



Parent/Student MONTHLY NEWS NOTES

December 2023



We are thrilled to share news regarding our efforts to enhance our online presence and experience. Our team is diligently working on updating our website to provide a more user-friendly and informative experience for students, parents, faculty, alumni, and prospective families.

The upcoming changes aim to streamline navigation, improve content accessibility, and implement a fresh and modern design. Our goal is to create a platform that not only reflects the excellence of our institution but also facilitates seamless communication and engagement. While this is the initial step in launching our new site, work will continue over the next few months to fully implement a comprehensive site to better serve parents, students, faculty, alumni, as well as prospective families.

Here are some key highlights of the updates you can expect:

1. **Intuitive Navigation:** We are redesigning the website's navigation to ensure that finding relevant information is quick and effortless.
2. **Responsive Design:** The new website will be responsive, ensuring optimal viewing and interaction across various devices, from desktops to smartphones.
3. **Enhanced Content:** We are revising and updating content to ensure accuracy, relevance, and completeness. This includes new videos, program details, student and alumni testimonials, a new alumni page, and other important resources.
4. **New Blog:** We started a new blog this school year to give families some insights on how to be successful with online learning.
5. **New School Web Pages:** Specific content for Elementary, Middle, and High School.
6. **Ability to Explore Courses:** This is a new feature we will be launching in the months to come.

We value your input and would love to hear any specific suggestions or features you believe would enhance the overall user experience over the next several weeks. Your feedback is crucial in ensuring that the new website meets the needs and expectations of our diverse faculty and student community. Please send any feedback to info@cmasas.org.



Monthly Message

Message from Executive Director



Christopher Geis
Executive Director

Based on a True Story

With our accreditation self-study now complete, I would like to recognize and thank our entire staff, especially those who participated in the focus groups and a special thanks to the Focus Group Leads - Justine Rauterkus, Tami Warnick, Kim Fowler, Heidi Fox, Daisy Cheatham, and Cierra Tredway for your efforts, time, and the passion you have put into this process, our school, and our Personalication Model. Thank You! Your efforts created a comprehensive document based on a true story – the story of CMASAS.

Sound of Music, Braveheart, Hacksaw Ridge, 12 Years a Slave, Schindler's List, A Beautiful Mind, Erin Brockovich, Stand and Deliver, and Fargo, share a common thread: they are either based on true stories or, in the case of Fargo, a false story presented as true. Documentaries like Christa McAuliffe – Reach for the Stars (which I highly recommend) provide a more accurate depiction of historical events through a mix of actual footage and interviews. In our lives, we all operate based on some narrative, whether it's true or false.

Living in an age of abundant misinformation, our ability to discern the truth often hinges on the news media we choose. Society seems to have drifted from independent, critical thinking and creativity – the core tenets that drive our Personalication Model. Our enrollment counselors frequently encounter students who feel lost, highlighting a need for a foundation built on critical thinking skills. Many students today struggle to find a solid foundation for their beliefs. The CMASAS Personalication model combined with the guidance of PECs and CIs play a vital role in helping students discover their voice and cultivate the curiosity and critical thinking skills needed to seek and discern truth.

I happen to base my life on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. I look to scripture for guidance, meditate on those words and my actions and try to live every day with a positive attitude and gratefulness for life. While I have many philosophies of life, the only one that really matters is to love. We are charged to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Only problem today is that

many students are lost. They don't love themselves; they allow their minds to become filled with negative thoughts through all the various media available online.

As a PEC/CI we are charged in guiding students to become independent, critical thinkers by maintaining a positive and hopeful approach. In science, the analogy of protons attracting and electrons repelling is used to highlight the importance of positive energy. The observation that horses respond to negative energy by moving away from the source and are attracted to positive energy underscores the profound impact of positivity.

Regardless of our individual beliefs, we have all come together with a common purpose and passion to teach and shape future generations. This unified effort is guided by our Personalization Philosophy, implemented with a positive and caring approach, and encapsulated in the mantra: "We Touch the Future, We Teach" – from Christa McAuliffe.

May this time of year bring you peace, joy, happiness, and love knowing that you are special and unique. Let your light shine on your world and be like a proton attracting others by your positive, loving interactions with those you encounter in your daily life.

What is your true story? I'd love to hear back from you to learn more about your life.

Message from CMASAS Leads



Daisy Cheatham
K-8 Lead

Cierra Treadway
High School Lead

Hi Everyone,

Wow! Fall break flew by and now we are headed right into winter break very soon. A friendly reminder that Winter Break is Dec 16th-Jan 7th. The last day to add courses before break will be December 11th so please let your PEC know if you need any courses added. In preparation for this longer break, please reach out to your course instructors for any support that you may need before the break starts. Please remember that you have full access to work on your courses over the break as well.

No matter how you celebrate this time of year, we hope that it is full of meaningful memories and experiences.

Best Wishes,
Daisy and Cierra

Upcoming Events

Regional Virtual Hangout
December 4th 2:00-3:00 PST (for Eastern Time Zone Students in the US)

Student Council All-School Art Event
December 7th 2:00-3:00 pm PST

Winter Break
December 16th - January 7th

Student-Led Events



SCHEDULE

Dec 14 at 5 pm ET: Eastern time zone in the US

Jan 18 at 2 pm PST: Central and South America geographic location

Feb 15 TBA: European geographic location

Mar 21 TBA: Asian and Oceanian geographic locations

Apr 25 TBA: Middle Eastern and African geographic locations

May 16 at 2pm PT: Alaskan and Hawaiian geographic locations

CMASAS Regional Gatherings





On Saturday, November 18th we had 4 families join us in Washington, D.C. at the National Museum of the American Indian in recognition of Native American Heritage Month. It was a super special day for all that attended, and our families appreciated the opportunity to get together in person.

