



MG21

Liberal Arts Charter School

“Choose your path. Know your path. Walk your path.”

New Student Orientation

MG21 Info

MG21 Staff

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Address: 5301 Monona Drive, Monona, WI **School Phone:** 608-316-1924

MG21 is a Charter School:

MG21 is an independent school within the Monona Grove School District that serves student grades 9-12. We are governed by the MG21 Governance Board and accountable to the Monona Grove School Board and Superintendent. Public charter schools are independent, tuition free public schools.

Governance Board

Denise Peterson (President)
Phil McDade (VP)
Michelle Bouffiou (Co-Secretary and Parent Rep.)
Nick Duschak (Alumni Rep)

Kris Halverson
Tom Stolper
Steve Halverson
Jessica Frain (MG21 Social Worker)

Cell Phones

MG21 is about education. We believe that cell phones in school can sometimes impede our ability to focus on learning. On the other hand they can be powerful tools for accessing information. As a 21st century school, we want students learn how to use technology in appropriate ways. Thus, while in class or seminars, students must refrain from personal texts/calls/etc. Students may use cell phones for personal use at lunch. Any student who violates this policy will receive a warning and then may have their cell phone confiscated. We ask for your support and cooperation in this matter.

School Hours/Schedule:

We start at 8:45am and end at 3:00 (M-TH). Doors lock at 9am. On Fridays, students are dismissed at 2:15pm for teacher planning time

Monday - Thursday	Fridays
8:45am - 9:00am: Arrival (Doors lock at 9am)	8:45-9:00 Arrival
9:00-9:30 Morning Meeting/Advisory	9:00-10:00 Town Hall Meeting
9:30-10:30: Academic Block 1	10:00 - 11:30 PBL/Presentations
10:30-11:30: Academic Block 2	11:30 - 12:15 LUNCH
11:30-12:15 LUNCH	12:15-1:00 ALEKS Math
12:15 -1:00:ALEKS Math M/W/F Independent Reading T/TH	1:00-2:00 Review/Revise, Community Activity OR Service project
1:00-2:00 PBL Block 3	2:00-2:15 All School Friday Clean
2:00-2:55 PBL Block 4	
2:55-3:00: All School Clean	

MG21 Attendance Policy You can't learn if you're not here. Each student should view his/her opportunity to attend MG21 as a privilege.

1. There are no excused or unexcused absences. An absence is just an absence.
2. Students are allowed **3 absences per quarter**.
3. Absences are calculated in the following way:
 - a. Absent during morning academic block = ½ Day Absence
 - b. Absent during afternoon academic block = ½ Day Absence
 - c. Absent from PBL Seminar on any given day = ½ Day Absence
4. If a class is missed, the student is responsible for contacting the teacher and making up any missed work or tasks.
5. Freshman and Sophomores must have a parent/guardian call the school if the student will be absent. Juniors and Seniors must personally **CALL** in to the school phone for an absence. The school number is 608-316-1924. **DO NOT TEXT.**
6. Students are expected to be on time. After 5 minutes, a student is tardy. If you are tardy, you will be expected to stay late that day and make up the tardy minutes before you leave. If you have an appointment that day, you should probably not be late to school so you can make your appointment on time. :)
7. If a student violates the attendance policy he/she will be placed on Attendance Contract and parents will be notified. Because a student who repeatedly violates our attendance policy is demonstrating the inability to move forward and take responsibility for their education and advantage of the opportunity to attend MG21, a student who violates this contract twice in a given year will face potential removal at the semester.
8. Additionally, students who violate the attendance contract will no longer have open campus for the remainder of the quarter in which they violated.

Behavioral Expectations

The Basics:

Be on time. Tardy in AM= make up tardy minutes at lunch. Tardy after lunch = make up minutes after school that day.

Be kind in your actions and your words.

Be professional. This is your work environment, act accordingly.

A student may face removal for the following reasons:

1. Academics: Academic Probation two trimesters in a row. *Is this the best placement, if you are not earning credit?*
2. Attendance: Violation of the MG21 Attendance Policy twice in a given year. *Is this the best placement?*
3. Community Membership: Student repeatedly demonstrates an inability to be a positive member of the MG21 community. *Is this the best placement?*
4. Alcohol and drug violations.
5. Harassment, bullying or physical fighting.
6. Weapons possession of any kind including all types of knives such as hunting knives, pocket knives.

Transportation

The district will provide bus transportation for all students coming in from Cottage Grove provided that parents complete a district transportation form. Students will be dropped off and picked up at MG21.

If students drive, they may park in the Nichols School parking lot. Students are expected to demonstrate maturity and responsibilities associated with this opportunity and conduct themselves accordingly.

MG21 Unifying Principle

To teach students to ask and answer the question “How do I want to live my life?”

The Path Metaphor: We are all walking a path.

What has your path looked like up to this point?

When people make a path, they must clear the area where they want the path to run.

Sometimes, you need to cut down stuff.

Sometimes, you need to re-direct your path around obstacles that cannot be removed.

What are some obstacles you have faced or have had to overcome along your path so far?

We begin walking a path when we are born.

Early on, adults, mostly, shape our path. We don't have much of a say in the matter.

As we age, we begin to make choices for ourselves as to the direction of the path we want to travel.

Some of our choices are unconscious. Some of our choices are deliberate.

Why have you chosen to make MG21 part of your path?

Our mission at MG21 is to help you figure out your path and provide you with the skills and tools you will need to walk your path both now, while in school, and when you graduate and go out into the world.

