

The October ‘25 *Spotlight* looks at the many changes that are currently taking place and have recently taken place at our school. We talked to teacher, staff, and students about some of the recent events and changes and excited to share the information with you!



### Led by the Dreamers

By Dayana Martinez Montes and KC Cooper  
As the school year begins, class leaders are ready with exciting plans to create unforgettable memories. From field trips and fundraisers to dances and other events, each class leader is working hard to make this year one of the best. To give you a glimpse of what’s ahead, we asked the class leaders a few questions, and let me just tell you, get ready for a school year full of excitement! Here’s what your class leader had to say.

- 7–Gursimar Lail (No Interview)    8–Sierra Homme (SH)  
9–Chelsea Her (CH)                    10–Catherine Duckels (CD)  
11–Genia Moretti (GM)                12–Amelia Largent (AL)

#### What made you want to join leadership?

**AL:** “Since 9th grade, I’ve been saying I was going to be senior president, and I’ve stayed committed to that.”  
**GM:** “I’ve always been in leadership since I was in elementary school because I like making change #empowerment #activist.”

#### What are some goals you have for your class this year?

**CH:** “There are some new ninth graders, and I really want us to get to know each other and grow closer as a class.”  
**AL:** “One of my goals was to have two senior trips, and we got that down. I also want us to have an amazing senior sunset! I think it would be so fun at Collins Lake with s’mores.”  
**SH:** “Since it’s 8th grade, we’re going to have to promote, and we’re going to have the 8th-grade trip. So we’re going to try to raise a lot of money with fundraisers.”

#### If you could accomplish one big thing for this year, what would it be and why?

**GM:** “We are going to be doing the Winter Ball so I’m excited about collaborating and planning that. Morp last year went amazing and our class this year is very involved. We also have a part in planning prom this year.”  
**CD:** “Get us out of debt...I mean...get us back on track!”



### I Don’t Wanna Stop Dancing

By Genia Moretti and Elyas Herrera

The back to school dance at MCAA is a beloved annual event that never fails to bring the school community together. This year’s dance was a huge success, with students from all grades showing up in their best beach attire, ready to dance the night away. The atmosphere was lively and fun, with free items like sunglasses and leis adding to the beach party vibe. Senior Island, a VIP section reserved for the Class of ‘26, was a popular hangout spot for the upperclassmen. Laughter filled the air, snacks were enjoyed, and volleyballs bounced around the dance floor, creating a festive and energetic atmosphere. Students had a lot of positive feedback about the event, highlighting the sense of community and fun that the Back to School Dance brings to MCAA.

#### What was your favorite part of the dance?

**Jacqueline Guerreiro (7th):** “We were free to have fun. At other schools, everyone is really judgmental, but here, it’s a safe space for everyone.”  
**Emma Santillan (10th):** “Getting to know some other people and making them feel welcome.”  
**Ferreh Love (9th):** “Definitely all the songs, some of them were really good!”

#### What did you think of the turnout?

**Carley Rockenstein (10th):** “I think it was good, it was better than usual, I liked the beach balls.”  
**Brooklynn Gorton (8th):** “I thought it was really good, the dance circle and competition was super fun.”  
**Jay Ford (11th):** “It was cool, but there were so many mosquitos!”

#### What did you wear to the dance?

**Davin Wolmer (10th):** “I wore jeans and some basic outfit.”  
**Ariana Garcia (9th):** “A pink dress.”  
**Victor Guzman (9th):** “A nice collared gray shirt and cargo shorts.”



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 7 -9<sup>th</sup> block class meetings
- CSU Application Workshop
- Financial Aid Night
- 10 -end of Quarter 1
- 16 -Link Crew Connect-9<sup>th</sup> block
- 17 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rally-9<sup>th</sup> block---
- 27-30 -Halloween Spirit Week
- 30 -Halloween Dance

### No More Tears, We Have a New Science Teacher!

By Addison Garcia Nystrom & Leeah Merrill

This year we got a few new teachers at MCAA , one of them is Ms Brackenbury. She teaches science, living earth and biology. This week, we had the opportunity to interview her and got to know her better.

#### Do you have any outside of school hobbies/interests?

“I love to garden and I love to keep animals. I have quite a few animals at my home. I love to paint, I make large lawn art for holidays as well. I’m also a big fan of the beach”

#### If you were to teach another subject what would it be?

“If we’re talking outside of science, then I’d say math; if we’re talking outside of biology, then I’d say chemistry.”

#### What’s your motivation?

“We all have multiple motivations in life, that’s just how life is–obviously, I want to make a living for my family. If I didn’t have to work, I’d probably be a stay-at-home mom rocking the PTA forever. Although I wouldn’t say that I love every moment of parenting, I do feel that in teaching you get more of the good than you do the bad, and that definitely makes it worth it. All of those connections at the end of the day are positive.”

#### Do you have any hidden talents?

”If I told you, they would no longer be hidden, so I suppose the answer is just: yes.”

#### Is there a quote or saying that you live life by or just really like?

“If it ain’t like GUAC, I’m gone.”

#### What’s your favorite movie genre and why?

”My favorite movie genre is a very well done Comedic Tragedy. We all need to laugh and cry. They both provide a catharsis for our brains that we crave when working through our own challenges.”

Thank you, Ms. Brackenbury!



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YEARBOOK!





## We’re Going Through Changes

By Rae Johnson and Chelsea Her

Over the last year, there have been discussions about changing a few things around our campus, and it has officially happened this school year: a new office, ‘room 14’, music room, and a room for PE or yoga. We talked to some of the staff who are adjusting into their new rooms like Ms. Anna, Mrs. Batchelder, Mrs. Hengel, Mr. Zumstein, and some returning students. Here’s what they had to say about the changes.

