

# Maplewood Today

A PUBLICATION KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT MAPLEWOOD ACADEMY SPRING 2022



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# From the Principal



Greetings to the extended Maplewood Family!

The Bible verse that I have been contemplating comes from 2 Chronicles 15:7: "But you, take courage! Do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded." Here at Maplewood Academy, we are blessed to work with God's children every day and witness His workings every day. The 2021-2022 school year would be accurately described as "fully involving." Time has flown by; only when seeing how many programs and events have come and passed can one fully grasp that the school year is fast approaching its conclusion. Soon spring will be here, and the class of 2022 will be preparing for concluding their time at Maplewood, leaving us with a sense of empty nest syndrome. Through the efforts of MWA faculty, alumni, families, and the constituency, we all play a crucial role in carrying out our mission of developing or maintaining a saving relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This semester we are pleased to announce the additions to our faculty team, Sherri McDonald and Benjamin Cummings. Sherri is our new head dean, for which we are very thankful that we were able to find one in the middle of the school year when the position opened unexpectedly. She has been a fantastic addition to our team, and the girls in the dormitory benefit from having her kind and stable presence. Her unique background experiences in working with various young people are just what our dormitory needed. Praise God for His mercies and for looking out for His school.

Here in Minnesota, Maplewood has been extremely blessed with the generosity

of its alumni and other constituents. Each month we receive donations that make a world of difference. We have students at Maplewood that would not be here if it were not for those who are amazing stewards of the gifts that God has provided them. I see God's hand in action as people have given towards the new cafeteria building project, too. We are incredibly thankful for all those who have donated so generously. But, we are in a time crunch. The project requires an additional \$700,000 to move our building project this spring. If we need to delay the project by three months, the price tag will increase by another \$90,000 from the recent estimates. We must start in June of 2022. We are calling on all Minnesota Conference members and MWA constituents to prayerfully give what is within their means to provide. Even if each Minnesota church member were to give \$100 each, that would practically cover the rest of the required funds for the new cafeteria. To give, please visit our website or scan the QR code above to help make this much-needed facility a reality for not just the Maplewood students but the entire Minnesota Conference. We need your help now to get approval to initiate getting the whole process moving in April of 2022.

God Bless!  
Jeremy Everhart  
Principal of Maplewood Academy

See "Capital Campaign"  
[maplewoodacademy.org/donate](http://maplewoodacademy.org/donate)

# Music Fest

BY ALLIYAH ORTIZANO '25

& MADI HOFFER '25

Wednesday afternoon after a 6-hour drive with 6 people in a MWA van, we arrived on the campus of Union College, Lincoln, Nebraska. It was a little weird to be in a place so cold and windy without any snow like we are used to in Minnesota. After settling into our dorms, we ate supper then had a two hour rehearsal right after. We were all pretty nervous and worried about making friends and such, but everyone was pretty friendly, including the music directors who were also very kind and helpful, and they were willing to help people individually with things they were struggling with. Each day was packed with rehearsals and sectionals. We only were given breaks for lunch and supper, and a few ten minute breaks here and there. Friday, though, we had the afternoon off and went to an ice cream/donut shop for a small treat. Vespers that night was amazing! The individual groups from other schools played beautifully and there were many people that we talked to and bonded with, who came from different places and backgrounds. We also talked with a few Maplewood Alumni! The experience was very incredible, and our hard work and perseverance was well rewarded. There were

a few mistakes here and there, but after long countless rehearsals, we finally put on the concert all this work was leading up to. The conductors did a fabulous job and so did the solo competition winners. The concert went very well; however, Madi's arms were sore after the concert, especially from this one piece, "Orion," where she had to hold up the crash cymbals the entire time. I'm sure that Sami and Alliyah were both exhausted from keeping their clarinet and flute up the entire concert, too. Moises' fingers must have hurt from playing his violin, as well. After the concert, we hung out on campus for a while, then headed to our dorms to pack for the drive back the next day. Our trip to Minnesota was relaxing, since we were all pretty exhausted from the previous days of hard work. It was a very fun trip overall. We learned that a lot of hard work and long days pay off and feel good when the task is finished. It was great playing music with people who are similar to you, and God gave us this opportunity to represent our school and be a part

of something bigger, a huge group of people our age giving praise back to God through instruments.



