

Molalla River Academy Newsletter

August/September 2019



From the Executive Director

2019—2020 MRA Essential Question:

“How do I impact my environment and how does my environment impact me?”

Molalla River Academy Mission Statement

“To guide students in becoming responsible lifelong learners and compassionate community members through interdisciplinary studies in the arts and sciences within a safe and nurturing environment.”

Welcome back!

As always, this summer has been a busy one here at MRA. Many of the teachers and I started the summer with a work retreat where we dove into this year’s curriculum maps—refining skills and matching those to state standards, reviewing resource materials, and improving integration of our thematic units and literacy studies with other subject areas. During the months of July and August our board reviewed our strategic plan and established goals for this school year, and we’ve made improvements to our facilities and worked to improve our communications with parents. We’ve got an exciting year ahead of us, with our charter renewal scheduled to take place with Molalla School District, in addition to the implementation of our summer work.

At MRA our mission is to guide students in becoming life longer learners and compassionate community members. In other words, at every grade level our students are not only learning academics, but they are also learning cooperation, collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving, decision making, and inquiry. They should be asking questions and seeking answers. A quality education encourages and guides students in exploring their creativity and gives them tools and strategies for working with others as well as working independently. It means students are engaged and excited, which results in students who are much more apt to enjoy learning throughout their lives, becoming lifelong learners and compassionate community members.

Literacy at MRA

Last school year the staff and I began to take apart our literacy program piece by piece. This is at a minimum at two year process, with a goal of taking a program that has been sufficient to one that is exceptional. Last year started with a reboot of our writing program. We adopted a

THANK YOU

Ben Burge
Duane Sorenson
Terry Burley
Garden Families
Iva Quinlan
K’lya Djoseland
Melia Hayes
Jamie Navarette

Have Questions? Email:

- Executive Director Shelley Urben at surben@mra-k8.com
- Office Manager Daniella Gerhardus at dgerhardus@mra-k8.com or info@mra-k8.com
- Boosters Chair K’yla Djoseland at mraboosters@mra-k8.com
- Parent Connection Chair—looking to fill this position
- MRA Board Chair Lyndi Laib at llaib@mra-k8.com

Calendar of Events

- August 21st—Free/Reduced Lunch apps due (date extended)
- August 22nd to 23rd, Staff Retreat
- August 27th to August 30th, Teacher Workdays
- August 29th, 6:00 p.m./6:30 p.m. Mandatory Parent Night
- August 30th, Trillium (Kindergarten Open House)
- September 2nd Labor Day, No School
- September 3rd, First day of school
- September 10th, 6:30 p.m. Booster Meeting
- September 24th, 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting
- September 26th—27thm School Pictures
- September 26th, MRA BBQ and Literacy Night
- October 4th Jogathon

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MANDATORY PARENT NIGHT

The teachers and I are looking forward to seeing you all on Thursday, August 29th at our Mandatory Back to School Parent Night. It is important that at least one representative from each family attend. We will be sharing and discussing valuable information that will help you connect to what will be happening at MRA this year and will help you be better informed about our community, each other, and your child's classrooms.

- 6:00 to 8:00 new families
- 6:30 to 8:00 all families

We will be handing out the Parent/Student Handbook, informing you which class your child/children will be in, providing you the opportunity to visit your child's classroom, sharing information and updates on work done over the summer, introducing you to our Board and our Boosters and more. Please make sure to mark your calendars and attend. **We do ask that children not come to this particular event.**

Thank you,

MRA TIDBITS

New to MRA and Have Questions?

Contact our Booster Chair, K'yla Djoseland, at mraboosters@mra-k8.com. And send a request to join the MRA Family Facebook page. You can also check in with our Office Manager, Daniella Gerhardus at dgerhardus@mra-k8.com.

Any Changes? Let Us Know/Parent Packets

Please let Daniella in the office know if at any point during the school year any of your information changes: address, phone number, email address.

MRA Fees and Billing

This year bills will be coming out shortly. Billing includes your \$220.00 activity, \$45.00 supply fee. Please note that fees are non-refundable. Payments are the parents' responsibility. The fees will be used for activities that the law allows - ORS 339.141 (2); ORS 339.147; ORS 339.155 (4) (5).

MRA BBQ/Literacy Night

Please make sure to mark your calendars for the MRA back to school BBQ and Math Night on September 26th starting at 5:00 p.m. The BBQ is hosted by the MRA Boosters and the teachers and your students will be running literacy night.

Lunches

Free and Reduced applications are in this newsletter issue and will be available for download off of our website. Applications must be in by Wednesday, August 21st in order to qualify for September lunches. Remember, this is an annual application. It must be completed every year to qualify.

