

# MADISON-RIDGELAND ACADEMY

## **Mission Statement**

Madison-Ridgeland Academy is a college-preparatory Christian school committed to educating each student's mind, body, and spirit.

## **Vision**

Madison-Ridgeland Academy is committed to excellence in teaching the mind, reaching the heart, and inspiring servant leaders who will impact the world for Jesus Christ.

## **Beliefs**

### *Mind*

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1. All students can learn provided they have the willingness and intellectual capacity to succeed in a college-preparatory curriculum.
2. Students need to develop not only an understanding of essential knowledge and skills, but also the capacity to reason, to solve problems and to produce quality work.
3. Students learn best when they are actively engaged in the learning process.
4. Every effort will be made to provide students with a variety of learning activities that engage the different sensory styles of learning.
5. The commitment to continuous improvement of student learning is expected of all administrators, teachers, students, patrons, and members of the community to enable students to become confident, self-directed, lifelong learners.
6. A safe and physically comfortable environment promotes student learning.

### *Body*

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7. Each student is a valued individual with unique physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs.
8. Extra-curricular activities provide positive opportunities for the individual to develop a sense of self and purpose.

### *Spirit*

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9. Student learning with a Christian foundation is a chief priority of the school.
10. A student's self-worth is enriched by positive relationships and mutual respect among and between student and staff.
11. Through community service, students can learn new skills, assume responsibilities, become aware of the needs of others, learn the importance of unselfish serving and giving, and understand the importance of being good stewards of the gifts and blessings that God has so graciously given us.

# MADISON-RIDGELAND ACADEMY

## Declaration of Faith

A Christian foundation has two cornerstones – orthodoxy and orthopraxy. Madison-Ridgeland Academy affirms and teaches both of these historic truths of the Christian tradition.

### **Orthodoxy** (*Right Belief*)

MRA affirms, teaches, and is ordered by the historic Christian faith as understood and taught through the universal creeds of the Christian church (Nicene and Apostles).

MRA affirms and teaches a God who is understood as triune, that is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three distinct persons, yet one in unity.

MRA affirms and teaches the birth, life and teachings, death, resurrection, and return of Jesus Christ and salvation that is assured through His sacrifice and resurrection.

MRA affirms and teaches the Holy Spirit as the indwelling presence of God active in the life of every Christian, and we affirm the Church universal, made up of all who believe upon the name of Jesus.

MRA affirms and teaches the Holy Scripture (the Old Testament and the New Testament) as the true, authoritative, and inspired Word of God which we believe and strive to obey.

### **Orthopraxy** (*Right Living*)

MRA affirms and teaches the biblical and historical teaching of the church regarding (but not limited to) issues related to life, marriage, human sexuality, and gender.

MRA believes in the sanctity of marriage and adheres to the traditional belief that marriage is defined as the unity of one man and one woman in holy matrimony, abiding in the Holy Spirit.

MRA affirms and teaches the biblical and historical understanding that a “man” is defined as a male person’s biological sex as objectively determined by anatomy and genetics at his time of birth.

MRA affirms and teaches the biblical and historical understanding that a “woman” is defined as a female person’s biological sex as objectively determined by anatomy and genetics at her time of birth.

MRA holds and applies these sincere religious beliefs and convictions in accordance with the historical understanding of the Holy Scripture and the Christian faith.

# PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

*A graduate of Madison-Ridgeland Academy will be ...*

## **Challenged by the Gospel**

Grounded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and its implications, with the tools to obtain spiritual direction and understanding.

## **A Lifelong Learner**

Academically prepared with the knowledge, skills, and habits of mind to embark upon and seek to continue a rigorous intellectual path while understanding the importance of developing the mind and creating a strong work ethic in career pursuits.

## **Well Balanced**

Developing a healthy, balanced lifestyle possessing a foundation of Godly character, independence, and self-awareness. Growing in disciplines of mind and body through the pursuit of excellence in academics, athletics, and/or arts.