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# TOURNAMENT '22



Some of my favorite memories were when we were cheering the girls' team and the opposing team (Madison) was also cheering and we had this back and forth thing going on. Another one was our last game against Arkansas: we were playing for first place in the Clocktower Division and I remember the competitive atmosphere, which made our team more excited to play. The game started out well, and we were even doing well until the end, but Andrew and I had fouled in the last couple of minutes of the game. It was frustrating that we couldn't be on the court to help the team, but we believed in our teammates. Our captains, who are also seniors, were Archie Okemwa and Josh Kerongo. They helped the team come together as one. I always thought the job of the others, including myself, was to help them (Archie and Josh) score, but it was actually to create opportunities for everyone on the team to score. We learned a lot of things as a team and, with the help of our captains and coaches, we won first place.



We grew closer to each other and God throughout the whole tournament. The encouragement from other teams made me realize that, although it was a competitive tournament and we all came from different states, we all had one thing in common, our love For Jesus Christ, our Savior.

The 2022 basketball tournament was really fun despite the many challenges we faced due to COVID 19. We did our best to protect ourselves and others to gain the full tournament experience at Union, however. Many schools came from around the U.S. to participate in this tournament, and around 21 students attending were from Maplewood Academy. There were 9 players on the boys' team—10 including the manager, and 10 players on the girls' team—11 including the manager. Throughout the tournament, we all had fun and got to share the experience as a school group. Michael Boit, one of the starters said, "The most fun part was the excitement of playing in the games and being able to grow closer as a team."

The biggest challenge was that we didn't practice as much as we would have liked to, but we tried our hardest to apply what we had learned from our coaches. During the tournament, there were games we lost and some we won, but we learned that, in the end, God is the real winner. Another challenge we faced as a team was the difference in experience on the court. Most of the team had newbies who had not played on a basketball team before, which proved to be difficult, because they didn't have the experience, but the coach gave everyone a chance to play during our games regardless.



# Operation Christmas Child

This November, Maplewood Academy once again participated in Operation Christmas Child (OCC), a ministry put together by Samaritan's Purse. Through this ministry, gifts packed in shoe boxes are delivered around the world to children in need. This last year 10.5 million shoe boxes were packed and shipped to countries across the globe!

Maplewood Academy is an OCC drop-off center for the city of Hutchinson and the surrounding area. This year we surpassed our goal of 2,000 boxes,



bringing in a total of 2,133. Each year, the National Honor Society plans a packing party for OCC. Annie Cobaxin, a senior at Maplewood, writes about her experience:

"Operation Christmas Child is one of my favorite activities here. It has always put things into perspective and reminded me that giving is the best part of Christmas. As we get our boxes we are able to go around the room and pick out toys, toiletries, school supplies, and stuffed animals. After we've filled our boxes to the max we head down to the letter-making area. Writing a letter for the child is the best part. We all get into it and put our best efforts into creating something that is fun and something that will hopefully bring a smile to their faces. At the end of the evening we gather all our boxes and pray over them together, pouring our love and God's love onto them."



## ALUMNI

Alumni Weekend 2022

Sept 22-25

Honor Classes

- 2017            1982
- 2012            1977
- 2007            1972
- 2002            1967
- 1997            1962
- 1992            1957
- 1987            1952

## Maplewood Academy Alumni Executive Board

- Kathy Parke            President (Class of '73)
- Niki Philcox            President-Elect (Class of '70)
- Doug Hardt            Board Member (Class of '90)
- Jodi Anderson            Board Member (Class of '92)
- Adrian Donovan            Board Member (Class of '94)
- Chad Bowers            Board Member (Class of '96)

*The Maplewood Academy Executive Board voted, in 2019, to replace the election process for new alumni board members with a new nomination process. Now, any person can nominate a Maplewood alumnus to be an alumni executive board member. If you would like to nominate an individual (including yourself) to be a Maplewood Alumni Executive Board member, please submit the person's name, contact information, and a brief sentence as to why he or she would be a positive contribution to the board. The current Executive Board will then select the newest board members from the nomination list prior to Alumni Weekend. Nominations can be sent to Maplewood Academy at [khoffer@maplewoodacademy.org](mailto:khoffer@maplewoodacademy.org), or, feel free to contact any of the board members.*

## Academic ROADSHOW

When Union came to Maplewood for the Union Academic Road Show, I was excited because, due to Covid, it had been on-line in the past and we couldn't fully engage ourselves with the presenters, so I was particularly excited for the in-person roadshow. There were different teachers and students from Union that helped us understand how to pay for college and what we need to start working hard for. They were very interactive and played games and did activities to keep us engaged. They talked to us one on one, and they were very friendly. I learned a lot about business and how to negotiate with people from different parts of the world. During this roadshow, I even learned what college would feel like, and the knowledge helped to open my eyes about working harder. This program was a fun experience for all of us and I would love to do it all over again.



