

SPOTLIGHT

MCAA Newspaper

VOLUME 3 ISSUE#1 PAGE 1

SEPTEMBER 2024

The September '24 *Spotlight* comes back from its hiatus with articles about Senior Sunrise, the start of Link Crew's second year, a club highlight, and an interview with one of our new teachers. Don't forget to check out the teaser below for The Fall Play!



Senior Sunrise

By Ben Oliver & Nick Metzger

Many seniors woke up way too early on their last first day of school, Wednesday, August 14th, in order to watch the 6:19 A.M. sunrise together. Senior Sunrise is a high school tradition where students gather as a group for the first time of their senior year, looking towards the future and making memories. For the Class of 2025, this year was no different. Many seniors commemorated this event by taking photos together with the Senior Sunrise frames. There was also an opportunity for students to write a letter to their future selves, which will be handed back at the end of the year. If any seniors would still like to write this letter, ask Mr. Fridrich in Room 7 for the supplies!

We interviewed some of the senior class to see how they enjoyed the event, along with what they're excited about for the upcoming year.

Q: How did it go overall?

"It was fun, pretty chill, nice little hang out."

- Bailey Hennings

"I think it was well put together and it did a good job at reaching all of the seniors and getting them all there."

- Huyhanna Soliz

"I think it went very well, [senior leadership] succeeded, even though it was more like 'Senior Sunrisen' for us cause we came and the sun was already there, but it was nice."

- Honor Giardini

Q: What do you look forward to the most during this year?

"I look forward to most of the performances, as I am a crazy theater kid, and I am also very excited for all of the experiences as I am doing all of this for the last time."

- Danielle Gatlin

"Definitely the performances, there's a lot going on this year, and I am looking forward to seeing how me and my peers do with that."

- Bailey Hennings

"I'm looking forward to, personally, the band opportunities this year, and, as a senior, I have the ability to take part in the parades... I will have more freetime in my schedule and I will be able to attend more band related extracurricular activities."

- Huyhanna Soliz

Scan the QR Code to view Dragon's Digest past editions and their new issue!



"The Fall Play" Teaser

By Danielle Gatlin

Have you been itching to know more about Advanced Drama's Fall Play? Well, here you can get a first glimpse into this mystery of a show. In an interview with Mr. DeMeritt, he said, "It is unlike any play that any of our students have seen before on stage. The play is best described as a supernatural thriller and [it] follows in the style of Alfred Hitchcock, M. Night Shyamalan, and Christopher Nolan. ... It will challenge the expectations of what a theatrical experience is." During the interview, he was asked if we should be scared to go see the play and he mysteriously responded, "The play should be intended for ages 10 and up. While there is no inappropriate subject matter...the viewers might find aspects of the production disturbing. If you come to see the show you will be scared and will enjoy it." The play is set around Halloween for a reason. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience you WILL want to be there on opening night, and you do NOT want it to be spoiled for you in any way. Buy your tickets for "The Fall Play" which will be on 10/24, 10/26, 11/1, and 11/2— all at 7 PM.



Link Crew Back in Action

By Kimberly Dobson & Rachel Granger

What can someone considering joining Link Crew expect during training?

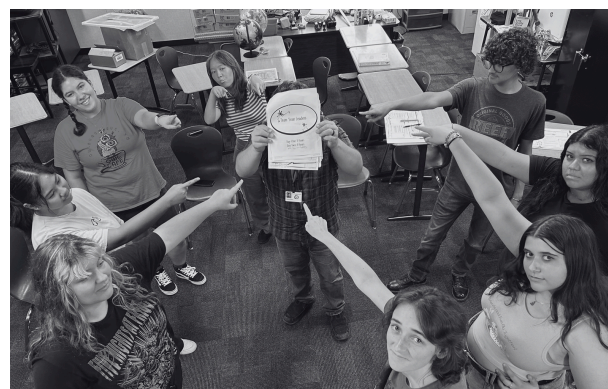
Someone thinking of joining Link Crew should expect to step out of their comfort zone. You have to talk to new people and lead people through activities. Although this may be scary, the whole thing is still very welcoming and fun.

You should also be prepared to do the most random stuff that you will definitely hesitate to do. You're not alone during the training; others are being crazy with you and it's fun! Plus, you make new friends.

