

**MISSOULA COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Support for MOA

acapovani <acapovani@aol.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Dec 13, 2022 at 6:11 PM

12/13/22

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to voice my support as a parent for the Missoula Online Academy. My daughter is a junior at Sentinel and she struggles significantly with the social aspect of high school. Recently, she began classes with MOA and I've already noticed improvements. Since she began, her grades have gone up, her attendance has improved, and her stress levels have gone down. I feel this program is giving her the tools she needs to be successful at school without having to deal with the social stressors. I am very pleased with the staff, the structure of the program, and the impact that it has had on my daughter so far.

Thus, I would like to voice my support of this program and its continuation for MCPS. I fear if funding were to be cut from this program, the kids who are now succeeding will only end up right back where they were before. The MOA program is a valuable asset to MCPS and the success of our children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warmly,
Anne Capovani

**MISSOULA COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS****Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Fate of the Online Academy

Sarah Cooper <scooper@mcpsmt.org>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Dec 13, 2022 at 4:28 PM

Hello. My name is Sarah Cooper and I am a paraeducator at the MOA. I am not writing this letter from a professional point of view, but as a parent of a student that has attended the MOA for the last two and a half years. My son has an IEP and has been labeled emotionally disturbed in that IEP. The school district paid for a homebound tutor for him in the 2019-2020 school year until Covid put every student online.

The MOA has allowed that child to interact with his teachers and peers in a way that I never thought would be possible. He has had a success and grown so much in this trusted environment. In his last progress report, he had straight A's in every MOA class.

My fear is that this young man would drop out of school rather than go back in person. Professionally, I know of many students in this same situation. Please consider students like my son, who don't fit into the mainstream classroom.

Please don't let them fail.

Sincerely

Sarah Cooper

MOA - please continue to fund for youth in crisis

Jilayne Dunn <mazurkajil@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Dec 13, 2022 at 1:25 PM

Dear Board Members and MCPS staff,

I would like to comment in favor of continued funding for the Missoula Online Academy program.

I'm hopeful there are numerous stories and scenarios you will hear in support of MOA but I'd like to quickly share mine.

My daughter got covid for the first time in Sept 2022. She had been vaccinated in Nov 2021 when it became available for 11 years and under. She had not yet received a booster.

She was sick for a week prior to covid with a cold and then tested positive. She had the typical symptoms but then developed a full body rash that required steroids and she was extremely fatigued. She did not recover quickly and was sleeping 12 hours a day for weeks. She missed about 4 weeks of school. When she tried to return to in person school, she was paralyzed by anxiety. We tried to go back with a partial day schedule but her anxiety only got worse. She was unable to return to finish Quarter 1. She used to love to learn and never wanted to miss school. She always tried her best, got good grades and has never struggled like this before.

We were able to pivot to MOA for Quarter 2 and are trying to re-engage her in online classes and remote learning. She still struggles daily with anxiety, self confidence, self esteem and feeling worthwhile. It's like covid has stripped all of her resilience from her.

MOA has given my daughter another opportunity to feel purpose and worth in a world full of disappointment. It has also given her a chance to keep up with academics in a way that in-person school could not. We are very grateful to the MOA teachers and staff who continue to work with us.

Thank you for making MOA happen during the pandemic and for your ongoing support. Please continue to fund this critical alternative learning platform for our youth in crisis or for those that on site learning is not an option.

Sincerely,
Jil D.



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Missoula Online Academy

2 messages

the kyrouacs <thekyrouacs@gmail.com>

Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 9:08 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

To whom it may concern,

We strongly believe the Missoula Online Academy (MOA) is a versatile and valuable asset to the counties public school portfolio. The academy is an option for student's and teachers in difficult circumstances. It's a valuable tool that should be maintained, improved, and invested in. We live in a very rural community and the MOA offers another option with a diverse curriculum. We understand this is an expensive tool. We believe you would have to reassemble the MOA eventually if the MOA is dismantled. To us it makes sense to to continue with the MOA. Our experience is the MOA continues to improve every year and has serviced more students. The teachers are thoughtful, intuitive, and available. They do an excellent job.

We understand there are pros and cons to online learning. To us the pros of having an online learning option outweigh the cons. Overall our experience through the MOA has been very positive. We see the MOA as valuable tool. We hope you choose to maintain, improve, and invest in the future of the Missoula Online Academy.

Thank you for your time.