Our next regional gathering is being led by Jamie Marcella and Daisy Cheatham. This event will be on Saturday, March 9, 2024 in Cape Cod, Massachusetts for an educational tour of the Whydah Pirate Museum.



Cape Cod, MA
Whydah Pirate
Museum

March 9, 2024

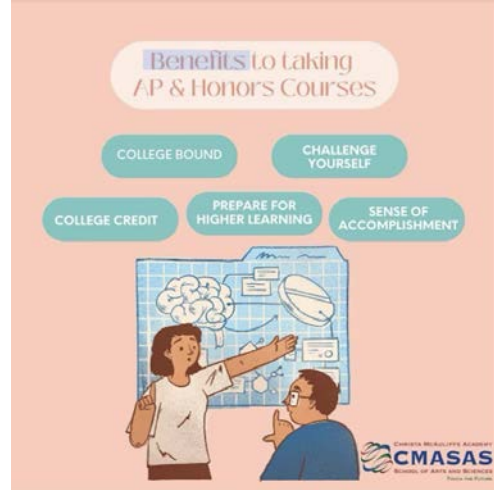
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

What's New?

Latest Blog Posts

Benefits to Taking AP and Honors Courses

Many students and parents want to know what the benefits would be to take “honors” and/or AP courses. We are here to help students (& parents) make the best decisions when it comes to choosing



courses during high school. Being informed about the benefits of these course selections is the best way to make a good decision. ([read more](#)).

Student Spotlight

Enjoy learning about two of our CMASAS Alumni!

Grace-Ann Porpeglia (Class of 2019)

Payson Hudson (Class of 2018)

Counseling Update

Students, Parents, & Families:

December can be a very stressful month for all, including students. There seem to be so many “fun” things going on and the lead up to the Holiday Season and Winter Break can

seem to loom as a big “deadline.” Please try to remember to help your student slow down, take stock in their educational life, and remember to enjoy this time together as a family. It’s so easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season we forget to just sit back and enjoy it. Here is a great (short) article about slowing down and enjoying the holidays with your child: <https://childmind.org/article/enjoy-the-holidays-more-with-mindfulness/>



Heidi Fox, M.Ed.
Director of Counseling

If you ever need help with anything related to your student/child, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, the school counselor. I can help locate additional resources. Happy Holidays!

Seniors: Please keep up on your college application deadlines. The next important deadline for is Jan.1. It is very important you keep in mind Winter Break when asking me to submit School Reports, rankings, transcripts, and recommendations. I will NOT be submitting paperwork for you over the Winter Break (Dec. 16-Jan.7), so PLEASE PLAN AHEAD ACCORDINGLY. Please remember to give your recommenders at least 1-2 weeks to provide you with a letter of recommendation. If you need help, please reach out directly to me. And, lastly, please send me an email as you start getting accepted into colleges— it is so rewarding to see the amazing colleges/universities where you are getting accepted!

Freshman-Juniors: Each month I will share a tidbit from our “Road Map to the College Search” Presentation. This month: What is a Gap Year and Should I Take One? Many students want to know more about taking a “Gap Year” and what that entails. Is it right for you? What do you plan to do during this Gap Year? It is important that you weigh all of the pros and cons before making a decision. Here are a few pros/cons:

Pros: Gain life experience before heading to college; make money for college; gain more time to figure out what you may want to study or what career to pursue; bolster your college resume with volunteering, work, or life experiences.

Cons: You may lose momentum and not want to return to college after taking a year off of schooling; you may forget some academic skills (math skills, writing skills, study habits, etc.)

thus making college more challenging when you return; you may be a year (or more) behind your peers in college; it can be costly (depending on what you do during your Gap Year). If you wish to discuss this topic further, please let me know. I can help guide you in this decision.

Elementary, Middle-School and High School Students: This month our focus is on confidence and self-esteem. Both of these are traits students/children need to gain as they proceed through their years in schooling. Educators and parents can work as a team to help send off our children into the “real world” or college with confidence and self-esteem. How can we help our students/children with these traits? Please take a few minutes to review the amazing articles here at the Child Mind Institute website:

<https://childmind.org/topics/confidence-and-self-esteem/> In particular, please at least take a few minutes to read “12 Tips for Raising Confident Kids”. These 12 tips are easy and so very helpful!

Middle & High School Students: It’s time to start thinking about “life after high school.” If it is your goal to attend college, it can be very overwhelming to find resources. I will continue to share a number of helpful resources you can use to explore this topic. This month I will ask you to go to the Child Mind Institute’s page about college here: <https://childmind.org/topics/college/> This site has so many great resources on topics such as:

- Preparing for College Emotionally, Not Just Academically
- Preparing for College with Dyslexia
- Medication Management in College
- 10 Tips for Going to College with ADHD, and more!

Please take some time to explore the topics at that link above. I hope these resources will help to relieve anxiety that seems to come along with this topic.

Have an amazing December and a wonderful Winter Break!

Follow us:





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