

May Term is in full bloom. Weeks of planning followed by weeks of daily actions and commitments have added up to a collective body of work that is impressive to behold.

Scroll down to travel from Brookside to the skies of NJ to outer space to the Delaware Water Gap . . . while hearing about the way an MKA student is helping a record label to understand how the next generation of listeners discovers music and another MKA student is re-envisioning outdoor space at the Upper School. Stick around, too, for an end-of-newsletter offer from two of MKA's most accomplished soccer players.

Steve Valentine
Director of Academic Leadership and
Assistant Head of Upper School

Jill Maza
Director of Libraries and Research and
Upper School Librarian

SPOTLIGHT ON MKA'S TEACHING INTERNS

Margaret Gonzales, Co-Director of Brookside, shared this reflection on the work of Nyla, Julia, Katie, Emma, and Jaiden:

MKA's May Term Interns are fully immersed in the daily school life of the Brookside campus, serving the children as playmates, coaches, role models, and mentors. Their ability to make personal connections with the students has earned them the respect of their cooperating teachers and the students' adoration. Additionally, their respectful demeanor and enthusiasm have brought a refreshing energy to the Brookside community. They are careful to attend to the needs of all children in the class, not only those who demand attention. The Interns are observant and have learned one of the most important skills of a good teacher: asking questions that inspire reflection in students rather than simply supplying answers. Zealous learners, the Interns' growth and development is evident through their thoughtful questions and big picture observations about the career of teaching. It is clear why one cooperating teacher commented, "I love this program!"

Here are some excerpts from Katie Hipp's teaching journal:

- Today we started by working on the basics of the morning meeting which consists of a greeting, an activity, and a response to the morning message. This definitely pushed me out of my comfort zone as I had to act like a silly kid (for example, waving in rainbows and using very enthusiastic, loud voices and gestures).
- For our activity today, we played a game called Me Too. In this game, we went around the circle and shared something about ourselves, and if someone agreed with the statement they had to make a funny hand gesture and use a loud voice to indicate agreement. This was definitely a little awkward because if you were the only person who agreed, you were also the only one who had to look silly in front of the rest of the group. However, this was a great way to support the feelings of young kids sharing in the classroom to their peers. They feel uncomfortable too, and it is our responsibility to make them feel comfortable as they open up to grow as students and public speakers.
- Today, many faculty members from around the school came to speak with us. My favorite part was when Ms. Bieber was talking about boundaries. We got to learn important reactions to children when they tend to be clingy or frustrated. We laughed about the silly situations children may put us in while also brainstorming ways to avoid any problems. When we finished up at about 9:30 a.m., we toured the school, and I was finally able to meet my class! They are such sweet and well-mannered children.
- This week (week two) I was able to make stronger relationships with the kids. I got everyone's name down! I learned more about each child individually, such as how they work in a group, how they work individually, and how they work one-on-one. I can visually see and hear the kids rely on me more the more often I am there.
- My greatest victory so far is definitely breaking down walls with the students. Instead of me going up to them in the morning to introduce myself, they come up to me and get excited. They ask me to help them with their writing or listen to them read. It is such a pleasure to watch them grow.



Meanwhile, at MKA's Middle School, Carlie Till is supervising the internship of Leah Glaser. Carlie shared the following:

Leah is amazing!!! She has been fantastic at leading lessons, engaging with small groups, and is already conferencing with students 1-on-1. She even created a special spirit week just for our homeroom: we all got to be tourists as we learned to view the world differently!

And here's Leah's reflection on her work so far:

For my May Term, I am working in the fifth grade in a reading and writing class. To date, I have had an eye-opening, exciting, and educational experience. Working at the Middle School, I have already had the opportunity to work with kids in small groups and also be able to help teach a lesson whenever I can.

Coming in at the very beginning of the month, I instantly had my hurdles of trying to learn the names of all thirty-four of the kids I see every day. But, it did not take me long to learn all their names and have them warm up to me. My favorite memories thus far have been playing kickball and also leading an advisory on identity. These are two things that have allowed me to get to know the kids better and continue to enjoy my experience. I have loved working with the students so much that I even created a spirit week for them!



