

## STATEMENT CONCERNING MOUNTAIN BROOK SCHOOLS

August 5, 2022

Throughout the 62 years that Mountain Brook has been a school system, it has consistently been ranked in the top 1% of all schools in America. In rankings as recently as 2021, US News & World Report recognized Mountain Brook Schools as the #27 ranked open enrollment public school in the nation. In 2016 we were named the “Distinguished District” by the International Society for Technology in Education. This award is given to one single school system in the world each year. The list of recognitions is long for our great school system, including awards and recognitions in Business, Debate, Robotics, Advanced Placement, ACT scores, Fine Arts and Athletics. In fact, Mountain Brook High School has more athletic state championships than any other high school in the state and was recently ranked one of the top 10 ten athletic high school programs in the nation. We have had 751 National Merit Finalists from Mountain Brook High School and historically, 96% to 98% of our students go to the college of their choice after high school. Although we are very proud of these rankings and recognitions, our real purpose is to provide an effective, challenging and engaging education for every one of our students. These rankings and recognitions are merely a result of how we do what we do.

As we have been preparing for the upcoming school year, we have received questions about statements that have been made about our school system that are inaccurate. We believe it is important that our community – and especially parents with children in our school system – have the correct information about our schools. Accordingly, we would like to provide clear factual information on the following issues:

- “Critical Race Theory”
  - CRT is not and never has been part of any educational plan or curriculum in Mountain Brook Schools.
- “No Place for Hate” program
  - Mountain Brook Schools has not adopted this program. At one time this program was considered as a framework to help Mountain Brook Schools fulfill its purpose to provide an effective, challenging, and engaging education for every one of our students but it was not chosen as a resource.
- Government Class survey
  - The Pew Research Political Typology tool (<http://www.people-press.org/quiz/political-typology/>) and the Political Compass tool (<https://www.politicalcompass.org/test>) are two resources that have been used for many years in senior level government classes when studying political parties and their role in government. Students give confidential responses. The teacher

is not involved in and does not receive student responses. These tools are not used to influence a student's personal position but they help students determine where they are on the political spectrum. There is no promotion of a specific political party or ideology.

- State standards (as listed below) require high school government classes to study political parties to evaluate roles they play in the functioning of the political system of the United States by:
  - Describing the role of third-party candidates in political elections in the United States
  - Explaining major characteristics of contemporary political parties in the United States, including the role of conventions, party leadership, formal and informal memberships, and regional strongholds
  - Describing the influence of political parties on individuals and elected officials, including the development of party machines, rise of independent voters, and disillusionment with party systems.

- The U.S. penny

Teachers did not participate in training that implied that the penny is racist. In training, participants were asked to think about how frequently they have held a penny and whether they could draw in detail the designs on the coin. The activity stimulated conversation on how people can interface with someone or something every day and not recognize the details unless they are intentional in that action. The intent was to encourage faculty and staff to be intentional in their relationships with students and each other.

If you ever have any concerns about your child's experience or curriculum in Mountain Brook Schools, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teachers and administrators. We urge you to fact-check statements about the school system and its programs.

We value the partnership between the schools and community and will continue to provide an effective, challenging and engaging education for every one of our students.