

Mars Hill Academy

2010-2011 Annual Report



TRUTH • BEAUTY • GOODNESS

A Classical and Christian School

4230 Aero Drive, Mason, Ohio 45040

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www.marshall.edu

MARS HILL ACADEMY

2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT – BOARD EVALUATION

The Mars Hill Academy School Board presents this report based on our annual review of Mars Hill. The 2010-2011 school year was another successful year at MHA. Enrollment was up, our Parent Association was revived, our Track & Field team had a successful first year, many new families joined the MHA community, and we saw our 9th graduating class finish their time at MHA and move on to their next challenge. We continue to see the Lord's blessings in many areas, both big and small.

This year we're providing a shorter Board Evaluation. Rather than enumerating all the areas where we believe the school is doing well, we will focus only on the areas where we intend to make changes in the future.

Board Oversight

During our review of the school, the Board recognized that it needs to do more to provide oversight to the school. The school has continued to grow and the Board needs to adjust to be able to continue to do its job well. More formal status reporting mechanisms are needed as well as better functioning Board committees. Both of these will be on the agenda for the next school year.

Administrative & Teaching Staff

MHA has been blessed with an outstanding faculty who love the Lord, the school, and their students. The new additions for the 2010-2011 school year were no exception. We strengthened our administrative capacity with the addition of James Waldy as our Grammar School Principal. One of our administration goals has been to institute a more formal mentoring program to serve both new and existing staff. Adding a Grammar School Principal was an important step in this direction and we intend to do more in this area during the next school year.

Advancement/Development

This year was another solid year with a successful annual fund and a substantial amount of money raised for our bond fund which is designed to replace our current bridge loan. As we look into the near future, there are many possibilities and some requirements to advance the school's vision and mission. This is an area we believe continues to need attention; we need to take our advancement capabilities to the next level. This will be a focus area during the next school year.

Academic Programs/Curriculum

Overall, our staff successfully delivered classical and Christian education in the classroom again this year. One of the things we want to address, based on observations from this year, is better use of the Curriculum Guide. While the Curriculum Guide has served as a good general tool to structure each grade and class, we want to use it as a more specific tool to evaluate progress each year in each grade and class.

Co-Curriculars

David Kern began serving as the MHA Athletic Coordinator this year (as well as coaching the JV/V basketball team and assisting with the Track team). We're excited about this new role and look forward to seeing Mr. Kern continue to mature these programs. This will continue to be a focus area for the foreseeable future as we seek to round out the educational experience at MHA.

We continued our Madrigal tradition with another wonderful two-evening period costume and dinner event, featuring our select Chamber Singers choir. Our high school choir included the majority of our 9-12 grade students. They performed on numerous occasions and were the centerpiece of our Fine Arts Night.

Our annual musical is typically featured in the spring. This year, a Shakespeare drama took the place of the musical as our students performed *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Our first major Shakespeare drama exceeded expectations and was well-received each of the days/nights it was performed.

Facility/Grounds

We originally believed we would need portables to make it through this past school year but with some creative facilities planning we were able to avoid the investment. Additionally, we found a way to make it through the school year '11-'12 without them. However, we are running out of room and thus, additional space will be needed in the near future. We'd also like to improve both the fields in the back as well as the general landscaping. These will likely need to wait for a larger capital effort to provide the needed funds.

Parent Community

We were very excited to see new life breathed into our Parent Association this past year. One of the foundational beliefs of the school is that God gives the responsibility for the education of children to their parents and that we're serving, in *loco parentis*. Thus, we're always glad to see parents playing a more active role in the school. We will continue to support and encourage growth in and contribution from the Parent Association.

MARS HILL ACADEMY

2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT – HEADMASTER PERSPECTIVE

We are greatly blessed here at Mars Hill Academy and as we reflect on the last school year, we should lift our voices with thanksgiving and praise when we consider God’s great acts and work in each life.

God showed Himself in marvelous and wondrous ways everyday in our hallways, classrooms, athletic endeavors, and other extra-curricular events. The following vivid snapshots from last year demonstrate God’s sanctifying power in the lives of our students:

- The Senior class “living visibly” on a daily basis in the atrium before all the “watching eyes” of our younger students and visitors;
- Senior ladies vacuuming the hallways after carpool;
- Senior men cleaning bathrooms, emptying trash, moving tables and chairs;
- Senior men leading the morning Psalm-sing/prayer time;
- Senior ladies tutoring younger students; senior ladies organizing meals for families in need;
- Senior men escorting kindergarteners to their cars after school;
- Senior Thesis presentations that challenged the “status quo”;
- Senior classrooms with raised hands, spirited debate, and respectful discussion.

Our vision “to graduate young men and women who think clearly and listen carefully with discernment and understanding; who reason persuasively and speak precisely; who are capable of evaluating all human knowledge and experience in the light of the Scriptures; and who do so with eagerness in joyful submission to God” is what we experienced in our 2011 graduating class.

