



MARANATHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

BASKETBALL

MEDIA GUIDE



2024-25 MCA BASKETBALL



athletics.mcamustangs.org



PROTECTING MOMENTS LIKE THIS

From the field to the court and beyond, you've worked hard to make your dream a reality.
And we're behind you — cheering you on as you set your sights on the next big goal.

Let's talk about your future plans and how I can help protect them.



Sonny Kester, Agent

Sonny Kester Agency Inc

(763) 493-1011

skester@amfam.com

Certified Agency in

Customer Excellence



American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. & Its Operating Companies,
6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783 ©2016 008944 - Rev. 10/21 - 16980565

Your money needs a great coach, too.

Connect with us at M2 Financial Group! Let our seasoned, local, and reliable financial coaches be your trusty bench players, guiding you to success every step of the way. Just like in basketball, we'll work together to make every shot count and secure your financial victory!



Michael A. Matheson
CFP®, CFS, CRPC®, CDFA™
Founder and President

OUR MISSION
is to be our client's first call for financial
ADVICE, GUIDANCE and DIRECTION.

Each of these are defined by us as:

Advice

A path, developed together as a team, tailored to your specific goals and financial situation.

Guidance

We serve as your reliable guide throughout your financial voyage, utilizing life simplifying and straightforward tools to assist you in making well-informed financial decisions in all areas of your financial life.

Direction

We look forward to the future with optimism, motivation, and inspiration while maintaining a vigilant focus on the present. Our client connections are built for the long haul, and our direction evolves alongside your journey through life.

Reach out today for a commitment-free, 30 minute 'Ask Anything' session to discover how we can be a game changer for you and your family!

m²

the Michael Matheson Group

www.M2financialgroup.com

e: michaelm@m2financialgroup.com

p: 763.416.8206

11272 86th Avenue N. Suite B
Maple Grove, MN 55369



ACADEMY MARANATHA CHRISTIAN
Proud Sponsor

Securities and investment advisory services offered through Osaic Wealth, Inc. member FINRA/SIPC. Additional advisory services offered through Financial Dimensions Group, which is a Registered Investment Adviser not affiliated with Osaic Wealth, Inc. Osaic Wealth is separately owned and other entities and/or marketing names, products or services referenced here are independent of Osaic Wealth.

TABLE OF CONTENTS



MUSTANG ATHLETICS

About Maranatha 1

Welcome Message 3

Admissions 4

Athletics Administration 5

Skyline Conference Schools 7

Boys and Girls Basketball, and Cheerleading 8

Facilities 22

ABOUT MARANATHA



Maranatha Christian Academy endeavors to build unity by creating a kingdom culture that challenges and equips students, parents, and staff to respect and value all people according to God's Word. This is our Kingdom Culture Statement.

Our Culture in Action

Maranatha is not just a school, it's a community where each student and staff member contributes to what makes up the culture of the school. Together we commit to becoming:

- Spirit-Driven Leaders
- Impactful Innovators
- Critical Thinkers
- Kingdom Community Builders
- Courageous Change Agents
- Compassionate Problem Solvers

At Maranatha, we are going way beyond the ordinary measures of academic standards, delivering the kind of education that opens eyes and hearts for a lifetime. Here curiosity is applauded, discovery is championed, and ultimately world-influencers are shaped.

An Innovative Approach

There was a time when education was comfortable. Parents sent their kids on the bus in the morning and late afternoon they returned home smarter; at least that was the assumption. While other industries continued to be pushed to improve, many educational institutions were not challenging the norm. Maranatha Christian Academy noticed a change was needed, especially within the private Christian education space. So, it went to work seeking out what was successful in other industries and cutting-edge schools. Then, methodically began to incorporate these concepts, integrating them with our strong Christian worldview.



Today, Maranatha is an innovative and counter-cultural school, always looking for ways to improve teaching and learning. Industry-leading consultants continually work with teachers to incorporate innovation incubators. Using comprehensive design thinking cohorts, teachers learn changemaker processes of problem-solving, critical thinking, collaboration, and more. Then, creatively release them into their classroom.



