

Email sent to MLC community by Superintendent Dr. Kimberlee Armstrong at 3:30 pm on Feb 27, 2026:

Dear MLC Staff and Families,

Over the past several weeks, the discussion about grades 9–12 at MLC has sparked honest dialogue, passionate testimony, and deep reflection. I have heard, from students, families, and staff who care deeply about this school and its future, that engagement matters.

Following last week’s board meeting and additional conversations, I have decided to reverse the previous plan to phase out grades 9–12 at MLC. Instead, we will provide the high school program the opportunity to grow and stabilize enrollment.

Earlier today, I met with MLC staff regarding this update and gathered more information about what is needed to support a focused effort toward increased enrollment. I was clear in that meeting that this cannot simply be a “wait and see” year. If we are going to stand behind this opportunity, we must do it intentionally and in partnership.

What this means:

- MLC High School will remain open for the upcoming school year.
- Families who previously selected another school due to the earlier decision are welcome to reconnect with MLC and explore reapplying. We will provide clear guidance and support for those who wish to revisit that choice.
- We will work together to build a strong incoming ninth-grade class this Fall.
- We will partner closely with staff to clarify programming, strengthen identity, and remove barriers that may have limited enrollment growth in previous years.

Our analysis indicates that enrolling approximately 30 ninth-grade students this Fall, and sustaining that level in future years, would meaningfully impact the program’s viability. While long-term sustainability requires growth over time, this next enrollment cycle is critical.

I also want to be transparent. As you know, the district is engaged in a broader right-sizing and program optimization conversation with the Board and community. MLC is part of that district-wide work. Future discussions about sustainability will occur within that broader process. My commitment is that we will do everything we can this year to strengthen enrollment and position the high school program for stability. To support this effort, the district is committed to:

- Providing communications and marketing support so families clearly understand what MLC offers.
- Reviewing and strengthening the way MLC is represented on district platforms, including the website and school profile materials.
- Expanding enrollment outreach strategies, including counselor engagement, open house opportunities, and broader community visibility.
- Identifying technical and operational support needed to strengthen the high school program.
- Working with central office teams to clarify program flexibility where appropriate so MLC can fully lean into its identity as a learning community.

Now that we are moving forward, we must do this well. That means alignment, clear messaging, shared ownership, and sustained effort.

MLC has a long history, an expert and dedicated staff, and a community that cares deeply about its students. I am committed to partnering with you to build toward stability and strength.

We will share additional details soon regarding enrollment timelines and outreach strategies.

Together, we rise. **Dr. Kimberlee Armstrong. Superintendent**