2010/11 at MHA again countered these national trends:

- declining enrollment in private Christian schools
- declining academic standards
- declining parental involvement in education
- increase in narcissistic attitude embedded in our culture

MARS HILL ACADEMY

2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT – FINANCIAL REPORT

	Expenses	Income
Beginning Cash Balance		\$102,575
Revenue		
Tuition and Fees		\$1,757,008
Other Revenue		\$15,785
		<hr/>
		\$1,772,793
Operating Expenses		
Salary & Wages	\$1,190,216	
Other HR Expenses	\$214,949	
Other	\$172,397	
Development & PR	\$12,766	
Building Operating Expenses	\$119,687	
Mortgage Principal Payments	\$92,374	
	<hr/>	
	\$1,802,389	
Net Operating Balance		\$72,979
Interest and Capital Expenses	\$321,307	
Net Operating Balance Before Development		(\$248,328)
Development		
Fundraising		\$93,543
Annual Fund		\$243,205
		<hr/>
Total Dev Income		\$336,748
Other		
Establishment of Employer HSA		\$12,000
New Bond Investment		\$75,000
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		\$87,000
Ending Cash Balance		\$175,420

MARS HILL ACADEMY

2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT – SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

Enrollment

Grammar School Enrollment	213
Rhetoric School Enrollment	83
Total Enrollment	296

College Guidance Efforts

In the fall of 2010, we introduced a series of college guidance efforts designed to help rhetoric students (grades 7-12) and their parents better prepare for a transition to college. Members of the Grove City College admission staff were brought in for a special evening presentation, we promoted a local college fair, and during another special presentation a panel of college students and parents of college students shared their college admissions experiences and advice. We hope to build on these offerings in the coming years.

Volleyball Teams to State Tournament

In October, 2010, the Junior High squad won the Ohio Christian School Athletic Association's (OCSAA) Inaugural Championship as the Southern Division Champion. Our Varsity squad won the OCSAA's Southwest Division Title (making it to the Final Four) but lost in the state semi-final. Varsity ended their season at 24-1 (the best volleyball record in MHA history).

Track & Field Team

The spring of 2011 marked the inaugural year of Mars Hill Track & Field program. Nearly 30 students from grades 7-12, both boys and girls, formed a hard-working, competitive team. Modest purchases were made to meet equipment and uniform needs. Practices were held in our parking lot. We were able to compete in seven meets with several of our students placing within the top five at various events.

Parent Association

The Parent Association was formed to serve as the volunteer clearinghouse for the school, as well as to plan social and enrichment events for parents. Every other month, parents attending PA meetings enjoyed fellowship, breakfast fare, and words of wisdom from presenting MHA staff.

Rhetoric School Young Men's and Women's Elective Fitness Classes

Rhetoric students were offered this elective which took place during a normally scheduled work period. It gave students an opportunity to participate in an organized fitness program.

1st Non-musical Drama

In the spring of 2011 our rhetoric cast presented Mars Hill's first non-musical drama: Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Shakespeare presented some welcome challenges for our students in terms of language, vocabulary, and acting. A non-musical presentation provided a different set of rhetoric students the chance to fill lead roles.

Graduated our 9th Senior Class

With a newly developed Senior Café, our seniors enjoyed a unique place to study and interact. In addition to filling key volunteer roles in our annual Highlander Heart Serve-a-thon, leading Operation Christmas Child efforts, and preparing meals for MHA families in need, our seniors offered much of their time to assisting with the facility. Our seniors in many ways exceeded the high standards – academic, spiritual, social – established for graduates for Mars Hill Academy.

New Hires

Mr. James Waldy	Grammar School Principal; 26 years of experience in classical and Christian education
Mrs. Betsy Howard	Grammar School and Rhetoric School Teacher; Hillsdale College '10 [and MHA '06]; hired as Ms. Betsy Peters and married Mr. Howard during the school year
Mr. Zachary Howard	Rhetoric School Teacher; Hillsdale College '10
Mr. Andy Stapleton	Rhetoric School Teacher; Grove City College, '10 Westminster Theological Seminary

MARS HILL ACADEMY

2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT – ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Standardized Tests

The standardized tests taken by Mars Hill students are the Stanford Achievement Test (all 2nd through 8th graders), the PSAT (all 10th and 11th graders), and the College Board SAT and the ACT. The latter two are college-entrance tests taken during 11th grade or early 12th grade.

Concerning the *percentages* for the PSAT, SAT, and ACT: note that these represent how our students have done vis-à-vis other college-bound students, not merely the general student population.

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The median **SAT** and **ACT** scores for the Class of 2011, as well as the national average and scores for all previous MHA graduating classes (2003-10), are shown in the two charts below.

SAT

	Critical Reading	Math	Writing	Composite (CR & M only)
Nat'l Avg.	500	520	490	1020
MHA 2003-10	680 (93%)	670 (90%)	640 (89%)	1360 (94%)
Class of 2011	600 (79%)	620 (80%)	570 (74%)	1220 (82%)

ACT

	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
Nat'l Avg.	21	21	21	21	21
MHA 2003-10	29 (93%)	29 (94%)	30 (91%)	26 (90%)	29 (95%)
Class of 2011	27 (87%)	27 (88%)	28 (85%)	26 (89%)	27 (88%)

The median **PSAT** scores for this year's juniors and sophomores are shown in the chart below. (For the sophomores, this functions as a practice test for "the real thing" junior year.)

