

The Expedition



Welcome Back Magellan!

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year! We've loved seeing all of these smiling Mariner faces gracing the Magellan halls once again. And to our newest Mariners in 3rd Grade: A very special *Welcome Aboard!* Our Mariners are off to a great start making new friends, reconnecting with old ones, getting to know new



classrooms, and diving into some exceptional learning experiences. We're also thrilled to welcome two terrific new staff members: 5th Grade ELA Teacher Connor Donovan and 8th Grade Math Teacher Jason Burman. The start of a new year is always filled with such excitement, and we're looking forward to another great year together here at Magellan!



Important Dates

Teacher Workday
SEPTEMBER 23

Picture Day
OCTOBER 1

Teacher Workday
OCTOBER 2

MaP Meeting
OCTOBER 7

Fall Break
OCTOBER 13-17

Teacher Workday
OCTOBER 20

Middle School Dance
OCTOBER 25

Basketball Tryouts
OCTOBER 27-29

Veteran's Day, No School
NOVEMBER 11

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

Jessica O'Donovan



Dear Mariner Families,

I am delighted to welcome our students and families as we set sail in the 2025-26 school year. We are already off to a fantastic start!

Our initial focus during the first several weeks of school has been building a strong community of learners and teaching students procedures and expectations. We refer to this approach as “slowing down to speed up.” By teaching norms and routines explicitly in the beginning of the year, the goal is to then transition students to following these routines independently and promoting a safe and productive learning environment. Thank you for your partnership in reinforcing these expectations both at school (while you are volunteering) and at home. We simply couldn't succeed without the many levels of support from our families.

We are excited to implement the **Positivity Project (P2)** once again for the 2025-26 school year to anchor our students in character development. MCS was founded on three core values: respect, responsibility and integrity. As we implement P2 this year, students will dive deeper into our three core Mariner values while we explore 24 different character strengths that help us develop positive relationships.

We encourage our Magellan families to take an active role in their own students' character development and join us in our P2 endeavor. Through weekly Morning Meeting lessons, MCS News highlights, afternoon announcements, and school-wide assemblies, our students will put positivity in action as they are exposed to a new character strength each week. You can help reinforce these lessons by tuning into our weekly character focus throughout the year and having follow-up conversations at home. Check out the P2 Family Resource Page at: <https://posproject.org/p2-for-families/>

Join me as we embark on our 2025-26 journey. Together, let's help our students stay anchored in character and be Mariner strong! I look forward to seeing you all on campus.

Warmest regards,

Jessica O'Donovan

Magellan Buddies

Magellan Buddies is a time-honored Mariner tradition. In 3rd grade, each Mariner is paired with a 6th grade buddy - and they will remain a pair until the older Mariner graduates and the younger is ready to transition to the big buddy role themselves. Buddies engage in a variety of activities together from scavenger hunts to off-campus outings. These relationships not only promote mentoring and friendships, but also bridge our elementary and middle schools together.



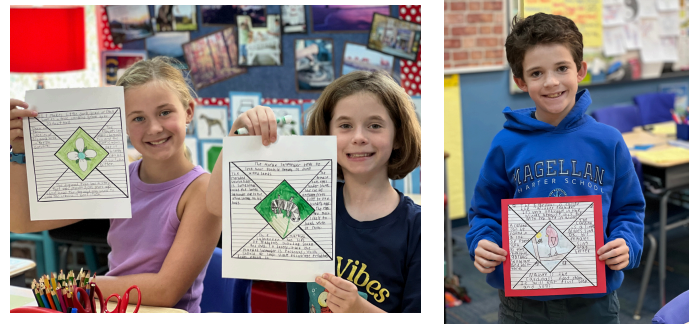
Innovative Curriculum - Experiential Learning Arts & Cultural Integration

INSIDE THE MAGELLAN CLASSROOM

In **3rd grade** ELA, students read the novel *Stone Fox*. As they worked on envisioning, students chose a favorite scene and created dioramas to bring their vision to life. Then they enjoyed a gallery walk to enjoy each other's creativity.