MUSTANG ATHLETICS

A Christian Worldview

The world around is unsettled. Many schools and the curriculum they use to educate students are changing in an attempt to fit into societies' ever-shifting perspectives. At Maranatha Christian Academy, we believe that having a strong biblical foundation is essential to teaching and learning.

One such area under scrutiny as of late is how Minnesota schools will handle their social science curriculum in the near future. We endeavor to see and teach everything through the eyes of Jesus. This perspective allows us to base our educational standards on our Christian worldview, developing strong co-creators of tomorrow.



Service Learning

In everything we do and say, we want it to be a true reflection of who we are, what we believe, and what we will never stop standing for. We embody this by teaching our students to lead with empathy through service projects, beginning in Pre-k and continuing through to graduation. The Share Christmas event gathers 1000s of toys for our local community, and over the last few years, we have packed over 215,000 meals to be delivered to local food shelves, providing real



practical solutions for the battle against hunger in our community. Upper School students have the opportunity to serve a local orphanage, church, and the people of Zacatecas, Mexico through our annual missions trip.

**Learn more by scheduling a visit
today at mcamustangs.org**





DEB LARSON

HEAD OF SCHOOL

WELCOME TO MARANATHA

Maranatha Christian Academy is positioned to go well beyond the ordinary, identifying opportunities that explore possibilities and establish purpose in our students, staff, and parents. Our unwavering vision, relentless pursuit of improvement, and dedication to our mission serve as inspiration to continue to set and then re-set the bar in education.

In our fast-paced world, change is inevitable. At Maranatha, we adapt, or better yet, get out in front of change, resulting in a truly innovative school and, in turn, learning experience. We inspire students to be Spirit-driven leaders who are courageous change agents for kingdom building. Our Christian faith is at the core of Maranatha. We celebrate our Creator's unique design of each student, seeking to personalize education so students can discover and develop their gifts.

I am honored that you value your children's education enough to explore not only what is best but what is right. By experiencing our community of learning at Maranatha, your students will be prepared for life's next chapter as they grow into courageous change agents, compassionate problem solvers, impactful innovators, critical thinkers, Spirit-driven leaders, and kingdom community builders.

I look forward to collaborating with you as we develop the co-creators of tomorrow.

Serving Him together,

Deb Larson

ADMISSIONS



Join us at
Maranatha Christian Academy!

2025-2026



currently accepting mid-year transfers
in grades Pre-K through 12th

[schedule a campus visit!](#)

VISIT US

Beyond books and screens, brains and grades, Maranatha is a place dedicated to faith, academic excellence, leadership, and everything in-between. When you enter, you will immediately sense an unmistakable difference. A welcoming vibe that begins with a morning greeting and handshake at the front door and ends with teachers inviting students into their classrooms, clubs, practices, and sports events after school.

There is no other school quite like it – we promise.



But don't take our word for it! We invite you in to see for yourself. There are several ways for your family to get to know us. Please join us for an upcoming event or personal tour.

MEET OUR TEAM



DREW RONGERE

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

DREW.RONGERE@MCAMUSTANGS.ORG

Drew Rongere has been the Athletic Director at Maranatha since 2021. He is also the head coach of our girls volleyball program.



CHAZ MAHLE

ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

CHAZ.MAHLE@MCAMUSTANGS.ORG

Chaz Mahle has been the Assistant Athletic Director since 2022. He is also the sports performance coach for our athletes and a high school strength training instructor.



JAMIE AXELBERG

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

JAMIE.AXELBERG@MCAMUSTANGS.ORG

Jamie Axelberg has been the Activities Director at Maranatha since 2022. She is also the head coach of our girls softball program.



SOCIAL MEDIA



FACEBOOK
MCAMUSTANGSMN



INSTAGRAM
MCAMUSTANGS_ATHLETICS



TWITTER
MCA_TEAMS



SKYLINE CONFERENCE SCHOOLS



CONCORDIA ACADEMY | BEACONS

Address: 9201 75th Avenue, Brooklyn Park, MN 55428
School Colors: Red and White | 275



CRISTO REY JESUIT | PUMAS

Address: 2924 4th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55408
School Colors and Enrollment: Navy, Columbia, and Orange | 436



MARANATHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY | MUSTANGS

Address: 9201 75th Avenue, Brooklyn Park, MN 55428
School Colors: Red and White | 275