The September lunch menu will be going out soon. Orders and payments will be due shortly after it is released.

Room Parents

We are looking for room parents for the upcoming school year. Ideally we would like to have at least one veteran parent for each

class. If you are interested please contact Missy Marshall at mamgolf@hotmail.com, or talk to the boosters at Parent Night. We will also have room parent sign ups available at the BBQ on the 26th.

Teacher Websites/Class Placements

Classroom websites will be up and running by August 23rd. I would encourage you to check out the websites of all teachers for your student's grade level. Cedars students get equal instruction from Mr. Luke and Mr. Poff and Trillium have Mrs. Shannon. All students have classes with Mrs. Harnish. Ms. Blythe and Mrs. Quinla teach all students K-6, and electives to Cedars. Grades 3 through 8 have computer classes with Mr. Mahr. Website addresses can be found on our website at www.molallariveracademy.com.

Remember, class placements will be shared at Parent Night. Students going into grades 2, 4 and 6 will mostly stay with the teacher they had last year. There are occasionally exceptions though. Our Cedars do not necessarily stay with the same homeroom teacher. We believe it can be valuable for them to experience a different set of dynamics from year to year and therefore we do switch them around.

After School Classes

After school classes will be starting in October. More information to come.

Fred Meyer Money this Quarter

Last quarter MRA received \$69.15 from Fred Meyer rewards. If you shop Fred Meyer and aren't yet signed up to get kick back from them to MRA, please follow the instructions on the next page.

Girls on the Run

MRA would like to get involved with an organization called Girls on the Run. Their mission is: "We inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running. If you are interested in coaching or as-

TIDBITS CONTINUED

sisting with this program, please contact Shelley at surben@mra-k8.com

Safe Oregon

Safe Oregon is an organization established to allow students to anonymously report bullying, violence, drugs or harm they see or hear about at school. Most schools in Oregon have signed up to be a part of Safe Oregon, and it is proving to be an effective way to combat all of the above. Please see the parent and student letters in this newsletter on pages 10 and 11. Teachers will be introducing this program to your children as appropriate.

Counselor

MRA will not have a school counselor this year. This is a funding issue, but the staff and I will be working diligently to ensure that all students are well supported, that 504 meetings happen and 504 requirements are met. If you have any questions feel free to talk with your teacher, or contact me at surben@mra-k8.com

MRA ENVIRONMENTS YEAR

As we head into this year look for our classrooms and your students to be sharing the following themes with you. The school wide theme and each class theme were created with very intentional purposes.

School Wide: Environments—What can I do for my environment, what can my environment do for me?

- ⇒ Trillium: Family
- ⇒ Huckleberries: Seasons and Cycles
- ⇒ Clarkia: Explorers
- ⇒ Alders: Development and Progress
- ⇒ Cedars: NonConformity

MRA BOOSTERS

**Join us in September
We will be meeting at
El Charrito in downtown
Molalla on Tuesday,
September 10th at 6:30 p.m.**

MRA NO-COST-TO-YOU FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

MRA participates in a variety of fundraisers that are considered no-cost-to-you fundraisers. These are opportunities for us to make some money or earn points to purchase school supplies based on purchases you already make.

Fundraisers we are a part of include:

- Fred Meyers at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards NPO number 84912. **We typically bring in about \$400.00 a year on this program.**
- Coke at www.mycokerewards.com
- Escrip at www.escrip.com.
- AmazonSmile
- Box Tops for Education—sign up online at www.boxtops4education.com and bring your box tops in to MRA

**The Molalla River Academy Logo/
Mascot Apparel Store Are
Always Open!!**



**Remember, the Explorer Owl
is our official mascot
WWW.PEPCODESIGNS.COM**

**Click on 'Order Online', find MRA Logo
Wear, and get what you want.
For free delivery have it sent to the school.**

EXPLORING COMMUNITIES IN THE GARDEN AND LIBRARY



Our garden never ceases to amaze me. It is like watching a community of artists at work. We start with a blank canvas and watch as efforts and ideas produce little colors here and there along with shadowy forms, intriguing lines, and a variety of shapes. The unveiling comes during mid-summer and it's a masterpiece. All of the beauty achieved would not be possible without our faithful, hardworking MRA community of families and students. I want to extend a huge recognition to the families whose efforts may have gone unnoticed to the everyday eye but have worked tirelessly to add the final touches to our masterpiece.

Thank you to the Benim, Huitt, Senior, Payne, Sharifpour, Hackenjos, Beth Martin, Burgi, Young, Smith, Strader, Cunningham, Winningham, Loechle/Border, Kyle, Imholt, Lubben, Missy Marshall, and our ever faithful maintenance guru Terry. You are much appreciated.

