



Greetings Board Members,

As we clear the final hurdles of the first semester of virtual instruction and approach Thanksgiving, close out Fall, and enter into the season of giving allow me to reflect on the many reasons we have to be thankful. I would like to begin by showing my gratitude for the many pillars of the school community which encompasses the school administrators, teachers, students, and parents. Our school community possesses dedicated and hardworking students, faculty and staff, and parents who value education and support our school endeavors. Thank you for your ongoing support of our school, students, and programs. Our students continue to excel in so many areas due to your involvement and commitment to MASE. Even though the weather is changing, the culture and academics of MASE is staying rich and constant in this virtual setting. It takes teamwork to make education a success and the support that we receive from ALL EDUCATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS is essential for the continued growth of the school. Board members please continue to help us grow and be successful at MASE by being **ALL IN**.

As we continue to navigate this pandemic, we are overcoming every obstacle together as a school family. We understand that many of our families are battling fears and balancing responsibilities at work and home. The scholars are continuing to prosper and strive, as we prepare them for the next level whether that is graduation or passing to the next grade. Our school has reached historic heights even through the pandemic. We are currently fully staffed with highly qualified teachers. Our enrollment has the capacity of 600 students. The faculty and staff are motivated and eager to remain consistent in accomplishing the goals set forth this year. Despite the many uncertainties of this pandemic, one thing that remains true and constant is the commitment of our school community. I anticipate the same enthusiasm in the second semester. MASE's initiative is to "Raise the BAR" regarding our expectations for student achievement. 'Raising the BAR' encompasses sharing common beliefs, having an "All-in" spirit, and being resilient in our daily practices. We must believe that all children deserve the right to an excellent and effective education. This year is even more important, as we refocus on raising the bar in "Academic Press." which consists of new Advanced Placement courses such as Composition/Language, Biology, U.S. History, and Computer Science. Also, in "Student Care" which allows us to connect with students not just academically but personally to provide them with well-rounded support. We will continue to implement our research-based, strategic plan to increase staff-student engagement and student achievement. We will also continue to focus on state standards, the use of data to drive instruction, creating a culture of care, and providing consistent implementation of the curriculum in a rigorous manner.

In terms of academics, we have our first quarter benchmark data from EDmentum. The data does not show anything that we did not expect. The administration team is confident that we are on track to meet our assessment goals. The purpose of benchmark assessments is to identify where students are with respect to mastery of Tennessee State Standards. The goal of benchmarking is to identify students' academic strengths and weaknesses and use that information to guide future instruction and support success on later summative and high-stakes tests. Benchmark assessments will cover all the standards that will be taught for the year. We understand that all the standards have not been taught. The benchmark is purely for gauging how well our students will do on the end of the year assessments.

At our board meeting, I would like to review the following:

- Progress of 2020-21 goals
- Review of academic data (Quarter 1)
- ACT Data
- Re-Entry Plan
- 2019-20 Annual Report
- Feed Wells (school food program)

Please take time to browse the attached documents. I am looking forward to sharing the material at our board meeting. As always, our goal is to encourage an environment where the scholars **Best Is the Standard!** We need your continuous support in our students' education. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

Rodrick Gaston
Executive Director, MASE Charter