What can someone thinking about joining Link Crew expect during training?

We need a variety of personalities involved as Link Crew Leaders. You can be quiet or outgoing--students need to see the diversity we have here. There are still some things that would be helpful to be a Link Leader, such as being able to get out there. Leaders should also try to stay positive and bring school spirit.

You want to be positive, upbeat, and outgoing. Having a person with traits that keep to themselves so they can help relate to the new students is always good as well.



We the asked the Link Staff Leaders how they felt about Link Crew this year and here is what they had to say!

"Orientation was wonderful this year and last year. The exciting part of Orientation is that each group of Link Leaders brings their own energy to the party. They have played a huge role in helping the new students feel comfortable and welcomed to MCAA."

- Ms. Anna

"I think orientation went great this year. It is only our second year using Link Crew and I think we can already see the difference it makes connecting new students to our school."

- Gabe Coomes

"Orientation went great. This is our second year of having Link Crew at orientation and it seems to be going well. We are planning to do a lot more too, at rallies and dances. We will host events and activities to promote dragon spirit!"

- Mr. Tejada

Charter Arts Feature

By Rae Johnson and Annabelle Morrish

We have many talented artists around our school, many of whom have been earned awards over the summer and late last year. There were a few students who went to CSSSA (California State Summer School of the Arts) including Devon Giardini, Bella Wong, Crispin Cruz, and Anime Mitchell. CSSSA is a month-long program in LA where students can earn a scholarship by taking classes taught by professors.

Alexandra Giongco took best in show at the NAEA Jury Art Show at the Crocker Art Museum, and also won the "bestest show" at the Kingsley Art Club Jury Show. Other artists around our school have worked over the summer to create some amazing pieces.

Currently, Art 3-4 and AP are creating a deck of cards with the theme of different birds around the world including birds of prey, tropical, flightless, and city birds. The back of the cards is going to represent the 25th anniversary of our school and some cards will be informational that will discuss the school's anniversary and the deck itself, which is being created by Devon Giardini. Once the cards are finished and polished, they will be available to buy for \$12-\$15. Weisgerber will be making around 50 decks to buy so they will be very limited.

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Chess Club's Queen, Mr. Dresler, in Motion

By Haylee Lima & Octavius Stoudt

Ever since Mr. Dresler has been supervising MCAA's school chess club, the club has been booming. It's opening again this semester, with the first tournament being held on October 16th, 2024. To get new students familiar with this amazing club, we talked to returning club members and its advisor. According to Mr. Dresler, students can join the club with no prior knowledge of how to play chess. They can be taught by the big man himself or by other students. The club does actively, of course, attend tournaments, though attendance is never required.

Mr. Dresler recounts that when he was in fifth or sixth grade, he had a teacher that ran a chess club. He found the club to be fun and a great way to make use of his time. Thus, Mr. Dresler decided to advise our club here. He has also mentioned that chess has been scientifically proven to improve teamwork skills, social skills, intuitive thinking, and both reading and math levels. So, not only does the club allow for a healthy amount of fun and socialization, but it also aids in brain development and comprehension.

Meetings tend to run on a simple basis: introductions, going over the club's purpose, discussing new strategies, and giving small announcements. Some of which are when tournaments are being held, where they'll be located, and if they require payment or not. Then members will spread out, make groups, and play chess matches.

Playing against friends can be fun, but the club also allows for students to make new acquaintances and broaden their social circle. A few of last year's members include Dylan Batchelder, Felipe Benites, and Rachel Granger. When we asked about their favorite parts of the club, each claimed to enjoy different aspects. Dylan and Rachel both like playing against their friends and challenging their advisor. Felipe added onto this, stating that his favorite part was participating in tournaments. All three recommend joining, especially to those who strive to learn or improve their chess knowledge.

Whether for fun, practicing for tournaments, or trying to find new chess buddies, this club is a great way to expand your horizons on the game of chess. With an amusing teacher supervising it, this club is perfect for anyone willing to try their hand at chess.

POLL: What upcoming event are you most excited about?

Scan the QR Code

to participate in this month's poll!



What's Up, Dr. Trainer!