NEW LIFE ACADEMY | EAGLES

Address: 6758 Bailey Road, Woodbury, MN 55129
School Colors and Enrollment: Green and Gold | 209



NOVA CLASSICAL ACADEMY | KNIGHTS

Address: 1455 Victoria Way, St. Paul, MN 55102
School Colors and Enrollment: Maroon, Black, and White | 276



ST. AGNES | AGGIES

Address: 530 Lafond Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103
School Colors and Enrollment: Red and White | 307



ST. CROIX LUTHERAN ACADEMY | CRUSADERS

Address: 1200 Oakdale Avenue, West St. Paul, MN 55118
School Colors and Enrollment: Red and White | 401



ST. CROIX PREP ACADEMY | LIONS

Address: 4260 Stagecoach Trail North
School Colors and Enrollment: Navy and Vegas Gold | 366



TRINITY SCHOOL AT RIVER RIDGE | TRI-HAWKS

Address: 601 River Ridge Parkway, Eagan, MN 55121
School Colors and Enrollment: Royal Blue and Cardinal | 158

BOYS BASKETBALL

SEASON OUTLOOK

The Mustangs are coming off their third straight Skyline Conference Championship. They finished the 2023-24 season with a conference record of 15-1 and an overall record of 21-7. Maranatha graduated four seniors, including Carter Greenwald, and their three leading point scores: Drew Balentine (346), DaTrell McCrimmon (583), and Gresyn Rennie (515).



Maranatha's 2024-25 roster includes five returners and five newcomers. Jojo Bartolomeos and Sam Eibes are the lone seniors. Head Coach Matt Shepherd and his staff return for a second season and will attempt to lead this young Mustang squad to a fourth consecutive conference title. They have a tough non-conference schedule and will face several teams that should be ranked in the top ten in the state, including Albany, Caledonia, and Blake.

The home games to watch this year are against Skyline Conference opponent St. Croix Lutheran on January 2nd and Section 5AA opponent Blake to end the regular season on February 28th.



BOYS BASKETBALL COACHING STAFF



MATT SHEPHERD

HEAD COACH

Matt Shepherd is entering his second season as head coach for the Mustangs and ninth season as a part of the boys basketball staff at Maranatha.

After his playing career at North Central University, Coach Shepherd transitioned into coaching. He was on staff for a team that went 16-14 and finished third in the UMAC . After his one year at North Central, Coach Shepherd began coaching at the high school ranks.

Coach Shepherd started at MCA coaching at the middle school level. After one year of coaching middle school, he moved up into the high school program with being an assistant for the C-Team. After being an assistant for two years, he moved up to being the head coach of the C-Team for the next two seasons. Coach Shepherd has spent the previous two seasons being the JV coach and Varsity assistant.



DYLAN GILMER

ASSISTANT COACH | VARSITY

Dylan Gilmer is entering his third season as a varsity assistant coach for the Mustangs. He played four years of Division III collegiate basketball at Crown College and the University of Northwestern. This includes winning two UMAC Championships with the University of Northwestern St. Paul. For the past seven years, he has been instructing, training, and coaching high school basketball athletes in Minnesota, and enjoys building trusted personal relationships with everyone that he works with.

Gilmer graduated from Crown College in May 2022 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical and Health Education.

BOYS BASKETBALL COACHING STAFF



PUMA RENNIE

ASSISTANT COACH | JV

Puma Rennie is entering his third season as an assistant for the Mustangs. Rennie has experience coaching at a variety of levels from youth to high school and is looking forward to being a positive influence on the lives of student-athletes at MCA.



ROBERT MCCRAY

ASSISTANT COACH | C-TEAM

Robert McCray is entering his second season as an assistant for the Mustangs. He has been coaching AAU basketball for 8 years and has won state championships at a variety of age levels. He has also coached for Junior NBA and middle school basketball at Maranatha.

As a head coach, his purpose is to cultivate a culture with PMA, discipline, all in attitude, and camaraderie.

He strives to enhance athletic skills but also to impart life lessons that extend beyond the court, fostering character, leadership, and a lifelong love for the game.