Christina and Aaron Kyrouac
Parents of MOA students

Dear Missoula County School Board,

I am writing you this letter in regards to your decision on whether to continue funding the MOA. I am currently a freshman through the Montana Online Academy but I have an older sister who has been attending the MOA since August of 2020. Through my experience with the MOA, it has been the best school that I have attended.

For me, attending school through the MOA significantly reduces my stress. Things as simple as getting ready in the morning are less stressful because I don't have to wake up as early. The environment I am in also greatly improves my mental health because I am in a place I know and am comfortable in. On breaks, it is easier to go outside and enjoy the sun or snow and spend time with my pet.

I am someone who has to miss a lot of school due to the fact that I live out of town and my family has a lot of medical obligations. The online format provides an easier, more accessible way to access assignments and go to class making it much easier to make up what I missed or attend some of the classes I would have missed if I were not attending school through the MOA. In addition to this, the teachers have always been very understanding and work with me before and after to make sure I am able to easily get caught up.

The teachers at the MOA are amazing. Whenever I need help or have a question they are always eager to help. They do their best to make sure the students understand what they are teaching and work to make sure we learn something from what they are teaching.

I strongly believe the MOA is an important asset to the Missoula County Public Schools and is worth funding for at least another year. I will be attending the Montana Online Academy for as long as I can and I hope that you continue to support the MOA for many years to come. Thank you for your time.

-A [REDACTED] K [REDACTED]

MOA

Angela Hanson <Angelax444@outlook.com>

Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 2:07 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

As a mom of a seventh grader at MOA, I would like to share about my daughter's experience. My daughter has been with MOA since the beginning. The online school started as an option for kids during the Covid-19 pandemic. This is currently her third year with the online school. Every year that she has attended has been a positive one. She has thrived with MOA! My daughter has gotten amazing grades and always gets extra help if needed. She has grown in confidence and contributes to discussions with her teachers and classmates on a regular basis. I have watched her grow and mature into a very well-rounded student. She has learned to stay organized, prioritize work, and stay on schedule. She has her own work area set up that runs very efficiently. It's like her own little office. All of the teachers have been so helpful and are so willing to work with each student one-on-one. MOA not only feels like an amazing school with incredible teachers, but also feels like family. I know as a parent, that if there are any issues that come up, the teachers are very responsive with solutions. MOA has provided my daughter with a better education than if she were doing in person learning. She has her teachers that are able to work more closely with her and other students than a classroom full of kids that may be struggling. My daughter is able to concentrate more easily in a quiet environment at home than with all of the distractions that in person learning has. In this day and age, education should not be a one size fits all for students. Some kids thrive more with in person learning, while others thrive with online learning. They may feel more comfortable with online learning for many reasons. Some kids do not feel comfortable or are able to deal with the pressures of peers and what in person learning entails. MOA isn't just a temporary solution to a pandemic. It is so much more than that. It has become a school for a lot of kids who prefer and thrive with online learning. Please find funding to continue this amazing school. The teachers, parents, and students love their school and don't want to see it disappear. Please help students continue the option of online learning. We all want the best for our kids and MOA has and hopefully will continue to provide that opportunity for those who choose the online learning option.

Thank you,
Angela Hanson

MOA

Sophia Stenslie <28stesop@student.mcpsmt.org>

Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 1:32 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

To Whom It May Concern,

Hi my name is Sophia Stenslie and I'm in 7th grade. I've been with MOA since it started. I started MOA because of Covid-19. I think it's a really good option for students. Especially for people who aren't as comfortable with in person school. I have really loved having the option to do online learning. For me, it's less stressful than in person and I feel like I learn better in this environment. Online learning is also really good for learning how to prioritize and how to be responsible. For example, with asynchronous classes you have to make sure you get your work done when your teacher isn't there. With MOA you can get a lot of one-on-one time with your teacher. There are so many different ways to ask for help, like going into a breakout room. No one else in the class has to know if the student is scared about that. I'm a shy person and MOA has helped me be more confident. Things I have really liked about this year is that there is more asynchronous time. This is a nice time to get your work done and to work at your own pace. MOA has been really positive for me and I would love for it to continue.

Sincerely

Sophia Stenslie

**MISSOULA COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

MOA

Matthew Swanson <mswan@posteo.net>

Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 10:00 AM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

I wanted to take a moment to state what a benefit the Missoula Online Academy has been for my children.

Not only has it provided a safe environment during the dangers of the Covid virus, it has also presented an excellent learning environment for our children.

MOA has allowed my children to learn at their own pace, free from the distractions of full classrooms and crowded hallways.