RESEARCH IN THE REAL WORLD: Dan Stehr

I have been interning for Visionary Music Group during May Term. Visionary, a subsidiary of Columbia Records, is a record label and management company founded in 2010. It is home to Logic and John Bellion, among other performers. This week I was tasked with developing a report (pitched to the executive board of the label) on how teenagers and young adults consume and find new music. I spliced my research into three parts: my own personal experience in finding music, interviews with my close friends and peers about how they find new tracks to listen to, and a survey of online news articles and current stats.

My findings concluded that teens most commonly find their favorite new music through social media blogs and pages, their personalized "discover" playlists on streaming services (Apple Music, Spotify, etc.), and through the social media app TikTok. Yet, at the end of the day, a friend's recommendation remains the most potent form of music discovery. Visionary is currently developing several young performers, and this research will inform how they market these new artists and develop their respective fan bases. It was really exciting to develop and articulate these findings as discovering new music is what I feel I do best! So far I have had a great experience and look forward to continuing to intern at Visionary and to a future within the music industry.

VISIONARY MUSIC GROUP

FLYING SOLO: Ryan Mandachescu



These past few weeks of May Term, I've been flying everyday. My overall goal is to get my pilot's license. Flying 2-4 hours a day is a mix of amazing, exhausting, relaxing, and stressful, and there's nothing like it. Sadly, it's not all the glamour of being in the air; there's lots of ground work and studying that I have to do, but it's all worth it.

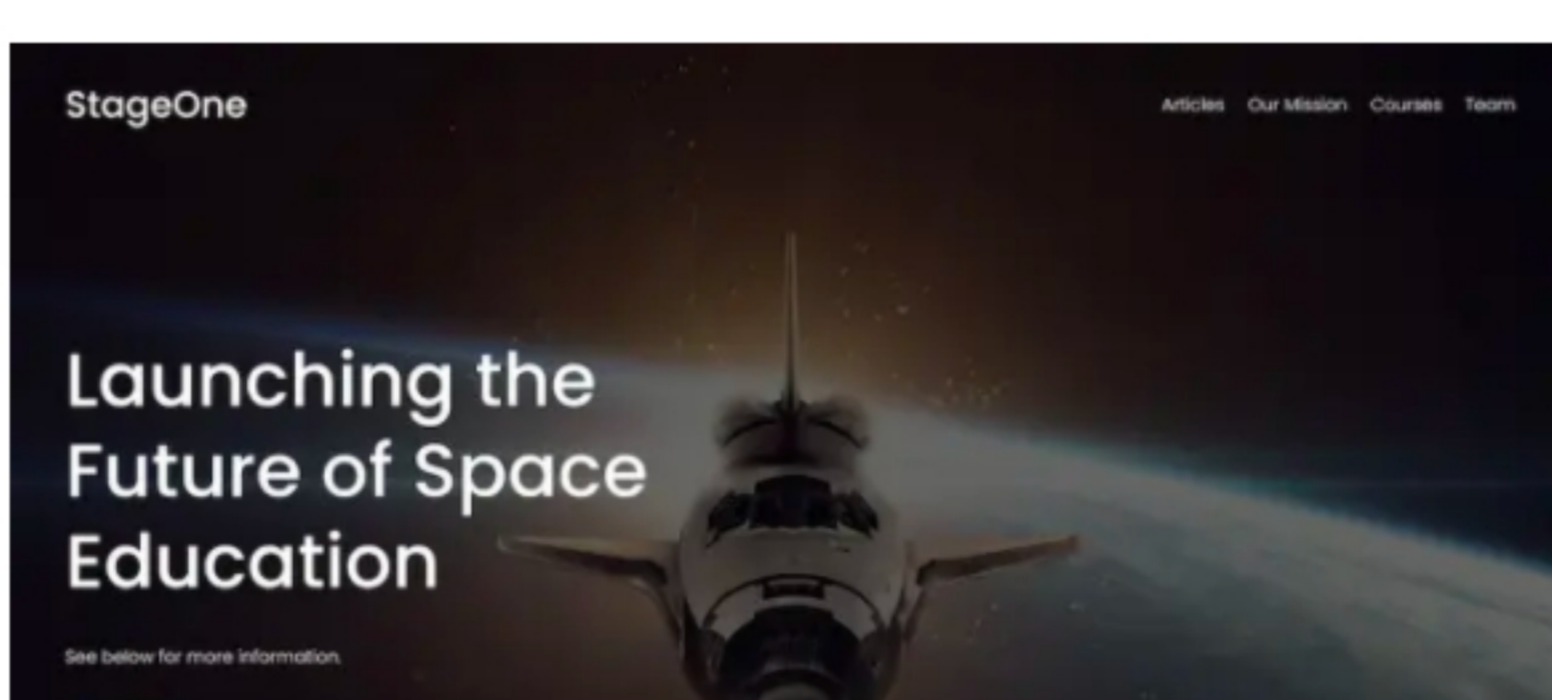
On Monday, I accomplished my first solo flight, which might sound a bit nerve wracking, but it wasn't. It felt amazing to take off and fly by myself. The winds were calm, visibility was high, and I came in a bit fast on my landings, but the touchdowns were smooth. It was more calming than nerve wracking, especially because it was what I've been practicing for weeks now; just being able to do it alone was an incredible experience. They say you never forget your first solo, and I don't think I ever will. It marked a big milestone in my journey to get my pilot's license, which I'm looking forward to completing.

