

Marietta Center for Advanced Academics
Partners in Education



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Introduction

The quality of a community is defined by the strength and success of its public schools. In Marietta City Schools, the partnerships formed with businesses and organizations help mold the future by creating lasting relationships.

At Marietta Center for Advanced Academics (MCAA), we pride ourselves in partnering with businesses and organizations that give our students real-world, intentional examples of how their STE(A)M education can lead to a variety of acquired skill and professions. We greatly appreciate and respect partnerships with businesses that also supports MCAA through staff appreciation and PTSA events.

In order to enhance the quality of education, overcome obstacles such as budget limitations, recognize the benefits to our school's STE(A)M program, and show our staff appreciation, businesses and organizations can partner with MCAA.

This handbook was designed as a guide to effectively establish and maintain school-community partnerships.

Marietta Center for Advanced Academics

Marietta Center for Advanced Academics (MCAA) is a magnet school within the Marietta City Schools system. It serves 312 students in grades 3-5. The schedule for MCAA students involves daily STE(A)M lessons and use of the Engineering Design Process.

MCAA prides itself in being a model STE(A)M school in the nation. STEAM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. STEAM education combines these disciplines in an integrated, problem-based approach to teaching and learning with an emphasis on critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Simply put, STEAM is an innovative way of teaching that allows students to show what they know in a variety of ways. A STEAM education will help students become problem solvers, innovators, communicators, and logical thinkers.

Using the Engineering Design Process, students experience a variety of design briefs that are called “challenges”. During the process, students define the problem, conduct background research, imagine, plan, create, test, improve, and share solutions to real-world problems.

Vision, Mission, Values

The VISION of MCAA is to be an innovative model of STE(A)M education.

Our MISSION is to provide all students a safe and positive culture where students apply collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity as members of a diverse learning community.

At MCAA we VALUE: Communication and collaboration with all stakeholders; a safe environment that is engaging and challenging; a positive culture that supports and affirms our diverse community; unique and innovative learning opportunities; and being ready, responsible, and respectful.

MCAA Program Benefits

To the School:

- Assist in meeting school needs in STE(A)M education beyond available resources and in light of budget constraints;
- Collaborate with the community to accomplish STE(A)M re-certification and School Improvement Plan goals;
- Add business expertise and technical support, providing a more complete education, and;
- Show MCAA staff appreciation.

To the Business/Organization:

- Give awareness of present and future job needs;
- Understand the quality and needs of the public school system, whose success is vital to the community's well-being;
- Build support for schools among employees;
- Be recognized by signage or marketing through school social media and newsletters, and;
- Donations considered charitable contributions.

To the Students/Teachers:

- Associate with successful role models and mentors from the community;
- Increase awareness and motivation for STE(A)M-specific professions;
- Show real-world demonstrations of skills needed in the workforce, and;
- Receive additional resources not provided by the local budget.

Consideration Points

- Consider the number of employees who can participate, the amount of time that can be given, the resources your organization has to offer, and the interest level of employees.

How Partnerships are Formed

1. An MCAA staff member or parent/community member contacts a business or organization sharing a desire to work with them for STE(A)M initiatives and staff appreciation.
2. MCAA Principal and or appointee provides the business/organization with a description of content/curriculum and a contact (teacher) with whom to communicate directly.
 - **Note: Partners must commit to at least one annual activity.**
3. If the business/organization and the school believe the partnership is mutually beneficial, the Partnership Plan is completed (see page 5).
4. The signing of the agreement will be highlighted and celebrated by the school during a common meeting and recognized through social media and school communication outlets.

Partners in Education Plan

Partners in Education is an independent effort of the Marietta Center for Advanced Academics to match businesses and organizations at the local level. The mission of MCAA Partnerships is to enrich the learning experience of MCAA students to help them develop strong STE(A)M-focused academic and work-force skills and celebrate the staff at MCAA.

I. Partner's Contact Information

Business/Organization Name: _____

Contact Name: _____ **Title:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Type of Business: _____ **Website/Twitter:** _____

II. Partnership Plan

To be completed collaboratively by the partner and school representative, the partnership plan should highlight the most significant activity planned as a result of the partnership. This document is a starting point for planning activities and should not limit the activities of the partnership. Both parties should be aware that additional needs may arise. The partnership is a one-year agreement and should be renewed annually.

Grade Level(s):
Curriculum Connection(s):
Activities Planned:
Date(s):

Best Practices

- Identify and understand the difference between business and educational institutions and the variances in cultures;
- Understand the true purpose of your involvement with one another: To enhance the STE(A)M education of students and celebrate staff;
- Talk openly about what you can and cannot do for the school. Include financial expectations and time commitments;
- Determine the best way to communicate the partnership to the community, parents, and school system, and;
- Stay in touch! Communication should be clear and consistent based on the time commitments determined.

Notes:

Events at MCAA

Homecoming Float (10/4-10/15) – Event on 10/15

Need: Supplies and participation in building the float and, potentially, driving it.

Fall Festival (10/22)

Need: Supplies/items for the Fall Festival (sell items if coordinated with PTSA).

Conference Week Treats or Lunch for Staff (10/25-10/29)

Need: Treats and/or lunch for staff.

Turkey Trot (11/19)

Need: Support and water during the event.

Spring Dance (3/4)

Need: Items and food to support the PTSA event.

Spring Testing Days (4/26-5/5)

Need: Fun treats for students, water and snacks for students, lunch for teachers.

Guest Speaking during STE(A)M Challenges (Dates TBD and topics below):

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Grade 3	STEM Rocks, Soils	STEAM Exploration	STEM Plants/Animals of GA Conservation & Pollution	STEAM Citizenship Economics
Grade 4	STEM Weather	STEAM Challenges of a New Nation	STEM Force & Motion Simple Machines	STEAM Civil War Reconstruction
Grade 5	STEAM Turn of the Century Transportation	STEM Cells & Microorganisms	STEAM WWII United Nations	STEM Physical & Chemical Changes