By Preet Thind and Miguel Silva

New year, New rules, New...Teachers? As many of you may know, MCAA has been graced by two brand-new science teachers. One of them is our new physics teacher, Dr. Trainer. While it has only been two very short (long) weeks back, we wanted to get an interview with him as a 'Get to Know Me' for our students here.

Dr. Trainer, where were you raised?

"So actually, I'm not from Marysville, I'm from Woodland. Woodland is down by Davis, I don't know if you've been there. I was born and raised in Woodland."

Why did you become an engineer?

"So, when I was a boy, I liked building things and, you know, constructing devices. And I thought that's what engineering was kind of all about, but actually, it's about a lot of math. And I was not bad at math, I took AP calculus in high school, but in reality, I didn't expect how much math would be needed to do engineering. So at first, it was difficult for me in some areas."

Were you kind of always a math and science kid?

"I liked science, I remember my dad bought me a book of science experiments for children when I was in elementary school or something like that, they were always fun. I did something like an experiment with a two liter bottle, and you put a cork in it and use a bike pump to fill it up with pressure, and then it shoots off."

How many years of college did you complete in America and then how many in Korea?

"I did my undergraduate degree at UC Davis. That took me about five years actually and then I did a master's degree in South Korea and PhD in South Korea."

Was it hard to get accepted in South Korea or did you just apply for fun?

"At the time, it wasn't that hard. So actually, my GPA in UC Davis was not the best. I'm not going to pretend like I was the best student. But then I met a professor from South Korea who was in the same major and he got to know me a little bit and he invited me to come there. So the first school I went to, it was not hard to get in at all. I didn't have to do anything because he invited me. All I had to do was apply and I was in. Then the second school I went to for the PhD, it was not terribly hard at the time because I talked to a professor and he said okay I'm gonna let you come into my lab, and he saw my grades at the other university were good. At that time it was the same thing--they wanted to bring in foreigners to the school because that helps the other students kind of practice English and practice all kinds of cultural things. They were also giving scholarships to foreign students."

Did you always know you were going to go to Korea?

"In my fourth year of college, I kind of went by coincidence to a campus ministry and it was all like Korean American people and that group happened to be sponsored by the Korean Church. So that's how I ended up connecting with a bunch of Korean American people and exchange students from Korea, and that got me interested in learning Korean."

Are you fluent in Korean?

"Yeah, I wouldn't say I'm completely fluent. I'm more like an advanced expert."

How long did you work in Korea?

"I worked for about eight to ten years."

What's the difference between the U.S. workplace and the Korean workplace culturally?

"So, in Korea, culturally, age is a big thing. When you talk to somebody older, you speak a certain way. Or when you're younger you might speak a certain way to your peers. Even if somebody is not your senior--my wife would tell me about this because she worked for the government as an administrative assistant--if someone is not your senior, but they're older than you, you kind of feel like you have to obey them. Like Mr. Dresler is younger than me but he's my senior here. There's still respect, but there's also more of a casualness in the U.S."

So how did you meet your wife?

"We met in our church and we lived in the same neighborhood."

How long has it been since you've been back to America?

"Almost a year. October will be one year."

Do you guys have any plans to go visit?

"Oh, yeah, because my wife's parents still live there and she works for Hawaiian Airlines now, so she can actually fly standby for free basically. But you know, if she has enough time off, she could go to Korea for free because Hawaiian Airlines goes to Hawaii and then to Korea."

What's one thing that you miss about Korea?

"Food. I miss the food. I love spicy food. And also, when you're driving, cops don't give you tickets. Instead, there are cameras everywhere that catch you and give you a ticket So people speed all the time maybe twice as fast as the speed limit, but they know where the cameras are because it's all in the navigation systems so everybody slows down and then as soon as the cameras pass everybody speeds up and in a way, that's kind of like freeing because I'm not driving around like, 'oh I'm going 10 miles over am I going to get a ticket?'"

When you were in Korea, what did you miss about the U.S.?

The food. Mexican food is, like, so good here. I missed really good Mexican food."

Have you been to other countries?

"Oh, yeah, I've been to Japan, Thailand, Mongolia, China, and Canada."

Did you always want to become a teacher?

"I thought about going into a private industry or teaching at a university again, but it wasn't my plan to come here. When I realized positions were opening up because it was the time of year, like the school year is starting, and I just applied."

