

January 25, 2017

Dear MRA Parents,

This year our school-wide service project is with the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions. The Mississippi Chapter grants between 80-100 wishes per year. The smile on a young face and the look of wonder in a child's eyes is what Make-A-Wish is all about. We are very excited to be partnering again with this wonderful organization!

Mississippi's Make-A-Wish Chapter was founded in 1984 in memory of a little girl who lived in Gulfport. After she was diagnosed with a terminal illness, a group of caring individuals raised funds to send her, along with her mother and grandmother, to Disney World. This family was so moved by the generosity of those who contributed their time and money, that they felt compelled to reach out to other families facing similar circumstances. Through their efforts the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Mississippi became the thirty-sixth chapter chartered by the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America.

MRA has committed to granting the wishes of two children this year. In order to grant these wishes, we must raise \$13,000. Once this goal has been attained, the student body of Madison-Ridgeland Academy will have the privilege of hosting our Make-A-Wish families on our campus. It will be on this day that the child's wish will be formally granted with the participation of all our MRA students.

We have planned a "Walk for Wishes" that has been scheduled for Saturday, February 11, 2017. This event will take place on our campus on the Patriot Field track from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Each child will be asked to walk (K3-5th: one mile, 6th-12th: two miles) and has been challenged to collect pledges for each mile walked. In order to collect the necessary money for this worthwhile endeavor, we have challenged each child to collect a minimum of \$10 in pledges. The "Walk for Wishes" sponsor/pledge sheet is attached and we will be accepting pledges from Monday, February 6 through Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.

The schedule for walking on Saturday, February 11 will be as follows:

- 9:00 am – K3 – K5
- 10:00 am – Grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>
- 11:00 am – Grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

If you have children in multiple grades, you are welcome to all walk as a family.

In addition to this event, donations will be accepted through February 24, 2017. The Make-A-Wish Foundation of America is a 501(C)(3) tax-exempt organization, all contributions made to it are deductible for income tax purposes. Checks may be made directly to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and donations will be collected by each homeroom teacher in K3-5<sup>th</sup> grade and at student services in the middle and high school.

I continue to be overwhelmed by the generosity of the students and parents at Madison-Ridgeland Academy. I thank you ahead of time for your support in making this Make-A-Wish experience successful. I look forward to the joy and blessings all of us will receive on the day that a child's wish will be granted.

If you have any questions about this event, please do not hesitate to call me at the school office.

Sincerely,

Greg Self  
Principal