

Mount Garfield Middle School



Bill Larsen, Principal | Jared Burek, AP | Lee Carleton, AP | Lori Thompson, Secretary | Kim Chambers Attendance Secretary

Important Dates

Wrestling Season Begins

February 6th, 2017

Parent/Teacher Conferences

February 8th, 2017
3:00 to 7:00 pm

NO SCHOOL - Teacher In-Service

February 17th, 2017

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A Message From The Principal

Dear Mount Garfield Families,

As 2017 ushers in our third quarter, we wish to thank our parents and families for the partnership with MGMS staff in providing our students a successful second quarter. Your commitment in helping your child reach their greatest potential is an investment that will pay dividends throughout their educational career. Together we can help students be the “owner” of their own learning and behavior through consistent and high expectations grounded in a caring and supportive environment. As discussed in the two previous newsletters, we will continue to support our students with the importance of a positive “Growth Mindset” as well as the framework containing the sixteen “Habits of Mind.” In Achievement Class during the last week of January, students will have the opportunity to decorate their classroom door with a theme centered on one of the “Habits of Mind” or “Growth Mindset,” with the door completion being judged on February 3rd. During the February 8th Parent Teacher Conferences, you will be able to see the creative work of our students as you visit teachers from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. You are also invited to attend our School Accountability Committee Meeting that will take place on February 8th at 6:00 p.m.

Specific “Habits of Mind” that help our students to “own” their learning include the final two habits: *Thinking Interdependently* and *Remaining Open to Continuous Learning*.

- ***Thinking Interdependently***
 - Willing to work with others and welcome their input and perspective;
 - Abide by decisions the work group makes even if not in total agreement;
 - Willing to learn from others in reciprocal situations.
- ***Remaining Open to Continuous Learning***
 - Open to new experiences to learn from;
 - Proud and humble enough to admit when don’t know;
 - Welcome new information on all subjects.

We started the third quarter by celebrating our students through the Growing for Greatness (GFG) Awards for excellence from the second quarter. Congratulations to 6th grade GFG students: James Arias, Emily Baetz, Kalista Basford, Dastyn Carothers,

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Emmanuel Coria-Mendoza, Daniel Holton, Delaney Kenney, Evan Lassaux, Jordan Martinez-Jacobo, Angel Mendez, Christina Miller, Lauren Noble, Alejandro Ornelas-Porras, Taleah Raymond, Isabel Rodriguez-Flores, Zander Rucker, Sophia Slate, Evan Stauter, Julia Sweet, Skylar Swett, & Rhett Ward. 7th grade GFG students included: Jahir Acuna-Galvez, Taylor Bales, Isabella Barr, Nicholas Chavez, Tylor Christensen, Ein Coan, Yesenia DeLara-Lopez, Conner Diedrich, Sierra Falls, Aeriana Gonzalez, Trevyn Harper, Sean Hayworth, Janelle Heald, Katelynn Hilborn, Morgan LaFrance, Jacob Lee, Rebecca Montgomery, Aislinn Murray, Nicholas Pike, Usiel Romero, Esperanza Salazar, Grace Sheer, Alvin Stewart, & Cody Vigil. 8th grade GFG students included: Lily Bagwell, Breonna Beckley, Mason Braden, Joshua Carroll, Connor Cuffman, Roehelle Davis, Brennen Funk, McKayla George, Kassandra Gonzalez, Brianna Grieger, Elizabeth Hawkins, Lodan Head, Angelina Hernandez, Hailey Langner, Dymilo Miller, Caylie Pribble, Rachel Munoz-Ruiz, Susana Ramirez, Ariana Rodriguez, Paulino Romero-Badachi, Yazmin Sierra-Campos, Kaia Snider, & MyKala Woods. Congratulations to these 2nd quarter GFG award winners.

Our hope is the common “Habits of Mind” vocabulary between home and school might deepen your conversations at home about the best way your student is learning. Thank you for your partnership with our MGMS Staff.

