



2018-2019 Annual Report – Academic Highlights

Standardized Tests

CLT

Mars Hill Academy was ranked the top performing high school in the country based on student performance on the **Classic Learning Test**, a college entrance exam competitor to the ACT and SAT. Out of a pool of 30,000 students tested from over 1,200 schools, Mars Hill Academy is ranked **first in the nation** based on test data from the Classes of 2018, 2019, and 2020.

PSAT

Each year the PSAT test is taken by 1.5 million juniors, among whom only 3-4% qualify for a **National Merit Scholar Award**. Of 133 Mars Hill Academy graduates, 26 of them (20%) have earned National Merit Commended, Semi-Finalist, or Finalist status.

SAT and ACT

Mars Hill Academy students take these college entrance tests during 11th grade or early 12th grade. The median SAT and ACT scores and percentiles for the Class of 2019, as well as the national average and scores for all previous MHA graduating classes, are shown below:

SAT

	Critical Reading & Writing	Math	Composite
National Avg.	536	531	1068
MHA 2003-18	671	642	1313
Class of 2018	686 (95%)	672 (8390%)	1358 (93%)

ACT

	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
National Avg.	20	21	21	21	21
MHA 2003-18	30	28	30	27	29
Class of 2018	32 (93%)	28 (86%)	31 (89%)	26 (83%)	29 (91%)

Subject-Specific Achievements

Each year the **National Latin Exam** is taken by approximately 150,000 students, most of whom are in high school. This year Mars Hill Academy 6th through 9th grade Latin students completed the Latin I, Latin II, Latin III, and Poetry IV versions of the test. Twenty-nine MHA students received top honors: 18 earned "Gold" *Summa Cum Laude* honors, and 11 earned the "Silver" *Maxima Cum Laude* award. Eighteen 5th grade students were honored for their achievement on the Introduction to Latin Exam.

Our 9th and 10th grade Greek students participated in the ACL/NJCL **National Greek Exam**. Greek is offered to MHA students beginning in ninth grade. All eight MHA students received Merit ribbons including two perfect scores.

This year our 8th-12th grade Spanish students took the **National Spanish Exam** with four earning a silver award, and five earning bronze. Spanish is offered to MHA students beginning in the eighth grade. This exam, taken by more than 150,000 students, measures performance (interpretive communication) and achievement of students who are studying Spanish as a second language.

Several Mars Hill Academy students opted to take **Advanced Placement (AP) Exams** in Calculus and Latin. Scores for AP exams are converted to a grade of 1- 5, with 3 considered passing and college credit typically awarded for scores of 4-5. MHA students received scores of 4 or 5 on 5 of their exams (83%).

Sixteen Mars Hill Academy students in grades 1-8 won top honors in their classroom competitions for MHA's 15th Annual **Laurel Wreath recitation competition**. Reciting memorized literary selections, poetry, and Scripture, students are judged in the areas of expression, stage presence, and clarity of voice. First place winners of each class receive the honor of presenting at the awards ceremony. The laurel wreath was a symbol of honor and excellence in ancient Greece. The greenery was worn by victors in battle, champions on the athletic field, and 'heroes of the spoken word.'

MHA hosted the second annual **Highlander Spelling Bee** on January 22, including students in grades 1-8 from schools in Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia. Students participated in January classroom bees with the first and second place finishers in each classroom moving on to the Highlander Bee. MHA students won the top three places in the Highlander Bee. Eighth grader Caleb White represented MHA at the Scrips Howard Regional Bee.

At every grade level each year, MHA Grammar School students memorize sections of the Westminster Shorter Catechism and Proverbs catechism to assist them with a summary of core beliefs and equip them to be better able to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Students participate in annual **Catechism Bees** by first passing a written examination to demonstrate broad knowledge of the answers to the Westminster Shorter Catechism and Proverbs questions. They then compete in an oral question-and-answer competition to determine the Catechism Bee Champions.

During the third annual **Platt Rogers Spencer Penmanship Competition**, Mars Hill Academy Grammar School second and third grade students transcribed "The Swing" by Robert Louis Stevenson and students in grades 4-6 transcribed Hebrews 11:1-6. In honor of the originator of the popular Spencerian cursive method, students were judged on the quality of their penmanship.

Soli Deo Gloria, "To God alone the glory!"