Even though I only have one child left in high school, I would very much like to see MOA continue as a viable option for Missoula students.

Though Covid no longer presents the threat it did, I believe this learning environment is very beneficial to a select group of students and that those students should continue to have the opportunity to thrive at MOA.

Thank you.

--Matthew

MOA

Janis Diemer <Ancasta18@hotmail.com>

Sun, Dec 11, 2022 at 3:34 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Good afternoon.

I'd like to start by introducing myself. My name is Janis and I am a single parent to 4 beautiful children. I am also the parent of a student in MOA. While I was born and raised in Montana I lived in Oregon for 12 years. During this time I homeschooled my children due to my daughter's chronic health problems. Oregon had many programs to support students such as my daughter. I have now returned to Montana and am working full time which has caused me to become completely reliant on our public school system. MOA has proved to be invaluable for my family. It is the only support that is available to my daughter. Without this program it would be nearly impossible for my child to obtain an education.

My child has many chronic health problems that limit her ability to attend in person classes. Even alternative school will be unmanageable for her. She is immunocompromised, struggles with many debilitating physical symptoms and is TPN dependent. She has a central line in her chest which requires a weekly home visit from a nurse. In person classes open her up to a lot of risks that could be detrimental to her well-being.

Missoula needs to support our students and families that have extenuating circumstances. My daughter is smart, brilliant and strong. She deserves the chance to get a good education just as much as anyone else. MOA is difficult for her but offers more flexibility for her so that she is able to learn in a safe and healthy environment for her. Without MOA her education will be greatly affected and next year will prove to be a huge challenge.

Thank you for your consideration,
Janis Diemer
406-550-0532

Missoula Online Academy

Brooks, Carrie <Carrie.Brooks@tylertech.com>

Sun, Dec 11, 2022 at 10:23 AM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion about Missoula Online Academy. Here is my story.

When Covid first came upon us, I was thankful to be able to keep my son home with me until I knew he was safe to return to school, however, when that time came, something had changed in him. He had extreme anxiety regarding attending high school (he was a freshman). He tried so hard to force himself to attend but the anxiety was too much for him. We tried medications, therapy, among many other things but he is just unable to attend school in person. I have heard that many other parents are experiencing the same problem with their teens. For us, having a place where my son can attend school without having to go to a location where he doesn't feel safe and causes extreme anxiety has allowed him to excel in his studies for the first time in a long time. For us, MOA is critical for my son to succeed and receive his high school diploma. I don't know what we will do if that option goes away. I know that many students have opted to attend school at MOA and I feel it's probably due to similar situation that we are in. Mental Health issues have increased in our teens since Covid, and I can say first hand that the support in Montana and the options available here are lacking severely. MOA is desperately needed to fill that gap for many students. It has been a literal life-saver for us this year. [REDACTED] now feels like there is hope for his future because of MOA. If MOA goes away, my son will likely never receive his high school diploma. Again, I think there are many other families in the same situation and I am hopeful they will be speaking up as well.

Thank you for listening!

Carrie Brooks

Senior Manager, Development
Tyler Technologies, Inc.

P: 800.247.1161 ext. 164500

www.tylertech.com



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Parent's opinion about MOA

Nawal Ettouri <nawalettouri@gmail.com>

Sat, Dec 10, 2022 at 4:24 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org, woldperson@mcpsmt.org, gdecker@mcpsmt.org, javgeris@mcpsmt.org, nhobbins@mcpsmt.org, kmercer@mcpsmt.org, jvogel@mcpsmt.org, mwhicher@mcpsmt.org, kwitt@mcpsmt.org

Hello,

My name is Nawale Ettouri and [REDACTED]. I am sending this email after I received your email stating that MOA program might be discontinued.

First of all, I would like to thank you for this great opportunity that my daughter had as she is very happy with the program and the instructors especially. Every single day, [REDACTED] tells how good, kind and professional every single person involved with MOA is. She is loving the classes and learning so much while enjoying her free time.

Also, MOA has been great to us as a family because I have been having some health issues since 2020 and having Doha home to help me, assist me and take care of me has done so much good. [REDACTED] usually goes to the doctor's with me, helps me with house chores and we love how close we have become since she is staying all day at home while still learning and most importantly, loving her learning.

That being said, I was a little sad hearing the program might be discontinued but I hope that does not happen and that the state will decide to go forward with it and make it official for years to come. I have personally realized that online schooling has a lot of benefits, especially on my daughter's mental health and happiness.