To follow my journey, follow me on Instagram @ryanisindeedflying.

AN URGENCY TO EXPLORE: Neil Maharishi, Karl Kanhai, and Anthony DiMaggio

Space exploration will be critical to the long-term survival of mankind, and thus, it's important that there is a strong, widespread urgency to explore the cosmos. To help generate interest in space exploration, we launched Stage One – an organization aimed at teaching young students (grades 6-9) about outer space. Throughout the month, we've worked to both learn more about the field and improve our teaching methods as we prepare for in-person lessons over the summer.

For more information on our project, please visit <https://www.stageonespace.org/>.



REDESIGNING MKA'S OUTDOOR SPACES: Abby Clothier

For my May Term project, I am reimagining MKA's outdoor spaces. This year, because of the pandemic, the school created multiple short-term structures outside to be used as temporary classrooms and places where students and teachers can go during free time during the day. A lot of people, including myself, like being able to go outside for a bit during the day, and I thought some of these structures could turn into permanent parts of the Upper School while also making the outside landscape more welcoming. I also want to introduce some sustainability and more environmentally friendly aspects to our outdoor spaces. At the end of this month I am going to have a proposal for how to redesign, permanently, some outdoor spaces around the Upper School! Below you can see how my plans are evolving.



VIEWS FROM THE DELAWARE WATER GAP

Here are some photos from Justin Vasilopoulos reminding us of one of New Jersey's most spectacular places.