## **Engaged and Persuasive**

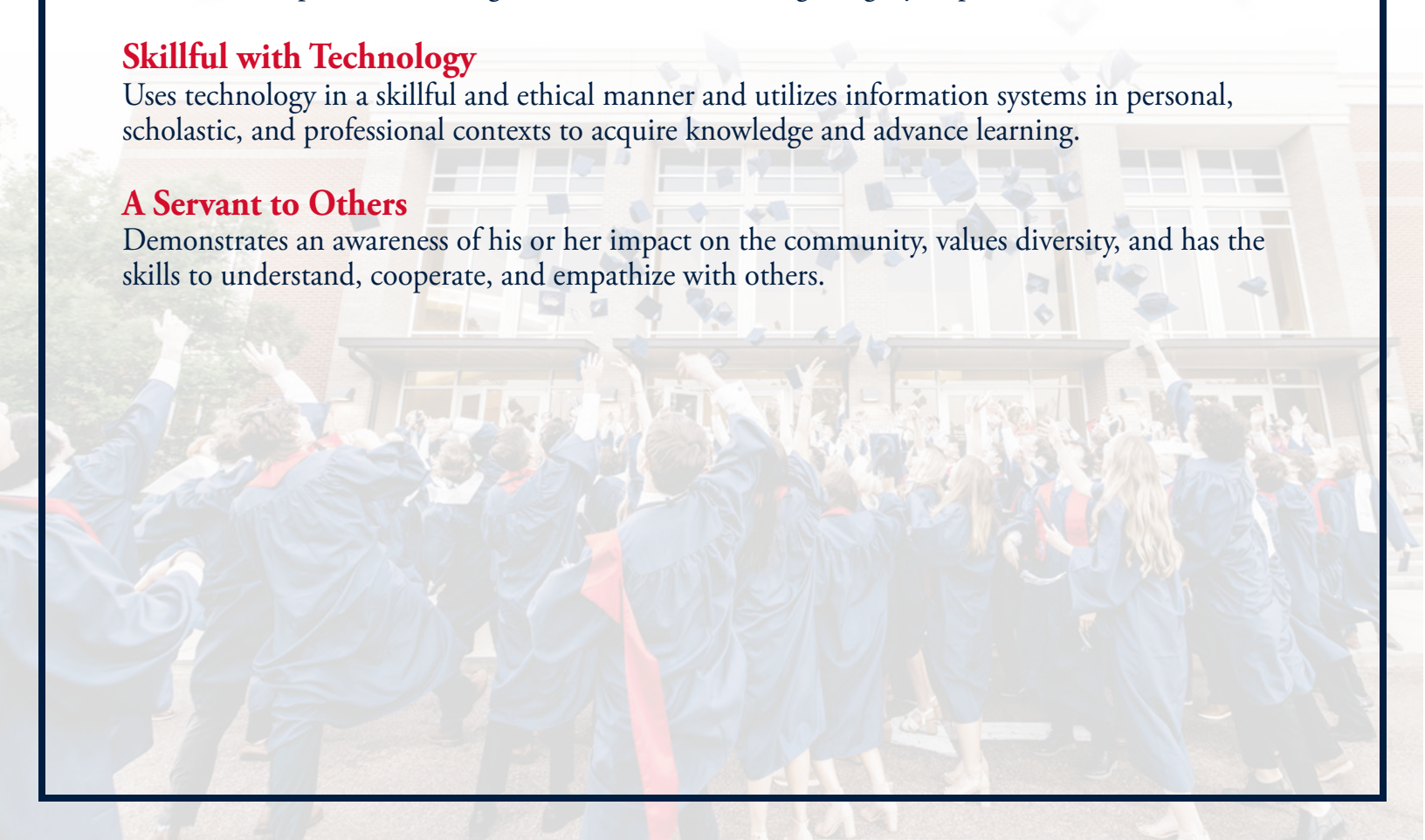
Participating effectively in a community of ideas as a listener and communicator - understanding, critiquing, and challenging worldviews and their implications - working productively with others of diverse viewpoints and backgrounds while maintaining integrity of personal beliefs.

## **Skillful with Technology**

Uses technology in a skillful and ethical manner and utilizes information systems in personal, scholastic, and professional contexts to acquire knowledge and advance learning.

## **A Servant to Others**

Demonstrates an awareness of his or her impact on the community, values diversity, and has the skills to understand, cooperate, and empathize with others.





