



This winter the Highlander Heat jump rope team warmed up basketball fans with performances between games. The team has twelve jumpers in grades three through six. The team will be performing at Brookwood Retirement Community, Cincinnati, near the end of February.

# MARS HILL



## HERALD

WINTER, 2011

### THE "PROGYMNASMATA"

WRITING EXERCISES RESULT IN PERSUASIVE WRITING, SPEECH

"Progymnasmata" from the Greek literally means "preliminary exercises." These preliminary writing exercises were originally taught in ancient Greece and Rome; today, Classical Christian schools are once again embracing this systematic method of educating the next generation of thinkers, writers, and speakers. The fourteen exercises are taught in MHA's Rhetoric School:



**Common Topic:** Students begin to develop original arguments to support and motivate ethically praiseworthy behavior and discourage poor behavior.

**Encomium & Invective:** Students identify and present persuasively the qualities for which people and things should be praised or censured.

**Comparison:** Students practice identifying and presenting the similarities and differences between people and things in order to amplify their relative worth.

**Characterization:** Students compose and deliver believable monologues appropriately impersonating historical figures.

**Description:** Students practice presenting details vividly to the mind's eye.

**Thesis:** Students argue comprehensively, persuasively, and elegantly for truth, beauty, and goodness on controversial topics.

**Proposal of Law:** Students evaluate the truth, beauty, and goodness of proposals of law, and argue persuasively to support or oppose those proposals.

**Fable:** Students examine a single idea, using language that engages the imagination to help their audience recognize and believe the truth of that idea.

**Narrative:** Students learn to identify the essential structure and truths of a story, and to tell stories using language that is elegant, persuasive, and memorable.

**Chreia & Maxim:** Students reflect on the praiseworthy words and actions of great men and women, and learn to identify and explain winsomely why their words and deeds merit praise.

**Refutation & Confirmation:** Students practice distinguishing truth from falsehood in stories and argue comprehensively for their conclusions.

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TRUTH • BEAUTY • GOODNESS

A Classical and Christian School



**Open House**  
Wednesday, March 23

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Presentation:  
10:00-11:00 a.m.

You're invited to tour our school, browse curriculum, visit classrooms, and learn about MHA through student presentations.

Classic  
Café

parent enrichment series



Enrichment sessions  
12:00 - 1:00 p.m. the first  
Friday of every month

Friday, March 4

*The Logic Stage of  
Classical Christian Education*

Friday, April 1

*The Rhetoric Stage of  
Classical Christian Education*

Bring your lunch and a friend!

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## DREAM PROMISES BEAUTY, COMEDY, FANTASY

### Show Dates & Times

All shows at  
Mason Middle School  
6370 Mason-Montgomery Road  
Mason

Thursday, March 31, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 1, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 2  
2:00 & 7:00 p.m.

### Dream Team

40 MHA 7th-12th graders  
directed by:

- Mrs. Beth Kenniv  
MHA Drama Instructor

- Mr. Gordon Havens  
Director of the Cincinnati  
Princess Ballet

-Mr. James Waldy, Mrs. Sharon  
Peterson, MHA Teachers and  
Assistant Directors

-The Cincinnati Shakespeare  
Company will conduct two  
workshops with our cast as  
part of rehearsals.

In *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a quartet of mismatched lovers and a blundering band of actors venture into a fairy-filled forest for one hilarious night of magic and mishap! Written in 1595, on the heels of *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* opens with a scenario that suggests yet another epic romantic tragedy. Instead, Shakespeare takes us on a delightful and dreamy romp through an enchanted forest with plenty of plot twists and turns! Comedic and farcical, yet mystical and fanciful, AMND boasts some of Shakespeare's most beautiful poetry and colorful characters. Set in ancient Athens, MHA students draw from their knowledge of antiquity to uncover Shakespeare's themes and allusions. Elizabethan themes are also prominent throughout, bringing cast and audience alike into the Renaissance period as well. Shakespeare masterfully erases the lines between reality and fantasy as he blends Greek mythology and English folklore into his own comic tale with hidden messages for a contemporary audience.

### Purchase Tickets:

Mail in order form or purchase online [www.marshill.edu](http://www.marshill.edu)

## THE BUZZ ABOUT THE BEE

### MHA STUDENTS ADVANCE TO ACSI REGIONAL SPELLING BEE

On Saturday, January 22, fifteen students from Mars Hill Academy participated in the ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) District Spelling Bee at Cincinnati Christian School, Fairfield. Several MHA students earned ribbons for placing in the top four of their grade.



The first and second-place spellers from grades 5 – 8 advanced to the District Finals. MHA spellers in this group included Lucas Admiraal (5th), Emma Grubb (6th), Levi Giese (7th) and Mariel Teigen (8th). The top four spellers from the District Finals advanced to the Regional Spelling Bee, to be held in March.

*Levi Giese and Emma Grubb (shown above) will represent Mars Hill at the Regional Bee. Levi was the District Final Champion, placing first among all the spellers competing, and Emma placed fourth.*

## “HEROES OF THE WORD” CELEBRATED AT LAUREL WREATH



On Friday, January 28, the top presenters in grades 1-8 participated in MHA's Laurel Wreath Celebration by delivering their selection of prose, poetry, Scripture, or a famous speech to a large audience of students and visitors. This MHA signature event harkens back to ancient Greece, when heroes of the spoken word received the accolades of their countrymen.

“Best of Show” presenters included 7th grader Anna Jones, St. Crispin's Day Speech from *Henry V*, by William Shakespeare; 7th grader Abigail Liebing “From the Diary of Perpetua”; 8th grader MacKenzie Burmeister, William Wilberforce's Slavery Abolition Speech; and 8th grader Megan Peterson, “A Call to Witness” by John Calvin.