



Dear Parents and MCA Corporate Partners,

September 20, 2017

I can't believe it's September and we are already crazy busy with sport events, play practice, homework, and it's Homecoming Week! Can you feel the excitement in the air at Maranatha as we celebrate new beginnings and embark on a new era with our new Head of School and Elementary Principal? We, at the board surely do! We also wanted to take a moment and share with you some great and exciting news about the board, the school, and provide continued encouragement of the awesome path God has us on.

In August, we voted in three new members to the board. Please welcome Bernie Zarda, Rob Lundquist, and Cary Shiner. Each of these gentlemen have had strong ties to our school, exhibit strong leadership, and have the passion and love to see our school grow and succeed in the coming years. Below you will see a full list of the current board members and their family bios. Please feel free to take a moment to welcome them when you see them at upcoming events!

During this onboarding timeframe of new board members, we are also developing great training materials to ensure we are serving God, and you, to the best of our ability. In October, we will be spending a day together at our annual Fall retreat praying and casting vision for the future of our school. Please be praying that we seek Him in all we do, hear what He has for us, and discern His ultimate will. We are so excited that God has already answered faithfully to many prayers over this last year and continues to show us His favor and grace to us.

As we look to the future, I ask that you not only remember us in your prayers but continue to look for opportunities to share with your friends and families what Maranatha has to offer along with the ability to possibly serve in any capacity you can. Whether it's helping score or greet at a volleyball game or participating in our MAP and BOT programs, your help is certainly needed. Maranatha is not just a Pre-K through 12th grade school, but it's a community of believers who strives to live with character, wisdom, and a heart to serve. Let's lead by example and teach our students and the community what it looks like to be Godly Christians.

Lastly, I leave you with this great quote that Mrs. Fogh shared with the students during chapel and the board a few weeks ago; "Be Considerate, Lead by Example, Make Quality A Habit, Continue to Grow" – Lt. General Garrison H. Davidson.

Thank you for all you do.

David Sneider – Chairman

David, his wife Jennifer of 18 years, and daughter Sydney, have been a part of the Maranatha community for 12 years when Sydney entered Pre-Kindergarten. Sydney is in her Sophomore year and outside of sports injuries, she enjoys being a part of the tennis, cheerleading and soccer teams. Jennifer owns a recruiting firm specializing in advertising and marketing in the Midwest and David is an insurance agent with American Family Insurance. We have attended Foundry Church in Lenexa for the last eight years and love serving wherever we can help.

Blake Welch – Vice Chairman

Blake and his wife Stacey of 24 years, have three children: son Sam (2016 MCA graduate), and daughters Molly (2017 graduate of MCA) and Lucy (8th Grade) have been with the Maranatha family for 12 years. Stacey is a frequent substitute at MCA in addition to being a homemaker. Sam is a sophomore and Molly is a freshman at Baylor University. Sam and Molly were active with sports (Football, Baseball, Basketball and Tennis) and StuCo while at MCA. Lucy is an 8th grader with a love for gymnastics, swimming and hanging out with her friends. She plans to play tennis and basketball at MCA just like her Daddy ordered. Blake has served on the MCA board for 7 years and as Chairman for 5 of those years. He is also a Regional Sales Manager at AFLAC in their broker and large case sales division. The Welch's are members at Lenexa Baptist Church.

Jim Marmon – Treasurer

Jim, his wife Jeanne (1991 graduate of MCA) of 25 years, and their daughters Natalie and Alayna, have been a part of the Maranatha family for 13 years+ now. Natalie is a sophomore at Biola University in La Mirada, CA and Alayna is a senior at MCA. Both girls have been very active in sports like cross country and tennis as well as extracurricular activities like Choir and Drama. Jeanne has been a homemaker since the girls were born. Jim owned a trucking company for over 20 years until he sold the enterprise in 2015. Jim and his wife have attended Westside Family Church in Lenexa for 15 years and love to build friendships with many amazing people.

Bobbie O'Keith – Secretary

Bobbie O'Keith currently serves as a Board Member and as the Secretary for the last 3 years. Their family has been a part of MCA for over 9 years now. Her husband, Bob and she have 2 children that have attended MCA since Kindergarten. Faith, 13 (8th gr) and Joshua, 12 (7th gr). She works full-time as a Customer Experience Consultant and her husband is currently finishing up his last year of Seminary where he will earn his Masters in Divinity from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Gladstone, MO. They have been members of Lenexa Baptist Church for the last 4 years. They originally moved from the Chicagoland area 11 years ago to Shawnee to help in a church revitalization project.

Jaren Higginbotham

Jaren and Shelly have been a part of Maranatha since 1974, the year it first opened. Shelly was in kindergarten and Jaren was in first grade. Their three children attend Maranatha. Nicholas is a Sophomore, their daughter Reece is in 8th grade, and Blake is in 6th grade. All three children are active in sports. Nicholas has played football since the 7th grade and enjoys baseball. Reece excels at cross-country and track and enjoys volleyball and basketball. Blake is getting his feet wet this year as he tries cross-country and basketball for the first time. Jaren and Shelly are business owners and manufacture TributeStone, they are also founders of the Honor Campaign which honors our fallen heroes. They attend Cross Points Church and have been there for over 40 years.

Bernie Zarda

Married for 33 years to my wife Karen. I have four adult children all K through 12 graduates of Maranatha (Riley Dull, Andrew Zarda, Zachary Zarda, and Bethany Dequine). I have 5 grandchildren, two school age that attend Maranatha (Michael Dull 1st grade, Nathan Dull Kindergarten). I have been paying MCA tuition for family and scholarship students for 27 years consecutive years. I coached track at Maranatha for 17 years and served on the Board for two terms previously. I owned, operated, and sold two businesses: Integrity Correctional Center a private jail, and All Star Bottling. Currently, I serve on the Board of Cross First Bank, and Premium Waters, and serve as Senior VP of Supply Chain for Premium Waters.

Robert Lundquist

Robert and his wife, Lesli of 17 years, and daughters, Alexandria and Addison, began their journey with Maranatha Christian Academy (MCA) when their oldest made the leap to Kindergarten in 2008. Alexandria now begins the school year as a Freshman. She loves the Lord, has developed wonderful friendships, loves playing both MCA and Club volleyball, holds a StuCo position and can't wait to experience High School! Addison is entering 1st grade with a super big heart to learn and eyes wide open to live life with joy! In addition to being a mom, Lesli works part-time managing an online business. You will also find her cheering on the Eagles, volunteering as Room Parent, helping in the classroom and being available to lend a hand within MCA's "Maranatha Association of Parents (MAP)". Robert works for Stryker Corporation as a Regional Director for their Orthopedic Division selling implants used in joint replacement and trauma surgeries. Their family has attended Lenexa Baptist Church for 5+ years and plug-in through volunteering and Bible study.

Cary Shiner

Cary, his wife Tracy of 23 years have 3 children who have attended Maranatha for 12 years. CJ graduated Maranatha in 2016 and is attending Johnson County Community College. Savannah is a senior and Taylor is a sophomore. Our family enjoys running, camping and the outdoors. Tracy taught grade school Spanish for 10 years at Maranatha and currently own's and operates CST Sweets, a Toffee and Biscotti company. Cary is the COO with a local IT company TGS. We attend West Haven Baptist Church in Tonganoxie, Kansas. We have always loved and served our community and school.

David Sneider

MCA Board Chair

Phone: (913) 406-0477

Email: sneiderd@ma-kc.org

And He Himself gave... teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to **the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God**, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

Eph 4:12-13