I am anticipating another engaging year of garden classes for all grade levels incorporating into classroom themes. We will be exploring the garden environment with focuses on plant families, seasons and cycles, soil health, water systems, and more. Our garden classes, K-8th, will enrich our community with a greater connection to nature, sciences, art and food while strengthening relationships between each other and our earth.



Our library is overflowing with new books waiting to be put on the shelves. I am excited to hear what books inspired our young readers this summer. We will be exploring the different resources added to the library and highlighting authors and illustrators that have impacted our world and environments.



I am looking for a couple volunteers who would commit to being trained on our library cataloging system. The commitment would consist of a couple of hours a month to clean, label, do data entry, and get our books ready for shelving. If you are interested please contact me at iquinlan@mra-k8.com.

Iva Quinlan

WILD WOODS WITH MRS. HARNISH

Dear Families,

I hope you have had a fun, active summer. I have enjoyed spending time participating in water sports in the Willamette River and camping with my family.

I am looking forward to a school year filled with a variety of sports, fitness, and dance activities in 2019/2020! Please check out my PE Blog during the year to see what's happening in the Wild Woods Gym: <https://gharnish.wixsite.com/mysite>.

See you soon,

Gina Harnish
PE/Health Teacher
gharnish@mra-k8.com

THE GREAT RIVER

Dear Families

This will be my 9th year teaching music at MRA. I have been making music with many of our eighth graders since they were wide-eyed kindergarteners! Such an exciting milestone inspires reflection.

I am in awe of how much MRA has grown as a community and as a place of deep learning. We are a community that values generosity - we take care of our spaces, our materials and each other. We value play, hard work and giving back. We value collaboration and careful listening, dialogue and discovery. We are leaders and life-long learners. I am proud to be a part of the MRA community and look forward to seeing you all in September!

For information about MRA programs or classroom happenings, check out blythenotables.com. For questions or concerns, I am always available via email at rblythe@mra-k8.com.

Ms. Blythe

MOUNTAIN MEADOW COMPUTERS

Dear Families,

I hope everyone is having a fun and productive summer! I took a two week road trip to national parks, including Yellowstone and Grand Teton, worked on my garden, and coached at an ultimate frisbee summer camp. Between all that though I've been working hard to get ready for the new school year. I am very excited to bring some fresh new ideas to the technology program here at MRA. The two that stand out the most are the implementation of a "MakerWeek", and the purchase of a 3D printer!

Makerspaces (areas with lots of different types of tools that allow people to explore the creative process and make things with their hands) are a relatively new idea, and one that has quickly grown in popularity. Recently, educators all around the world have recognized how powerful such an experience and mindset could be in education. As Mark Hatch writes in the *The Maker Movement Manifesto*, "Making is fundamental to what it means to be human. We must make, create and express ourselves to feel whole. There is something unique about making physical things. These things are like little pieces of us and seem to embody portions of our souls".

To begin to bring this excellent opportunity for learning and growth to MRA I will be leading three MakerWeeks throughout the year in my Clarkia, Alder, and Cedar computer classes. During this same time Mrs. Quinlan will lead a Maker activity for the Huckleberries. These will take place in approximately October, January, and April. For one or two weeks I will put my normal computer curriculum on hold and present the class with a problem to solve. For example, in October the Alders will be asked to build a model of a family home that they think will be best at resisting an earthquake. Over the two weeks they will be led through planning, building, testing, and reflecting on their projects. Additionally, to make these lessons even more intentional and useful, each MakerWeek challenge will tie in with the class' curriculum for that year. So when the Alders start to investigate plate tectonics around November, they will already have prior knowledge and hands on experience to draw from. This type of hands on making, critical thinking, and problem solving will be extremely beneficial for our students, and will assist in preparing them for the next step in their educational and professional careers.

Fitting in nicely with the MakerWeek mindset this year, the Cedars will get to learn how to 3D model something on the Chromebook, and then print it with our new 3D printer! The goal is for them to be able to design and print something that they can then use to complete a MakerWeek challenge. For example in January creating a siege machine to go along with their study of the Middle Ages, which they can then display at the Renaissance Fair. If this year goes well with the Cedars using the 3D printer then hopefully next year it can be expanded to the Alders.

As you can see we have lots of new and exciting things going on in the Media Center this year! I can't wait to get back to school and get started, and I hope that you stop by during parent night to see the new 3D printer and what it can do!

