Happy 20th Anniversary!

As we move to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Manchester Academic Charter, I’d like to say “thank you” for being such an outstanding part of the MACS family. Twenty years is a good time to reflect, appreciate, and anticipate.

Let us reflect on the faces that have walked the halls and rich history we have, a history that always starts with Gram & Rev. It is hard to think about MACS without thinking about Mr. Go, Marsha Lewis, Ms. Henderson and the friends that have passed. And we think about the kids that have graduated and moved; no longer kids but rather adults that are out in the world making MACS proud.

We should appreciate the MACS we are today. A growing, thriving school community with 400 kids, doing amazing things every day throughout both our campuses and throughout Northside & Pittsburgh. This school year has started smoothly and will finish strong paving the way for the next 20 years.

Looking forward, our future is bright. With the Museum Lab, Purchase of 1214 and the development of the land around us there is no telling where we end up – A Wellness Center? Fitness dome? Playground? Maybe all 3 and more.

Let’s take time to challenge ourselves. I think about Gram giving up everything to start MYDC 50 years ago and look what it has become. What can you do? Let’s make the next 20 years even greater.

Look out for more details about our 20th Anniversary celebrations and ways you can give back!

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

What a great way to kick off MACS’ 20th Anniversary, by giving back? We have secured partnerships with several community partners to help boost your parent volunteer hours. Not only will you be able to volunteer at MACS, but you have more options and they come with perks! Parents, you are able to volunteer at The National Aviary, The Children’s Museum, and the Carnegie Libraries throughout Allegheny County. With each unique volunteer opportunity, you will be able to select your level of involvement on your own, just be sure to log your hours with us. Our friends at each local organization are more than excited to have you and we are encouraging all parents to get involved by volunteering at least 30 hours per academic school year.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Cooper at HCooper@macsk.org or 412.322.0585 ext. 164.
MACS PTO

MACS has an outstanding Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) that meet each month to discuss ways parents can get involved and stay involved throughout their student(s) academic school year. Last year, our PTO raised approximately $3,000 and put those funds back into the classrooms. PTO host annual fundraisers, such as Joe Corbi's, Chuck E' Cheese night, and Box Tops collections. Join PTO today, by contacting Ms. Shallegra Moye, PTO President at shelleemoye@yahoo.com.

New Middle School Principal, Mrs. Phylissa Thomas

Being a part of the MYDC/MACS family for more than 30 years has instilled in me the importance of striving to create a strong educational foundation upon which one can build and grow. I am so excited to be a part of developing young adults and the middle school as we prepare for our move to the Museum Lab, which will house our middle school in the upper floors of the old Allegheny library.

This year as principal of the middle school, my focus is on creating a positive culture so that all students are comfortable making positive contributions to the school in a variety of ways. We are transitioning to broaden our projects to incorporate the many organizations that have and will collaborate with the middle school to enhance the Project Based Learning model that we currently implement. We are continuing the focus on in-depth education as the most important of our priorities, however, in today's world, content knowledge is not enough. Creating students who are comfortable supporting their opinions with facts and experiences, being themselves without dishonoring others, and caring about growing intellectually, socially and personally will produce students who excel.

I strive to keep the Robinson's legacy going through the empowerment of our students by engaging with them to create programming and curriculum that will prepare them for the next level. I look forward to working with parents to continuously improve our MACS Middle School village, and I am so excited to marvel at the growth and success for which our children are destined.

Positive School Culture - House System

On Friday – September 1, 2017, Manchester Academic Charter School launched our House System with staff and students in grades 4-8. Students, faculty, and building staff were divided among four Houses and will remain in those Houses during their time at MACS.

During the academic year, these four Houses will compete to secure positive points for their respective House. Points have been awarded daily and will contribute to the rewards that will be totaled on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, and yearly basis. Faculty, staff, and students will also strive to earn Pride Points for their Houses, by wearing their crested House polos and proper uniform pants each Friday.

The ultimate goal of the House System is to provide faculty, staff, and students the opportunity to interact in positive ways across grade levels. Although students in grades K-3 have not been sorted yet, they participate in the competition as a member of their teacher’s respective House. For example, if their teacher belongs to Ujasiri, they are honorary members of Ujasiri until they are sorted into their own House. Students work to display positive behavior and meet school-wide behavior and uniform expectations in order to earn points.

Over the next 4 years, MACS plans to phase the House system into grades K-3, one grade at a time. By 2022, it will be a tradition to end our Kindergarten orientation by having our incoming Kindergarteners participate in a celebratory sort and welcomed by their older House members. As a result, our school community will benefit from positive peer pressure, increased school pride, and healthy competition among all students and staff. We are excited to see how our House system positive impacts our school culture – follow our journey online at MACSPittsburgh on Facebook.
Important Dates

Oct. 6......... Picture Day
Oct. 20........ Parent/Teacher Conferences*
Oct. 26........ Family Night
Oct. 31........ Career Day Dress Up
Nov. 7......... Teacher Inservice*
Nov. 10........ Veterans Day observed*
Nov. 16........ Family Night
Nov. 23........ Thanksgiving Day*
Nov. 24........ Vacation Day*
Nov. 27........ Vacation Day*
Dec. 21........ Family Night
Dec. 22........ School-wide Dress Down
Dec. 25........ Winter Break begins*
Jan. 2........ Return from Winter Break
(+) No School

MACS New Hires & Promotions

Welcome to the MACS Family! We are glad to have you apart of our amazing team, we appreciate your hard work and continued dedication thus far.

Tim Amos
Emotional Support Teacher (K-5)

Alison Babusci
Art Teacher (K-5)

Kosta Bounos
Science & Social Studies (4th & 5th)

Dylan Clifford
Gym Teacher (6-8)

Johnathan Fantazier
Math Teacher (6-8)

Lindsay Garrison
Science Teacher (6-8)

Ryan Singleton
Teaching Assistant (6-8)

Did you recently move? Change your phone number?

If you answered "yes" to either question, please make sure we have your new mailing address with proof of residency and your updated phone number on file. This information is extremely important, especially when we have to notify parents of school closings, emergencies, and other important information that may require immediate contact. Contact Ms. Cooper at 412.322.0585 or by email at HCooper@macsk8.org to make the necessary changes.

Congratulations to
Mr. Dennis Henderson,
Deputy Chief Executive Officer!

We look forward to seeing what new ideas you will bring to the MACS Family within your new role.
Our Mission:
We foster the dreams of all children by providing an outstanding and dynamic education in a nurturing environment.

Our Vision:
We will continue to be an educational center of excellence and become a community pillar of support where students excel, families are engaged, teachers are empowered, and alumni flourish.