I hope the program will not be discontinued and that I will keep hearing my daughter chat with her professors and do her homework while taking care of me.

Yours sincerely,

Nawale Ettouri

Missoula Online Academy

Gillian Fetz Edgell <gillianhfezt@gmail.com>

Fri, Dec 9, 2022 at 8:53 AM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

I am writing today in order to express my support for Missoula Online Academy, and to encourage the funding for this vital program into the future.

My son is currently a freshman enrolled in MOA. He is brilliant, he is kind, he has a quick wit and a sensitive heart. He attended public school in-person for his 8th grade year, played school sports, and earned straight As. He was constantly bullied throughout the year for his size (he's quite small), which culminated in an awful physical trauma at the end of the year. While in the school gym for some free time, he was jumped and physically assaulted by 5 other boys. The school did not handle the incident well, and as a result my son felt unsafe and unsupported.

As we made our way through the summer, my son's mental health suffered increasingly. As he got closer and closer to becoming a freshman in a bigger school with even bigger kids, he really decompensated. With his self-esteem profoundly diminished and the PTSD from his physical trauma, he could not function. Desperate to be a "normal kid," he tried to go in-person to one of our public high schools but was petrified by fear and stuck in fight or flight.

When he started at MOA, he was welcomed into a safe and supportive community by the amazing staff and teachers. They were excited to get to know my child, and eager to support and encourage him. Almost overnight he started to calm. In the safety and comfort of our home, he can truly participate in his classes without the terror of potential trauma hanging over his head. He is engaged in the world and in our family again. He smiles and laughs and snuggles and loves again. I have my son back in large part because he has MOA. He is free to learn and be his true self in a safe environment. He is a child who could have fallen through the cracks of a traditional in-person school, but now he gets his education in a way that supports his healing from trauma and honors his right to physical safety.

My son's story is an intense one, but each child at MOA has a story about how they came to MOA and why they need it. Our need stems from mental health and physical safety, but whatever the reason, MOA is crucial for a specific group of kids. These kids deserve to get their education in a way that honors where they are: physically, mentally, emotionally. Please continue to support them and fully fund Missoula Online Academy moving forward. I truly don't know what my son would do without it, and I know I'm not the only parent who feels that way.

Sincerely,
Gillian Fetz Edgell

I became a student at the MOA in the fall of 2020. I graduated eighth grade that year, and I chose to go online for high school because of how vulnerable my parents and I are to COVID. Even with the precautions taken in person, I didn't want to risk anything.

Now, I'm a high school junior, and I've been in the MOA for all of high school. There are a couple reasons I've chosen to stay in the MOA. COVID is still one of them. Another is that this format is really good for me. I used to get frustrated at in person school because there was almost always background noise. Even when we were working on assignments, there were people talking. That made it harder for me to work. One of the things I really like about the MOA is that there isn't distracting background noise. If someone is being disruptive, they can be muted. That makes it so independent work can be done in silence. I also really like the way asynchronous classes are incorporated into the MOA. I've been taking MTDA classes since my freshman year, and I've taken some amazing courses. This summer, I developed a new hobby through a photography class. Right now, I'm taking a class that teaches me more about the history of the state.

I live in Seeley Lake, and the MOA has given me an opportunity I never had in elementary school and junior high. Before attending the MOA, I attended school with people from Seeley. Now, a lot of my classmates are from Missoula. They have a different perspective than me on a lot of things, which has been a really interesting learning experience. Over the last three years, I've been able to learn a lot about how people who live in Missoula think about things like traffic and newspapers. I've been able to do that without having to drive an hour into Missoula every day.

There has been one aspect of the MOA that's been especially important the last three years: the teachers. Math has never been my strongest subject, but Mr. Rotzal takes the time to walk me through concepts I struggle with. Sometimes, I don't even have to ask for help. He just notices that I'm stuck on a question and calls me into a breakout room. Ms. Ellis breaks down whatever we are studying in a way that makes it easier to understand. It's not easy to understand Shakespeare, but she's taken the time to break down each act so I can understand what's happening. Ms. Jones is not only a good science teacher, she's also an amazing advisor. There have been a few times this year where I've had a question about things like accessing google maps. I've talked to her, and she's helped me. She also takes her time on the Chemistry lessons (so I understand what we're talking about), while also having us get through everything we need to get done. Finally, Mr. Nordquist is one of the best teachers I've ever had. He offers extra credit opportunities that have given me the opportunity to explore things like the lyrics to one of my favorite songs and the potential Holland Lake Lodge expansion. In his classes, I've been able to learn a lot about things in history and social studies that I'd only ever heard of in passing. All of the teachers have been really good at doing things like adapting from Zoom to Google Meets, and from Edgenuity to the MTDA and Edmentum. I should also mention Ms. Kolczak. She's an amazing resource for questions and opportunities.