## PRIVILEGED TO PERFORM

After months of diligent practice, we were privileged to perform the Christmas concert this past December. Covid threatened to cancel our hard work but we pulled a program together and invited parents and families. The bells, band, choraliers, and choir performed a variety of songs from the "Ukrainian Carol" to "Sleigh Ride." As the pianist for choir and choraliers, I enjoyed learning the pieces and practicing with everyone. One of my personal favorites was "Shine for You." This song showed the true spirit of Christmas and Christ's love for us. Music helps us all draw closer to God and, through helping one another, we are able to create lasting memories and grow our musical talents.

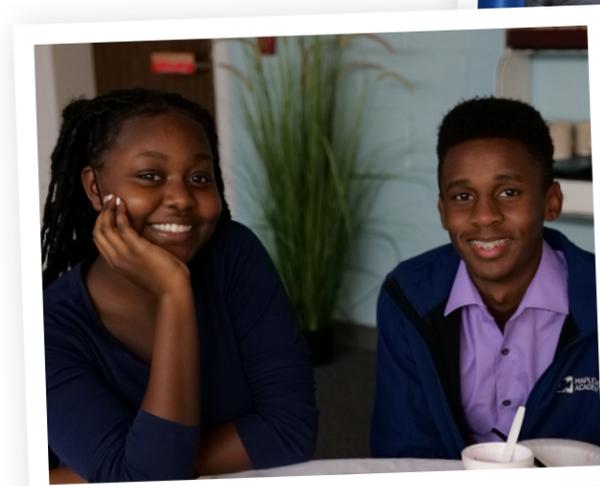


Think back to the most spiritual experience you've ever had. Maybe it was a special church service or vespers, or maybe you were worshipping with a small group of people or doing a Bible study. Whatever it may be, there is no doubt that when people come together to worship God with one accord, something amazing happens.

Maplewood Academy students recently had the opportunity to experience this unity during our student week of prayer. The week of January 17-22, students gathered in the chapel each evening to listen to the testimonies of their fellow peers. This year's speakers were Alex, Jair, Michael, Yurithsie, Asana, Shudear, Ehnay, Niki, Moises, and Mr. Garcia. The student body was blessed by their stories and encouragement.

At the end of the week, we had a special agape feast on Friday night to open the Sabbath. The environment in the cafe that night was lively and talkative. Discussions could be heard at every table as students and staff enjoyed each other's company. Once the supper was over, students headed to the chapel for vespers to wrap up the event.

After the week was over, students felt a special sense of bonding that had come by sharing stories, praying, and making music together. Overall, student week of prayer helped us grow closer to Christ and to each other.



# A SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE



# WISHLIST UPDATE & Thank You!

Simply put, Maplewood Academy is here today because alumni and donors believe in Christian education. Debt elimination moved MWA from a dark patch to being near the end of the tunnel. I didn't say we have exited the tunnel, because there is still work to do at MWA: for instance, revitalizing the campus for future generations and reaching out to prospective students so enrollment increases to a more desirable level. Our prayers are for Maplewood to revive and grow. It will take effort, money, and cooperation with God for MWA to grow and be the school He wants it to be. Despite the challenges, I believe MWA can reach those goals.

At the beginning of the year, we adjusted our budget for 70 students. Unfortunately, we finished the first semester just shy of the goal with 68 students. Despite that, Maplewood Academy finished up 2021 with an increase in total net assets of just over \$337,435 which was \$306,289 above budget. Last year, due to the debt load, MWA had total net assets of -\$108,218. Total revenues and support without donor restrictions came in at \$1.073 million. This is about \$157,000 shy of the budget (\$103,483 behind last year) due to the decrease in students, as well as a decrease in donations, primarily for the Maplewood Fund, which is about \$80,000 short of budget. The Maplewood Fund is used to support various areas of operation.

Work on phase 1 of the Capital Campaign, the new cafeteria, continues to move forward. There are refurbishing and repair needs that we have related to various buildings on campus. The cafeteria project, however, is needed the most. Someone observed recently that if each member of the Minnesota Conference gave \$100, we would essentially be done funding the cafeteria project. What if each member added \$10 or \$20 to the Maplewood fund? We have about 10,000 members in Minnesota, but what if the Minnesota members were joined by friends and alumni of Maplewood Academy?



