



MOUNTAINSIDE
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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A MINISTRY OF MOUNTAINSIDE BIBLE CHAPEL

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Dear Parents,

We are almost ready to begin another school year at Mountainside Christian Academy. I am very excited to begin MCA's 40th year of continuous operation. You could say that MCA is "Over the Hill"! As I think back over the many years MCA has been open, I marvel at how much God has done through this school. I think of many alumni now serving the Lord in ministries of their own, many being faithful in the careers God has called them to, and many who are raising their children to walk with the Lord. There are still other students who, though not alumni, attended our school for several years and have gone on to utilize the training they received while at Mountainside Christian Academy. It is my heart's desire to see our current young people follow in these footsteps, being faithful to God, wherever He calls them to go.

I believe it is getting increasingly harder for young people to keep their minds free of the world and its influences, to live *in* the world but not *of* it. With constant access to the online world through mobile devices, the rise of TV shows and movies that depict the highest level of violence, sexual content, and satanic thematic material we've ever been exposed to, and leadership in our country that disregards God, the truth of Scripture, or any values our country was built upon; we must ask, "How is my child thinking? How is his/her worldview being shaped? Who is influencing him?" And beyond that, "How is he being prepared to live as a strong Christian in this world today?"

As I watch the very alarming things happening in our country and in our world, my mind turns to Ephesians 6, where we read in verse 13, "Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." I would say we are in an "evil day." The passage goes on to list the pieces of the armor of God, including the shield of faith, the belt of truth, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. As we put on these things, we will, as verses 10 and 11 state, "be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might," and we will "be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." I see the need for our students at their young age to not only be trained and molded to be like Christ, but also to be armed and ready to handle the pressures and challenges in the world today.

Behind all of the sin, greed, distraction, pornography, faulty leadership, racism, terrorism, and relativism is one enemy: Satan himself. As it says in verse 12, "We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places." The key? Putting on this armor. Being sure your child knows God (has the helmet of salvation), and has the proper protection in place for the attacks of the enemy. This is our goal for the 2016-17 year: to pray and depend on God to help us work with you, to raise up this next generation of strong soldiers in Christ's army. Our theme for the school year will be this passage from Ephesians 6.

Please be in prayer for our school. We will have new staff members next year that will need to "learn the ropes" quickly and will need your prayer and support throughout the year. We "old-timers" could use the same prayer! I truly look forward to serving your families this year. Thank you for entrusting us with your child(ren)'s education. It is a privilege and a joy for us!

Warmly in Christ,

Jennie Sabatini
Principal