

Mount Garfield Middle School



Bill Larsen, Principal | Rocio Roybal, AP | Jared Burek, AP | Lori Thompson, Secretary | Kim Chambers, Secretary

Important Dates

Honor Choir Auditions

November 3rd, 2016
@ MGMS

NO SCHOOL - Middle School Teacher In-Service

November 11th, 2016

Alpine Bank Student of the Month

November 15th, 2016
@ CMU 11:30-1:00pm

MGMS Student of the Month Breakfast

November 17th, 2016 6:45

Honor Orchestra Concert

November 17th, 2016
@ GJHS 6:00 pm

WSCBA Select Band 7th & 8th

November 18th & 19th, 2016
@ PHS

NO SCHOOL - Holiday

November 21st thru Novem-
ber 25th, 2016

Boys Basketball

November 28th thru
February 4th

A Message From The Principal

Dear Mount Garfield Families,

It is truly a pleasure to return to Mount Garfield Middle School to serve as Interim Principal for the remainder of the 2016-17 school year. I was fortunate to be a 7th grade math teacher at MGMS when we opened our school during the 1983-84 school year. Along the way, I have 13 years of experience in teaching math at MGMS, East MS and Grand Junction HS, and 27 years in administration as Redlands MS principal, Book-cliff MS principal, Grand Junction HS principal, Executive Director of High Schools, and Chief Academic Officer. Since joining District 51 in 1976, I can truly say my 40 year journey has been filled with my own learning along with tremendous opportunities to watch our staff and students grow each and every day.

Speaking of growth, we have been celebrating the growth of our students during the first quarter. During our October Student of the Month breakfast we recognized Tyrus DeSpain (6-1), Marek Gnojek (6-2), Fernando Medina (Literacy Plus), Johanna Ponce (Ms. Smith's Class), Jonny Quinones (7-1), Sierra Falls (7-2), Kaia Snider (8-1) and Matthew Ogle (8-2). We also brought an end to the first quarter by recognizing 65 students during our "Growing for Greatness" Awards. Students recognized included: Twenty-one 6th grade students: Kayla Soderberg, Alexis Cavallaro, Chanelle Arellano, Ella Steele, Skylar Swett, Alejandro Ambriz, Juan Arriaga-Martinez, Alan Lopez-Galarza, Yahira Acosta, Iain Stauter, Bryana Kerwin, Aiden Frazier, Desare Lopez, Olivia Lagner, Tyrus DeSpain, Emma Inchauregui, Lauren Noble, Marek Gnojek, Taylor Mosby, Joshua Contreras-Alejandre, and Ethan Barkoczy; Twenty 7th grade students: Aislinn Murray, Bryan Hillman, Jon Stahl, Katelyn Hilborn, Sabrina Green, Ryan Faller, Alysa Franco, Jorge Mendoza, Jericho Heald, Ryan Faller, Daizha Armas, Brook Trujillo, Claudia Quijada, Grace Sheer, Ezekiel Ocano, Ashton Sheridan, Taylor Bales, Blane West, Elizavet Porras, and Halee McKee; Twenty-four 8th grade students: Lori Keplinger, Efren Martinez-Garcia, Evangelina Chacon, Revyn Drushella, Alexis Marushack, Sayer Frontella, Addie Steele, Aspen O'Brien, Lilian Ruiz-Robles, Isaiah Swank, Makayla Lucerne, Annalee Kirkwood, Juan Lima, Thomas John Burt, Felicia Sanchez, Jose Parra, Isaac Hokanson, Alondra Martinez, Jaden Spears, Donovan Kemp, Victoria Fowler, Savannah Halbert, Diego Rivera, Darrian Foster, and Joshua Morgan.

As we take time to celebrate students who have demonstrated outstanding growth in the first quarter, our MGMS Staff sincerely believe the growth of every student every

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day is critical to our purpose in education. In previous newsletters, you have heard mention of a “Growth Mindset” that we continue to share with our students. A “Growth Mindset” establishes “a belief system that suggests one’s intelligence can be grown or developed with persistence, effort and focus on learning”. In contrast, a “Fixed Mindset” establishes “a belief system that a person has a predetermined amount of intelligence, skills or talents”. Our staff at MGMS will continue to share our belief in the growth of every student by establishing and nurturing a “Growth Mindset” culture. Please join us in these efforts to maximize the growth of our students (your children) by sharing and modeling your belief in lifelong learning.

Sincerely, Bill Larsen (MGMS Interim Principal)

Ready, Set, Smile! Get your yearbook now

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 \$25.00, but will increase to \$28.00 on January 3rd, 2017. So, order your yearbook prior to the holiday break!