### Do you miss room 14?

“I definitely miss Room 14! I loved being right on campus, leaving my door open, and hearing music drifting in or theater students practicing nearby. My favorite part, though, was watching the art students work outside my door—seeing their projects grow from start to finish was so inspiring. The easy fix? I just need to get out of my office more! I’m planning to start sitting in on classes and finding new ways to stay engaged with campus life.”

–Ms. Anna

### Do you like how spacious your new room is?

“I do love the size of my new office! I’m still waiting for some storage cabinets to arrive before Mr. Anthony and I finalize the setup. The space will be shared with storage for core classes, ASB, and Link. Of course, if you know me, you know I’ll probably rearrange everything by the end of the semester anyway—I love shaking things up and keeping Mr. Anthony on his toes!”

–Ms. Anna

### How was adjusting to your new office?

“I’m happy that our student services are all in one building. I’m glad that our students don’t need to walk across the busy street for PE anymore and that our music department will be able to travel less. However, I am definitely not adjusted to my new office yet. I expect to be unpacking and sorting through things for a while because I have too much stuff! There’s just not enough time in a day. Stop by for a visit and a cookie, and maybe help me unpack boxes!”

–Mrs. Batchelder

### How do you feel about having a room instead of being strictly outside?

“I love having a room! It is great that the students have a spot to meet everyday that doesn’t change, and allows for consistency. Having a room also allows for more in depth lessons that further student understanding. Overall, I am very grateful to have my own classroom!”

–Ms. Hengel

### What opportunities do you think being in the new music room will bring?

“The new music room will bring some exciting new opportunities to our students: storage space for instruments, practice rooms for students, and potentially a campus recording studio for students to use software and techniques utilized by industry veterans. Exciting things are coming for music at MCAA!”

–Mr. Zumstein

### We also asked a couple of students what they thought.

#### How do you feel about the new office compared to the old office?

“I feel like it’s going to be confusing at first and some people won’t know where to go, but I do appreciate that there’s a new music room that’s on MCAA campus rather than having to walk to MHS campus.”

–Andrea Guerrero Vargas (9th)

#### What are your thoughts on the new ‘room 14’?

“It’s good, but I also miss them in the quad. In the quad I felt like it was more together, but I also know that it could be hectic since the room is so small. But I think that the new ‘room 14’ is cleaner and more professional.”

–Ixtacchiuatl Valdesoto (9th)

## Into the Void: What to Expect this Year

By Angelee Mae Badiola and Andrea Guerrero Vargas

Every year, MCAA students can find something fun and exciting happening around school, especially within our arts departments and their new ideas each year! We also have a new Philosophy class taught by none other than Mr. Homme! We stole a minute to ask teachers from each of these departments a couple questions about what to expect this year.

**Drama:** There are a lot of shows to look forward to in the drama department this year. The advanced class is currently preparing their upcoming fall play called *She Kills Monsters*. This will be the first time this play has been performed at out school. Mr. Demeritt told us, “It is a mix of 90s pop culture, with a bit of mythology, lore, and even some LGBTQ+ representation!” Opening night is November 2nd, be sure to check it out! Intermediate drama will also be performing a progressive play this fall focusing on serious topics. The beginning classes will have an unrevealed show coming this fall as well. Sounds like a great season for performances! Traveling shows will take place in the spring like usual. We are really excited to see these works come to life soon!

**Music:** Our music department stays active throughout the year. Mr. Harmon told us about a couple of things to look forward to this year. “Our major field trip will be Music in the Parks on April 18th. We will also be doing smaller festivals in the second semester for concert and jazz bands.” Bluegrass/Mariachi is working hard to prepare for performances, and a plethora of shows featuring string, guitar, piano, drumline, and choir are in the works as always. We were donated many hand drums this year and have been very excited to use them! Be looking out for dinner performances also. It sounds like a busy year for music!

Be sure to show up to parades and support our marching band in downtown Marysville!  
Veterans Day Parade: 11/11@11am **Christmas Parade: 12/6@5pm** Bok Kai Parade: 3/21@11am

**Philosophy:** The students from the Philosophy class have covered quite a bit already since the start of this year. Through this class, Mr. Homme wants them to learn how to detect the strange absurdities that make up our modern life. One of the themes being focused on in this class is existentialism, which involves taking a deep look at the facts of our own lives, questioning them, and then relating it back to an important philosophical question: What makes a life a good life? We asked Mr. Homme how teaching this class has been so far, and here was his take away: “Frankly, the students have impressed me. They are smart and insightful. In our conversations, they share thoughts that are often more profound than they yet recognize. It’s as if they have an instinct for the subject, and I love talking with young minds that are unafraid to ask big questions. I’m lucky to spend time with these students. It’s part of what makes my life meaningful—my answer to life’s biggest question.”

Overall, MCAA and its students have a ton to look forward to this year! With all the old events and annual performances, we are always kept busy, but now with our new classes, trips, and many NEW events coming up, we are expanding our horizons! Go MCAA!

**We have even more upcoming events and exciting things to share, but we don’t have enough space in this issue, so be looking out in the next issue for more interviews, reviews, and information. Read the paper to stay up to date with our school, students, and teachers!**

## All Aboard the Crazy Train

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FRIDRICH  
YUKO  
FOGEL  
TEJADA  
WEBBMAGEE  
YOCUM  
TRAINER  
COWAN  
UEBNER  
HARLAN