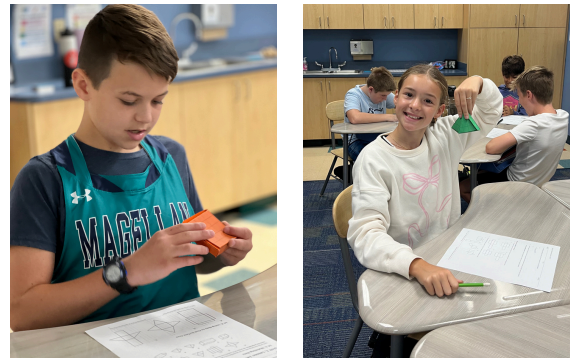
In **4th grade** Social Studies, students learn all about NC! First they researched our state symbols and why they represent us, creating a quilt to display their findings. Next they will explore NC's three regions: coastal plain, piedmont, and mountains!



Our **5th grade** scientists are continuing their work collecting data for the Lost Ladybug Project. This Citizen Science initiative allows students to help real life scientists with their research - it's educational and loads of fun!



In **6th grade** Math, students are studying geometry, exploring the surface area and volume of three-dimensional shapes, such as rectangular and triangular prisms and pyramids.



In **7th grade** science, students are studying cells, learning about abiotic and biotic objects and discussing the traits and needs of all living organisms. To better understand the parts of a cell, students created their own 3D models.



In **8th grade** ELA, students used a photograph and measuring tools to achieve an identifiable self portrait. This snapshot is used as students explore and discuss what happens to individuals when they seek to be part of a society.



6TH GRADE VOYAGE: DURANT NATURE PARK

Sixth grade kicked us off with the first voyage of the year, enjoying a beautiful day at Durant Nature Park. Students netted samples from a living ecosystem, played games to learn about changing habitats, and engaged in team building activities. Like any good Magellan voyage, the day concluded with lunch - a big cookout, compliments of some wonderful parent volunteers.



7TH GRADE VOYAGE: ESCAPE ROOM

Our seventh graders have also already “escaped” school for a voyage. They visited Nerds Escape Rooms in Downtown Raleigh. Students put their teamwork skills to the test as they attempted to solve puzzles, crack codes, and unlock hidden clues. We are happy to report that all students, teachers, and parents safely escaped!





THE
POSITIVITY
PROJECT

Congratulations to our P2 Award Recipients for the Following Character Strengths



Our first schoolwide assembly of the year kicked off The Positivity Project with a celebration of the *Other People Mindset*.

KINDESS	SELF CONTROL	CREATIVITY
Weston C. 3rd grade	Morgan A. 3rd grade	Michael K. 3rd grade
Ella K. 4th grade	Gibbs D. 4th grade	Gray H. 4th grade
Kennedy W. 5th grade	Hudson O. 5th grade	Camille W. 5th grade
Emma H. 6th grade	Zachary P. 6th grade	Marina G. 6th grade
London S. 7th grade	Jordan G. 7th grade	Luke W. 7th grade
Stephanie H. 8th grade	Margot S. 8th grade	Helena Q. 8th grade



IT'S UP TO US!

Annual Fundraiser

Please donate to support **BIG brains**,
SMALL classrooms, and **STRONG communities**!

WHY GIVE?



Voyages – hands on learning adventures beyond the classroom.



Teacher Appreciation – caring for those who care for our kids!



Art Integration – inspiring creativity and curricular connections.



Lower Student-Teacher Ratios – more personal attention for everyone.

Our 2025 goal is **\$85,000**
by October 10, 2025.

HOW MUCH SHOULD OUR FAMILY GIVE?

With about 400 students, an average of

\$250 per student gets us there!

EVERY GIFT OF EVERY SIZE MATTERS!

All gifts are confidential.

Please consider giving before October 10, 2025.

Scan and
give today!

