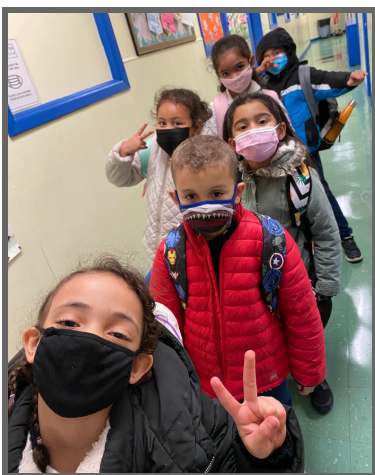
Reading Challenge!

This February, during Winter Break (February 15th-19th), we are holding a reading challenge for our students and families. Families will be sending us photos or short videos of what they are reading to be entered into a contest. Stay tuned for more details!



Step Up Day!

On February 4th and February 8th, students will experience a glimpse of their next grade. Teachers are excited to share an engaging lesson encouraging students to continue working hard this year and to look forward to being an MCA student next year! We'll also spend some time on social-emotional learning as we continue to rely on God in all we do for the remainder of the '20-'21 school year.



Thank You!!!

We are so grateful to those who generously gave during the month of December. From Giving Tuesday on 12/1 through year-end gifts, we raised almost \$20,000! In 2 Corinthians 9:8 Paul writes, *“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”* God has indeed blessed and will be with us in every good work!

Apply NOW!

Throughout the year we usually look forward to being able to welcome prospective parents to tour our school, meet the staff, and experience a little bit of the MCA family. As procedures still prohibit visitors at this time, we invite you to check out a virtual tour of MCA produced by a former MCA after school teacher, Jeremiah Addo, and his company BeyondYOU.



On MCA's YouTube page you'll see a [glimpse of MCA](#). Learn about our Early Education, Elementary, and Middle School programs, COVID safety procedures, MCA's distance learning program, and more.

We look forward to welcoming you in-person soon!

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