



Dear MCI Families and Students,

August 10, 2021

Greetings! It is time to be thinking about the upcoming school year, and we are excited to have all of our programs up and running in person. These past months have been busy, with a STEM camp that focused on aviation to an outstanding production of *Don Quixote* by our Bossov Ballet Theatre program at the Collins Center for the Arts. This past weekend we celebrated new inductees into the MCI Hall of Fame, named Distinguished Achievement awards, and held the Alumni Reunion on front campus. You may have noticed numerous construction projects as we successfully concluded the Founder's campaign. The inside of Founders Hall will have new stairways, floors, doors, bathrooms, etc., and will be ADA compliant and ready for use again before Thanksgiving (hopefully). Parks Gym received a new boiler, Weymouth Hall received a new porch and stairs at the entrance, and Alumni Hall upgraded its bathrooms. Outdoors, we have reconstituted one of the playing fields and upgraded the drainage system; the other field will be treated next summer, 2022.

In addition, various academic departments have been working over the summer to design some interdisciplinary STEAM activities (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math). These projects will be engaging, practical, creative, and will truly showcase the critical thinking skills of our students. We are launching as well the Navy National Defense Cadet Corps program, [NNDCC](#), which will provide students opportunities to learn leadership and citizenship skills. Finally, we will be using a new Advisor curriculum, "[Character Strong](#)", and daily check-ins with advisors to help students with social and emotional learning as we focus on the challenges brought upon by the pandemic. We have also hired additional learning interventionists to work alongside our teachers to assist students individually with whatever needs they may have. And please note, Homecoming will be the week of September 6-11 (when we have the most home games for our teams), so planning is already underway.

Our school theme this year is TEAMWORK, a most fitting concept as we continue facing this pandemic to start the year. It will require the community to work together--parents, students, teachers/staff--to navigate safely through these unpredictable times. Per the CDC, I ask that you continue to do home health screening BEFORE sending your daughter/son to school. I share with you this process: [CDC at home health screening](#). *This is by and far the most important step in keeping our campus safe.* We will also continue to use layers of mitigating strategies (hand sanitizing, proper ventilation, cleaning, etc.). Maine DOE recommends that all students, faculty, and staff follow the CDC guidance for reopening: [CDC K-12 School Reopening Recommendations](#). In alignment with MSAD 53, MCI will require face coverings indoors and on buses for students, faculty, staff, and visitors to campus regardless of vaccination status. This is the most effective strategy to keep our community safe amidst moderate community transmission as we bring many people from many different places together. We will review this practice regularly and hope to get to a place in terms of community transmission where face coverings will not be necessary indoors--but we are not quite there yet.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Christopher M. McDonald
Head of School