Sincerely,

Bill Larsen

GIFTED AND TALENTED:

At the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) Annual Conference, Ian Byrd and Brian Housand presented “Curiosity: Cat Killer or Mother of Invention.” They outlined how curiosity is an essential skill for creative success and a trait that gifted students possess in abundance. However, a typical classroom can sometimes leave little space for curiosity to bloom and questions to be fostered. While inquisitive children have long been warned that “curiosity killed the cat,” it is precisely that level of incessant wonderment and investigation that fuels innovation. Ian Byrd shared his free email program titled, “A Weekly Dose of Curiosities and Puzzlements.” You can sign up for his emails sent out on Fridays to feed curiosity. You might see 3D printing included in baking geometric cakes, a drone changing a light bulb, a whistler that can harmonize with himself, stop motion art, macro-photography, metal that bounces water, and even an unbelievable sea slug. These are just the things to jump-start your wonder, creativity, conversations, and ultimately fuel innovation. Sign up at <http://puzzlements.co/>

Debbie Beth Hoffman



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ATTENDANCE:

Please call the office at (970) 254-4720 X37111 if your child will be absent for any reason. You may also e-mail our Registrar/Attendance Secretary Kim Chambers at: Kim.Chambers@d51schools.org.

In addition, if you have an address or phone number change, please inform Kim at your earliest convenience. This information is vitally important in case of an emergency situation. We must be able to reach you. Thank you in advance for your attention to these matters.

CORE 8-2 NEWS:

Core 8-2 will be teaming up with the Colorado Western Museum to take students on a historical tour of downtown Grand Junction on Thursday, March 16th! Parents are encouraged to attend as we look at some historic buildings and hear stories from the museum docents of Main Street events and activities in the 1800's. Students will be charged \$5.00 for the tour and the bus. A sack lunch can be requested from the cafeteria for the day or students may purchase a lunch.

D51 FOUNDATION:

Join D51F on Saturday, February 4 from 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. at the CMU Ballroom for our 5th Annual White Iced Celebration. This white-attire affair will honor Outstanding Educators and Outstanding Academic Growth Schools. It will be a time to celebrate public education in Mesa County. Tickets can be purchased at www.d51foundation.org. For more information call 254-5108. Proceeds from this event will be used for technology in our schools and professional development opportunities for D51 teachers.

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T H E R E ' S O N L Y O N E

MESA CLUB NEWS:

MESA Club is rocking along this winter. We held our annual Winter Dance Fundraiser in December and the dance was a huge success! We had music, lights, photos and a whole lot of fun. Our MESA students worked very diligently to prepare for the dance and were so excited to see how much everyone enjoyed it. Also in December we held our Paper Airplane Contest at Grand Mesa Middle School. One of our teams, The Nuclear Bombers, placed third in distance with a flight of 51' 9 ¾"! Not too shabby. On January 24th, our MESA Club will go on a field trip to see the movie "Hidden Figures." This movie exemplifies what MESA is all about. The same week we will be involved in our Paper Bridge Competition. This one is tough. Students have been investigating, planning, and designing a bridge made of only fifteen sheets of copy paper, some tape, and a few staples. The bridge has to be a certain size, and the students have only twenty minutes to construct the bridge at the competition. Once built, a bungee cord is strapped over the bridge and a bucket suspended underneath. Then the bucket is filled with sand. The winner is the bridge that can hold the most sand as compared to its weight. We've had a team in the past who's bridge held 9.5 pounds of sand! Finally, our MESA Club hosts our next competition in February: Mousetrap Cars. Students research, plan, design, and build a vehicle powered only by the spring of a mousetrap. The car has to travel in a fixed-sized track, and the closest to the finish line is the winner. This competition is always a ton-of-fun, and seeing the amazing ingenuity and creativity of our students is terrific.



FROM THE GRIT DESK:

I was able to recognize a student at the Student of the Month breakfast this month and since I only get to do this once, my student of the month is really my student of the year. That student is Harmony Green. Here is what I said about her at the breakfast: "I have been so lucky to have Harmony in my class for three (3) years. She is the epitome of what GRIT or AVID is all about--which is failing forward--when you make a mistake you learn from it and grow from it. She is not only willing to try something and fail at it--she almost celebrates it sometimes--and she is never afraid to admit when she does not know something. And she doesn't take "I don't have any questions, I understand everything I am working on" from any of her classmates--she forces them in her cheerful way to get up to the board and work on something. I will miss her force of nature attitude and spirit in my class when she moves to high school next year. In addition to being a great AVID student, Harmony is an amazing person. These past two (2) years have been a challenge for her personally, and never once has that affected her work or her goals on who she wants to be. She is an inspiration not only to her fellow students but also to the adults in this building."