-Mr. Mahr

SOUTH CLARKIA

Welcome back to South Clarkia! This is our Environments year in Clarkia. We will be covering simple machines, weather, Native Americans of the PNW, and finally Geology, which culminates in the amazing Geology Rocks: The Musical! I am really looking forward to meeting everyone and getting our great year started! The very first and very important event is our Parent Night. It is VERY important that EVERYONE come to this event. Even if you have been at MRA for many years, there is new information and plans that we need to tell you about – IN PERSON! We will be covering a host of practices, policies, and expectations for Clarkia students. Very soon I will be updating my classroom blog, but if you want to see past articles visit <http://clarkiasouth.weebly.com/> In addition I have a Facebook page focused on interesting science articles and such. It can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/MrDante800/> As always you can reach me at dtorgersen@mra-k8.com Please review the information coming out from Ms. Shelley and get ready for an awesome year! I'll see you all on September 3rd!!

Dante Torgersen

NORTH CLARKIA

Welcome back to the 2019-20 school year! I'm so excited to get this school year in North Clarkia started off! I hope that you had some fun trips with your families this summer and your kiddos got some much needed break time from the school year.

I had an amazing summer! My husband Adam and I got married this August and we are so very happy! The wedding was absolutely beautiful, but I am absolutely ready to switch from wedding planning to planning some amazing lessons/activities for your kiddos this year!

Please make sure to attend our parent night on August, 29th at 6:00pm for new families and 6:30 for returning families. This is a short meet and greet with both 3/4 teachers about homework requirements and other important information that will enable us to make this a positive and engaging school year.

This is the first of many newsletters that will be sent to you throughout the year; updating you on important information on what your child is learning in each unit taught this year. After a very busy summer, I am greatly looking forward to the school year getting started! Hope you all have a restful and relaxing rest of your summer and I will see you all soon!

Mrs. Smyka-Ingalls

MRA Core Values

- We promote academic excellence through integrated, thematic curriculum.
- We create a safe and comfortable learning environment.
- We foster a sense of community.
- We practice authentic assessment.
- We create ongoing opportunities in the arts and sciences.
- We encourage problem solving through hands on experiences.
- We promote activities and behaviors that develop physical, social, and emotional wellness.

ALDERS WEST

I hope everyone has had time to relax, enjoy the outdoors, and read a good book. I have had a busy summer moving into our new house. I got to spend a week at the beach teaching at a church camp, and I have been enjoying all the campers that come in and out of the camp where I live.

There is always, of course, work to do to get ready for another school year. I have been reading, working on curriculum, and getting the classroom ready. In preparation for the new school year, I hope each of you comes prepared with a binder to transport and keep organized the materials you will need to carry between home and school. We will provide each of you with a planner to record each day's learning goals and homework and all the other necessary materials for class.

The first week of school, we will be decorating your ISNs (Interactive Student Notebooks). Please feel free to bring pictures, drawings, etc. to glue onto your notebooks. I am looking forward to another school year and will see you in September.

Mrs. Hood, Alder West, 5/6 grade teacher

ALDERS EAST

I'm excited about continuing my teaching career at MRA. This will be my second year as a 5th/6th grade educator. I appreciate and value the many personal and professional relationships that have formed here at MRA. I also look forward to creating new relationships within the MRA community.

I believe it is my primary responsibility as an educator to create a classroom atmosphere that is inclusive and welcoming to all. In order for students to interact and learn from their teacher, as well as from one another, they must first feel safe and comfortable.

As your student returns to school in a few weeks, I will do my best to facilitate such an environment. Alder East students will be encouraged to respect, trust, appreciate and celebrate one another. We all share similarities, however, it is our differences that make life interesting.

Parents and Students, please feel free to email me if you have any questions or just want to say "hello".

ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR SUMMER :)

Sincerely,

-Mr. Myers

grmyers@mra-k8.com

WELCOME TRILLIUM FAMILIES

Dear Trillium families,

I'm writing my article in a small coffee shop tucked inside the Teachers College at Columbia University, located in the upper west side of Manhattan. Allegra Fety and I have spent the week learning about writing and literacy from some of the best educators and curriculum developers in the country. It's also been my first trip to New York City. I was excited when I arrived, and nervous about the unknown. Would I be able to navigate the subway? Find my way around this huge city? There was a lot to manage and figure out, much of it on my own in a city I was unfamiliar with. It reminded me of the first day of school, particularly the first day of kindergarten. For many of you, and your children, this is your first experience in the big city of elementary school. You and your child will be navigating the subway (morning drop off), finding where to eat (the lunchroom), and trusting adults you may not know. The great news is you will have experienced our guides in myself and my incredible associate, Appeya!

As I hopped on the subway this morning, reloading my metro card in record time and recognizing my stop without looking at the map, I chuckled at how comfortable I've become in this new place. This city, which seemed so huge and overwhelming, has been warm, welcoming, and incredibly fun. It is comfortable now, and I can't wait to come back. I am so looking forward to welcoming you all to MRA. We'll get through these big firsts together, and have an incredible year of learning and joy.

