



## Dean of School's Report ~ January 31, 2024

[Updated: January 29, 2024]

1. **Assistant Dean of School Report:** See [here](#)
2. **Student Services Report:** See [here](#)
3. **Dean of Students Report:** Lois Horan
4. **Admissions Update:** As of January 31, 2024, we have 84 total applications for the 2024-2025 school year. Of those applications, 59 are complete. All applicants with incomplete applications have been reached out to multiple times letting them know what is missing and reminding them of the March 15th deadline.

Our January Admissions Info Night was well attended with 20 families in attendance. We continue to send out an Admissions Info Night Survey the morning after these events. From the last event we received the following feedback:

“Everyone was helpful, friendly and professional. Enjoyed touring the school.”

“We were very impressed with the school, the communication aspects, identity, curriculum focus and interactions with the staff. We had a general feeling of belonging and inclusivity. We will definitely be applying. My daughter left that night more excited than she’s been in a long time. Thank you!”

5. **Student Spotlight:** Ian Panait, 11th grade
6. **Grant Updates:** The Founders Academy has been recommended to receive \$86,000 by the Public School Infrastructure Committee for school safety improvements. The funding is contingent upon Fiscal and Governor and Executive Council approval. If approved, Founders will upgrade all cameras and camera software, add a new emergency alerting system, and add door propping alarms on all exterior doors. Additionally, the state has allocated \$30,000 to each charter school for best practices professional development. We are working with Demonstrated Success to build a plan for teacher professional development on curriculum design and assessment.
7. **MLK Assembly:** The Founders Academy celebrated Martin Luther King Jr on January 12th with a school wide assembly. The students in the National Honor Society did a wonderful job highlighting some lesser known facts about Martin Luther King Jr. The high school students

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viewed the assembly created by their peers live in the cafeteria while the middle school students viewed it on a live stream.

- 8. State testing:** Over the past few years we have seen a decline in student participation in state testing. This has negatively impacted our school's scores. In the past we have administered all required tests in one day and any student who is not testing has the day off. This year testing will be done during the school day in the core subject classes. Students who are opted out of testing will have an alternative assignment. We are hoping this increases participation and student performance. The testing schedule will be sent to families in the next few weeks.
- 9. Charter Renewal:** We had our charter renewal visit from the state on January 17th. The members of the renewal team met with administrators, students, staff, parents, and board members. Everyone had very positive feedback. The next step in the process is to go before the State Board of Education which will most likely be scheduled for their March meeting.
- 10. Charter School State Report:** The Department of Education released a Charter School report in December. The full report can be found [here](#). Additionally, each school got feedback on their annual progress report. Founders received some valuable feedback and we are working on the recommendations/requirements. The areas in need of improvement include; board bylaws, updated inspection reports, accountability plan, and the annual report posted on the website.
- 11. Student and Teacher of the Semester:** Special announcements
- 12. Thank you!:** Parents, students, staff and board members who participated in the charter renewal visit, NHS for coordinating the MLK assembly, students who organized the Veteran's Day assembly, chorus 3 and 4 students who organized the winter dance, everyone who participated in our Labelle Lights fundraiser, all staff and board members who participated in the faculty party last week.
- 13. Congratulations:** Drama club students on their performance of the Wizard of Oz, chorus and band students on their performance in the winter concerts, all students and staff who were nominated for the Student and Teacher of the Semester award, students staff, parents and guardians for a successful first semester!

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