



NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Information Meetings

**December 17, 2012 6:30p.m. Alicia Ashman
Library, 733 N. High Point Rd. Madison**

**January 7, 2013 6:30p.m. Verona Public Library,
500 Silent Street, Verona**

**January 22, 2013 6:30p.m. Middleton Public
Library, 7425 Hubbard Ave. Middleton**



MELA Information Sessions Open to All

With a goal of 36-40 Freshman students for our first freshman class, MELA is working hard to get the word out. We have three remaining open information sessions on the calendar and are scheduling additional visits with middle

schools, churches and home school groups. Highlights of the evening include details about the academic program, unique features, school culture and co-curricular activities. Parents and middle school students are invited to

ask questions and meet community members working on this amazing school project.

Come hear about this remarkable high school and see if it is a good fit for your family!

Local Advisory Council Convenes in January!

Area experts will meet over the next year to provide feedback and input that will help us continue to move forward in serving our community.



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Center for Engagement Programming Highlights

The Center for Engagement (CFE) offers programming for kids ages 8-14, as well as training and programming for educators and subject-area specialists. Here are some interesting highlights from our first round of programs launched in summer 2012.

Not every first-year program aspires to a national collaboration...but we did! We partnered with Howtoons, working with their founders to offer the first pilot Howtoons camp in the country. Feedback from parents and students was overwhelmingly positive. The integrated themes of art, physics, engineering and fun had both teachers and students deeply engaged. The overarching theme of "learning from

failure" provided a playground for experimentation, innovation, and risk taking (and we have the stilts to prove it).

A collaboration with Expeditionary Learning master teacher, Sarah Henkel, from Harborside Academy in Kenosha impacted students and staff. Sarah's deep knowledge of how to connect hands-on experiences to meaningful learning targets informed the work of her colleagues and inspired kids to dive into ways they could use art as a vehicle for kindness in the community.

Summer of 2013 will bring more camps, additional programming and expanded age groups. Topics will be announced in January!

If there is an interdisciplinary topic you think would be great for a summer camp, please let us know. Some of our upcoming camp ideas were brought to us by community members like you!

**NEARLY 1 OF EVERY 3
SUMMER PARTICIPANTS
RECEIVED A HALF OR FULL
TUITION SCHOLARSHIP.**



FEEDBACK

"Perhaps the most valuable thing my son learned during [Howtoons] was the importance and value of failing. Most programs for children focus on the end goal of certain success. Howtoons taught my son the glory of learning how to learn. Mistakes are part of the path to success and each bump teaches something important."

HOWTOONS PARENT

"I really liked the way you taught science in a way that is fun for kids. My son really likes science but pretty much hates school. I wish his school taught in such a hands-on way...I think he would learn a lot more and also learn to think, not just memorize facts and figures!"

HOWTOONS PARENT

"[My child] talks often about guerilla, green and public art. She also has a different awareness of the kindness of others and believes she can impact our community by doing kind things."

STEALTH ART PARENT

"I loved the theme. The adult/student ratio and quality of teaching staff were wonderful. I loved that the kids were surrounded by positive messages. I also loved the range of activities."

STEALTH ART PARENT

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, UNIQUE?



Several aspects of our school design are "unique." Some are unique to Madison, some to Wisconsin, and some to the nation. Here's the "411" on one of our unique features, Makerspace.

Makerspace: There is currently a national initiative to bring Makerspace to high schools across the country by having a designated place in school where students

can go to innovate, design, build, iterate, analyze and share their ideas. We describe Makerspace to folks unfamiliar with the term as a collision of machine shop and art studio with engineering, media and computer labs. In some cases, these spaces are integrated into courses that include science, technology and/or engineering. Sounds great, right?! We are working on bringing Makerspace to MELA, which makes us **unique in Wisconsin**. To date, we are not aware of other Wisconsin schools participating in this initiative. **Nationally, we are unique** in that every student at MELA will have experience in Makerspace that is embedded throughout all four years of the curriculum. We have searched high and low, and still haven't found another school that includes these opportunities as part of their **core curriculum** for all students for four years. Makerspace will be an integral part of our ECS (engineering and computer science) curriculum, which connects to science, mathematics, social science, art/design, and English curriculum through semester-long integrated pursuits we call Expeditions. Makerspace will also be available to students for additional pursuits. We will encourage students to use the skills they are learning to pursue additional individual and group interests, because Makerspace is a great place to engage in projects related to music, technology, engineering, art, science, craft, and math. Future Center for Engagement enrichment programming will offer Makerspace experiences and programs for elementary and middle school age community members, too!

For more info on Madison's existing Makerspace for adults, take a look at Sector67.org.

Visit Us at Kids Expo!

Are you looking for a fun, educational, engaging experience for your child next summer? MELA and the Center for Engagement will have a table at this year's Kids Expo, March 16 & 17 at the Alliant Energy Center. While you're there to see kids performing and sharing their talents, stop by our booth! Grab a flyer for our summer 2013 line-up of fantastic camp programming, enjoy our gallery of photos and student creations, talk to summer staff, meet MELA co-founders and see updates on our high school development project!

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!

Where, Oh Where, Can We Find This Amazing Place?

Current office space for MELA folks includes any coffee shop in town with easy parking and great beverages. Center for Engagement programs are housed in existing schools, churches, etc. that are happy to welcome our programs and rent us space. We enjoy utilizing many different types of spaces in the Madison area.

That said, we are currently looking for a home. Our “go-to” phrase about the entire design process for the school continues to be “form follows function.” With this in mind, we are focused on finding a location that serves the needs of our students and staff as they engage in meaningful classroom work, as well as 1000+ hours of fieldwork in the community.

We will most likely lease space for the first two years, as we determine our rate of growth. If you know of a location that meets the needs of our “wish list” for space, included below, please let us know. We continue to actively visit sites and are happy to pursue any suggestions. You are even welcome to come with us!

Location “Wish List”

Proximity to Bike Path	Proximity to Capitol	Proximity to Lakes
5,000+ Square Feet	Outdoor Space Nearby	Proximity to University
Adequate Parking	Access to Bus Line	Air Conditioning for Summer Programs

Contact Us:

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