

Good evening, parents and guardians of our exceptional SMA Cadets!

I am SMA-COL Christina Bowman, and welcome to your weekly SMA Briefing.

Half of the school year has passed, and despite the trials and tribulations of COVID-19, we have celebrated academic and athletic achievements. Our Academy has moved forward together, as one, to form an even stronger educational institution.

As far as highlights this week, the High School Music and Arts Department presented an outstanding Winter Concert. Our cadets' talent certainly did rise to the occasion, and I would like to thank instructors SMA-MAJ Finley, SMA-CPT Burchell, SMA-CPT Orazi, SMA-CPT Davis and SMA-CPT Holbrook for their leadership. Their passion for the Arts was definitely present in the cadets' performances and artwork!

The Middle School will hold its Annual Holiday Plant sale Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week in the school courtyard during both lunch periods. Plants, seeds and gift kits will be available from \$.50 to \$5.00. Go Green this holiday and give a kit to grow Pet Grass, sprouts, microgreens or herbs to everyone on your list!

I would like to thank all of our cadets, families and staff for their donations to Toys for Tots. Hundreds of children across our community will wake up Christmas morning with toys under the tree as well as a bike here and there. This should bring joy to your heart as well! The last day to donate toys is Wednesday, December 22nd.

As a reminder, SMA classes will only be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. For the High School, Monday will be a full day and exams will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday with early release at 10:20. The Middle School will hold a full day schedule for each day. Both campuses will be closed as of December 24th and will open for staff on January 10th with the return of cadets on Tuesday, January 11th. Enjoy the winter break!

An important request is our end-of-year Challenge Match of \$10,000. Your gift of any amount will serve the Academy's greatest needs through the SMA Unrestricted Fund. Donations need to be made no later than December 31, 2021 to double the impact for our cadets. To donate, [click here](#).

On behalf of the SMA Board of Directors and Foundation Trustees, we would like to wish you and yours a wonderful holiday and the absolute best year yet. Enjoy time with family and friends and be thankful and joyous!

Thank you for allowing me into your home this evening, and I look forward to visiting with you every week. In the meantime, if you have any concerns, please feel free to reach out to me by either telephone or email.

I wish you and your family a wonderful weekend.

Stay safe, stay well and stay kind.