PSAT

	Critical Reading	Math	Writing	Composite
11th grade	65 (93%)	60 (81%)	65 (93%)	189 (92%)
10th grade	59 (91%)	60 (91%)	58 (92%)	177 (n/a)

Each year the PSAT test is taken by 1.5 million college-bound juniors, among whom only 3-4% qualify for a **National Merit Scholar Award**. In the class of 2011, one student was so honored – TJ Waldy as a Commended Scholar. Of 55 total Mars Hill graduates, 14 have earned Commended or Finalist status.

MARS HILL ACADEMY

2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT – ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

Stanfords (the Stanford Achievement Tests) are taken by the students in second through eighth grade. The chart below shows the average scores for each class. These scores are percentages; the first figure compares our students nationally, while the second compares to ACSI schools only.

	Total Reading	Total Math	Language	Spelling	Listening	Thinking Skills	Basic Battery
2 nd	86 (72)	84 (69)	86 (68)	70 (50)	84 (74)	--	83 (67)
3 rd	85 (72)	93 (84)	81 (64)	78 (59)	86 (76)	88 (77)	86 (72)
4 th	93 (85)	95 (91)	89 (73)	81 (63)	88 (80)	93 (86)	90 (80)
5 th	91 (80)	94 (85)	89 (72)	79 (59)	94 (88)	94 (84)	91 (79)
6 th	85 (67)	92 (81)	80 (64)	84 (70)	78 (62)	87 (75)	85 (70)
7 th	88 (79)	94 (85)	88 (74)	91 (79)	87 (82)	92 (84)	89 (80)
8 th	92 (85)	93 (83)	95 (86)	89 (77)	95 (91)	93 (86)	92 (84)
	89 (77)	92 (83)	87 (76)	82 (65)	87 (79)	91 (82)	88 (76)

Subject-Specific Achievements

Each year the **National Latin Exam** is taken by approximately 150,000 students, most of whom are high schoolers. This year our sixth through eighth graders took the Latin I, Latin II, and Latin Prose III versions of the test. Five students earned “Gold” *Summa Cum Laude* honors, while four others earned the “Silver” *Maxima Cum Laude* award. Altogether 27% of our Latin students received these, compared to a national average of 25%.

The **AP Calculus Exam** was administered to the Calculus students, the fourth year MHA has participated in this rigorous program. Scores for AP exams are converted to a grade of 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, with 3 considered “Passing.” Most colleges and universities grant credit and/or advanced placement for scores of 4 or 5 (and sometimes 3). Nationally, more than 170,000 students took the AP Calculus exam, but fewer than 60% passed; about 20% scored a 5. This year two of the eight MHA Calculus students scored a 5.

In May the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) hosted its **National Spelling Bee** in Washington, D.C. Approximately 300,000 fifth through eighth graders nationwide begin this competition in the fall with the field narrowing to 15,000 at the District Bees, 4,500 at the Regional Bees, and (this year) only 42 attending the National Bee. MHA seventh grader Levi Giese secured first place at the National Bee, and was named this year’s ACSI Spelling Bee Champion.

SDG

Soli Deo Gloria, “To God alone the glory!”

MARS HILL ACADEMY

2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT – BOARD MEMBERS

Permanent Board Members:

Mr. Dave Ryan, Chairman	(513) 759-4889
Mr. Chris Hall, Vice-Chairman	(513) 474-4955
Mr. Ron Ferguson	(513) 683-6175
Mr. Thomas Thistleton	(513) 398-5027
Mr. Roger Wismer	(513) 759-6285

Elected Board Members:

Mr. Mark Davis, Treasurer	(513) 573-9594
Mr. Andy O'Connor, Secretary	(513) 204-6956
Mr. Jeremy Pereira	(513) 530-5055

Mr. Mark Davis retired from the Board in June, 2011 after a three-year term as Board Treasurer.

Mars Hill Academy is a non-chartered, non-tax supported school. It is not seeking a charter from the state department of education because of truly held religious beliefs. Mars Hill Academy meets Ohio minimum standards for non-chartered, non-tax supported schools as cited in paragraphs (A) to (H) of section 3301-35-08 of the Ohio Department of Education's Operating Standards for Ohio's Schools (www.ode.state.oh.us). A copy of MHA's non-chartered, non-tax report to the ODE is available at www.marshill.edu.

MARS HILL ACADEMY

2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT – ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank our parents, grandparents, and many community members
for their faithful and generous support of our school.

We thank our Highlander Heart Serve-a-thon sponsors for their support:

Bennett Photographs

Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

Minuteman Press, Lebanon

CMS Insurance, David Thaman



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Mars Hill Academy is an accredited member of the

Association of Classical and Christian Schools
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