



Barring any surprises, this will be the first June since 2019 that we complete a school year learning entirely on campus and in person. The return to school “as normal” has brought a renewed energy and joy to both students and staff. While the echoes of the pandemic linger in many significant ways, it is a refreshing change to return our focus to other priorities.

We are grateful for an encouraging trend in the form of increased student enrolment along with students registering earlier during the year for the following September. We have worked hard to share the story of MBCI and reach prospective families with information about what it is like to learn here. Any growth that we experience, however, needs to proceed hand-in-hand with our commitment to our vision and mission. MBCI is a Christ-centered middle and secondary school that equips students to learn, love, and engage with the world. We provide education focused on learning, growth, faith in Jesus Christ, leadership and community; we nurture learning, faith, and character.

This vision provides us with a unique opportunity as a school to be intentional about the kind of student culture we desire. There are both gifts and challenges in this work and it is not always a linear path, but it is always one that is worth the investment of time and energy.

So what does it look like to shape student culture?

- It “looks like” creating moments, in every class, where we as teachers share the meaning of grace, of scripture, of tradition, sacred music and prayer.
- We share the “why” of Christ-centered traditions and practices so that all students are invited to grow in understanding.
- We seek to foster connection and belonging for every student within the midst of these practices and traditions.
- It looks like providing opportunities for student voices and leadership as we seek to nurture growth in character and the opportunity for students to develop ownership of their individual faith journey.

It is a privilege to work within this school environment and within the complexities and nuances of our unique vision and mission. It is our deep desire to engage with each student as a beloved child of God, building a school culture in which we learn and care for each other in the light of Christ.

Sincerely,

Andrea Buller
Principal



MBCI AT A GLANCE: 2022 - 2023

Students: **427**

Teachers: **33**

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022-2023

- The school year began with a flurry of retreats as we made up for opportunities lost to pandemic restrictions. Our high school choir, grade 7 and grade 9 students all were able to head off campus to build relationships and memories with peers and teachers. A grad retreat took place in February which is a much-anticipated annual event that has not been held in its traditional format since the winter of 2020. These experiences are often cited as highlights when we ask our grads to look back over their time at MBCI and we're grateful to be together in this way.
- April 26 - 29 our students and staff are performing in *Shrek the Musical*. Work on the musical begins in September and lasts through to the end of April and usually involves more than half of our student population in roles from performers to set production to hair and makeup. It is an exciting prospect to once again welcome a full house in Jubilee Place and to showcase the hard work and talent of our community.
- It is always a highlight when students plan and lead chapel and each grade does so throughout the year. During the grade 10 chapel, students drew on their work in Bible class and their study of parables. They learned about how Jesus' parables always addressed the problems of the day and they were challenged to imagine what kind of parable Jesus might tell if He were alive today. These modern-day parables then became the content for chapel as students shared their writing as well as led the student body in worship.