BOYS BASKETBALL | VARSITY



MUSTANGS

Maranatha Christian Academy 2024-2025

ROSTER

G	NAME	POS	HT	GR
2	Chris Daniel	G	6'1	10
3	Jojo Bartolomeos	G	5'7	12
4	Nathaniel Williams	G	6'1	11
5	Daijior McCrimmon	G	5'9	11
13	Kennedy Capp	G	5'11	11
15	Sam Eibes	F	6'2	12
24	Jaidyn Rennie	G	5'9	11
33	Eli Ahrends	F	6'3	11
35	Teni Phillips	F	6'4	11

COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH	YEARS
Matt Shepherd	2
ASSISTANT COACHES	
Dylan Gilmer	3
Puma Rennie	3
Robert McCray	2
TEAM MANAGERS	
Jaydon Dimitrov	2
Max Olson	2
Seto Ettafa	1

BOYS BASKETBALL | JV



MUSTANGS

Maranatha Christian Academy 2024-2025

ROSTER

G	NAME	POS	HT	GR
1	Tobin Taylor	G	5'10	10
10	Jonas Kaihoi	G	5'10	9
11	Tobi Barbington	F	6'2	10
21	Ben Jahnke	G	5'9	11
22	Noah Schirmers	F	6'1	10
25	Gabe Kirschbaum	G	5'11	11
30	Samuel Davis	G	6'2	11
52	Naizo Jarboi	C	6'7	11

COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH	YEARS
Puma Rennie	3

BOYS BASKETBALL | C-TEAM



MUSTANGS

Maranatha Christian Academy 2024-2025

ROSTER

G	NAME	POS	HT	GR
0	Shylom McCray	G	5'4	8
3	Caleb Carlson	G	5'9	9
4	Justin Homchik	G	5'3	9
5	Henry Blake	G	5'7	9
13	Maverick Marr	G	5'8	10
22	Julian Thomas	G	5'9	9
24	Obi Nwangwu	F	6'0	8
31	Sampson Olson	F	5'10	10
32	Johnny Sheehy	F	5'11	8
35	Bayler Lyles	F	6'2	10

COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH	YEARS
Robert McCray	2



LOEFFLER

CONSTRUCTION & CONSULTING



FACTS

Elevating the Education Experience

Go Mustangs!

CKC Good Food

Contracted School Food Service | Special Event Catering

Passionately feeding our future through successful food service programs.

CKCGoodFood.com | 651.453.1136

Purchase - Refinance - Home Equity Loans - VA - FHA - Jumbo - 2nd Homes - Investment Property

We are proud to be a Mustang Family!

Casey Van Winkle

Maranatha Parent
& Mortgage Expert

NMLS 323964
Casey@firstclasscorp.com

Caitlin Van Winkle
Maranatha Parent
& Volunteer



Maisie
Kindergarten

Cooper
Kindergarten

Sullivan
3rd Grade



First Class
MORTGAGE
NMLS 322842



www.MNmortgage.com | 763.416.6789 | Maple Grove, MN

GIRLS BASKETBALL

SEASON OUTLOOK

The Mustangs are heading into the season after finishing second in the Skyline Conference for the fifth straight year. They ended the 2023-24 season with a Skyline Conference record of 13-3 and an overall record of 16-11. The Mustangs graduated two seniors, team leader Autumn Lanari and leading point scorer Janiya Wright (379).



Head Coach Faith Johnson Patterson and assistant coaches John Patterson and Bob Willey return for their second season at Maranatha. They look to continue to build the program with 8 returners and 7 newcomers and finish once again near the top of the conference standings.

Home games to watch this year are against the 2023-24 Skyline Conference Champs, St. Croix Lutheran Crusaders, on February 4 and a tough non-conference opponent, the Champlin Park Rebels, on February 7.

A screenshot of the Maranatha Mustangs website. The top navigation bar includes the Maranatha Mustangs logo, a search icon, an account icon, and a cart icon. Below the navigation bar are links for "Mens", "Womens", "Kids", and "Accessories". A promotional banner reads "Limited Time Only! Score 15% Off \$75 or More Code: SAVE15 Exclusions Apply". Below the banner is a disclaimer: "Please note some items may not be approved per your organization's dress code policy. Please refer to your organization's policy for current dress code guidelines." The main content area features a collection of merchandise: a silver tumbler with the Mustangs logo, a white baseball cap with the Mustangs logo, a black backpack with the Mustangs logo, a red hoodie with "class of 2024" and the Mustangs logo, a white t-shirt with "MARANATHA MUSTANGS", a grey zip-up jacket with the Mustangs logo, and a red t-shirt with the Mustangs logo. At the bottom right of the merchandise display is a call to action: "CHOOSE THE DESIGN AND MAKE IT YOURS".