Sometimes, I have to miss school because of medical obligations. When that happens, I communicate with my teachers ahead of time. They're always really understanding. The formatting of the MOA also really helps. Almost everything we do, in any and all of the classes, gets posted to google classroom. That makes it really easy to find.

I don't know if I've ever felt as comfortable in school as I've felt in the MOA. My grades are good. The teachers are amazing. I've gotten to meet new people with different perspectives than I'm used to hearing. I don't have to worry about certain distractions.

I've loved the MOA these past three years, and I'm really hoping I can finish high school through the Missoula Online Academy.

Sincerely,

Clara K. (An MOA high school student)

Regarding MOA- Letter to the school board

Kelsi Fitzgerald <26fittel@student.mcpsmt.org>

Thu, Dec 8, 2022 at 12:07 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Regarding MOA- Letter to the school board.

To the Missoula County School Board

I personally believe that the Missoula County Online Academy is the best school that could exist. If i didn't have Missoula County Online Academy i would have to go to a site school while very pregnant which would absolutely suck! I have always had trouble going to a site school and it would be even worse if I was pregnant and going. I absolutely love the teachers and the counselor. I have not once felt like I was being judged for being young and pregnant and nobody understands how much that means to me! I have never had good grades because it's so hard for me to focus in school but so far I have had nothing but good grades at MOA. I feel like it's because of the teachers. I would be so upset if I couldn't attend MOA next year because that's what I was planning on doing so I could be at home with my baby and do school at the same time. I will do everything in my power to help save MOA. Please take my words in to consideration, Thank you - Kelsi Fitzgerald

MOA continuation

Nina Alviar <ninapdoula@gmail.com>

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 11:01 AM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

My name is Nina Alviar, and I have 2 children, ages 14 and 16, enrolled in MOA.

MOA has been a perfect environment for my family, because I often travel for extended periods for work (months at a time) and I know they can bring school with them if they come with me, or their caretakers at home don't need to worry about getting them to a brick and mortar school.

Also, each child has commitments during school hours (JV travel hockey for my eldest and writing workshops for my youngest) and MOA has the perfect flexibility.

Each of my children has learning challenges/disabilities, and the staff, teachers, and offerings with MOA have been so supportive of their success.

We would be forced to go to home schooling if MOA is dissolved, and the boys love MOA and the accountability and support they receive there, so this would be a challenge for them.

Thank you for your time,

Nina Alviar

--

Nina Shyne Alviar (she/her/hers)

<https://www.facebook.com/PowerFULLCoachingWithNinaShyne>

The Potential Continuation of MOA

Janel Chin <janelfalk@netscape.net>

Sun, Dec 4, 2022 at 9:56 PM

Reply-To: Janel Chin <janelfalk@netscape.net>

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Dear Decisionmakers,

I am writing because my child has participated in the Missoula Online Academy ("MOA") twice during the last few years. First during the 2020-21 school year when they were wanting to contribute to efforts in our community to keep COVID numbers low and keep our hospitals functioning. And more recently when some family and personal health challenges as well as some inter-personal behavioral issues with other students were making it difficult for them to attend in-person school each day. At the start of the 2022-23 school year, our family was not aware of what options were being offered through the MOA but were glad to learn that dual enrollment was an option for our student. We were considering home school even though it would have required serious disruption to our professional lives and thus our family's financial security and would have likely resulted in a lower quality educational experience for our child. We are so thankful for MOA as an option to keep our student within the MCPS system each morning, learning with other MCPS students and still attending in-person classes that are benefiting them educationally and socially each afternoon. We are grateful to everyone in MCPS who has worked to make this a possibility for students like our and to Missoula County taxpayers for funding public education for all in our community. Please consider students like ours who are not always able to access in-person education as fully as your average student in future funding decisions.

Warmly,
Janel Chin

Re: MOA continuation

chay p <chayinmissoula@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Sun, Dec 4, 2022 at 7:19 PM

To whom it may concern,

My child is a current MOA student.

Although the MOA formed in response to challenges presented in the wake of COVID-19, I firmly believe the program serves a unique purpose and deserves permanent consideration.

