

Dear MCS Families,

At MCS, the safety and well-being of our students and staff are our highest priorities. We are deeply committed to nurturing an environment where every student feels safe, supported, and valued.

As part of our educational model, we intentionally cultivate both academic and emotional skills to prepare students for any future they choose. Each day, our teachers dedicate time to developing the **Profile of a Graduate** traits—fostering qualities such as resilience, empathy, and responsibility.

In partnership with the **Youth Advisory Coalition**, we offer **weekly Character Strong lessons** in every classroom taught by a YAC employee. These lessons emphasize kindness, conflict resolution, mental health awareness, and bullying prevention. Additionally, our **Hope Squad**, composed of nominated middle school students, meets weekly with a Youth Advisory Coalition advisor to receive training on how to offer compassionate, peer-to-peer support for classmates who may be struggling.

Our teachers begin and end every school day with check-ins—both group and individual—to ensure students feel seen and supported. Throughout the week, we integrate **MCS CARE** lessons into our curriculum, reinforcing our core values and behavioral expectations (please see the attached image for more information).

We also provide access to individualized counseling services through a licensed, contracted counselor. In addition, I am currently pursuing a Master's degree in School Counseling to further support the mental and emotional health of our students.

Parents are always welcome to volunteer in classrooms or accompany students on bus rides and Leave to Learn (our field trips). We truly value the partnership between home and school in supporting each child's growth.

We take all reports of conflict or bullying seriously and act swiftly to understand and address them. Our staff is trained to distinguish between bullying—which is repeated, intentional harm—and conflict, which may involve mutual disagreement or misunderstandings. In some cases, what may appear to be bullying could stem from a student's medical or developmental challenges. Regardless of the situation, we respond with care, seeking to understand all perspectives before taking appropriate, supportive action.

When a parent or student reports an issue of bullying we gather as much information as possible from all parties involved, students and parents. What happens next depends on the information we've gathered. It usually involves sitting down with both parties, reviewing what is acceptable behavior at school, what are different choices they can make in similar situations, and notifying the parents as needed.

We do try to work with all students to address the reasons behind the unkind actions, if they persist we do elevate the situation to the parents, behavior plans, and suspension as needed. Suspensions can occur to the bus specifically that may last a day, a week, or for the rest of the school year

Communication is key. If your child is experiencing a problem or concern, please reach out to their teacher and/or me directly. Together, we can create solutions and ensure every student continues to thrive.

As always, thank you for being a valued part of the MCS community. We are grateful for your partnership and remain committed to supporting your child's academic and personal growth.

HARASSMENT/BULLYING

All students who attend Schools have the right to learn in an environment that is free of unwelcome harassing, bullying, threats, taunting, hazing, and intimidation. These behaviors interfere with the ability of the school to

accomplish its mission, which is to educate students in a safe and secure environment. Harassment is prohibited and is defined as any intimidating or taunting behavior or conduct, either written, verbal, physical, or symbolic gestures by a student towards another person that is critical, demeaning, disparaging, derogatory, defamatory, or humiliating to another person because of the person's race, religious beliefs, gender, family heritage, nationality, and/or physical or mental characteristics or capacity. Discipline for students who violate this policy may include suspension or expulsion, depending on the nature and severity of the offense. Students who experience harassment or witness it are asked to inform an administrator or teacher as soon as possible.