GIRLS BASKETBALL COACHING STAFF



FAITH JOHNSON PATTERSON

HEAD COACH

Faith Johnson Patterson is entering her second season as head coach for the Mustangs. She played high school basketball for Marshall University High School and received a Division I scholarship to play college basketball for the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she majored in Communications.

Faith began her coaching career as an assistant coach at The Blake School where she was an assistant coach

for the 30-0 class A championship team in 1994. She was recruited to become the head coach at Minneapolis North in 1995. She asked her boyfriend, now husband John, to join her and the rest is history!

She has an overall head coaching record of 522-184 resulting in 15 conference championships, 14 section championships, and 14 high school state tournament appearances resulting in 8 class 3A championships, 4 runner-ups, and 2 third place finishes. She ranks #1 in Minnesota Girls Basketball State History for the Highest Winning Percentage at the state tournament at 85.7% and a record of 36-6. She ranks #3 in Minnesota Girls Basketball State History for the Most State Tournament Appearances (14) and #1 for the Most Consecutive State Tournament Appearances (9). She also ranks #1 in Minnesota Girls Basketball State History for the Most State Championships (8).

Faith became the first African-American female head coach to coach in and win a high school girls basketball state championship. She is the first and only African-American girls basketball coach to be inducted into; The Minnesota High School Girls Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame, The Minnesota 2023-24 MUSTANG BASKETBALL MEDIA GUIDE WWW.MCAMUSTANGSATHLETICS.ORG 22 Basketball Hall of Fame, and The Minnesota State High School League Hall of Fame. She's been named one of the 5 best high school basketball coaches in Minnesota's high school state tournament history (only female and African-American). She ranks #1 and #2 amongst high school girls' basketball coaches in multiple categories in Minnesota state history. Her programs have produced many Division I, II, and III athletes resulting in over 3 million dollars in scholarships.

Together, Faith and John, have the mindset to put God first. This belief system has been the driving force behind their coaching success. They are most proud of the off-court success of so many of their former athletes who have earned college degrees, have pursued a career in coaching, are giving back to their respective communities, and most importantly, have placed God first in their lives.

GIRLS BASKETBALL COACHING STAFF



JOHN PATTERSON

ASSISTANT COACH

John Patterson is entering his second season as an assistant coach for the Mustangs. He was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, where he played football, basketball, and baseball. He also played basketball for the New York Gauchos, one of the most prestigious AAU teams in the country. Following high school, he attended the University of Wisconsin-Stout, where he played basketball and earned a degree in Industrial Technology.

Patterson has trained athletes in multiple sports over the years. He started coaching high school basketball alongside his wife, Faith Johnson Patterson at Minneapolis North High School. While at North, he helped introduce their dominant signature press and other defenses. He also worked with post players on rebounding, individual moves, and shooting. In his role, he also assisted with identifying colleges for athletes and consulting with college coaches on perspective athletes

Patterson has been named Assistant Coach of the Year multiple times and honored along with his wife in many venues.



BOB WILLEY

ASSISTANT COACH

Bob Willey is entering his second season as an assistant coach for the Mustangs. His forty-year coaching journey is a testament to a never-ending pursuit of excellence. From his early days guiding his family's adult team to his stints at Roosevelt and Issaquah high schools, Willey has always embraced challenges and thrived on new experiences.

His hunger for knowledge led him to Tennessee State sharpened his coaching skills and broadened his horizons. After college, he headed back to Seattle, where his passion for coaching basketball continued to grow. He answered his daughter's call and immersed himself in the world of girls basketball. In Minneapolis, he worked hard to establish the Minnesota Angels. This was a tribute to a successful program and a platform for his own evolving coaching style.

Today, at Crossfire, Bob continues to push boundaries, mentor new coaches, and build a legacy that extends far beyond the final buzzer.