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!

From the GRIT Desk:

The GRIT students have been hard at work reflecting on their achievements and growth for the first quarter. We have talked a lot about growth mindset and failing forward—I use myself and my 6 year old in a lot of examples—but they get it so talk to them about how they are applying it to themselves. We also looked at different ways of dealing with conflict and how some approaches work or don’t work and how we can develop skills to better deal with conflict. We will be starting to read a class novel, 13 Reasons Why, to discover how our actions make an impact and then designing some way to make a more positive impact on a situation that they want to address. I would like to recognize the following GRIT students for recognition by their teachers in the past month: Sierra Falls, Kaia Snider, Efren Martinez-Garcia, Elizabeth Porras, Jericho Heald, Ashton Sheridan, Taylor Bales, Claudia Quijada, Lilian Ruiz-Robles, and Makayla Lucerne.

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MESA CLUB NEWS:

October was a busy month for MESA Club, as we had two competitions. On October 13th, our MESA students competed in the Milk Jug Boat race at Orchard Mesa Pool. Nearly forty Mt. Garfield students across all grade levels built rafts from twenty milk jugs, three eight foot pieces of 1x2, and one meter of duct tape. Their task was to push the raft the length of the pool, have a “survivor” climb onto the raft at the opposite side of the pool, and push the raft back to the first side. One of our teams completed the task the fastest and brought home first place!

Then on October 20th, thirty-seven Mt. Garfield MESA students competed in the Pop Bottle Rocket competition at Fruita 8/9. This time students were tasked with researching, planning, and constructing a rocket made of one or two two liter soda bottles. The rocket that flew the highest (so that it stayed aloft the longest) was the winner, and not only did Mt. Garfield win first place, we won second place as well! Advisors Alanna Piccillo (Core 8-2 Science) and David Hamilton (Core 7-1 Science) could not be more proud of all of the dedication, effort, and teamwork that all of our MESA students are showing this year.

Our next competition is the Straw Tower competition at Central High School. Students will be given a certain number of soda straws and paper clips, and a certain length of tape. They have to plan, design, and build on-site the tallest tower they can that will hold a LEGO man. The catch is the LEGO man has to remain standing the longest when the tower is placed on a shaker table that simulates a really strong earthquake. The winner will be the team that designs their tower with their LEGO man the highest up in the tower that remains standing the longest. It may sound simple, but it isn't.

Finally our MESA Club's annual winter dance fundraiser is scheduled for Friday, December 9th, from 6:00 – 8:00 here at Mt. Garfield. Planning and preparation for the dance is underway, and this year's dance will surely be the best one we've had. The dance is “best dressed”, and tickets will go on sale beginning on December 5th. There will be drinks, snacks, and bling-bling for sale along with a DJ, lights, and smoke machines. It's going to be an awesome time. More information on the dance and other MESA activities will come in future newsletters, so be on the lookout!



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

Small Steps Towards Positive Change:

Great accomplishments and long-term goals are not achieved overnight. Success is usually the result of hard work, deliberate practice, persistence, and trial-and-error learning. This often takes time, with many small steps creating a positive direction along the way. The resulting path can be filled with obstacles that may hinder or delay progress but, with persistence, don't halt it altogether. We can reinforce persistence by recognizing and celebrating children's small steps towards achieving positive outcomes.

Small Steps to a Growth- Mindset

In particular, children need praise for their hard work and persistence in daily activities. By recognizing hard work, effort, and process oriented-learning, rather than just a "natural" ability, we teach a growth-mindset. A growth-mindset is when students see that they can develop or grow their abilities or intelligence, rather than a fixed-mindset where students' see their abilities and intelligence as fixed traits that they cannot change. We know from extensive research that children flourish when praised for effort and hard work rather than ability and when they perceive intelligence as a growth process. As parents and educators, we also can help guide students identify interests, make short- and long-term goals, and encourage them to take on challenges and persevere when things get tough.

Take Small Steps at Home

There are many ways families can help children make positive changes in small increments. As parents and caregivers, you can:

1. Praise attempts, as well as success, and make sure that you focus on the effort or hard work put into the success.
2. Emphasize that learning and growing requires trying new things and that success comes from small steps to a long-term goal.
3. Encourage goal setting and mapping out a plan for achieving the goals. Talk with your child about steps they have taken, what worked and what didn't, what they might do next.
4. Help your child internalize a sense that they can achieve by reinforcing the skills already developed and encouraging them to try new challenges.
5. Help your child identify their strengths and interests and learn new skills.