Warmly,

Shannon Lishka

PARKING—FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL

Most of you are aware of the parking lot jam that occurs every year for the first week or two. Families are figuring out carpools and getting used to school schedules, and we tend to get more people driving to and from school as that adjustment takes place. We will have the playing field open for parking those first two weeks, but do ask for your patience with us and with each other.

Over the course of the last two years we have added nearly 40 or 50 spaces to our parking lot, but we continue struggle with space and flow during the first two weeks. If you plan to drive through to drop off, we will be out there to guide you.

Remember—we only charge for before care from 7:00 to 7:30 a.m. Feel free to drop your students off at 7:30 and miss the traffic!

Thanks in advance for your patience.

CEDARS WEST—WELCOME

Hi Students, Parents, and Community Members,

Greetings from the West Cedars classroom! Terry's got it all cleaned up and looking great in here and I can't wait for you to join me! Well it's almost here again, the beginning of another school year. I know you are as anxious as I am to get started on this next chapter of your education (Note: teachers actually lament the end of summer at least as much as students). Fresh experiences, new challenges, successes, and probably a few failures await you, humble reader—be you student, parent, or community member. Though equally important, these things await me as well, your eager and dedicated teacher. I contend that each school year and classroom begins in September as a blank slate. Sure, there's curriculum, recognizable learning goals and experiences, and the chance to reunite with classmates from previous years, but the wonder of a successful classroom is not found in its physical objects nor in its teaching materials. Rather I propose, the true magic of learning comes from the students and adults in the classroom and the connections we all make together. I am excited to create this magic community of learning with and for each of you; I am anxious to see each of you learn to develop your personal magic and motivation for learning; and I look forward to meeting each of your parents in a few weeks at Back to School Night on Aug. 29th. Mr. Luke and myself will be there to introduce ourselves to parents, answer any questions you may have, and show you around our learning spaces. For more information about this event see the MRA July-August newsletter (<https://www.molallariveracademy.com/news-events>).

The West Cedars website is still under construction, but should be up in time for back to school night. We will use this resource, and Google Classroom, quite a bit this year so I will share the web address as soon as I have it. (Note: you can always find any of the teacher web pages by going to the school's main page.) In the meantime, enjoy the fantastic sunshine of August, make sure to put on sunscreen, and read at least one more book, I'll be asking you to tell me about it when I see you in September!!

Anxiously awaiting your arrival....

Mr. Poff

CEDARS EAST

I am pleased to begin another year with your students here at MRA! This is going to be a great year in the Cedar Classes. We have field trips, a science fair, music and drama performances as well as service and leadership programs that are all ready for the year. For more information, pictures of past events and a great introduction to my classroom please see my website at <https://cedareast.weebly.com/>

Feel free to contact me through this webpage or email me directly at lprecourt@mra-k8.com at any time with concerns or questions. I look forward to seeing all of you in the fall and please come introduce yourself.

Sincerely,
Luke Precourt

HUCKLEBERRY NORTH

Dear Huckleberry Families,

This summer I have delved deep into audiobooks and sewing. I purchased an old machine late last spring and made it my summer challenge to develop some foundational skills. Patching shorts, sewing rock bags for a museum I frequented as a child, and even braving a sack dress for my sister perpetually reminded me of the patience and perseverance required to learn. It is humbling to realize, that although I measured carefully and double-checked my factions, I still cut the wrong size of fabric or sewed in the incorrect place. However, when seams align and the bag is actually a viable vessel, the elation is a worthy reward.

As a teacher, this is an imperative reminder as I look towards the beginning of a new school year. Each student will be asked to work hard, think deeply, try new things, and persevere in the face of difficulty. While persisting, each student deserves grace for their best efforts and a safe space to fail. Learning is hard, but with several good stories to help nudge along the way, the new skills and knowledge are an excellent prize.

This year we will be studying **Environments** through the lens of **Seasons and Cycles**. The year will begin with forces of motion and collaborative challenges. Fall will be about **Animal Migration**, winter **Systems and Cycles in the Human Body**, and spring will bring experimentation and observations of **Plant Life Cycles**.

One note of change, in the Huckleberry classrooms we will working doing **group snack**. This will be modeled directly after the successful program in Trillium. During Parent Night I will share details and there will be a sign-up schedule. In the meantime, if you have any questions please email me (afety@mra-k8.com).

I look forward to year of determination and learning.

All my best,

-Ms. Fety

HUCKLEBERRY SOUTH

Dear South Huckleberry Families,

What a wonderful summer it has been thus far. I've enjoyed time with family and friends, catching up on projects left undone throughout the year, and vacation fun with plenty of time to rest, relax and read. I hope your summer has allowed you the same type of pleasure.