GIRLS BASKETBALL | VARSITY



MUSTANGS

Maranatha Christian Academy 2024-2025

ROSTER

G	NAME	POS	HT	GR
0	Avery Lanari	F	5'7	10
1	Amiya Gray	G	5'4	8
3	Adriana Mascarenas	G	5'2	8
4	Elenore Eaves	G	5'4	8
5	Heather Sheehy	G	5'5	11
10	Zaniah Hunter	G	5'6	11
11	Olivia Lanari	G	5'9	11
12	Olivia Alm	F	5'11	10
13	Alyssa Warren	G	5'4	10
15	Brianna De La Pena	F	5'5	11
20	Greta Eaves	G	5'5	10
23	Skyla Booker-McCants	F	5'11	7
24	Nora Jaster	F	5'8	10
33	Faith Taylor	G	5'6	8
35	Mia McFadden	G	5'4	8

COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH	YEARS
Faith Johnson Patterson	28
ASSISTANT COACHES	
Jon Patterson	28
Bob Willey	35

CHEERLEADING

SEASON OUTLOOK

The cheerleading program at Maranatha continues to grow under the leadership of second year coaches Allie Oliver and Jillene Nelson. With fourteen girls in the program this year, the gym will sure be full of energy as this amazing group of young ladies cheers on our Mustangs.



NAUTICAL BOWLS

SUPER FOOD | SUPER MEAL | SUPER LIFE

CHEERLEADING



MUSTANGS

Maranatha Christian Academy 2024-2025

ROSTER

NAME	GR
Genevieve Dudero	10
Scarlett Campbell	7
Amelia Cromer	9
Brooklyn Grasley	7
JoAnna Benny	9
Lati Ettafa	9
Ileri Alabi	11
Julia Thai	11
Isla Czerlanis	9
Tyra Agbugbuo	9
Ella Nix	8
Kimberlie Berge	10
Victoria Otunuga	11
Leah Steck	9

COACHING STAFF

COACH	YEARS
Allie Olliver	2
Jillene Nelson	2

M
A
R
A
N
A
T
H
A



GO MUSTANGS

FIGHT SONG

We are the might, might, mighty Mustangs,
There is nothing we can't do!
We are the might, might, mighty Mustangs,
Honest, brave, and true.
Unified together, MCA will show our pride.
Fighting on to victory with Jesus, our guide.
We are the might, might, mighty Mustangs,
Maranatha red and white!

FREE MUSTANG ATHLETICS
GAME PHOTOS

SmugMug 



MAPLE GROVE



Town & Country

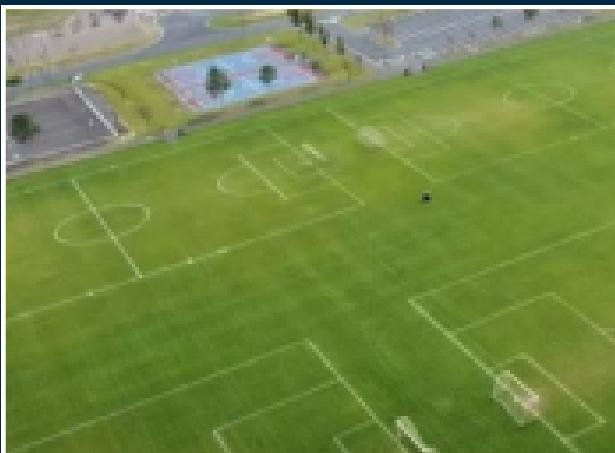
CARPET AND

FLOOR COVERING

MUSTANG FACILITIES



The Stable at Maranatha Christian Academy is home to Basketball and Volleyball



Noble Sports Park is home to Soccer.



Zane Sports Park is home to Softball.



Mustang Weight Room at Maranatha Christian Academy.

MARANATHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



MUSTANG GOLF INVITATIONAL

Monday, July 14, 2025 | 8:00 am start

Join us for the 2025 Mustang Golf Invitational to be held at Fox Hollow Golf Club on Monday, July 21, 2025. Look for more information about registration, sponsorships, and other details later this spring on our Mustang Athletics website.

athletics.mcamustangs.org