Let's Work Together

As the school psychologist at Mount Garfield Middle School, I look forward working with you and other families to encourage all of our children, whether at home or at school, to see and take small steps to achieve their best. Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns or suggestions related to your child's interests, strengths and skills, struggles so that we can partner to help them continue along a path of positive changes to reach their potential in school, in life and as a member of the community. I can best be reached by calling 970-254-4720 ext. 37118.

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Small Steps Towards Positive Change: (Continued)

About School Psychologists

School psychologists are members of school staff that support students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to teach. School psychologists apply expertise in mental health, learning, and behavior to help children and youth succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally by providing direct support and interventions to students, such as individualized learning and behavioral assessments to identify students' strengths and needs, academic and behavioral interventions, counseling, and social skills training. We also consult with teachers, families, and other educators to improve support strategies and school-wide practices and policies. We are in a unique position to ensure students success every day, including both small and bigger accomplishments. More information is available at www.nasponline.org



By Katelyn Collins, School Psychologist

MGMS P.E. Happenings

Gators Physical Education is beginning a new quarter with some new students and some returning students. Daily activities will include the warm up jog and our daily blood pump warm up that strengthens all fitness aspects using a routine based system that varies daily. Pre-Assessment fitness tests have been completed and goals determined. As the assessments are completed the games begin, where students work cooperatively to become successful team members. Our first unit for the 2nd quarter will be basketball.

Physical education students are required to dress out daily in shorts, t-shirt and tennis shoes that tie and come with a good attitude ready to be challenged and have fun.

GREAT NEWS>>>>>> after jumping through lots of hoops, we are bringing the Physical Education uniform back, well at least the t-shirt!!! Mr. Reiners, our new teacher working with Mrs. Edmiston, has worked very hard to make this transition possible. The new shirt is neon green with Gator eyes, the MGMS P.E. logo and a place to add your student's name. We are very excited about it....the kids all look sharp!!! Cost for the shirt is \$10 and may be paid with either cash, check or with a credit card over the phone. Upcoming physical education activities are Basketball, Ultimate Games, The Great Escape target game and Team Handball.

We have students that may not have the necessary clothing needed to be successful in P.E. Although we do have limited clothing for their use, if your family has shorts, t-shirts or shoes that are not needed or no longer being used, we would encourage you to donate them to our program.

Thanks,
Eve Edmiston & Erik Reiners
MGMS P.E. Teachers

Text Alerts

District 51 has invested in a district-wide communication system (called SchoolConnects) that will allow all schools and the district to contact you regarding important news, events, and emergency or safety-related situations. Schools and the district can only send texts to phones who have subscribed to receive the messages. If you want to receive SMS text messages from the school or district, you must first do the following:

1. Ensure that your child's school has your cell phone listed in the student database under "Mobile".
2. From the SMS-capable telephone where you want to receive the text messages, text the word Join to the number 56360. If our messaging system finds a match for your phone number in its database, you receive a confirmation message thanking you for joining school alerts. If our messaging system does not find a match for your phone number in its database, you will receive a me
3. Create a contact on your phone with the name of your school or school district, or another meaningful name, and the phone number 56360. Then, when you receive a text from this number, you know who is sending it.

At this point in time, the District will only contact parents in the case of an emergency or safety-related situations. The District will reach out to parents using phone, text and email or a combination. Parents and the community can also check the district website (www.d51schools.org) or social media accounts (facebook.com/schooldistrict51 and twitter.com/district51) for emergency alerts and updates as well as general news.

In order to receive the quickest and most accurate information in an emergency situation, parents need to be sure that all home phone, cell phone and email addresses are up-to-date in the student information system, Synergy. Contact the school office if you have any questions. The texts, calls and emails will only go to those families who have those fields filled in in the database. Should you have any questions about this new service or other emergency communications, don't hesitate to call Dan Dougherty in Communications or Tim Leon in Safety at 254-5100.

Thank you to our PTO:

The Mt. Garfield Middle School staff would like to extend a great big thank you to each and every one of our amazing PTO parents for providing a wonderful breakfast and dinner. This allowed our staff to continue with Parent/Teacher Conferences into the evening and get an early start with their morning. We would like to recognize those that helped with this and a special thanks to Lisa and Gregg Hawkins for organizing these events.

Those that provided meals were Kember Langner, Gina Shurden, Brenda Watson, Dan & Carrie Bollinger, Kathy Valvoda, Jennifer & Pat Steele, Tammy Beagley, Eric Langner, and Lisa & Gregg Hawkins.

Thanks again for all of your support!