With only a few more weeks left before returning to school, my hope is that all have found time between activities, to do some learning. It doesn't matter if it is exploring how plants grow, as you tend your garden together, or helping your child read a menu while the family is out for dinner. Learning can take place throughout normal daily activities. Creating life-long learners happens as we model for children how to explore and ask questions about the world around us. Reading and being read to, helps develop that inquisitive nature. The beginning of the year is less daunting to students when they come back confident and ready to learn. Each child approaches the classroom with excitement and some apprehension. Coming into the room fresh from reading or being read to, helps prepare them for what lies ahead. Don't worry, if you have been too busy to fit it in, there is still time. Enjoy!

Our new school year promises to be a great one! This year we will be studying environments by exploring seasons and cycles. Our classroom environment is where we'll start. Through group activities, we'll discover what it means to be a student, leader and group member and how that plays out in our community. Testing and applying those role characteristics will take place as we experiment with force and motion. From there we'll study migrations in the fall, systems and cycles in the human body in the winter, and in the spring, we will explore plant life cycles.

One important change this year will be that Huckleberry North and South will be doing GROUP SNACK, modeled after the successful Trillium program. Most of you are already familiar with how that works. I will be sharing more and there will be a sign up at Parent Night. I look forward to seeing you there! If you have any questions please email me at dharris@mra-k8.com.

See you soon!

Dainette Harris

MRA UNIFORM POLICY

The following are expectations for the MRA uniform. Uniform colors, grades K-6, are navy, light blue, royal blue, black, khaki, red and white. Other shades of blue such as turquoise are not uniform. Exceptions include MRA club or jog-a-thon shirts. Additional exceptions will be announced prior to the event. Cedars are allowed to wear any solid color top that fits the guidelines below.

- Pants: Uniform color tailored or cargo pants/jeggings in twill or corduroy. Any color leggings and tights are to be worn under skirts or dresses and not worn as stand-alone pants. No jeans, denim, denim-like, fleece or athletic gear/track pants.
- Shorts/Capris: Uniform color tailored, cargo or plain athletic shorts - appropriate in length, mid-thigh is a generally acceptable guideline.
- Shirts: Uniform color collared, button down, or polo style shirts. No t-shirts unless Director approved MRA t-shirts. Cedars – any solid color top. For all students – no spaghetti straps or mid-drift style top.
- Skirts: Uniform color tailored skorts or skirts - appropriate in length, mid-thigh is a generally acceptable guideline. Any color shorts, tights or leggings should be worn under skirts.
- Dresses: Uniform color jumpers or polo style dresses - appropriate in length, mid-thigh is a generally acceptable guideline. Uniform colored shirts must be worn under jumpers. Any color tights or leggings should be worn under dresses.
- Sweater/Sweatshirts: Uniform color with or without simple logo or with the MRA logos. Included in this garment specification are sweaters, sweatshirts, vests, pullovers or cardigan sweaters. Cedars – any solid colored garment is acceptable, with or without a simple logo or MRA logo.
- Shoes: Please wear safe shoes, no heeled shoes or high heels. Some teachers may have additional requests for students to bring outdoor shoes or boots due to specific outdoor projects. All students must have appropriate tennis shoes for PE days.
- Outerwear: Any jacket is acceptable, as long as it complies with the general guidelines in the first paragraph above. Outside jackets and non-uniform sweatshirts or sweaters will not be allowed to be worn in the classroom.
- Accessories: Included but not limited to headwear, leggings, tights, scarves, jewelry and other accessories are permitted unless it is deemed as a distraction by the staff.

MRA CLASSROOM SUPPLY LISTS

All Classes: Every family is asked to pay \$45.00 per student for classroom supplies. This money will be used to purchase general classroom consumables that would normally be purchased by all students before school starts along with a jog-a-thon MRA T-Shirt. Your \$45.00 supply fee will show up on your August bill from MRA.

In addition to the \$45.00 please bring the following:

Trillium (Kindergarten)

Labeled with their name:
Raincoat/Boots
Spare set of uniform clothes plus sock and underwear
Spare pair of tennis shoes for PE
Water bottle to keep at school

Huckleberry (1st/2nd)

Labeled with their name:
Raincoat/Boots
Spare set of uniform clothes plus sock and underwear
Spare pair of tennis shoes for PE
Water bottle to keep at school

Clarkia (3rd/4th)

Labeled with their name:
Spare pair of tennis shoes for PE
Spare set of uniform clothes
Water bottle to keep at school with students name on it
Raincoat/Boots

Alders/Cedars (5th/6th and 7th/8th)

One binder or expandable folder for daily classwork
Labeled with their name:
Spare pair of tennis shoes for PE
Spare set of uniform clothes
Water bottle to keep at school with students name on it
Back Pack or Book Bag

August 2019

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 2 3

4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15 16 17

18 19 20 21 22 23 24

Staff Retreat



25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Teacher work-
days

Parent Night
6:00/6:30 p.m.