My child is often described as "gifted" and he suffered boredom in traditional school. He had multiple instances of behavioral discipline stemming from his struggle to sit quietly while other students finished their work.

The MOA has been a special opportunity for him to attend to his classes and then do his school work at his own pace. He is free to use his downtime without distracting or being distracted by other students nor requiring the attention and resources of his teachers.

Furthermore, the MOA provided a previously unachievable situation for my family to have quality time. As an executive chef, much of my career was spent working nights and weekends. Having my son home during the day while he's in school means I can make him lunch, and help him with his homework. Our prior arrangement had me saying goodbye at the 8am bus and not seeing him again until I returned from work after bedtime. This sacrifice of family time has long been a plague on the restaurant industry.

His grades are consistently high. His teachers can give him the specialized challenges he needs. He is a happier, better-focused kid. I know this model didnt work for many kids and families, but it has been a *blessing* for mine.

Especially with the ever-changing social dynamics of the modern era - I know my family wont be alone to appreciate this niche. Even though he has chosen to return to regular high school, I hope that the opportunity will remain for families who will appreciate it as much as we have.

Rachel Philips
Missoula MT

MOA

Linda Rhea <mountainbluebird61@gmail.com>

Sun, Dec 4, 2022 at 1:49 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

To All Those Concerned,

Moa is the best thing to have happened for my family. My daughter who is on the autism spectrum, who struggled to fit in with in person school. From being bullied, moved from seat to seat because another student didn't understand some of her actions, her feeling of not being heard. Just to list a few! Everything has changed for her. She now looks forward to school, she is online and waiting, sometimes even before the teacher is online. Her grades have all improved, especially math, which is a hard subject for her. She participated in every class and she now feels that her opinions matter. She has friends for the first time and she's 13 years old! As her mom, I have always been proud of her but I can also say thanks to Moa. I am so proud of how she has grown in her confidence in herself! All the teachers who have worked with my daughter have gone above and beyond for her and our family. I can say the same for all the staff and my sincere thank you all for everything! I hope moa will stay available. It's making a major change for my child. I believe will impact her future!

Sincerely, Linda Rhea

Benefits of MOA

Linda Rhea <mountainbluebird61@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Sat, Dec 3, 2022 at 5:32 PM

To all those concerned,

MOA has made me flourish in multiple ways. One, I am not bothered by other people. Secondly, I am not being bullied. Third, my grades are better than before. Fourth, I have friends now, which I didn't have before. Fifth, I'm excited to go to school. Sixth, I finally feel accepted. Seventh, I no longer constantly have to switch seats because my peers aren't pleased with me. Eighth, I feel like my opinions matter. Lastly, I like the schedule because it helps me know where I need to be, when I need to be there, and who I need to be with. I am on the autism spectrum and having a schedule and the freedom to be myself have helped me.

Sincerely, Linda Wales

Save MOA

Nissa Olson <nissa.olson090@gmail.com>

Sat, Dec 3, 2022 at 12:06 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

I have had 3 kids attend MOA beginning during Covid. It was a life saver literally. I am heart problems and needed to stay Covid free and this made that possible. While in person is better it's not always possible. Currently my son is a freshman going through serious behavioral and mental health problems. If MOA didn't exist he would be losing credit and most likely can not finish high school. But working from home he is able to maintain his general education requirements while being under my supervision and not consuming resources and causing problems at the high school. Hopefully he can transition back to in person next semester. This program also makes it easier for kids who have divided homes in different towns to see both parents and still maintain education. It would be a shame to see the program disappear. It is definitely not ideal for everyone but it is amazing for emergencies and other issues. We don't know when the next pandemic will come but having the online infrastructure already intact would make for very smooth transitions.

Thank you MOA

Nissa Olson



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

MOA feedback

Chip Serna <sgsernajr@gmail.com>

Fri, Dec 2, 2022 at 9:05 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Good evening,

I write today to express my gratitude and my hope that there will be a way to continue the MOA program for those students who need this program, such as my son has.

We started in MOA in my son's freshman year due to the COVID pandemic. When he attempted to return to in person school his sophomore year, it went terribly. Due to anxiety and other mental health issues, he was unable to attend most days. With MOA, he is able to manage things better and still get a quality education which likely would not be possible without MOA.

I urge you to consider other options to keep MOA functioning as an option for kids like my son who need an alternative like this to be able to get a high school education.

Thank you,
Chip Serna