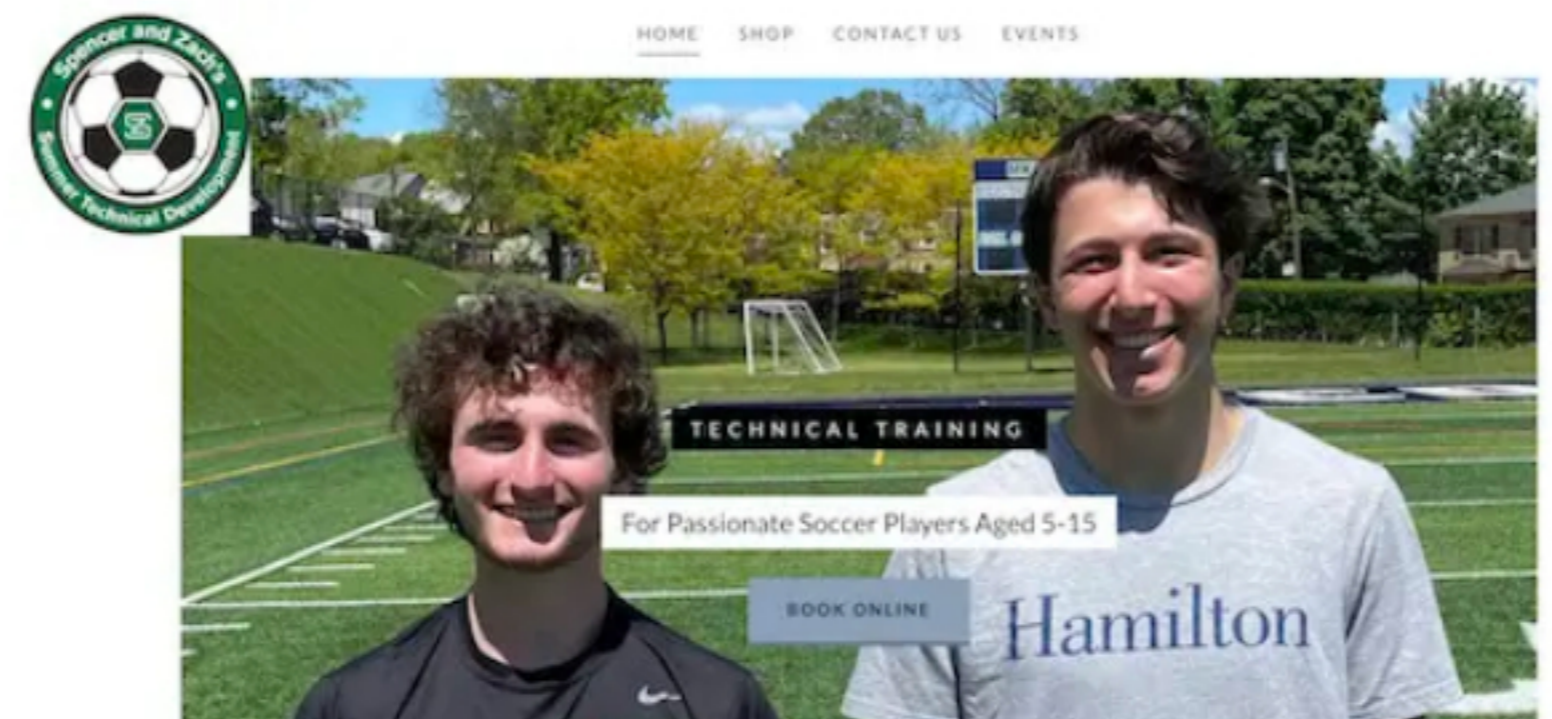


COACHING THE NEXT GENERATION OF MKA ATHLETES: A Call to Action from Spencer Goldberg & Zach Wheeler

We are looking to work on our coaching skills for our May Term project. As two passionate soccer players who are committed to continue our athletic careers in college (at Hamilton College and Wesleyan University, respectively), we are extremely excited at the prospect of sharing our knowledge with the next generation of MKA athletes.

We understand that we are entering a competitive marketplace with less experience than most, but what we lack in traditional experience, we will make up for in other ways. We have coached large groups of players at Coach Leather's First Touch Academy summer camps and have picked up a lot from our own private sessions over the years. We will be offering free individual and group sessions through the end of May Term (around June 3). After gaining more meaningful experience as trainers, we are hoping to turn our May Term project into a small business, allowing us to continue with private training this summer and whenever we are home from college.

We would really appreciate it if you would check out our website to learn more about us (<https://summertechnicaldevelopment.godaddydysles.com/>). We are ready to start with free sessions right away. Please feel free to reach out directly with any questions. We had extremely positive soccer experiences at MKA and are looking to give back however we can. Thank you.



#WeAreMKA



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