SEPTEMBER 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2 Labor Day, No School	3 First Day of School	4	5	6	7
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8	9 3:00 Lego League	10 6:30 Booster Meeting El Charrito	11	12	13	14
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15	16 3:00 Lego League	17	18	19	20	21
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22	23 3:00 Lego League	24 6:30 MRA Board Meeting	25	26 School Pictures 5:00 MRA BBQ/Literacy Night	27 School Pictures	28
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29	30 3:00 Lego League	Oct 1	Oct 2	Oct 3 Picture Retakes	Oct 4 Jogathon Fundraiser
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Executive Director Continued from Page 1

curriculum created by Lucy Calkins that not only provides consistency in writing, grades K-8, but also allows us the flexibility to integrate writing topics into MRA themes and units. All of the teachers were able to use the program last year, and are going into this school year with increased confidence and knowledge. This year we will continue to refine our literacy program across all grades and I am confident our students will reap the benefits.

Facilities

Our facilities are owned by Molalla River School District. This includes all buildings with the exception of our modular classroom which we own. We have a lease with the district that requires we put a certain percentage of our money aside every year to help cover facility repairs. Over the years we have done some minor improvements and therefore have accumulated a sizable sum of money to put into the buildings. With support from the district, we decided to take on several large projects this summer. These include the replacement of the Huckleberry and WildWoods Gym roofs, paint on the office/music/Trillium building, and window replacement for the music room and the office. These improvements will not only help with the sustainability of the facilities, but the window upgrades should save us money in the long run in heat and a/c costs with PGE. In the near future we are hoping to begin tackling replacement of the siding of the Clarkia/WildWoods/Huckleberry building.

Playground/Common Area

This summer we have focused on completing the steps to the Hobbit Hill, build phase 1 of the tree platforms, and renovate our common area between Clarkia and Huckleberry. To date the steps have been completed, and we have lined up people to complete the other two projects. We hope to get all three finished before the start of school.

Strategic Plan/Charter Renewal

Every August our Board, and whoever wants to join in, meets to review the past year's strategic plan and set the strategic plan for the coming year. Our plan is usually finalized at our September board meeting, after teachers have had a chance to provide input. Parents are always welcome to attend these meetings—strategic planning and Board—if you would like to see the plan and share thoughts and ideas.

This year's plan includes the goal of successfully renewing our charter with the school district. Our current charter was renewed in 2015 and we are up for our five year renewal. This process generally starts in January and concludes some time in the spring. Parents will be notified and kept up to date as we begin our work with the district to complete this very important document, with the goal of continuing positive relations with the Molalla River School District.

Communications Update

Our spring parent survey provided us with some very concrete feedback regarding communication at MRA. We found that parents appreciate the parent memo, the newsletter, teacher websites, etc, but overall everyone would like to see all of these forms of communication streamlined into one tool. Last year we had a few teachers who were using apps from outside companies—Dojo and Remind—and we had positive feedback about these. We had formed a communications team last year, and this team took your feedback, and researched several apps over the summer. We are continuing to do some research, and may have a decision before school starts, but may not. I will continue to keep you informed. Stay tuned.

Website

Our office manager, Daniella Gerhardus, spent several hours this summer remaking our school website. It is much more user friendly. Please check it out at www.molallariveracademy.org. If you have any questions about where things are, please email Daniella at dgerhardus@mra-k8.com.

MakerSpace and Art

During our summer workdays we discussed the additions of MakerSpace and integrated art lessons for the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Mahr has been working on our MakerSpace program this summer, along with the addition of a 3D printer class for our Cedars. Mrs. Harnish has worked to develop very user friendly art program that will be integrated into every classroom starting the end of September, first of October. We are excited to share these programs with the students, and to tell you more about them down the road.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to give me a call or send me an email.

Let's have a great year together.