As you envision your path moving forward, what do you hope you will experience this year?

What do you hope your path will look like in five years?

MG21 is a Community

MG21 is a community and as a community you have a moral obligation to walk a path that is true for you and makes you happy and allow others to walk theirs.

What makes MG21 a community?

Members of a community have a moral obligation to one another.

What does this mean?

Moral?

Why is there an obligation? Where does it come from?

Moral obligation of teachers to students:

Moral obligation of students to teachers:

Moral obligation of students to students:

MG21 Philosophy

Our Unifying Principle:

To teach students to ask and answer the question: “How do I want to live my life?”

Our Mission: To provide a student centered educational community for independent learners which is designed to give students the skills they need to walk their path in life.

Our Student and School Goals:(Our Pillars)

1. **Educate the whole person:** To educate the whole person and help students learn and discover the path they are walking.
2. **Rigorous academic skills and social-emotional growth:** To foster students’ academic (writing, thinking, reading, math, discussion), 21st century skills, and social-emotional skills in order for them to be successful in school and after graduation
3. **Project based inquiry:** Facilitate authentic learning experiences anchored by student-generated projects.
4. **Build and connect with community:** To have students recognize their moral obligation to themselves, their peers and their community(school and larger).

Our Curriculum:

We enact these goals by creating a program with two distinct parts.

Our Academic Classes-**TIC** (Thematically Integrated Curriculum) are teacher directed and student centered. It is the academic classroom portion of the curriculum where students gain knowledge and expertise in the core subjects (language arts, art, mathematics, social science, science) .Students will understand the learning process of KB (knowledge base), UN (understanding) and MM (making meaning). KB → UN → MM

PBL (Project Based Learning) - students design, plan, investigate, research and present their own projects in response to an essential question, problem, or challenge.

Various types of PBL projects include student designed creative, inquiry, or acquisition projects, seminars led by experts and teacher written independent study projects. Rigorous projects are carefully planned, managed, and assessed to help students create high-quality, authentic products & presentations.

Our goal is to have you move forward from point “A” to point “B” on your educational path.

The MG21 educational process is a three-fold process:

The Process: KB → UN → MM

Expanding your knowledge base:

Gaining Understanding:

Making Meaning:

Active learning is YOUR response to education and how you make it relevant to your life and your path.

21st Century Skills aka the 5 C's

The overall goal is to tie the student's path and education to their ability to master the 21st century skills of:

- **Critical Thinking and Problem Solving**

Demonstrating understanding through inquiry, analysis, making connections and explaining relationships.

- **Collaboration**

The ability to work cooperatively; compromise, positive attitude, respect, for others, strong listening skills and conflict resolution.

- **Communication**

Strong written and oral communications skills including clear ideas and message, strong organization, strong word choice, use of proper grammar and spelling, clear voice.

- **Curiosity and Imagination**

A curiosity to learn about the topic being studied, a willingness to ask questions and to push beyond the basic requirements, be innovative, think outside the box, develop creative/new ideas and solutions, and try new things.

- **Commitment and Motivation**

The ability to take the necessary steps to fully realize project goals, stay on task, manage time, be actively involved, and the ability to overcome difficulties/challeng

Ten Big Ideas:

1. Power and Governance: *A hierarchy that controls through money, force etc.*

2. Scientific Reasoning: *Rational and objective inquiry and its products, using scientific reasoning to ask questions and examine cause and effect.*

3. Justice: *Morality, right and wrong, ethics, moral obligation.*

4. Distribution of Wealth: *Control of money and resources.*

5. Metaphysics/Religion /Spirituality: *Faith in a metaphysical reality.*

6. Self Awareness/ The Individual: *Know thyself, thy path and how to live, little self/Big Self.*

7. Beauty /Aesthetics: *Artistic expression and beauty.*

8. History: *Understanding the impact of events in the past.*

9. Community, Society and Culture: *A group of individuals who share a common space.*

10. Communication: *The exchange of words/ideas.*

MG21 PBL 101

What are you going to learn?

How are you going to learn it?

How will you show what you have learned?

PBL Projects should be:

- Rigorous and challenging
- Centered around an open ended essential question
- Focus around the 3 levels of KB → UN → MM
- Express your voice
- Include revision and reflection
- Have a specific audience

How many projects should I work on at one time?

You should have 2-3 projects you are working on. Some may be seminars, some may be individual, and some may be collaborations. YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST 1 INQUIRY PROJECT each quarter.

How do I get started?

1. Think-what do I want to know/learn AND how will this help me walk my path and live my life?
2. Select a topic.
3. Meet with your advisor to develop a central essential question or questions.
4. Decide what type of product will best allow you to answer your essential question. (speech, google pres, prezi, powerpoint, essay, interpretative dance, teach the teacher.....)
5. Complete the MG21 PBL Project Proposal with your advisor.
6. Contact an expert who may be able to help you.

What are essential questions and how do I write them?

Essential questions take time and practice.

- The question should be provocative to maintain your interest throughout the project.
- The question should be challenging, open-ended, and non-judgmental- i.e. the question cannot be answered by a quick and simple “yes” or “no” answer.
- The question probes a matter of considerable importance.
- Essential questions should be relevant and used in the daily world.
- Although easier to answer only one, some projects require multiple driving questions.
- Most often, questions need to be rewritten and revised.

Jargon Review:

KB → UN → MM

Essential Question