# MADISON-RIDGELAND ACADEMY

## Characteristics of Professional Excellence

*A faculty member of Madison-Ridgeland Academy will ...*

### **Be Grounded in the Gospel**

An MRA teacher will be a committed believer grounded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and fully committed to the great commandment to “love God and your neighbor as yourself.” While modeling the Fruit of the Spirit, the teacher will aspire to be present and supportive in all interactions with the students to assist in pointing them to the Lord.

### **Be a Lifelong Learner**

An MRA teacher will remain engaged in constantly working to refine his or her practice through current educational research and professional development. Each teacher will maintain expert knowledge of the disciplines he or she teaches and will enthusiastically create new learning experiences to make the subject matter relevant and meaningful to all students.

### **Be Well Balanced**

Focused on the development of the mind, body and spirit, a teacher understands that taking an interest in the life of the student both inside and outside the classroom is an important responsibility essential to the success of the educational process. An MRA teacher is an energetic, passionate, and courageous leader who models empathy, grace, mercy, and Godly character.

### **Be an Effective Communicator**

An MRA teacher will develop meaningful relationships with students, colleagues, and parents so that there is open communication and problem solving that promotes an environment that enables learners to excel. Experiences and dialogue lead students to discover the interconnectedness of the world around them while openly communicating in a positive and encouraging way.

### **Be Student Centered**

The MRA teacher will be skilled in providing a joyful learning environment which encourages creativity and includes continuous, individualized instruction that combines teacher reinforcement and feedback in an effort to promote consistent performance at or near each student's capacity.

### **Be Skillful with Technology**

The MRA teacher will be knowledgeable in the ever changing world of technology with a willingness to integrate it in the approach to instruction. Each teacher will be open minded in collaborating with students, peer teachers, and administrators in the approach to the use of technology in the classroom.

### **Be a Servant to Others**

Each MRA teacher will demonstrate a servant's heart and exhibit an attitude which is hopeful, optimistic, and graceful in his or her relationships and interactions with peers, colleagues, students, and families. The teacher will consistently demonstrate a supportive, nurturing, mentoring, and empathetic mindset with respect to his or her professional and student relationships.

### **Be Collegial and Collaborative**

Eager to work together within a community of trust, we understand that we are stronger when working together than we would ever be on our own. An MRA teacher will strive to be a builder of meaningful relationships and will be engaging by making positive contributions as a professional with colleagues, students, parents, and administrators.

### **Be Committed to High Expectations**

The MRA teacher establishes high expectations for every student and believes that all students can learn. Clear standards of behavior and academic performance are provided as each teacher motivates and inspires all students to achieve these standards. In the classroom, setbacks are understood as part of the learning process, not as a road-block to future success.

### **Be Professional**

Each teacher will model professional excellence through diligence, organization, communication, and consistency in putting forth his or her best effort as an ambassador for the school at all times.

# MADISON-RIDGELAND ACADEMY

## Culture of MRA

### **We are a family**

MRA embodies everything that defines a family: we are supportive, loving, caring, encouraging, and welcoming. We are a community of students, parents, faculty, staff, administrators, and alumni who value this family atmosphere and make maintaining it a priority especially as we continue to grow.

### **We sow seeds of faith**

MRA is a Christian school with a multi-denominational student body. The choice to have a Christ-centered focus reflects our desire to provide not just academic growth, but spiritual growth as well.

### **We have a shared sense of what is important**

We have a mission and vision accompanied by a system of beliefs, values, and goals that we communicate by actions and words.

### **We are welcoming**

MRA values and nurtures relationships with our students and families. We actively promote participation and engagement and offer various opportunities for involvement by all.

### **We have a positive atmosphere**

MRA has an affirming, student-centered, innovative learning environment where each child is valued for his or her talents and gifts.

### **We are progressive**

MRA is visionary and innovative in adapting to today's education and technology.

### **We are diligent**

We value hard work, effort, productivity, and improvement in our students, faculty, staff and administration.

### **We have high expectations with accountability**

We set lofty goals in academics, character, and behavior and hold our students, faculty, staff and administrators accountable for the results.



MADISON-RIDGELAND ACADEMY

*Patriot*  
VALUES

RESPECT

*Respect for God, self, fellowman, and country*

RESPONSIBILITY

*Responsibility for one's self*

HONOR

*Integrity, honesty, and fairness to all*

COMPASSION

*Compassion demonstrated by service to others*

EXCELLENCE

*Commitment to excellence in mind, body, and spirit*