

# MOMENTUM

➤➤➤ 2020

Mounds Park Academy  
2015-2020 Strategic Plan

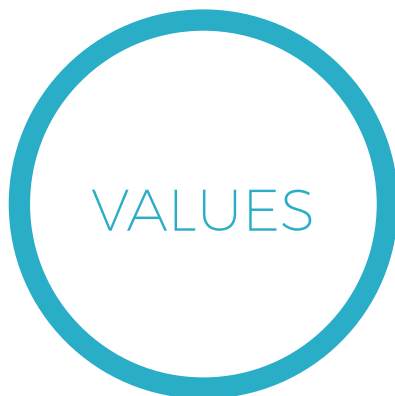




We teach students to think independently, communicate effectively, and act with respect and integrity in a diverse community that models intellectual ambition, global responsibility, and the joy of learning.



MPA is a school where innovative and passionate teaching develops critical thinking and deep content knowledge in students of all ages. With a focus on growing flexible and essential skills in collaboration, problem solving, and creativity, MPA's rigorous and broad curriculum cultivates students who are joyful and challenged.



- Students who are involved and engaged in their own education
- An atmosphere of open discourse and academic rigor
- A balance of academics, arts, and athletics
- Experiential learning led by exceptional faculty
- Mutual respect and meaningful service
- Technology as an integral part of learning
- A school-wide spirit of innovation

# PHILOSOPHY

Since its inception, MPA has been a school of innovative thinking, creativity, and collaboration. It was founded on principles of inclusion, academic rigor, lifelong and joyful learning, and a student-centered education that encompassed a wide range of disciplines and learning experiences. That essence, still thriving, is more important today than ever before. In an era when technology and globalization are rapidly growing, students need—more than ever—to learn how, not what, to think.

At MPA we know that the best education occurs when critical thinking and deep content knowledge are used as the base for growing flexible and essential skills in collaboration, problem solving, perseverance, and creativity. Committed to providing a wide range of challenging, experiential classes across disciplines, we help students find deep meaning and significance while making connections across multiple and seemingly disparate areas. Thoughtful and open-ended lessons challenge learners to think in new ways and develop persuasive and effective communication skills, while introduction and exposure to new medias and technology help them discriminate and filter information for importance and to critically assess and develop content.

But an MPA education goes far beyond the academic. With a focus on not just what we know, but who we are, character development—grounded in the teaching and modeling of equity and inclusion—reaches students of all divisions. Woven throughout the curriculum and embedded in co-curricular opportunities, character development is cultivated through collaborative tasks and perspective taking, creating an environment where students are respected, valued, and heard.

An MPA education is still what it has always been: experiential. Hands-on. Engaging of the “whole child.” Dynamic. And in this century, it is more relevant than ever. Here, we create classrooms that encourage students to be architects of their own learning, where they take risks, view the world through multiple lenses, utilize innovative tools in both expected and unexpected ways, and demonstrate knowledge across and between disciplines.

# PRIORITIES

- 1 Empower students to live, learn, and thrive in the 21st century globalized society
- 2 Inspire and affirm our exceptional faculty and staff
- 3 Enhance institutional capacity to ensure MPA's future

**“It is our responsibility to prepare our students for the unique demands of the 21st century so they have the tools to be successful in college, work, and life.”**

**- Renee Wright, Lower School Director**

# EMPOWER

**Empower students to live, learn, and thrive in the 21st century globalized society.**

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## GOALS:

- Clearly articulate MPA’s educational philosophy in light of the 21st century
- Explore creative and innovative modes of teaching and learning
- Reimagine and implement a progressive PreK-12 program that remains aligned with our mission and core values
- Deepen essential student support services



“Strong student-faculty relationships are at the heart of what makes MPA such a unique and powerful place, and it is imperative that the school continues to equip its employees with the tools they need to be innovative, inclusive, and passionate.”

- Erica Brewinski, Middle School Director

# INSPIRE

Inspire and affirm our exceptional faculty and staff.

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## GOALS:

- Deepen a climate of trust, appreciation, and joy that encourages teachers and staff to follow their passions and supports their drive for excellence
- Define and implement optimized total compensation and contemporize human resource processes and practices

“We—our students, our families, the whole of Minnesota, and beyond—need a place like MPA. MPA is more than just a school, it is a home, and a place where students learn how to think, not just what to think. Unlike any other institution, MPA introduces incredible thinkers into our world, and we must continue to grow.”

- Dr. Bill Hudson, Head of School

# ENHANCE

Enhance institutional capacity to ensure MPA's future.

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## GOALS:

- Strengthen financial stability
- Grow enrollment
- Creatively leverage MPA's resources
- Expand diversity throughout the MPA community, including leadership, governance, faculty, staff, and the student body