Shelley Urben—MRA Executive Director
503-829-6672
surben@mra-k8.com

[Enter Sponsor Name]
Return to: [Enter location to return completed applications]

NOTICE:

- If you received an ELIGIBILITY NOTIFICATION – FREE MEALS from the school district **do not** complete this application.
- See **Application Instructions** on back of form.
- * = Required for all applications; ** = Required for Income applications; *** = Required for SNAP/TANF

1 HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION*: Print name of person completing this application (Last name, First name)

Name Print	Home Phone or Cell Phone or Work (Circle One)
Mailing Address – Apt #	Email address
City State Zip	→ Number living in this household _____ (Write names of all household members on part 2 and/or part 4 of this form)

2 STUDENT INFORMATION*

Child's Name (Legal Last name, First name)	School	Grade (optional)	Birth Date (optional)	Check if Foster Child
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

3 BENEFITS If any member of your household receives SNAP or TANF, provide the name and case number of the member receiving benefits

Name*** SNAP Case Number*** _____
 TANF Case Number*** _____

Go to Part 5 below

Does this household receive FDPIR (Food Distribution on Indian Reservations) Yes (Go Part 5 and complete)

4 HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS & GROSS MONTHLY INCOME ** – if not monthly, see back for conversions

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6
List all household members, including children not attending school, and income. Do not include students listed in part 2, unless they receive regular income. (Last name, first name)	MONTHLY INCOME (Total earnings & wages before deductions)	MONTHLY CHILD SUPPORT, WELFARE, ALIMONY RECEIVED	MONTHLY PENSIONS, SOCIAL SECURITY, RETIREMENT	OTHER MONTHLY INCOME -including unemployment and workers comp.	Check if No Income
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

5 SIGNATURE, DATE and Last four numbers of SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (Adult must sign)

I certify (promise) that all of the information on this application is true (correct) and that all income is reported. I understand that the school will get Federal funds based on the information I give. I understand that school officials may verify (check) the information. I understand that if I give purposely false information, my children may lose meal benefits and I may be prosecuted.

Signature of Adult Household Member*	Date Signed*	Social Security Number**	<input type="checkbox"/> I do not have a Social Security Number.**
X _____	_____/_____/_____ Month/day/year	(See privacy statement on back) XXX-XX - _____	

6 RACIAL OR ETHNIC GROUP (OPTIONAL)

Mark one ethnic identity: Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or Latino

Mark one or more racial identities: Asian American Indian & Alaskan Native Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Black or African American White, not of Hispanic origin Other

I prefer all written correspondence in Spanish Russian Other _____

7 I do not want my information shared with State children's health insurance programs. Sign here:

I have a child (or children) who does not have any kind of health coverage – neither private health insurance nor Oregon Health Plan/Healthy Kids. I am interested in free or reduced cost health coverage for at least one of my children. Yes No

SCHOOL USE ONLY - DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

Total Income: _____	Number in household: _____	Date Withdrawn: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Free based on: <input type="checkbox"/> SNAP/TANF/FDPIR <input type="checkbox"/> Foster child categorical <input type="checkbox"/> household income	<input type="checkbox"/> Reduced based on: <input type="checkbox"/> household income	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied – Reason: <input type="checkbox"/> income too high <input type="checkbox"/> incomplete application
Determining Official's Signature : _____ Date _____		

Application Instructions

- If your household receives **SNAP, TANF or FDPIR**, complete parts 1, 2, 3 and 5; parts 6 and 7 are optional.
 - If you do not receive these benefits and your **income** is below the guidelines, complete parts 1, 2, 4, 5; parts 6 and 7 are optional.
 - If you are a household with a **FOSTER CHILD**, complete parts 1, 2, 4, and 5; parts 6 and 7 are optional.
- Any income fields left blank will be counted as zeros. Please be careful that you meant to leave income fields blank.*

DETERMINING MONTHLY INCOME FOR EARNINGS & WAGES

Monthly income for all household members must be reported in Part 4 of this application. Income means any money regularly received from work, child support, alimony, pensions, retirements, social security or any other source. Exclude student/school loans.

Household members who are not paid monthly should change earnings into monthly income by doing the following:

Household members who are paid every week: Multiply total earnings and wages for one pay period, before deductions, by 52. Then divide by 12. The resulting amount is the total monthly income.

Household members who are paid every 2 weeks: Multiply total earnings and wages for one pay period, before deductions, by 26. Then divide by 12. The resulting amount is the total monthly income.

Household members who are paid twice a month: Multiply total earnings and wages for one pay period, before deductions, by 24 then divide by 12. The resulting amount is the total monthly income.

Household members who are seasonal workers or work less than 12 months: Project annual rate of income to accurately represent actual circumstances then divide by 12. The resulting amount is the projected monthly income.

Note: Money received from a business or farm owned by you should be reported as "net income." *Net Income is defined as the total income left after business and farm operating expenses are subtracted from gross receipts.*

PRIVACY STATEMENT - SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS and OTHER INFORMATION

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last 4 digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last 4 digits of the social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We **may** share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules. We may share the information on this form with Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), unless you tell us not to. The information, if disclosed, will only be used to identify eligible children and seek to enroll them in Medicaid or SCHIP.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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