I hate asking for money, so unless I'm required to, I won't be contacting you directly for money—unless you ask me to. I've seen first-hand the sentiments that can develop when people feel like they are only ever contacted for money. I had some doubts at first of how successful it would be, but I have come to appreciate the approach Pastor Kelly uses at the Village Church in Berrien Springs. He stands out because all the pastors I was acquainted with before attending that church would directly ask for money and watch what people gave for tithe. Pastor Kelly, however, doesn't ask individuals directly for money or monitor what people give, but he makes general appeals from the front as needed and lets God do the rest; it's a faith building experience for him. That church (with about 1,000 members on the books) went from not replacing all its light bulbs, to save money on bulbs and electricity, to doing a major renovation of the sanctuary, supporting projects in Brazil, Montana, and, more recently, Alaska while increasing its funding for its elementary school and other programs. It started with a focus on revival, then added foreign missions . . . and God provided. What you give is between you and God, but, from where I'm sitting, I have to say we really do need the cafeteria. Thank you for prayerfully considering Maplewood's needs.

### Worthy Student Fund Needs

To date, we have received just over \$162,000 towards the Worthy Student fund! The goal set at the beginning of the year was \$180,000, and we are almost there! Thank you for your continued support, for helping provide the gift of a Christian education to the next generation.

### Wishlist Update & Thank you's

Thank you for the calculators, easels and tools from our Winter Newsletter wishlist.



### Wish List Items (Non-Amazon Items)

#### Biology Department

Biology Microscope: [www.discover-echo.com/quote/r4](http://www.discover-echo.com/quote/r4)

*Requested items (as a group):*

- A Revolve | R4 Microscope
- Lense: 10x Plan Achromat Phase, NA 0.25 WD 10.0mm
- Condenser: ELWD Universal Condenser, NA 0.30 WD 73mm
- Stage Insert: Universal Insert
- Software: Z-Stack software module for Revolve R4

#### Music Department

- Chimes—3 Octaves, \$5,015
- New or well maintained concert piano, (approx. \$100,000)

#### English & History Textbooks

To ensure MWA's academics remain solid, a systematic, scheduled approach to textbook purchases was instituted. In line with that, our English and history departments are interested in new textbooks, sooner rather than later. The estimated amount we are seeking to raise is \$6000 for each department to acquire new textbooks.

#### Acrylic Paint & Paint Brushes for Art

To update and expand our art supplies we want to update a portion of the paint and brushes. We are estimating around \$500 for these updates.

#### Commercial Freeze Dryer for Cafeteria

Our resourceful café director is looking to add a commercial grade freeze dryer to the café, please call for additional details.

#### Amazon Wishlist

The Amazon list is updated about once a month and contains items that can be found on Amazon. Check back often!





## Michelle Morara

My name is Michelle Morara, and I am a junior at Maplewood Academy. I started attending Maplewood in January of my sophomore year, and, when I came to the school, I did not like it at all. Coming from public school, it took some time for me to get adjusted to my new life.

I remember all the girls being so friendly on my first day, though. Even after I went straight to my room, they would come to knock and ask if I wanted to go hang out with them.

For all this time I've been at Maplewood, my spiritual growth has been indescribable. Before I came here, I wasn't very interested in learning about God that often. Looking back, however, I feel like my mom made the right decision sending me here. I've learned a lot about Christ and what it means to forgive or be forgiven. My mental and spiritual health has most definitely become better, and I'm happy in the direction I'm heading.

I would not be who I am today without Christ working through my parents, the staff, and the students at Maplewood to help me become my best self. One key thing I love here is the fact that we pray at the beginning of every class. This made me become a prayerful person and made me realize I can cast all my anxieties and problems on Christ, Who is there with us all the time and wants us to go running to Him and stay by His side at all times.



Mr. Everhart, the principal, helped me a lot to be who I am now. He nurtured and structured me to do good and be good even through the hardest times. One thing about Mr. Everhart is that he's a good listener. He helped me navigate through situations when I felt like I couldn't get past them. In general, all of the

staff members have helped and continue to make this school a good learning environment.

One of the classes I love here at Maplewood is Bible class. Not only is it a good class that teaches us about the love of God, but the teacher herself makes me love the class. Mrs. Linda Vigil is the Bible teacher, and she is the kindest, sweetest, most patient and God-loving and understanding woman I've ever met. Her character makes me think about myself and how I treat other people. It's almost like I receive conviction through her character. Every day that passes, I see the glory of God shining through her.

If I had never come to Maplewood, I wouldn't be the same person I am today. I might not be the smartest, best, or most perfect person, but I know I have experienced immense personal growth ever since I arrived at this school.

## Graduation 2022

Greetings from the Senior class! Graduation this year will be held on May 22, 2022. There will be some fun and new changes to this year's graduation program. One of the major changes to our graduation program will be that all students will still be on campus. We aim to get our whole school involved in that special weekend. If you are a parent, please be on the lookout for more information regarding the schedule.