We also have been having our team building Fridays based on some STEM challenges. We have competed for the longest paper chains and building a pedestal that would hold the most weight. It has been an interesting exercise in creativity, problem solving, and working together.

Amy Deschamp

HEALTH OFFICE NEWS:

The American Academy of Pediatrics has provided us with some helpful winter health and safety tips:

Outdoor Winter Activities

Ice skating, skiing, and sledding are great ways to get exercise on a cold winter day. Remember, even older children should be supervised with these activities.

Safety Tips:

- It is safer to sled feet first or sitting up, instead of lying down head-first.
- Sled on slopes that are not too steep and are free of obstructions like trees or fences.
- Skate only on approved surfaces.
- Skate in one direction with the crowd.
- Never skate alone.
- Do not chew gum or eat candy.
- Wear a helmet when skiing.
- Stay away from crowded areas.

Hypothermia/Frostbite

When it is cold outside, remember to set a reasonable time limit on outdoor play and have children come inside periodically to warm up. Dressing in layers is best.

Ready, Set, Smile

The push is on to purchase a yearbook. Yearbooks are still available! The only way to **guarantee that your student will get one is if it is prepaid** and there are many payment options available. You may purchase a yearbook by paying with cash, check or with a credit/debit card at the MGMS Budget Office. You may also pay with a credit/debit card over the phone by calling (970) 254-4720 Ext. 37112. In addition, you may order on-line at jostensyearbooks.com. This option gives you the ability to personalize the book with a name, slogan, quote or whatever you wish. As well as select up to four (4) icons to have printed on the book. This will be done in metallic print! Icons include sports and academics as options. There is also a link to purchase a yearbook on the MGMS home page at the very bottom. The cost is currently \$28.00.



Once the books are sold out, we cannot order any more. Your student will have a lifetime of memories in this forty (40) page, full color, hardback book! Don't wait any longer. Order today by calling or stopping by the MGMS Budget Office, or on-line with Jostens!

GET YOUR YEARBOOK NOW!

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Registration Information Available Online

Registration: January 25th–February 12th

Site Name: Mount Garfield Middle
Tentative Practice Days: Tuesday and Thursday
Site Liaison: Jane White, room 4

For more information go to:
www.gotrwesterncolorado.org

Interested in volunteering as a coach?

Contact the Site Liaison listed above and check out the Coach information page on our website.

Our GOAL is to empower ALL GIRLS to:

- Have a strong sense of identity
- Give and receive support from a group
- Stand up for themselves in a healthy manner
 - Have a healthy body image
- Understand their importance in the community

*Believe
in You!*

The Role of State Assessments in Increasing Academic Achievement



COLORADO
Department of Education

Colorado has a series of educational standards, known as the Colorado Academic Standards that outline academic objectives for students in every grade across 10 content areas. Fully implemented in the 2013-14 school year, the standards have raised the bar for Colorado students, increasing the expectations so they are prepared to succeed in college or careers upon high school graduation. To measure students' mastery of more rigorous standards in grades three through nine, Colorado has implemented a set of common assessments known as the Colorado Measures of Academic Success, or CMAS.

PURPOSE AND VALUE OF STATE ASSESSMENTS

CMAS are the only common measuring tool in Colorado for students in third- through ninth-grade. Measuring real-world skills like problem-solving and critical thinking, the tests are aligned to classroom work so teachers do not have to "teach to the test."

While CMAS assessments are only one measure of student learning, having all Colorado students take this set of assessments provides parents with answers to these important questions:

- How well is my child doing on meeting state standards compared to other students?
- Which schools and districts perform best in preparing students for success in meeting the state standards?
- Which districts have the best performance on the state standards for children with special needs?
- What schools and districts have the best performance on the state standards for children of color?

Additionally, state assessment results provide:

- information educators need to help improve instruction.
- identification of districts and schools that have struggling students, so help can be provided.
- recognition of high performing systems so others may learn from them.



Practice Tests Help Students Be Ready

Parents are sometimes concerned that participating in these tests can cause anxiety in their child or that preparing for the test takes away time from instruction. Because these tests are aligned to the CAS and classroom instruction, these tests should not cause any more anxiety than any of the other tests student take as part of their education. Also, practice tests are available to help familiarize parents and students with test content and structure.